



Sounding Board: engaging with stakeholders during the implementation of the Transparency Regulation

Terms of Reference

1) Background

EFSA will interact with stakeholders during the Transparency Regulation through a separate engagement framework than the EFSA Stakeholder Engagement Approach (SEA). The Sounding Board will be one of the two main channels through which this engagement will take place.

2) Objective

The objective of the Sounding Board (SB) is to keep stakeholders informed about the state of play of implementation of the Transparency Regulation in general, to collect comments stakeholders may have and to address questions where possible. Equally, it will support the coordination of interactions between main interested parties, EFSA and the EC/DG SANTE.

3) Terms of Reference

Members of the SB are expected to attend SB meetings and to contribute to exchanging information by sharing information discussed during SB meeting with their stakeholder category, channelling questions from their category to EFSA and engaging in discussions with EFSA during Sounding Board meetings.

4) Composition

The Sounding Board is composed of the Stakeholder Bureau representatives (SHB) and one additional representative per stakeholder category – with the exception of the HORECA category which has decided that only the SHB member participates on its behalf-, 3 Member States representing the Advisory Forum (AF) and EC representatives from DG SANTE.

5) Launch of operations and establishment of Sounding Board

EFSA has informed its registered stakeholders of the launch of the Sounding Board in December 2019 and requested the Stakeholder Bureau to nominate up to one additional member per stakeholder category by 21st January 2020. The Stakeholder Bureau notified EFSA of the additional member. 3 Member States volunteered to represent the Advisory Forum (AF) and the European

Commission will be represented by DG SANTE. With the confirmed membership the Sounding Board has been established in February 2020. The Stakeholder representatives, AF representatives and DG SANTE have been informed of the establishment of the Sounding Board.

6) Frequency of meetings

A mix of virtual and face-to-face mechanisms will be in place. The SB will be kept informed about state of play of the implementation in a timely manner, in line with the timelines for the delivery of the tasks and the principles of engagement for the implementation of the new Regulation.

7) Reporting

The SB will operate under the principles of engagement, with a focus on transparency. Minutes or summaries from SB meetings will be made public on EFSA's website, as well as the agenda, participants list and presentations, where applicable.

8) Timelines

The Sounding Board will be operational during the main implementation phase of the Transparency Regulation until its entry into application on 27 March 2021.

The present document has been discussed and adopted at the 1st Sounding Board meeting on 23 March 2020.