Chemical Monitoring Data Collection Network
Minutes of the 9th meeting

06-07 October 2026
09:30-17:30 / 09:30-13:00
Minutes agreed on 23 October 2026

Location: EFSA - Parma (Board Room) and Web conference

Attendees:

- Network Participants:

Country	Member State Organisation
Austria	Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES)
Belgium	FPS Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment; Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain (FASFC) The Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain (FAVV-AFSCA)
Bulgaria	Bulgarian Food Safety Agency; Risk Assessment Center on Food Chain
Croatia	Croatian Agency for Agriculture and Food; Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; Croatian Veterinary Institute
Cyprus	Ministry of Health
Czechia	CAFIA; State Veterinary Administration; National Institute of Public Health
Denmark	Technical University of Denmark; Danish Veterinary and Food Administration
Estonia	Ministry of Regional Affairs and Agriculture; Agriculture and Food Board
Finland	Finnish Food Authority; Finnish Customs
France	French General Directorate for Food (DGAL); Service Commun des Laboratoires des Ministères économiques et financiers; ANSES
Germany	Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL)
Greece	Ministry of Rural Development and Food; Department of Plant Protection Products; Hellenic Food Authority (EFET)
Hungary	National Food Chain Safety Office
Iceland	Icelandic Food and Veterinary Authority (MAST)
Ireland	Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI); Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
Italy	Ministry of Health
Latvia	Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health and Environment "BIOR"
Lithuania	National Food and Veterinary Risk Assessment Institute

Luxembourg	ALVA
Malta	Food Safety and Security Authority (FSSA)
Netherlands	Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA); Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM)
Norway	Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO); Institute of Marine Research; Norwegian Food Safety Authority (NFSA / Mattilsynet)
Poland	National Veterinary Research Institute (PIWet); Chief Sanitary Inspectorate; National Institute of Public Heath NIH – National Research Institute
Portugal	National Institute of Health Doutor Ricardo Jorge (INSA, IP); Economic and Food Safety Authority; General Directorate of Food and Veterinary (DGAV)
Romania	National Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority; Institute for Hygiene and Veterinary Public Health; National Phytosanitary Authority – National Phytosanitary Laboratory – Laboratory for Pesticide Residue Control in Plant and Vegetable Products; National Institute of Public Health; SVFSD Bucharest
Slovakia	National Agricultural and Food Centre; State Veterinary and Food Administration of the Slovak Republic
Slovenia	Administration of the Republic of Slovenia for Food Safety, Veterinary Sector and Plant Protection; National Veterinary Institute
Spain	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; Spanish Agency for Food Safety and Nutrition
Sweden	Swedish Food Agency

- Observers:
  Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office FSVO (Switzerland);
  Albanian National Food Authority (Albania);
  Food and Veterinary Agency (Kosovo);
  Center for Ecotoxicological Research (Montenegro);
  Food and Veterinary Agency (North Macedonia);
  Institute of Meat Hygiene and Technology, Belgrade, Serbia (Serbia);
  Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (Turkey);

- European Commission:
  DG SANTE, Units E2, E4, F3 and F4

- Other EU Agencies representatives:
  EURL – VMPR: ANSES, WFSR, BVL
  EURL - PPP for FV in MRM: UAL
  EURL - Dioxins and PCBs: CVUA
  EURL - Food Additives and Flavourings: Sciensano

- EFSA:

IDATA Unit: Fabrizio Abbinante, Sofia Ioannidou, Paula Medina Pastor, Agathi Ntzouvani, Alicia Gutiérrez Linares, Andreia Lopes, Carmen Gonzalez Ciria, Daniela Brocca, Emanuela Marchese, Francesco Limoni, Giuseppe Triacchini, Guido Zunino, Luca Pasinato, Maria Pia Fabrile, Marta Vericat Ferrer, Stefania Salvatore, Valentina Bocca, Vittoria Flamini, Alexios Zormpas, Elena Bellavere.

MESE Unit: Alexandra Tard, Beatriz Oliveira, Bruno Dujardin, Francesca Riolo, Jose Angel Gómez Ruiz, Rita Ferreira De Sousa, Zsuzsanna Horvath.

Agreement of the minutes of the 8th Network meeting held on 7-8 October 2025, in Parma or via web-conference

The minutes of the 8th Network meeting had been previously agreed by written procedure on 23rd October 2025 and published on the EFSA website on 24th October 2025.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without change.

3. Nomination on data collection roles

EFSA presented the process for granting access to the data collection (DC) systems, including user creation and the assignment of individual roles and permissions. The different roles involved in data transmission and validation, as well as the corresponding access rights in DCF and MicroStrategy, were explained.

EFSA also explained the role of nominators in coordinating and assigning DC operator roles. Assignments are reviewed annually through an Excel template, usually distributed in November, where nominators provide the required user and role information. Network members were encouraged to submit nominations as early as possible, with the end of March 2027 as the mandatory deadline ahead of the start of the DC on 1 April.

Agreement was reached on providing the telephone number to EFSA so data providers could be reached in exceptional circumstances during the data submission.

4. Reflections on reporting pesticide residues data

EFSA presented the outcome and the reflections from the 2026 pesticide residues ChemMon DC, addressing remarks received from Member States (MSs), and providing additional considerations for the next DC.

The relevant supporting material shared before the opening of the DC was outlined, including the 2026 EU MACP file and the list of relevant commodities, in compliance with Regulation (EU) 2025/854 and its amendment by Regulation (EU) 2026/824. EFSA highlighted the importance of checking the commodities and facets that trigger the EU MACP flag and consulting the relevant dashboards before data validation.

EFSA presented Regulations (EU) 2019/1793 and 2018/1873 applicable to increased import controls on non-animal and animal commodities, respectively. The related reporting requirements were also explained, including flagging and verification of country–commodity combinations as reported in the supporting CN_CODE file.

Related updates to the business rules (BR), catalogues (FoodEx2, MATRIX, Param) and Legal Limit Database were also presented.

EFSA also reminded Network members that legal limits for baby food apply to the ready-to-eat product and highlighted the need to report such a facet when applicable.

The Network was informed about the creation of a new sampling method code to cover the requirements of Regulation (EU) 2026/765, which shall apply from 1 January 2027 and will therefore be relevant for the 2028 DC.

EFSA asked Network members to nominate the visualisation consultee for their MS through the Excel file available in Teams and to update their section of the National Summary Report by 31 October. The importance of the visualisation nomination was highlighted considering the sensitive nature of the Annual Report, which is shared under embargo during consultation.

Participants asked for clarification on the specificity of the FoodEx2 codes listed in the EU MACP file. EFSA explained that the list is agreed within a European Commission Working Group on Monitoring. An update will be provided after the Working Group on Monitoring on 15 October where the current interpretation may be further discussed and reconsidered.

EFSA confirmed that the default MRL will not be checked for Copper in baby food commodities. An explanation regarding the change of domain and the resulting increase in the number of reported samples will be provided in the Annual Report.

Lastly, EFSA presented the proposed revision of the Action Taken catalogue, aimed at introducing new terms to cover situations that are currently reported under the generic term 'Other', with the objective of removing it from the catalogue. EFSA stressed the importance of knowing whether samples remained available on the market or were withdrawn. A longer transitional period to introduce the change was requested by the Network members. It was therefore agreed together with the European Commission that, for the 2027 data collection, the 'Other' term will be retained with a warning message, and new terms will be added based on the proposals received. The term 'Other' will then be deprecated for the 2028 DC. Network members were invited to submit proposals for new terms by 31 October 2026.

In response to a question from a participant, EFSA provided an update on the terminology management tool being developed to replace the current Catalogue Browser. The new web-based tool will allow users to browse EFSA catalogues without requiring local installation. Some functionalities, including the FoodEx2 describe function, are still under development. EFSA indicated that the tool could be made available to interested Network members for testing and feedback.

POST MEETING NOTE: Following the Working Group on Monitoring meeting held on 15 October, it was agreed that all child terms of the FoodEx2 terms listed in the EU MACP will be included, except those under Sweet peppers, Olives for oil production and Cow milk whole.

5. Reflections on reporting contaminants data

EFSA presented the outcome of the 2026 chemical contaminants data collection, including an analysis comparing the total number of records submitted with previous years. A slight increase in the volume of submitted data compared with ChemMon 2025 was reported, together with an increase in results linked to the prioritised substances.

An overview of the necessary combination of controlled terminologies ('sampling strategy' (sampStrategy), 'sampling point' (sampPoint) and 'programme type' (progType)) needed for the codification of the two official control plans was provided. The deadline for the transmission of control plan results remains 30 June, as in the previous year. Additional information including a guidance and a dedicated webpage, as shared by European Commission, were presented. The codification of samples for the official control plans remains unchanged.

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/931 and Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/932 specify the contaminant–commodity group combinations and minimum control frequencies for the two control plans. To support validation of submitted results against these plans, EFSA is enhancing the validation dashboard with Product Category filter, aligned with the regulatory requirements.

For this enhancement, EFSA created an algorithm which takes into consideration facets such as [F01] Source; [F02] Part-nature; [F21] Production-method with the aim to capture all possible reporting matrices within the 'sampMatCode' data element, following a similar approach as done for the VMPR domain. Composite dishes were identified as particularly challenging, and the [F33] Legislative-class facet 'Contaminant commodity group classes' was introduced within the MTX catalogue, to support their classification.

Updates to the BRs affecting the contaminants domain were also presented, including rules that will change from warnings to errors. In particular, Network members were notified about a specific business rule linked to the expression of result when this element is not reported, which will become an error in 2028, as this information is very important for risk assessment. MSs were encouraged to carefully consult the guidance document, once available, and Table 1 where all changes are summarised.

In addition, EFSA shared the draft priority list of contaminants for the 2027 data collection informing the Network members that the final list will be available around February, before the opening of Chemical Monitoring data collection. The list is still

under internal discussion as mandates and further needs are expected by European Commission.

Lastly, an overview was provided of aspects that worked well during the DC and areas for improvement, including earlier data submission, before the end of June, and the comparison of official control plans against reported results. Participants were reminded to provide comments on the ChemMon guidance by 31 October and to follow the Teams communications for updates to the guidance, catalogues and BRs.

Following the presentation, a participant asked whether the algorithm used to categorise matrices for the validation of the official control plans could be shared, so that data providers (DP) could perform similar checks before the validation phase. EFSA confirmed that the algorithm could be shared.

Concerns were also raised regarding the reporting requirements for copper, with a request to retain the relevant BR as a warning rather than changing it to an error due to difficulties in obtaining the required information from DP. EFSA explained that information on sample preparation is needed to distinguish results obtained following pesticide and contaminant procedures, as differences in sample preparation may lead to different analytical results. In view of future assessment needed for copper, EFSA indicated that the rule should remain an error.

6. Reflections on reporting food additives and food flavourings data.

EFSA presented the outcome of the 2026 DC on food additives and flavourings. Two calls for data were launched: a general call covering substances requiring re-evaluation or a follow-up assessment, and a second call related to the second pilot.

An overview of the analytical data, use levels and presence data collected was provided. Overall, an increase in the number of analytical results compared with previous years was reported, with broad coverage of substances and food categories. EFSA highlighted some discrepancies between the compliance assessment reported by DPs and that performed by EFSA and encouraged DPs to carefully check this information. Where relevant, additional information, for example on natural occurrence or the carry-over principle, should be reported to help explain such discrepancies. No-presence data were received for the first time and will be used in the exposure assessment for the report.

The preparation of the scientific report for the second pilot was also presented by EFSA. Its content will include an overview of the data collected, exposure assessment and the main conclusions and lessons learned. The draft report is expected to be published by April 2027.

Based on the experience gained during the pilot, EFSA presented the main lessons learned and new reporting requirements for the 2027 DC. These include reporting only one F33 facet by food legislative category, making information on physical state mandatory for specific food categories and introducing a new term to report cases where the carry-over principle applies. Further developments concerning the expression of results are under discussion. EFSA also highlighted the importance of reporting the relevant F33 facet for dual substances, the LOD for qualitative results and concentrations for individual substances rather than only the sum of substances,

where relevant for exposure assessment. Reporting of the restriction/exception will remain subject to a warning in 2027, while making them an error for the most relevant restrictions are being considered for 2028. EFSA acknowledged the difficulties associated with this approach, which were also raised by some participants during the discussion.

EFSA also presented the Legal Limits Database (LLDB) for food additives and flavourings as a supporting resource for DPs.

Regarding the 2027 DC, EFSA explained that no priority list will be established following the end of the pilot. Consequently, a technical report without an exposure assessment will be produced. The approach for the 2028 DC remains under discussion, including the possibility of performing exposure assessments for substances commonly included in the multiannual monitoring plans submitted by MSs to the European Commission. The timelines for the 2027 DC will remain the same as the previous year. Updated reporting guidance, tools and training will continue to be provided.

Following the presentation, participants raised several questions concerning the requirement to report only one F33 facet, particularly when an implicit facet is missing, changes during the reporting period, or does not correctly represent the product. Participants highlighted the importance of having the relevant implicit F33 facets in place from the beginning of the reporting period and avoiding changes during the DC. EFSA acknowledged this point but confirmed that only one F33 facet by food legislative category should be reported, as experience from the pilot showed that duplication could affect data quality. DPs were invited to report cases where the implicit classification is not appropriate so that possible amendments to the catalogue can be considered, avoiding the need to report a more generic FoodEx2 code. EFSA also clarified that, for dual-use substances, the relevant food legislative categories for the different domains can be reported without conflict.

Participants also asked whether the LLDB could be made available through an API or web service to facilitate its integration into national systems. EFSA invited participants to submit these technical requests so that they could be collected and followed up with the relevant colleagues.

7. Reflections on reporting veterinary medicinal product residue data

EFSA presented an overview of the outcome of VMPR data reporting under the 2026 ChemMon DC, stressing the importance of submitting the data before the deadline to avoid overloading the system during the last days of reporting period. A decrease in the number of excluded records and requests for dedicated ad-hoc support from EFSA was noted, while the data quality increased.

An overview of the 2025 VMPR Annual Report was provided, including the overall figures and the main additions to the report. The draft tables will be made available in the following days, and MSs were invited to provide comments by 31 October.

Regarding commodity classification, it was explained that, while DPs report commodities using FoodEx2, the VMPR legislation defines specific commodity groups.

Different algorithms have been implemented to map the possible FoodEx2 combinations to the main VMPR legislative commodity groups. A dedicated post was shared in the Teams channel with all the details. Game sample or commodities added or updated at a later stage need to be manually incorporated into the mapping, and DPs were therefore asked to communicate such additions as early as possible to facilitate their inclusion.

The updates for the 2027 DC were also presented, including the reclassification of substances, revisions and corrections to the limits in the LLDB, and updates to the BRs.

Following a question from a participant on the reclassification of a substance, both EFSA and EURL confirmed the substance group as established in the legislation.

8. Reflections on reporting veterinary medicinal product residue plans

EFSA presented an overview of the outcome of the 2026 VMPR National Control Plan (NCP) survey. A total of 17 participants from 16 countries took part in the survey, representing fewer responses than in previous years. Overall satisfaction increased compared with the previous years, and DPs provided positive feedback on the technical and scientific support received. Lower satisfaction was reported regarding the Data Collection Framework (DCF). Other issues raised concerned the reporting of -1 for CCβ, the need for a minor release of the PARAM catalogue and the upload of Plan 2 for countries using the HR-LCMS method.

The changes and improvements planned for the 2027 VMPR NCP data collection were also presented. These include improvements to the validation dashboards, including the newest version of the EURL's MMPR guidance limits, and the revision by the European Commission of the questions covering the textual part of the plan, which will be included in the reporting guidance.

The timelines and resources for the 2027 VMPR NCP data collection were presented. Reporting countries were invited to register for the training using the same Excel file provided for the other domains.

Finally, an overview was provided of the supporting resources that will be made available through a dedicated Teams channel, including the reporting guidance, catalogues and XML schema.

9. Use of screening methods

EFSA opened a discussion on the use and reporting of screening methods across the four ChemMon domains. The aim was to establish a common understanding of the different types of screening methods, the degree of validation done on each type and the level of confidence associated with substance identification and quantification. EFSA clarified that the objective was not to decide at this stage which methods should be accepted for reporting, but to establish a common understanding of what screening methods are for further discussion.

The EURLs presented the approaches currently used in the different domains. While the terminology and specific requirements differ across domains, the approaches presented followed similar concepts of screening, qualitative, semi-quantitative and quantitative evaluation:

- VMPR: suspect, qualitative, semi-quantitative and quantitative screening methods were described, together with their validation requirements and their role in identifying samples that if presence of a substance would require confirmatory analysis.
- Pesticides: a tier approach was presented based on progressively increasing confidence in substance identification and validated concentration. Tier 1 (screening) includes target, suspect and non-target screening without confirmation against an analytical reference standard; identification therefore remains tentative and non-detection does not exclude the presence of the substance. Tier 2 (qualitative evaluation) confirms the identity against an analytical reference standard, but no concentration is reported. Tier 3 (semi-quantitative evaluation) provides an estimate of the concentration, although not a fully validated quantitative result. Tier 4 (quantitative evaluation) provides confirmed identification and a concentration obtained using a fully validated quantitative method. The EURL in PPP proposed an extrapolation of these tier approach to the rest of the domains as far as possible.
- Food additives and flavourings: screening approaches may vary depending on the substance and should not be limited to mass spectrometry-based methods, with particular importance given to the level of confidence in substance identification.
- Contaminants: examples of semi-quantitative and quantitative screening methods were presented for specific substance groups, including methods already covered by legislation.

The discussion also highlighted the distinction between the use of screening methods for official control and compliance purposes and their potential use for surveillance and exposure assessment. EFSA explained that, under the current SSD2 model, sufficient confidence in substance identification is essential for data reported to EFSA. For qualitative or binary methods, knowing the threshold at which the presence or absence of a substance can be reliably determined, as well as information on both positive and negative results, is important for interpreting the data. Less targeted approaches, such as suspect and non-target screening, could also provide useful information in the future, particularly for surveillance and substances for which limited data are available, although the current SSD2 model does not allow different levels of confidence in substance identification to be reported.

As a next step, MSs were invited to provide feedback on the screening methods currently used at national level across the different domains, including how they are used and reported, and their possible use for official control and monitoring purposes. EFSA will also await the guidance currently being developed by the EURLs for VMPR and will subsequently liaise with the European Commission to assess whether these data are of interest and should be reported to EFSA.

10. Analytical Method Catalogue update

EFSA presented the ongoing reorganisation of the ANLYMD catalogue, to be implemented for the 2027 DC, aimed at creating also a new structured ChemMon hierarchy focused on analytical methods for chemicals and better aligned with the needs of the different domains and EU legislative requirements. To this purpose, among others, EFSA analysed the frequencies of the terms reported across the different domains over the last data collections and revised general, unspecific terms.

Both the Master and the new ChemMon hierarchy will be organised according to 4 main groups of analytical techniques: chemical, physical, physiochemical and biological. EFSA explained that the new structure is expected to facilitate the consultation and maintenance of the catalogue and the introduction of future, new analytical techniques terms. The Master hierarchy will remain the umbrella catalogue across EFSA domains, while its structure will be reorganised and duplicated and generic terms will be possibly removed.

The major release of the ANLYMD catalogue is planned for January/February 2027, with the ChemMon hierarchy to be implemented for the 2027 ChemMon DCs. Network members were invited to provide feedback on the proposal through the Excel file available in the Network Annual Meeting Teams channel by 23 October 2026 COB.

EFSA presented four open topics for discussion and invited participants to provide feedback. These included the harmonisation and merging of HPLC and LC codes, the introduction of quality checks on the use of the ChemMon hierarchy, the proposed removal of generic terms such as ’unknown‘, ’unspecified‘, ’classification not possible‘ and ’method not known‘, and possible changes to some term extended names.

Participants – including EURLs representatives - supported the harmonisation of HPLC and LC terminology. Regarding the generic terms, one country requested retaining the possibility to report ’method not known‘; this because analytical method information is not available in its national databases. The quality control check on these new requirements (e.g. the setting of a new BR) will return error message starting from 2 years of the new ChemMon hierarchy implementation. Overall, the proposed approach received positive feedback.

11. 2027 Harmonised Chemical Monitoring Data Collection (DC)

EFSA provided an overview of the preparations for the 2027 ChemMon DC, covering the proposed updates to the Chemical Monitoring Reporting Guidance, the annual revision of the SSD2 catalogues and BRs, the DC process and resources, reporting tools and timelines.

Requests for changes to the PARAM and/or other SSD2 catalogues, including the presented newly structured analytical method catalogue, and the VMPR hierarchy, should be submitted by 31 October. The major release of the updated catalogues, as every year, is planned for the end of January 2027.

Regarding the Chemical Monitoring Reporting Guidance, EFSA invited Network members to provide comments on the draft by 31 October. The overall structure will

remain unchanged, while updates will cover reporting elements, examples and BRs. The main changes for the 2027 DC will be summarised in the guidance, with amendments highlighted in yellow throughout the document.

The full list of new, amended and deprecated BRs was presented, including warnings that will become errors in ChemMon 2027. EFSA also addressed questions from participants regarding some of the proposed changes.

EFSA informed the Network that the reporting tools will be updated following the publication of the new catalogues. Different versions of reporting tool will continue to be available depending on the reporting needs, including the 'simplified' and 'flat' version.

Regarding the process and available resources, EFSA mentioned that no changes to the data transmission, submission validation and acceptance process are expected. Data validation and acceptance will continue to be supported through the available visualisation tools. Participants were reminded to check the dedicated Teams channels for DC updates and notifications. For technical support, they were advised to contact EFSA's Service Desk; all other queries should be sent directly to data.collection@efsa.europa.eu.

EFSA shared the link for expressing interest in the 2027 training and invited Network members to indicate participants by 31 December. In response to a question from a participant, EFSA clarified that specific topics related to ChemMon data reporting can also be indicated and addressed during the training.

The timelines will remain similar to previous years, with the testing environment available in March 2027, data transmission from 1 April to 30 of June, and validation and acceptance during July and August. EFSA confirmed that the 2027 ChemMon DC will close on 31 August.

12. Outcome of the project 'Data for Chemicals'

EFSA presented the outcome of the Data for Chemicals project, aimed at supporting a more robust and One Health-aligned approach to EFSA risk assessment. The project focused on identifying and prioritising monitoring and surveillance data needs for advancing in chemical risk assessment, assessing the availability of relevant data sources and providing recommendations for data retrieval, harmonisation and generation.

The work included the identification and prioritisation of data gaps for selected chemical groups, which included pesticides residues, chemical contaminants and food additives (veterinary medicinal products were intentionally excluded from this project) and the development of an inventory of available data sources to address the prioritised data needs. Key challenges, including data fragmentation and interoperability, were identified. The main outputs and recommendations were presented. Links to the supporting publication and the inventory of data sources on Zenodo were also provided.

13. Update on REBUILD project

EFSA presented an update on the REBUILD project and DCF2, the new data collection system that will replace the current DCF. The project is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2027. The first operational version of DCF2 was tested through a pilot to assess the end-to-end process and collect feedback before implementation. Overall feedback was positive, particularly regarding system performance, flexibility and error management. Areas for further improvement were grouped into three main categories: error management, file traceability and usability, which are currently being addressed.

The main changes introduced by DCF2 were presented. The new system will support different file formats and data transmission through APIs, provide more user-friendly error reports and allow corrections directly in the platform. Validated data will become available in the dashboards shortly after transmission, with Power BI used for data visualisation. The process between data submission and final acceptance will also be clearly structured, including a release step that can be triggered manually or automatically at the reporting deadline, followed by EFSA review and final data acceptance.

For Chemical Monitoring, EFSA proposed a phased transition. The 2027 ChemMon DC will continue to use the current DCF, while DCF2 will be made available for testing during 2027. The official ChemMon DC is planned to move to DCF2 in 2028. EFSA explained that the transition will be supported by dedicated training, guidance and documentation.

Following the presentation, participants raised questions regarding the process between the reporting deadline and final data acceptance, as well as the reporting tools and the availability of DCF2 for testing. EFSA clarified that corrections will remain possible during the validation period and confirmed that reporting tools will continue to be provided. DCF2 is expected to become available for further testing during 2027, potentially from March, when the testing environment for data collections opens.

Participants also asked whether the current DCF could remain available as a contingency system during the transition to DCF2 in 2028. EFSA indicated that this possibility would need to be further assessed, while highlighting that DCF2 is being developed to improve performance and capacity and will continue to be tested and improved ahead of its implementation.

14. Annual Reporting on Official Controls: status of data sharing

EFSA recalled the data-sharing exercise for the Annual Report on Official Controls (AROC), aimed at avoiding double reporting by MSs. The transfer dates remained 1 and 18 August at 8 a.m. CET. Due to technical issues affecting three MSs during the second transfer this year, an additional transfer was performed on 20 August. Overall, positive feedback was received on the exercise.

Following questions from participants, the European Commission clarified that the data transferred from EFSA covers official controls performed, while MSs remain

responsible for reporting non-compliances status. This approach was agreed within the former working group on multiannual national control plans and annual reports (MANCP Network), as not all non-compliances are necessarily reported to EFSA. Regarding the possibility of an additional transfer closer to 31 August, it was explained that the current dates were previously agreed by that network and cannot be modified within the ChemMon Network.

15. CN-FoodEx2 mapping exercise

EFSA presented the completed mapping between the Combined Nomenclature (CN), used to report real-time data to the European Commission via TRACES, and FoodEx2, used for data reported to EFSA. The mapping covers CN chapters 1–24 and uses FoodEx2 version 17.1 as reference, with a total of 3,206 entries assessed. The mapping exercise aims to facilitate the connection between trade and monitoring data, improve consistency in commodity classification and support interoperability between the two systems. It also helped identify gaps in FoodEx2 and cases where additional information from the user is required.

The mapping was performed considering the hierarchical structure of both systems and using FoodEx2 facets where needed to capture information contained in the CN descriptions. Where a suitable mapping could not be established, the entry was left unmapped and the reason documented. The complete mapping has been published in an Excel file, with a separate sheet for each CN chapter, alongside the supporting report. Both documents are available in Zenodo. Different Units in SANTE, those dealing with IMSOC, iRASFF, imports and AROC, have been made aware of this publication.

16. Clarification requests on occurrence data

EFSA provided an overview of the feedback received from MSs following the clarification requests sent by EFSA during the assessment of the occurrence data. MSs highlighted that these requests can be time- and resource-intensive, particularly when involving many records, coinciding with DC periods or requiring several laboratories to be contacted. MSs have also requested greater flexibility in deadlines, better grouping and structuring of requests, use of functional mailboxes and earlier information on upcoming risk assessments.

EFSA presented measures already implemented in response to MSs' feedback, including grouping requests whenever possible, using functional mailboxes and simplifying the files shared with DP to facilitate the identification of issues. Flexibility in deadlines is also provided where possible, depending on the timelines of the corresponding risk assessment. Further improvements are planned, including certain automation of data checks for an early identification of clarifications relevant for the exposure assessment, and the implementation of BRs targeting data elements relevant for exposure assessment.

Following the interest of MSs on the preparation of the data for the exposure assessments, EFSA provided an overview of this process, including how the different issues are identified in the occurrence data submitted by the MSs. The feedback

received is incorporated into the assessment and discussed within the corresponding Working Groups, which may result in additional clarification requests before the final dataset is established. EFSA also informed the Network that the technical report describing the handling of occurrence data for exposure assessment is being updated, with a foreseen publication in the first quarter of 2027.

EFSA provided examples of recurrent data issues leading to clarification requests, the data element affected and their potential impact on exposure assessment. Particular attention was given to missing information on the expression of results and physical state, which can have a high impact on the assessment. Other examples included insufficiently detailed FoodEx2 coding, analytical method information and information on pooled samples. Issues related to the expression of results and F33 legislative categories for food additives were also presented.

Following the presentation, participants stressed that some missing information may not be available at national level, particularly for older data. EFSA acknowledged these limitations and explained that recent data are preferred whenever possible, although the period considered depends on the needs of the risk assessment. Where the requested information cannot be retrieved, EFSA asked DP to inform EFSA accordingly and respond to the requests in order to avoid delays in the assessment process.

17. AGoD Update

EFSA presented an update on the activities of the Advisory Group on Data (AGoD), which focused on four main areas: the development of a food safety data space, AI readiness, support to tailor-made activities in the data area, and the work of its subgroups. Regarding the food safety data space, work focused on defining its scope and possible ways forward to support data sharing and interoperability across Europe. AI-related activities mainly involved exchanges between EFSA and MSs on their respective initiatives and approaches.

The AGoD also supported the evaluation of tailor-made activities and highlighted an upcoming activity on data flow mapping across MSs to identify challenges in DC processes. The work of its four subgroups was also presented, including three position papers expected to be published soon. Finally, common challenges such as data fragmentation, governance and trust, cross-border data access, terminology and data literacy were highlighted, and interested Network members were encouraged to engage with the relevant subgroups.

18. Development, implementation and results on the Tailor-Made Activity tool: 'Capture data @sampling point'

A tailor-made activity led by Portugal, in collaboration with Denmark and Belgium, was presented. The project builds on previous work under an earlier partnering grant involving Portugal and Croatia, which explored the development of a digital tool for food sampling data collection and the use of AI for FoodEx2 classification. The current project further develops this approach through IDRISK2.0, supporting inspectors in

collecting and coding food sampling information directly at the sampling point, reducing manual data entry and improving data quality and completeness.

The application uses information and photos collected in the field to extract relevant product information, including the location and name of the food business operator through GPS, and supports FoodEx2 classification using AI. The proposed coding can be reviewed and validated by the user. Additional sampling information can also be recorded, and the tool can generate both structured datasets and reports.

A version of the application was presented and Network members were invited to test it and contribute to its validation before the end of the project. Participants raised questions regarding the AI and vision models used, the languages supported, the validation of the proposed FoodEx2 coding, its use for unpackaged food and possible integration with other initiatives.

EFSA encouraged developers of applications arising from tailor-made activities with similar or compatible objectives to collaborate and exchange ideas. While the scope and target users of the initiatives may differ, the importance of bringing them together and facilitating exchanges was highlighted, with the Advisory Group on Data identified as a forum for sharing these initiatives and experiences.

19. Any Other Business

EFSA shared the deadlines for inputs mentioned throughout the meeting, as well as some of the agreements reached.

The 10th ChemMon Network meeting was tentatively scheduled for 5–6 October 2027. The meeting is planned to take place in a hybrid format, following a similar format to this year’s meeting.