

**TERMS OF REFERENCE  
OF THE EFSA SCIENTIFIC NETWORK  
FOR RISK ASSESSMENT IN PLANT HEALTH**

**Objectives**

The overall objective of the scientific network for risk assessment in plant health is to build mutual understanding of risk assessment principles in plant health sector and to provide increased transparency in the current process among Member States and EFSA.

The scientific network for risk assessment in plant health will contribute to strengthening of scientific cooperation on plant health issues in the European Union. It will anticipate and reduce the duplication of activities in the field of risk assessment. The network will be a privileged environment in which to share data and methodologies, thus facilitating harmonisation of the pest risk assessment practices. It will also allow anticipating emerging risks in the EU and enhance the understanding of the current pest risk assessment priorities that may need to be addressed through EFSA. This platform for cooperation in the field of plant health will be based on a dynamic exchange of information among all participants.

The specific objectives of the scientific network for risk assessment in plant health are:

- **To facilitate harmonisation of pest risk assessment practices and methodologies by:**
  - Sharing best practices in pest risk assessment between EFSA and the EU Member States.
  - Discussing ongoing issues of pest risk assessment such as new guidance developed or new opinions adopted.
  - Discussing new scientific developments in pest risk assessment and their implications on risk assessment practice.
  - Focusing attention on and streamlining common research needs that support progress in plant health risk assessment.
  - Analysing risk assessment needs and planning ahead for the implementation by EFSA and Member States of the new Plant health legislation expected in 2015
- **To enhance exchange of information and data between EFSA and MS by:**
  - Discussing issues of availability and quality of data required for pest risk assessment purposes.
  - Enhancing cooperation in data collection and sharing for pest risk assessment.
  - Identifying and mapping expertise in specific areas and on specific issues.
- **To achieve synergies in pest risk assessment activities by:**
  - Identifying common themes and areas for mutual collaboration.
  - Sharing and discussing on-going pest risk assessment activities.
  - Sharing and discussing priorities for pest risk assessment at national and EU level.

- Sharing of PRAs through common information exchange platform.
- Identifying emerging risks.

EFSA may entrust to the network certain tasks, in particular preparatory work for scientific opinions, scientific and technical assistance, and collection of data.

### **Members of the scientific network**

Members of networks shall be appointed in accordance with Articles 2 and 3 of the Decision of the Management Board of EFSA on the establishment and operations of networks<sup>1</sup>.

The desirable profile of the scientists includes the following:

- Experience in pest risk assessment, research or diagnosis at the national level.
- Knowledge of the national plant health status and of the European and/or international context of pest risk assessment.

### **Working language**

English will be the working language of the network.

### **Working methods**

The network shall meet at least once a year. The meeting(s) shall be recorded and the records published on the EFSA website.

In addition the network will use other means of collaboration:

- Exchanges of Member States' risk assessments and other information through the EFSA information exchange platform (IEP).
- Emails on specific questions or issues.

Member States' representatives in this network shall commit to liaise as appropriate at national level before and after each network meeting in order to make sure all the necessary information is shared without prejudice to Article 10 of the Decision of the Management Board concerning the establishment and operation of European Networks of scientific organisations operating in the field within the Authority's mission.

### **Timeline**

The terms of reference for the network will be due for revision in 2017.

---

<sup>1</sup> MB 18 03 10 - item 7 doc 6 Management Board Decision concerning the establishment and operation of European Networks of scientific organisations operating in the fields within the Authority's mission, EFSA 2010.