



Federal Office of  
Consumer Protection  
and Food Safety



**OPEN.EFSA - problems in the access  
to non-confidential data/  
documents of GMO applications**

On the former EFSA platform "Register of Questions", publicly available data of all EFSA GMO applications, irrespective of their application or decision dates, were easily accessible via the question number or the name of the GMO(s) of the respective application.

In the new platform OPEN.EFSA, searching via question numbers of open questions often results in irrelevant high output numbers. Search for closed question numbers leads to non-comprehensive results (e. g.: searching for closed question "EFSA-Q-2015-00651" and "GMO" results in 97 hits, NONE of them relates to question number EFSA-Q-2015-00651). Documents related to closed non-pesticide questions have to be requested at EFSA.

Documents related to closed non-pesticide questions have to be requested at EFSA separately

## Register of Questions out of service. OpenEFSA portal now live!



The Register of Questions was taken offline at the end of January 2021.

At the end of March, EFSA launched its **new OpenEFSA portal**, which gives EFSA's stakeholders a raft of additional services and tools that will greatly improve the transparency and accessibility of our work. For the first time, all the information related to our risk assessments – including the data and studies used – will be available in one place.

[access the OpenEFSA portal](#)

On Jan 21st, all ongoing (open) questions and all closed pesticide questions were migrated to the new interactive portal.

Closed non-pesticide questions are accessible only through a static report available below. Supporting files will not be included in the report but will be available upon [request](#).

- [Question \(CSV\)](#) 
- [Mandate \(CSV\)](#) 
- [Output \(CSV\)](#) 
- [getQuestion API response \(JSON data file\)](#) 

The BVL, together with the Dutch WFSR, maintains the database EUginius ([www.euginus.eu](http://www.euginus.eu)) which provides information on the authorisation status of GMO and consequently contains information and documents provided by EFSA (inter alia the Public summary and the EFSA Overall Opinion).

In the context of GMO applications, a prompt access of the competent authority to e.g. Annex G, which contains EFSA GMO Panel responses to the comments raised by Member States of former applications, is important.

A request for Annex G of application EFSA- GMO-NL-2015-124, which was posed on the 20th of September, has not been fulfilled until now, which is not acceptable in the context of a 3-month commenting period.



The BVL would highly appreciate if the non-confidential data/documents of **ALL** GMO applications could be transferred to OPEN.EFSA and could be retrieved via their question number(s) and the GMO names as it was done for pesticides and on the former EFSA platform.

Individual request of documents is not user-friendly and displays a barrier/obstacle in terms of public accessibility of information and transparency.

# Thank you for your attention!

**Contact:**

Internet: [www.bvl.bund.de](http://www.bvl.bund.de)

