

Declaration by the Members of the Advisory Forum of the European Food Safety Authority

On the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of the Foundation of the European Food Safety Authority

Ten years ago the European Union unveiled a new regulatory framework to ensure the safety of food and feed across Europe - one that would inspire confidence in the decision-making processes underpinning food law, their basis in science and the independence of the institutions protecting public health.

To mark this tenth anniversary the competent national food safety bodies in Europe that make up the Advisory Forum of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) issue the following statement:

"In the space of a decade European food safety has made resounding progress and to mark this milestone we hereby recognise the crucial contribution EFSA has made. ESFA has enhanced consumer protection, provided vital support to Member States and proved to be a crucial resource in times of food crises.

The Advisory Forum has confidence in the independence and scientific decision-making process of EFSA and has worked in cooperation with the Authority over the past ten years to strengthen EU risk assessment and all measures to ensure the objectivity of scientific advice.

Our members reaffirm their endorsement of the independent experts who contribute to EFSA's scientific work and the vital role they play in the risk assessment process.

The competent national food safety bodies in Europe that make up the Advisory Forum declare their continued commitment to the strengthening of science-based policy-making. Looking forward, we will strive to ensure that scientific risk assessment evolves and develops to meet the critical challenges that lie ahead in an ever-changing environment.

We will build upon the progress made since 2002 and continue to champion this partnership of trust to secure the safety of food and feed in Europe."

Made at the 45th meeting of the EFSA Advisory Forum, Parma, 27 September 2012