European Food Safety Authority

SCIENCE STRATEGY AND COORDINATION DIRECTORATE

Parma, 26 November, 2012
EFSA/SHP/LdL/2012/

Minutes

TWENTIETH MEETING OF EFSA STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIVE PLATFORM BRUSSELS (BELGIUM), 21-22 NOVEMBER 2012

MEMBERS OF EFSA STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIVE PLATFORM

Chair: *Andreas Varlamos*

AESGP – Association of the European Self-Medication Industry	*Hubertus Cranz*	EUROCOOP – European Community of Consumer Co-operatives	*Chiara Tomalino*
AMFEP - Association of Manufacturers and Formulators of Enzyme Products	*Henk Aalten*	EUROPABIO	*Suzy Renckens*
BEUC - The European Consumer Organisation	*Camille Perrin, Ruth Veale*	FEFAC – European Feed Manufacturers Federation	*Arnaud Bouxin, Alexander Döring*
CEFIC - Food & Feed Cluster	*Line Jensen*	FEFANA	*François Guerin*
CELCAA AISBL European Liaison Committee for Agricultural and Agri-Food Trade	*Yves Roland*	Food Drink Europe – Confederation of the Food and Drink Industries in the EU	*Beate Kettlitz, Geoff Thompson*
COPA-COGECA - European Farmers-European Agri-Cooperatives	*Christophe Derrien*	FRESHFEL EUROPE	*Sebastian Kruse*
ECPA - European Crop Protection Association	*Peter Day, Kalila Hajjar*	Friends of the Earth Europe	*Mute Schimpf*
EFAD - European Federation of the Associations of Dietitans	*Mary Flynn*	GREENPEACE European Unit	*Marco Contiero*
ELC – Federation of European Specialty Ingredients	*Caroline Rey*	IFAH - Europe International Federation for Animal Health	*Declan O'Brien*
EPHA – European Public Health Alliance	*Doriane Fuchs*	PFP - Primary Food Processors Association	*Emilie Majster, Maike Metzen*
EUROCOMMERCE	*Els Bedert*	UEAPME – European Association of Craft, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises	*Ludger Fischer*

APOLOGIES

EEB – *European Environmental Bureau*

OBSERVERS

AIBI – International Association of Plant Bakeries	*Susanne Döring*	EU FOOD LAW	*Sara Lewis*
EU FOOD POLICY	*Kate Trollope*	Policy Action	*Mike Martin*
Valagro S.p.A.	*Donatella Di Teodoro*	European Commission	*Jeannie Vergnettes, Giulia Bertezzolo*
Université of Liège	*Stéphanie Vanhaeren*		

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY

Stakeholder consultative platform secretariat: *Lucia Bilardi, Lucia de Luca.*

Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle	*Karine Lheureux*
Hubert Deluyker	*Laura Smillie*
Mary Gilsenan	*Alberto Spagnolli*

1 WELCOME AND OPENING OF THE MEETING

Hubert Deluyker opened the meeting and welcomed members – particularly those attending the meeting for the first time – as well as observers.

2 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

No matters were raised for discussion after the draft agenda had been circulated and Hubert Deluyker adopted the agenda.

3 PRESENTATION OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE PLATFORM

As first meeting of the recently renewed Platform, Hubert Deluyker went through the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the group revised by EFSA's Management Board in June 2010. In particular, Hubert Deluyker outlined the role of the Platform and stressed that assiduous participation is extremely important to make progress on the activities of the Platform. To this regard, he referred to the letter sent to the members in October 2012 and thanked those who responded and committed to taking part in the meetings. Hubert Deluyer also presented some proposals on how to structure the agenda of future meetings of the Platform, a topic planned for further discussion on the next day.

4. ELECTION OF THE CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIRS OF THE PLATFORM

Hubert Deluyker noted at the first meeting after the renewal of the composition of the Platform in June 2012, members are given the possibility to elect their chair and vice-chairs.

Hubert Deluyker illustrated the rules for the election of the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Platform are based on the indications contained in the ToR of the group and supplemented with some of the rules followed for the elections of chairs and vice-chairs of EFSA's Scientific Committee and Panels. Hubert Deluyker proposed to act as session chair for the elections. Members agreed and proceeded to vote. Platform members elected unanimously Andrea Varlamos, representative of *BEUC,* as Chair of the Platform. Members proceeded then to the election of the two Vice-Chairs and elected Annette Toft, representative of *CopaCogeca,* and Geoff Thompson, representative of *FoodandDrinkEurope,* respectively with 17 and 16 votes out of 21 members present at the meting. Hubert Deluyker congratulated the members elected and clarified their respective roles in response to a request put forward by a member.

5 STRATEGIC DISCUSSION ON EFSA'S WORK WITH STAKEHOLDERS

5.1 The work of EFSA's Dietary and Chemical Monitoring Unit

Mary Gilsenan, Head of EFSA's Dietary and Chemical Monitoring (DCM) Unit, illustrated how EFSA collates and gathers dietary and chemical data and how such data are used by EFSA for its scientific work. Mary took stock of the progress made so far also thanks to the cooperation with Member States in particular in the area of chemical contaminants, pesticides residues and food consumption. Regarding the future work of the Unit, Mary clarified that EFSA is extending its standardised data collection procedure to encompass biological hazards, food contact materials and food additives, highlighting in particular the need for data in the field of food additives.

Members asked questions on the methodology followed by EFSA and Member States when gathering data and on the accessibility to the public at large of such data. Mary clarified that EFSA can provide electronic 'summary' data as they are presented in scientific opinions and reports published by the Authority and that EFSA is working on a data warehouse project. Within that project, EFSA will develop a data access policy with a view to providing access to data. Discussions were held on how members and their affiliates could contribute to the provision of data to support EFSA's future scientific work, for example through the setting up of discussion groups, consultative groups - like the one already existing on emerging risks - or the use of questionnaires.

Action 1: Circulate EFSA's report on chemical occurrence data when available.

Action 2: EFSA to clarify to what extent EFSA can share with the SHP data gathered with the help of Member States.

5.2 EFSA's work on acrylamide

Mary Gilsenan gave an overview of EFSA's monitoring activities in the area of acrylamide - including the setting up of the related occurrence database - and

analysed the trends registered so far. Mary mentioned the lack of data on acrylamide occurrence in various areas such as catering and kitchen preparations, among others. Mary also highlighted some of EFSA's future work in the area clarifying that decisions would depend on the discussions at the plenary of EFSA's Panel on Contaminants taking place in Parma on the same day. Members expressed their interest in sharing data when requested by EFSA in good time and the possibility of setting up a discussion group in this area was further debated. Members agreed that EFSA should strive for balance among the participants of such groups.

Action 3: Members to ask their affiliates if they are interested in setting up a Discussion Group on chemicals in food, in particular in the area of additives, packaging materials or process contaminants.

5.3 Attendance of Observers at plenary meetings of the Scientific Committee and Scientific Panels. Outcome of the Pilot Project phase and plans ahead.

Andras Szoradi, Planning and Monitoring Officer of the Science Strategy and Coordination Directorate, who co-ordinates this project, presented the background of the initiative and the outcome of the Pilot Project that was initiated with three of the Scientific Panels and EFSA's Scientific Committee in Spring 2012. Andras also presented the Guidelines for Observers prepared by EFSA an how EFSA intends to develop this project until July 2013. Taking into account that the number of observers for each meeting is finite, members stressed that observers should represent in a balanced manner different interests in the food chain and EFSA should give priority to requests for participations received by members of the Platform. Summing up the discussions, the Chair noted that with this project, EFSA addressed a request the Platform had put forward in the past.

Action 4: EFSA to investigate whether it is feasible to publish draft agendas of open plenary meetings of the Scientific Committee/Panels before opening up registrations.

6 DATES FOR 2013 MEETINGS OF THE PLATFORM

Lucia de Luca proposed dates for 2013 meetings. Members will check their availability and confirm it to the Secretariat. The Chair asked EFSA to look into ways to facilitate the transport from the main airports in Northern Italy to EFSA and back when meetings take place in Parma.

Action 5: Members to confirm whether they agree with dates proposed for 2013 meetings or propose alternative dates/venues.

7. EFSA'S PROGRESS REPORT

Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle, EFSA's Executive Director reported on the latest progress of EFSA's work focussing in particular on the conferences organised to

mark EFSA's 10th anniversary which allowed EFSA to engage with the scientific community and the civil society at large. Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle said EFSA would welcome to discuss with the Platform broader transversal issues for example organising conferences on specific or selected topics. Members were asked to discuss and suggest topics for such meetings.

Action 6: Members to discuss their interest in Stakeholder conferences on selected topics with the participation of a wider group of stakeholders other then the members of the Platform.

Action 7: Respond to a request from a member to clarify whether it was the first time EFSA carried out a literature search for new data in the "Scientific Opinion supplementing the conclusions of the environmental risk assessment and risk management recommendations on the genetically modified insect resistant maize 1507 for cultivation" published on 6/11/12.

8. STRATEGIC DISCUSSION ON EFSA'S ENGAGEMENT WITH STAKEHOLDERS

8.1 External Evaluation of EFSA

Alberto Spagnolli, Head of the office of EFSA's Executive Director, illustrated the main outcome of the latest evaluation of EFSA's work carried out by a consultant on which the Platform was officially consulted on 5th September 2012. Alberto Spagnolli thanked members for their contributions and answered, among other, questions on the criteria used by EFSA to prioritise its work and on the interactions with EU risk managers.

Action 8: Members to send proposals for the prioritisation of the recommendations related to EFSA's future work resulting from the external evaluation.

Action 9: The Secretariat to collate comments gathered on EFSA's External evaluation and share it with Platform members.

8.2 Strategic Discussion : Topics for the Platform 2013

Lucia de Luca, Stakeholder Relations Officer at EFSA, presented the proposal to structure the agendas of the meetings in recurring items and strategic topics for discussion. Referring to past discussions of the Platform on ways to enhance its contribution to EFSA's work, Lucia invited members to consider the strategic proposals contained in the draft document tabled which aims at strengthening the engagement of the Platform in EFSA's scientific activities. Members were also asked to consider the proposal for topics to be addressed by the Platform in 2013 and send further suggestions. In particular, members expressed their appreciation for the proposal to set up an Extranet platform to share documents. Further practical information will be provided by the Secretariat.

Hubert Deluyker asked if members would be interested in organising phone conferences among some of the members ahead of meetings to better prepare for the discussion on specific agenda items at meetings. This process, followed by the members of EFSA's Advisory Forum, has proven very effective in enhancing the impact of the discussions hold at meetings.

Alberto Spagnolli introduced EFSA's initiatives in the area of quality management, focussing in particular on the external review of the quality of EFSA's outputs which he said, contributed to the improvement of EFSA's work. He asked the members' view on the matter. The Chair suggested to look into the feasibility of having balanced group of members assisting EFSA in the review of the quality of EFSA's outputs.

Members also said it would be very useful if they could receive documents and Power Points tabled at the meetings well ahead to share it with their affiliates and be in a position to provide more substantial feedback. The Secretariat noted down the suggestions to be implemented as from the next meeting.

Members also pointed out that it could be beneficial to the discussions at SHP meetings to invite Heads of Unit and/or Chairs of Scientific Committee/Panels at meetings when appropriate.

Action 10: Members to provide feedback on the document "Strategic topics for consideration by EFSA SHP".

Action 11: Members to send suggestions for topics to be addressed by the Platform in 2013.

Action 12: Members to provide feedback on the organisation of phone conferences with a group of SHP members which will prepare the discussion on topics indicated in the agendas of Platform's meetings. The aim is to increase the relevance of the discussions in the meetings (similar to Advisory Forum model). Timeline: ahead of each meeting.

Action 13: Members to express their interest in discussing the modality to integrate feedback from the SHP in the process of External Review of EFSA's outputs.

Action 14: Members to send first round of comments on agenda items for 2013 meetings.

Action 15: Secretariat to send specific information and instructions for the use of an Extranet platform for the exchange of information.

Action 16: Secretariat to share with members Power Points and documents tabled at the 20th meeting.

Action 17: Invite Heads of Unit and/or Chairs of Scientific Committee/Panels to SHP meetings when appropriate.

9. STANDING ITEMS

9.1 EFSA's Application Desk:

- **On-going activities**

  Karine Lheureux, Head of EFSA's APDESK Unit, presented the activities carried out by the Unit so far, the work plan until 2015, as well as an overview of the requests received by applicants since the set up of this service exactly one year ago.

- **Info Sessions on applications to be organised with stakeholders in 2012**

  Karine Lheureux presented the rationale for the series of information sessions the Unit is planning together with various scientific Units at EFSA in the upcoming months. She highlighted the important role members and their affiliates can have when taking part in technical meetings and share their technical knowledge and data.

- **9.2 Review of the implementation of EFSA's Communications Strategy**

- **Update on EFSA's Communications activities**

  Laura Smillie, EFSA's Senior Communications Adviser, presented some high-lights related to the implementation of EFSA's Communications Strategy for the period 2010-13 and mentioned the important contribution of the Platform in preparation for the revised 2014 Communications Strategy.

  Laura Smillie also provided members with an overview of some of EFSA's the most recent communications activities as well as an outline of upcoming activities.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other matters were raised under this point.

CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

In closing the meeting, the Chair summed up some of the rules for the organisation of the meeting and the distribution of documents, the Secretariat will follow in future. Andreas Varlamos thanked the members for their active contributions, the observers for their interest in the activities of the Platform, and the Secretariat for its support.