

Proposal to Establish an **AF Steering Group** for the AFCWG

Strengthening alignment, leveraging expertise and creating new synergies that add value

Background:

In 2003 the Advisory Forum established a working group (AFCWG) to consider communications and in particular risk communications on matters within the remit of EFSA. The promotion of coherence in risk communications is identified as one of the four priority areas for strengthening the co-operation and networking between the EU Member States and EFSA. While the AFCWG has been productive in meeting objectives, recent discussions within the AFCWG and Advisory Forum have noted a missing link between the work of the AFCWG and the Advisory Forum. AFCWG members have expressed the desire to maintain their status as a Working Group of the AF and to strengthen the strategic service provided to the Advisory Forum. At the same time, the Advisory Forum has recognised that a clearer oversight of the AFCWG's activities would enable better insight and steering of the work activities of the AFCWG.

The following proposals are made for discussion with the Advisory Forum members.

Objective: To ensure that the AFCWG activities are steered towards the objectives and priorities identified under the AF cooperation strategy.

Proposal: Establish an **AF Steering Group** to oversee the governance, activities and deliverables of the AFCWG.

Approach: The AF Steering Group should be small and initially consist of 3-4 AF members with an affinity to or interest in risk communications. The Steering Group would be chaired and supported by AFSCO.

Process: After a period of reflection on the mandate of the AFCWG and developing an understanding of the operation of the AFCWG by attending 2-3 meetings, the Steering Group would propose a mechanism that would give stronger direction to the AFCWG so that it can fulfil needs and requirements of interest for the AF, for example through mandates. The process would need to be defined, including:

- Identifying the needs of the AF
- Understanding the work activities of the AFCWG – competencies, current objectives and deliverables to build on already established work programme
- Defining the mechanism for the AF to task the AFCWG
- Explore the need for a Validation process – to include the AF's feedback and final validation of AFCWG deliverables

The member(s) may participate at the AFCWG meetings and report back to the Advisory Forum, complementing the updates from COMMS/AFSCO on the progress of the AFCWG.

Conclusion:

In order to achieve strategic alliance between the AFCWG and AF members are asked to agree to the establishment of a Steering Group of the AF. Such a team would be tasked initially to become familiar with the workings of the AFCWG and then to propose a model of interaction which would allow tasking of the WG by the Forum and regular feedback and information sharing between them.

Document history

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