

# Scientific Panel renewal

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## What is the role of the **Scientific Panels**?

The experts sitting on the Scientific Committee and Scientific Panels are responsible for drafting and approving the scientific opinions and

advice which EFSA provides to EU risk managers. Each Panel focuses on a different area of the food chain.

## What about the **Scientific Committee**?

The Scientific Committee supports the work of the Panels on cross-cutting scientific issues such as the development of harmonised risk

assessment methodologies in fields where EU-wide approaches are not yet defined.

## Does this year's call cover **all** the Scientific Panels?

This call is addressed to scientists who wish to be considered for membership of the Scientific Committee or eight of EFSA's Scientific Panels: Animal Health and Welfare (AHAW), Biological Hazards (BIOHAZ), Contaminants in the Food Chain (CONTAM), Additives and Products or Substances used in Animal Feed (FEEDAP), Genetically Modified

Organisms (GMO), Dietetic Products, Nutrition and Allergies (NDA), Plant Health (PLH) and Plant Protection Products and their Residues (PPR). The Panel on Food Additives and Nutrient Sources Added to Food (ANS) and the Panel on Food Contact Materials, Enzymes, Flavourings and Processing Aids (CEF) were renewed last year.

## How many **experts** sit on the Panels?

Each Scientific Panel is typically composed of 21 independent scientific experts. The Scientific Committee is composed of the Chairs of each

Scientific Panel and six scientific experts.

## **What** do they do?

Members of the Scientific Committee and the Scientific Panels are appointed for a three-year term that may be renewed twice (a total of nine years). They are expected to attend and contribute actively

to the meetings of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels or their working groups, where opinions, statements or guidance documents are discussed, drafted and adopted.



## How many meetings are experts expected to attend?

The Committee and the Panels meet between six and eight times a year in Parma, Italy. The meetings usually last two days. In addition, members

are expected to participate in meetings of the working groups. These groups usually meet between six and eight times a year.

## Are experts paid for their work?

Experts do not receive a salary as they are not employed by EFSA, but EFSA reimburses the cost of their travel, accommodation and subsistence.

Experts are also paid a flat allowance for each day of a meeting that they attend.

## How are applicants assessed?

As well as meeting the basic selection criteria related to factors such as education, language skills and citizenship, applicants are evaluated against the following criteria:

- experience in carrying out scientific risk assessment and/or providing scientific advice in fields relevant to EFSA's remit;
- proven excellence in one or more fields linked to the area covered by the Scientific Panel or Committee;
- experience in peer reviewing scientific work and publications;
- ability to analyse complex information and dossiers, and preparing scientific opinions and reports;
- professional experience in a multidisciplinary environment, preferably in an international context;
- experience in project management related to scientific matters;
- experience in communication, based on teaching experience, public presentations, participation in meetings, publications.

## Who makes the appointments?

EFSA follows a detailed, transparent selection procedure, including external evaluation. EFSA's Management Board nominates new Scientific

Committee and Panel members, based on a shortlist submitted by the Executive Director.

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