

## **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY AND THE EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL**

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), each hereinafter referred to as an "Organisation" or jointly as the "Organisations";

Having regard to their respective mandates as set out in their respective Founding Regulations (Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 for EFSA<sup>1</sup>, Regulation (EC) No 851/2004 for ECDC<sup>2</sup>) and the joint need to further develop information exchange and better mutual understanding between both Organisations;

Whereas:

1. It is within the Organisations' common interest as well as the public's interest to enhance their co-operation in contributing to protect public health;
2. Taking note with satisfaction of the on-going co-operation and progress achieved so far on the identification of possible areas of mutual interest concerning an enhanced effort on joint co-operation;
3. It is in their common interest, to increase co-operation between both Organisations, relating to different topics including food safety, control of communicable diseases, infectious diseases prevention and emergency response; and
4. Acknowledging established professional linkages between the Organisations on zoonoses, antimicrobial resistance, food-borne outbreaks, scientific advice, microbial risk assessment, surveillance/monitoring, epidemiological investigation, rapid alert, early warning, identification of emerging risk, emergency response and risk communication.

Have reached the following understanding:

---

<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety, OJ L 31, 01/02/2002, p. 1-24, as last amended.

<sup>2</sup> Regulation (EC) No 851/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 April 2004 establishing a European Centre for disease prevention and control, OJ L 142, 30/04/2004, p. 1-11.

## ***I. Purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding***

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter "MOU") is to enhance the co-operation between the Organisations on matters of mutual interest, in particular through active information exchange, share of knowledge, develop of synergies, better mutual understanding and increased collaboration.

## ***II. Areas to which the MOU applies***

1. In accordance with their respective mandates under their Founding Regulations, co-operation between the two Organisations will relate to communicable disease matters and food and feed safety, including zoonoses, antimicrobial resistance, food-borne outbreaks, scientific advice, surveillance/monitoring, epidemiological investigation, rapid alert, early warning, identification of emerging risks, emergency response, communication issues related to the areas identified above, and any other matter falling within the remits of the two Organisations.
2. This MOU may be implemented through specific work projects jointly agreed by the Organisations.

## ***III. Mutual Consultation***

The ECDC and the EFSA undertake to, where possible and appropriate:

- (a) consult each other regularly and endeavour to keep each other informed on strategic matters of common interest, for the purpose of achieving their respective objectives;
- (b) consult each other to ensure a degree of co-ordination in regard to matters in which both Organisations have an interest;
- (c) consult each other in the event of an emerging health threat that may affect or concern public health, zoonotic animal diseases or food safety; and

## ***IV. Other activities***

The ECDC and the EFSA undertake to, where possible and appropriate:

- (a) consider opportunities for joint communications activities on issues of common interest (e.g. joint press releases, briefings, publications, online communications); and
- (b) consider the possibility of staff exchange, training of staff and to cooperate on recruitment procedures;
- (c) consider cooperation in other non-science areas, e.g. software development.
- (d) Consider the possibility to cooperate on public procurement.

## **V. Exchange of Information**

**Exchange of general information** between the ECDC and the EFSA may take place for the purpose of and in accordance with the provisions of this MOU. To facilitate this exchange of information, both Organisations designate one staff member as coordinator for the maintenance of close, direct and continuing contacts with a view to ensuring the application of the provisions of the present MOU. These contact person will keep, and update as necessary, a list of contact persons for the main areas of collaboration. The contact person will organise institutional meetings (at least once a year) and videoconferences on a regular basis.

## **VI. Confidentiality of Information**

Each Organisation will ensure that information received on the basis of this MOU will be treated in accordance with applicable laws and regulations governing the processing and release of information. For specific purposes, more detailed agreements on confidential data handling and use may be developed.

## **VII. Divergences of Interpretation or Implementation**

The Organisations undertake to cooperate with a view to resolving any divergence that may arise in the interpretation or implementation of the MOU.

In the event of diverging scientific opinions, EFSA and ECDC cooperate with a view to either resolving the divergence or presenting a joint document to the Commission clarifying the contentious scientific issues and identifying the relevant uncertainties in the data. This document shall be made public.

## **VIII. Amendments**

This MOU may be amended by the mutual written consent of the Organisations at any time.

## **IX. Termination of the MOU**

This MOU may be terminated by either Organisation giving at least three months' written notice.

## **X. Entry into force**

This MOU will enter into force upon signature by both Organisations.

Signed in two original versions, in the English language.

Signature: on file  
Done at: Parma  
Date: 15 July 2014  
Bernhard Url,  
Executive Director

FOR THE EUROPEAN FOOD  
SAFETY AUTHORITY

Signature: on file  
Done at: Stockholm  
Date: 22 August 2014  
Marc Sprenger  
Director

FOR THE EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR  
DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL