

94th Advisory Forum, 4-5 December 2024

EFSA SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Work programme update

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CURRENT WORK-PROGRAMME | NOVEMBER 2024 UPDATE



Development of new guidance

Ongoing:

- Use of **read across approach** in food safety assessments, PC March-April 2025
- Characterisation of **microorganisms** in support of the risk assessment of products used in the food chain – PC Dec-Jan 2025

Starting:

- **Critical appraisal of evidence** as part of the systematic review methodology (EC mandate)
- Use of **biomarkers of effect** in regulatory risk assessment of chemicals



Revision of existing guidance

Ongoing:

- **Default values** in the absence of actual data
- Margin of Exposure (**MoE**)

Starting:

- **Genotoxicity** testing strategies and related documents
- Risk assessment of **nanomaterials** and Guidance on technical requirements

ONGOING EC MANDATES FOR CROSS-CUTTING RISK ASSESSMENT

Tabled at the 122nd SC plenary, 20-21 November 2024

Opinion endorsed for public consultation:
Dec 2024-Jan 2025



Updated consumer risk assessment for fluoride in food and drinking water including contribution from other sources of exposure

Opinion Adopted



Risks to human and animal health from the presence of bromide in food and feed



SC WORK PROGRAMME 2025-2026: PROPOSALS

1. Revision of the Guidance on the safety assessment of botanicals and botanical preparations for use as ingredient in food supplements (2009).

2. Guidance on the Safety assessment for the use of mixtures of natural origin.

3. Evidence based risk assessment guidance documents:

To ensure harmonization of risk assessment methodologies applied by Panels and WGs



DRIVERS TO CONSIDER IN BUILDING THE NEW SC WORK-PROGRAMME

1

CSS - One Substance One Assessment strategy.



To ensure a good quality of the dossiers submitted for evaluation, limiting the room for case-by-case decisions and interpretations by the different Panels and ultimately leading to faster and more predictable outcome for the assessment of new products, reducing the need for requests for additional data during risk assessment.

2

EC Roadmap towards phasing out animal testing for chemical safety assessments



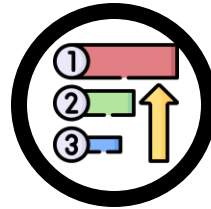
3

Addressing complexity (e.g. consideration of combined exposure)



BUILDING THE SC WORK PROGRAMME 2026-2027 | CRITERIA

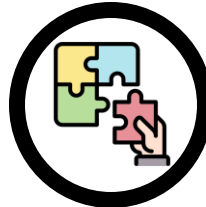
Political Priority



MS, EU agencies or other international organisations



Contribution to EU and EFSA Strategies



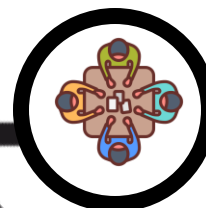
Alignment with existing EFSA's initiatives



Cross-cutting nature of proposal



Number of Panels "needing" this activity



PROPOSALS FOR INCLUSION IN SC WP

Proponent

FAF panel /
FIP Unit

Areas of application

- Food additives
- Flavorings
- Smoke flavorings
- Novel food

FEZ Panel /
FIP Unit

- Food enzymes
- Feed enzymes
- Novel food

Proposal

- Develop **guidance on testing strategies for safety assessment endpoints**:
- **ADME**: Absorption, Distribution, Metabolism, and Excretion
- Local effects on the gastrointestinal tract
- Tiered toxicity testing approach:
 - **Systemic availability** as a trigger to higher tiers
 - Testing strategy for reproductive and developmental toxicity
- **Replace in vivo studies in EFSA risk assessments for food enzymes**:
- Identify critical points
- Build confidence with **NAMs** (New Approach Methodologies):
 - Gold-standard database
 - Chemical analysis of total organic solids
 - Integration of in silico models and omics techniques
- Legislative changes

PROPOSALS FOR INCLUSION IN SC WP

Proponent

CONTAM Panel

BIOHAZ Panel

Areas of application

- Contaminants
- Plant protection products
- Food additives
- Food contact materials

- All areas dealing with chemical RA

- Food additives

Proposal

- **Guidance on the establishment/application of relative potency factors (RPFs)**

- **Guidance on the use of kinetic data and qualification/validation** of Physiologically-based kinetic (PBK) models in human and environmental risk assessment
- **Guidance on benchmark modelling of human data**
- **Cross-cutting guidance on selection of BMR** for benchmark modelling of most common endpoints from animal studies

- **Follow up on activities on microbiome** (already ongoing at EFSA's level)

BUILDING THE SC WORK PROGRAMME 2026-2027 | TIMELINE

Sep. 2024

Recommendations for work-programme 2025 agreed by former SC

Launch of a consultation process with Panels/Units on possible new topics to be inserted in the SC WP 2026-2027

May 2025

Agreement on identified priorities for SC WP 2026-2027

Preliminary discussion in the SC on possible new topics to be inserted in the work-programme 2026-2027

Launch of the consultation with Advisory Forum, Focal Points, other agencies and EC.

Nov - Dec 2024



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