

## Call to stakeholder organisations for nominating experts to the EFSA Discussion Group on Food Chemical Occurrence Data

Deadline for submission of nominations: 1 October 2018

### 1. Introduction

As stated in the Strategy 2020 - Trusted science for safe food, EFSA is committed to increasing public and stakeholder involvement in the process of risk assessment (EFSA 2016). The new approach to stakeholder engagement (SEA)<sup>1</sup> enables EFSA to interact with a broader range of stakeholders through a number of permanent and targeted platforms. Stakeholders can now engage with EFSA at a technical level through targeted platforms defined by particular interests and by the specific knowledge and expertise stakeholder communities bring to EFSA's work.

The Discussion Group on Food Chemical Occurrence Data (DG\_FCOD) is a targeted platform that from its inception in 2013 has enabled EFSA to benefit from stakeholder specialist knowledge and data in the field of chemical occurrence data collection. The DG\_FCOD was created to improve the exchange of information on the practical aspects and challenges regarding the provision of data from stakeholders with a particular focus not only on food additives and contaminants but also on food enzymes. The DG\_FCOD also functions as a platform for nurturing communication and dialogue on issues pertaining to EFSA's chemicals in food data collection activities.

To ensure a more balanced representation of different views, to address the needs of linking chemical usage with food consumption data and to be aligned with the new EFSA Stakeholder Engagement Approach (SEA), the composition of the current DG\_FCOD shall be revised and renewed for the period 2019-2021.

### 2. Scope of the Discussion Group on Food Chemical Occurrence Data

Stakeholders play a crucial role in providing occurrence and usage data in the area of chemicals in food needed to support EFSA's scientific assessments and evaluations.

The topics of each meeting are determined by the priority areas identified by EFSA and the requests from its registered stakeholders. The group will provide comments to EFSA on the issues discussed at the meetings as well as providing available data.

### 3. Stakeholders' involvement

The Discussion Group will be coordinated by the Evidence Management (DATA) Unit with the support of EFSA's Food Ingredients and Packaging (FIP) Unit and Engagement and Cooperation (ENCO) Unit. The costs of participating in meetings organised by EFSA will be borne by each individual stakeholder organisation.

Exceptionally, EFSA may contribute to financing the costs of those organisations that could not otherwise afford to participate. Financial contributions may only be awarded to stakeholder organisations which are non-governmental, non-profit making, independent of industry,

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<sup>1</sup>Stakeholder Engagement Approach  
[http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/EFSA%20Stakeholder%20engagement%20approach\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/EFSA%20Stakeholder%20engagement%20approach_FINAL.pdf)

commerce and business and have as their primary objectives and activities the promotion and protection of the health and safety of consumers and the environment. Requests for financial support shall be assessed on a case-by-case basis and will need to be properly documented by the requesting organisation. Representatives of the European Parliament and the European Commission may participate in meetings of this Discussion Group as observers.

The DG\_FCOD shall operate for the mutual benefit of EFSA and of the stakeholder members to facilitate data collection activities and sharing of information. Therefore, the commitment of its members is necessary for its success.

#### 4. Process for nomination of representatives of stakeholder organisations for membership in the Discussion Group on Food Chemical Occurrence Data

EFSA's stakeholders are representative organisations that have an interest in the Authority's work. EFSA divides stakeholders into seven major groups<sup>2</sup>; all groups with an interest in the area are invited to nominate members for the Discussion Group. Additional information on EFSA's stakeholder engagement is available at this [web link](#).

Organisations already registered as EFSA stakeholders<sup>3</sup> can proceed directly with the nomination of the member for the Discussion Group. Other organisations interested in nominating a member for this Discussion Group should send first a request to become registered as an EFSA stakeholder; information for submitting a request is available at this [web link](#).

As stipulated in Article 3 of the Decision of the Management Board of EFSA on the criteria for establishing a list of stakeholders and the establishment of the Stakeholder Forum and Stakeholder Bureau<sup>4</sup>, a non-registered stakeholder may be invited to the meetings of EFSA Discussion Groups based on the need for specific expertise or technical knowledge. Such engagement will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Any involvement of non-registered stakeholders will be made public in a transparent and timely manner. Nominations of members for the Discussion Group should be sent by email to [DATA.SHPsecretariat@efsa.europa.eu](mailto:DATA.SHPsecretariat@efsa.europa.eu) and submit in attachment a duly completed nomination form.

The deadline for submission of the nominations is **1 October 2018**. Organisations may submit nominations for up to three experts; one member and one alternate member per registered organisation will be selected by EFSA.

#### 5. Criteria for the selection of EFSA stakeholder representatives in the EFSA Discussion Group on Food Chemical Occurrence Data

EFSA will select stakeholder representatives from the nominations received through this call.

The selection will follow the principles established in EFSA's Stakeholder Engagement Approach and the Decision of the Management Board of EFSA on the criteria for establishing a list of stakeholders and the establishment of the Stakeholder Forum and Stakeholder Bureau.

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<sup>2</sup><https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/partnersnetworks/stakeholder>

<sup>3</sup><https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/stakeholders-registered-list.pdf>

<sup>4</sup><http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/Document18992.pdf>

For the selection, EFSA will consider the following criteria:

- Interest in the field and expected benefits from the participation of the organisation as expressed in its application;
- Role and remit of the organisation at the EU level;
- Achieving a balanced representation of stakeholder interests;
- Nominated stakeholder members should demonstrate experience in and knowledge of data collection relevant to the remit of the Discussion Group.

EFSA will inform all the nominating organisations of the outcome of the selection process. The stakeholder experts are responsible for ensuring that their comments represent the views of the organisation, considering, as appropriate, the views of other non-selected organisations within the same main stakeholder groups. Non-selected organisations will be invited to contribute to the process via selected stakeholder organisations representing their stakeholder category. The names of the stakeholder experts and nominating organisations will be made publicly available.