



TRANSPARENCY IN RISK ASSESSMENT OPENING REMARKS

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Transparency in Risk Assessment - 3 October 2013, Parma

Transparency at EFSA

Openness and transparency are fundamental aspects of EFSA and are enshrined as concepts in EFSA's regulatory framework and in the overall Community policies on governance.

- 2003: EFSA's Management Board adopts EFSA's approach to "Openness, Transparency and Confidentiality"
- 2005: Decision of the EFSA's Management Board concerning implementing measures of transparency and confidentiality
- 2006: EFSA Scientific Committee opinion on transparency in risk assessment – procedural aspects
- 2009: EFSA Scientific Committee opinion on transparency in risk assessment – scientific aspects
- 2012: Management Board recommendations related to EFSA's external evaluation

External Evaluation report: Comments - Openness and Transparency

- Publication of a wider portfolio of documents than those foreseen in the Founding Regulation;
- Satisfying level of inclusion of external stakeholders in EFSA's decision making processes;
- Availability of a wide mix of instruments of involvement that globally satisfy stakeholders (i.e. Stakeholder Consultative Platform, Colloquia, workshops, hearing experts etc.);
- Progressively open attitude (e.g. Pilot project to open up some Panels to external observers).

STRENGTHS

External Evaluation report: Comments - Openness and Transparency

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

- Risk assessment processes, as the majority of Panel meetings are closed to public scrutiny;
- Updating of opinions when there is new evidence or criticisms raised;
- Clarity as relates the sources of data, and the use of conflicting data, assumptions, uncertainties, diverging opinions and stakeholders' comments;
- Transparency of the screening procedures and decisions on conflicts of interests;
- Transparency of the data collection process: provision, use, ownership and accessibility of data.

EFSA should increase trust by continuing to ensure independence and enhancing transparency and openness:

- ✓ **Processes and scientific approaches** (prioritisation, panel meetings, risk assessment process, public consultation and engagement with stakeholders)
- ✓ **Opinions** (clear language and the basis of opinions clearly explained, including data sources, exclusion/inclusion criteria, assumptions, uncertainties and any diverging views)

- EFSA to enhance **transparency of and access to the data** used in its risk assessments and to continue to review its independence policy/ procedures
- Greater involvement of stakeholders and other EU institutions in the **framing and formulation of requests** for scientific advice
- EFSA to strengthen the clarity of its communication, **improve accessibility and usability of information** in its communication tools (eg. web-site)

Purpose of today's discussions

- To identify how we can we build on what has been achieved so far
- To identify the priority areas for action:
 - ✓ How can the Panel work be opened up further, taking into account the different types of Opinions, building on the pilot project?
 - ✓ Where do EFSA's processes and procedures need to be made clearer?
 - ✓ How far should we go in terms of publication of data?
 - ✓ How and when should stakeholders be consulted and involved?
- To focus on what needs to happen in practice and how any constraints should be overcome.