



# AF & FP work: Case studies


57th Advisory Forum Meeting,  
24th Focal Point Meeting  
Milan, Italy, 13 October 2015

# ROLE OF THE ADVISORY FORUM (AF)

## Art. 27 of Founding Regulation

- „AF shall advise Executive Director in the performance of his duties (...)”
- „AF shall constitute a mechanism for exchange of information on potential risks and pooling of knowledge.”
- „AF shall ensure close cooperation between EFSA and the competent bodies in the MS (...).”
  - *Avoid duplication work (Art 32, scientific studies)*
  - *Diverging scientific opinions (Art 30)*
  - *Promoting European networking organisations (Art 36)*
  - *Emerging risks*


## BACKGROUND OF FOCAL POINT NETWORK

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- 2006: AF signed Declaration of Intent & MB endorsed Strategy for Cooperation and Networking
  - 2007: establishment of FP network - FP Agreements signed, list of tasks defined, financial support (€785K)

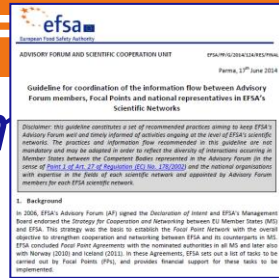
*Main objective: strengthen cooperation and networking between EFSA and MS*

- 2013-2014: objectives of FP network reviewed
- 2015: new FP Agreements implemented, revised list of tasks and 30% increased budget (€1M)

## OVERVIEW OF MAIN FOCAL POINT TASKS

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- Exchange scientific information to enhance cooperation and avoid duplication of work
  - Promote networking of Art. 36 organisations & roster of scientific experts
  - Contribute to visibility of EFSA's role in EU food safety
  - Promote training opportunities in RA
  - Coordinate information flow of EFSA's Scientific Networks with AF members
  - Share information on international cooperation activities

## Opening Con



## Guidelines for information flow

### Table of interest for SN rep

Annual meeting

FP

- AF and FP meeting agenda & the
- Presentations
- Feedback from AF & FP meeting
- One annual meeting with SN re
- Transfer of info from other SN

## AF member

These changes in rep. back from SN

SN rep.

**Questionnaire:  
feedback from  
their  
participation**

**Réseaux scientifiques assistant les unités de l'ETSA**  
<http://www.etsa.org.uk/2015/03/09/our-projects.htm>

L'ETSA met en place des réseaux scientifiques thématiques. Ces réseaux sont constitués d'organisations nationales désignées par les États membres de l'UE, coordonnées par les domaines couverts par chaque réseau. Ces représentants de la Commission et d'autres organisations (y compris des universités) aident une communication approfondie et spécifique et chaque domaine peut aussi être invité à participer au travail des réseaux de l'ETSA.

**Éléments (retour d'expérience des représentants français dans chaque de ces réseaux (juillet 2015))**

<b>Statut d'expérience</b>
Représentant dans le réseau depuis ...
Participation régulière possible ou officielle (aujourd'hui, cas, réseaux)
<b>Fonctionnement / logistique</b>
Nombre de réunions / an, durée (1, 2)
Lieu : France, autre, rotation
Détachement : experts ETSA pour l'IM, ou seulement ETSA, ou autre
Commentaires particuliers à signaler : problèmes logistiques particuliers, ou amovibilité à temps, etc.
Liberté du travail préparatoire pour chaque réunion
Existence d'échanges entre les réunions ou pas
<b>Fonctionnement / circuit d'échange d'information au réseau national</b>
Sensibilisation par l'ETSA ou au-delà (même si notamment les guidelines existent en 2014)
FIN, OUTSIDE, 5, CHIFFRE ACTUEL
Retour sur la mise en place de ce circuit, idéal, points à améliorer
<b>intérêt</b>
Sujets d'intérêt à très personnel, pour l'ingénierie globale
Niveau des discussions : élevé, hétérogène
Commentaires généraux : points forts et points faibles à signaler

# IMPORTANCE OF EFSA'S SCIENTIFIC NETWORKS

## Opening Comments –DE

- Broad distribution of responsibilities in MS
- Fully transparent processes?
- Commitment for the networks
- Optimised information flow?
- Reporting obligations?
- Access to all networks in the DMS?

➔ Added value for EFSA **and** the MS?





# COLLABORATION BETWEEN AF AND FP MEMBERS

## *Opening Comments – UK*

- *Good collaboration fundamental to trying to maximise effectiveness of UK engagement with EFSA/MS*
- *Organisational co-location of AF/FP (and AFCWG) very helpful*
- *Overall objective: - coordination of national input to underpin effective cooperation*
- *To identify possible topics for agenda and preparation of materials to inform/stimulate discussion*
- *Networking with other UK organisations operating in EFSA remit area - preparing briefing to maximise contribution to agenda items*

# COLLABORATION BETWEEN AF AND FP MEMBERS

## Opening Comments – UK

- ***Contribution: -***
- ***„making it happen“ – before and after.***
- ***AF strategy, FP delivery.***
- ***To ensure momentum in discussing and developing progress on key topics***
- ***Building a shared agenda/networking – find synergies, avoid unnecessary duplication – better use of resources, more harmonised approaches***
- ***Recent example – foodborne viruses***



## REPORTING ON FORTHCOMING RA ACTIVITIES

### *Opening Comments – NO - AF*

- Actively use the reporting on forthcoming RA activities will:
  - Reduce risk of duplication of work
  - Identify possible areas of cooperation on a geographical level – Enhancing interest and recruitment of experts to EFSA
  - Structured input to handle eventual diverging scientific opinions in accordance with art. 30.
  - Enhance information flow between AF and FP



## REPORTING ON FORTHCOMING RA ACTIVITIES

### *Opening Comments – NO - FP*

- Identification through national network
- Project Management Approach. 2 EFSA checkpoints in RA Project Guidelines:
  - Has anything been done before?
  - Is something similar being done now?
- Results:
  - Enhancing networking on a national level
  - contribute to optimising the use of resources

# TOPICAL APPROACH TO COOPERATION

## *African Swine Fever (ASF) in Baltic states (EE, LV, LT) and Poland*

- 
- Project on harmonisation of the collection of epidemiological data on ASF in Baltic countries and Poland
    - Experience, needs and expectations of most affected MS
  - Identified needs to improve the knowledge on:
    - The role of wild boar in the spread and persistence of ASF virus in a region
    - Harmonisation of data collection;
    - Development of scientifically risk-based ASF eradication measures etc.
  - Activities:
    - Setting-up group of regional experts, incl. EFSA, EURL experts;
    - Regional seminar, incl. EFSA, CVO's, NRL's, EURL, epidemiologists etc.

## TOPICAL APPROACH TO COOPERATION

### *African Swine Fever (ASF) in Baltic states (EE, LV, LT) and Poland*

- Collaboration should enable a harmonised data collection facilitating a regular update of the epidemiological analysis of ASF in wild boar and domestic pigs in the affected MS to:
  - provide a descriptive epidemiological analysis, incl. a spatio-temporal analysis;
  - carry out a molecular epidemiological analysis;
  - assess the possible risk factors for transmission of ASFV;
  - Assess the risk of endemicity in the affected wild boar population.
- **Expected deliverables:**
  - Harmonised database;
  - Improved knowledge on ASF epidemiology in the region and better approaches in data management and analysis.