

## NOTE TO THE MANAGEMENT BOARD

### Joining forces: Partnerships in Risk Assessment

#### Background

Scientific cooperation has been a long-standing priority for EFSA. Within that, the vision to develop partnerships has been discussed extensively in EFSA's Advisory Forum (AF), following the entry into force of the [Transparency Regulation](#). At the 85<sup>th</sup> AF meeting the partnerships concept was endorsed.<sup>1</sup> Till now, in communication with the AF, EFSA has launched several partnership projects supporting work both for regulated products and for generic risk assessment. Parallel to that, EFSA has maintained mechanisms to support relevant community-driven initiatives (e.g. tailor-made activities of the Focal Points).

In December 2024, the Management Board of EFSA endorsed the Joint Programming concept as a means to strengthen the cooperation of EFSA with the MS in areas of common priority with a long-term perspective.

Beyond partnerships, Seconded National Experts (SNEs) also contribute directly to the work of EFSA and can pave the way for future cooperation between their institution of origin and EFSA.

In recent years, EFSA has launched several partnership projects to support risk assessment work on regulated product assessment and generic risk assessment. While EFSA has no harmonised system to measure the value delivered by partnership projects, the experience from several such projects in the areas of pesticides, plant health, animal welfare, food enzymes, food additives and flavourings, feed additives indicate that:

- It is possible to mobilise resources (FTE, missing expertise) to support EFSA's work.
- Partnership projects can provide support in preparatory tasks and have the potential to increase EFSA's throughput. However, drafting scientific opinions remains a challenge<sup>2</sup>.

#### Proposed way forward

The experience gained, so far, has led to mitigation actions that will lead to higher efficiencies in the near future. The Member States can further support EFSA's work, indicatively, via participation in new partnership projects, closer cooperation in developing methodologies, or - more directly - in encouraging staff to join EFSA as SNEs.

#### Following the presentation, MB members will be invited to:

- Bring forward their experience from the current/past partnership projects;
- Advise on any particular areas where EFSA should review or focus its partnership effort (including the possibility to host SNEs), indicating improved ways to plan risk assessment activities;
- Advise on the role that the AF could have to further support partnership with national risk assessors.

<sup>1</sup> Outputs of the AF Discussion Group on the Future of Partnerships. 85<sup>th</sup> AF meeting, 25-26/10/2022. [[link](#)]

<sup>2</sup> The presentation will address the question from the French MB member on the impact on EFSA's performance from the work carried out by the consortium in the Framework Partnership Agreement for support to EFSA in the assessment of food enzymes, food additives and flavourings, and feed additives.