On-going activities on Emerging Risks in the SCER unit

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56th Advisory Forum Meeting, Jurmala, Latvia, 11-12 June 2015
OUTLINE

1. Emerging Risks Exchange Network (EREN)
2. Stakeholder Consultative Group on Emerging Risks (StaCG-ER)
3. Project on Cyanobacteria
4. Testing a procedure for the identification of emerging chemical risks in the food chain
5. New calls in 2015
### EMERGING RISK EXCHANGE NETWORK (EREN) (1)

The EREN meets twice a year – 13th meeting held on 14 -15 April 2015

<table>
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<tr>
<th>TOPIC</th>
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<th>DISCUSSION POINTS</th>
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<td>Vibrio spp and TTX</td>
<td>• Vibrio spp. has been reported to be associated with TTX production • First detection of TTX in European bivalve shellfish</td>
<td>• In case of an increase in sea surface temperatures of coastal waters both issues would not be detected as not regularly monitored</td>
<td>• EFSA to consult with EU Reference laboratory for the monitoring of Marine Biotoxins.</td>
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<td>Deoxynivalenol and Zearalenone</td>
<td>Increase of levels in Italy in 2014 (linked to wetter and colder summer)</td>
<td>• Other mycotoxins favoured by cool and wet summer conditions could be produced and their toxicity could be scarcely known along with methods for detection</td>
<td>• EFSA should monitor the geographical and concentration change in mycotoxins across Europe with a view to validating and refining existing mycotoxin predictive model.</td>
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<td>Raw beetroot</td>
<td>FBD outbreaks related to consumption of raw beetroot without identification of real cause</td>
<td>• New trends in beetroot consumption pattern towards consuming beetroot raw, in particular linked to the benefit health claims amongst athletes</td>
<td>• To investigate whether and with what frequency beetroot is among the food items reported during food-borne outbreaks investigations; • To look into the national and/or European complaint system if any consumer reports indicate a link to the consumption of raw beetroot. • To discuss this issue at the next advisory forum.</td>
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| **Bitter Apricot and Bitter Almonds Kernels** | Consumption linked to cases of acute poisoning                         | • The issue is not new as the worldwide epidemiological data go back in time  
• New trend in consumption pattern which could explain this increase of FBD outbreaks linked to apricot kernels in different EC countries  
• Many of these outbreaks were linked to the consumption of apricot kernels associated with anti-carcinogenic health claims                                                                 | EFSA should keep monitoring the issue by enquiring MS to send information from the national poisoning centres.  
**Note:** New mandate for the CONTAM panel to draft a scientific opinion on the acute health risks related to the presence of hydrocyanic acid in apricot kernels and products derived from apricot kernels by end of 2015.                                                                 |
| **Influenza D virus**             | Putative novel influenza virus related to genus D in pigs and cattle    | • Surprised about cattle being the involved host species in this intercontinental spill over of this influenza genus as this is not the most common host such as pigs  
• The importance of this virus is currently not clear, as the clinical impact is not known.                                                                                                                                                                                                 | To propose this topic as a possible research topic under horizon 2020.. |
# STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON EMERGING RISKS (STACG-ER)

The StaCG-ER meets twice a year in Brussels - 13th meeting held on 5 May 2015

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| Allergens      | No harmonized methodologies for detection of individual allergenic protein and safe levels for residual amounts | • Presence of undeclared peanut and almond proteins in ground cumin  
• NDA Panel activities on the issue                                                 | • For the StaCG-ER : Exchange information/share data. (e.g. contact associations on people suffering from allergies ) |
| Xylella fastidiosa | Proposed eradication and prevention measures                          | • Current situation on the spread of the disease  
• Host plants  
• Vector of transmission  
• PLH Panel activities on the issue                                                  | • For the StaCG-ER : Exchange information/share data |
| TOPICS from previous EREN meetings | • Food emulsifiers (EREN 12th)  
• Deoxynivalenol and Zearalenone (EREN13th)  
• Raw beetroot (EREN13th)  
• Bitter Apricot Kernels (EREN13th)  
• Fluorinated alternatives to PFAS (EREN 12th) | As in EREN                                                                               | • For the StaCG-ER : Exchange information/share data |

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**CYANOBACTERIA PROJECT**

- **Background:** The issue was presented to StaCG-ER (2013), EREN (2013) and Standing Working Group on Emerging Risks (SWG) (2014) meetings; originally limited to food supplements (BGAS) contaminated with cyanotoxins;

- **Project:** The procurement has been awarded to the Consortium ISS (leader)+ ANSES. Duration: 12 months (ending December 2015)

- **Objective:** critically review literature with the aim to gather information and evaluate the evidence for:
  - the occurrence of cyanotoxins in food (including food supplements)
  - their toxicological relevance
  - plausible exposure scenarios from food consumption
  - data gaps and research needs
  - any other issue relevant for EFSA RA
• **Background:** In 2014, the SWG proposed a framework procedure for the identification of emerging chemical risks occurring in the food chain (EFSA, 2014);

• **Project:** The procurement has been awarded to the Consortium Fobig + Fraunhofer. Duration: 18 months (ending April 2016)

• **Objective:** procedure shall be tested by applying it to 100 industrial chemicals selected from the REACH database on manufactured or imported industrial chemicals

  ✓ Consists of a multi-step selection process that starts with a list of chemical substances to which a sequence of selection criteria is applied to identify the substances of potential concern;

  ✓ The selection criteria take into account a number of parameters such as volumes of production or import, persistence in the environment, potential for bioaccumulation, dispersive uses, toxicity and any available outcomes of risk assessments;

  ✓ Based on the results of this pilot study, the contractor should draw conclusions on the general applicability of the proposed procedure and provide suggestions for possible improvements;
NEW CALLS FOR 2015

- Whole food chain analysis
  - Identify vulnerabilities
  - Apply knowledge of drivers of emerging risks to generate scenarios
  - Fish aquaculture
- Testing a text mining tool for signals of emerging risks
  - 1 year pilot of TNO system & service