

Bucharest, 24 May 2013

Bulgarian scientists called on to join two EFSA scientific Panels

Working together with EFSA in making Europe's food safe
Conference on Food Ingredients and Packaging
Romanian EFSA Focal Point

Representatives from the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) were in Bucharest today to engage with scientists from Romania, Bulgaria, Cyprus and neighbouring countries on its work and to encourage them to join the Authority's scientific Panels dealing with the safety of food ingredients and food packaging. At an event in the Romanian capital, organised in co-operation with the National Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority, EFSA highlighted the newly launched call for membership of its Scientific Panel on Food Additives and Nutrient Sources Added to Food (ANS Panel) and Scientific Panel on Food Contact Materials, Enzymes, Flavourings and Processing Aids (CEF Panel). The call for these Panels is open between 15 April 2013 and 17 June 2013.

Prof. Dr. Boiko Likov, Director of Bulgaria's Risk Assessment Centre and member of EFSA's Advisory Forum said, "The ANS and CEF Panels work in important areas such as food additives and food contact materials. EFSA is specifically seeking experts from Bulgaria and other new Member States for this call because the Authority is keen to ensure that the Scientific Panels are well represented with highly-qualified scientists reflecting the geographic diversity of expertise in the European Union that EFSA draws on to carry out its work."

Dr. Leon Brimer, a member of EFSA's CEF Panel and present at the meeting in Bucharest, explained: "EFSA's scientists work on state-of-the-art scientific data in multi-disciplinary groups where we learn the perspectives of other scientists and contribute with our own expertise. This can be of great benefit to the work on national food safety issues." Prof. Likov added: "Scientists from the new Member States are underrepresented on EFSA's Panels and I strongly encourage my Bulgarian colleagues to apply to this new call. Their participation would enhance the value of EFSA's role within the European food safety system."

Applicants should demonstrate experience in carrying out scientific risk assessment and have proven scientific excellence with a track record in toxicology, toxicity testing, chemistry, dietary exposure assessment, human nutrition, food enzymes including from genetically-modified micro-organisms, and food technology. Selected applicants, who will be offered a three-year mandate, will contribute to delivering the highest quality scientific advice for Europe's decision makers in the areas of food and feed safety.

Interested experts are invited to apply for EFSA Scientific Panels membership through an online procedure, details of which are available through the link below or through the homepage of EFSA's website for the duration of the call. The call has also been published in the Official Journal of the European Union.

- [Call for expressions of interest for membership of the Scientific ANS and CEF Panels of EFSA - deadline: 17 June 2013](#)

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Notes

- The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) was set up in January 2002, following a series of food crises in the late 1990s, as an independent source of scientific advice and communication on risks associated with the food chain. In the European food safety system, risk assessment is done independently from risk management. As the risk assessor, EFSA produces scientific opinions and advice to provide a sound foundation for European policies and legislation and to support the European Commission, European Parliament and EU Member States in taking effective and timely risk management decisions.
- The ANS Panel's work concerns food additives such as colours and sweeteners, nutrient sources added to food (e.g. sources of vitamins and minerals) and other substances deliberately added to food, including for purposes other than technological ones, e.g. with functional properties, but excluding flavourings and enzymes.
- The CEF Panel's work concerns food contact materials, for example, used in food containers or food packaging; also flavourings and food enzymes, processing aids and some processes (e.g. irradiation of foodstuffs, recycling of plastics for use in food contact materials).
- The ANS Panel and the CEF Panel perform most of their work in the context of authorisation procedures, since they deal mainly with regulated substances or processes which have to be evaluated by EFSA before their use within the EU can be authorised.