

Minutes

57th Meeting of the ADVISORY FORUM 24th FOCAL POINT Meeting

Milan, Italy, 13 October 2015

Chairs: Bernhard Url and Stef Bronzwaer

Participants		
Austria	Johann	Steinwider
Belgium	Laurence	Ballieux
Bulgaria	Donka	Popova Mincheva
Bulgaria	Ilian	Kostov
Czech Republic	Jitka	Götzová
Czech Republic	Petr	Beneš
Denmark	Flemming	Bager
Denmark	Brigitte	Helwigh
Germany	Andreas	Hensel
Germany	Lea	Herges
Estonia	Martin	Minjajev
Estonia	Piret	Priisalu
Ireland	Ray	Ellard
Ireland	Edel	Smith
Spain	Ana	Canals
Spain	Cristina	Alonso Adicoberry
France	Rozenn	Saunier
France	Coralie	Bultel
Croatia	Andrea	Gross-Bošković
Croatia	Sanja	Milos
Italy	Gaetana	Ferri
Italy	Roberta	Masella
Cyprus	Popi	Kanari
Cyprus	Eleni	Ioannou-Kakouri
Latvia	Aivars	Bērziņš
Luxembourg	Patrick	Hau
Luxembourg	Elisa	Barillozzi
Hungary	Ákos Bernard	Jóźwiak
Hungary	Judith	Sali
Malta	Ingrid	Borg Busuttill
Netherlands	Antoon	Opperhuizen
Netherlands	Hub	Noteborn
Norway	Marie Louise	Wiborg

Norway	Gisle	Solstad
Poland	Iwona	Wisniewska
Portugal	Filipa	Melo de Vasconcelos
Portugal	Cristina	Rodrigues
Slovenia	Blaža	Nahtigal
Slovenia	Urška	Blaznik
Slovak Republic	Petra	Gereková
Slovak Republic	Marica	Theiszova
Finland	Matti	Aho
Finland	Kirsi-Maarit	Siekkinen
Sweden	Leif	Busk
United Kingdom	Penny	Bramwell
United Kingdom	Alisdair	Wotherspoon

OBSERVERS

Switzerland	Barbara Engeli
Switzerland	Vincent Dudler

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY

Marta Hugas	Alberto Spagnolli
Juliane Kleiner	Jeffrey Moon
Sergio Potier Rodeia	Julia Finger
Shira Tabachnikoff	Dirk Detken
Ilias Papatryfon	

1 WELCOME AND OPENING OF THE MEETING

Bernhard Url opened the meeting and welcomed the Members of the Advisory Forum (AF) and the Focal Point Network (FP) to the first joint meeting.

Bernhard Url led the meeting to a minute of silence in memory of the Latvian Focal Point and alternate AF Member Aija Melngaile, who passed away on 19 September 2015.

Stef Bronzwaer outlined the objectives of the joint meeting, to 1) Reinforce networking between AF and FP, 2) Strengthen the partnership between EFSA and the AF and FP network, 3) Share good practices to be presented by AF and FP representatives.

2 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The members agreed the adoption of the final agenda.

Bernhard Url reminded members of the requirements to ensure they have submitted an up to date Annual Declaration of Interests and asked for any additional Oral Declarations of Interest for this meeting. No declarations were made.

3 ADVISORY FORUM BUSINESS

a. Matters arising – country visits

Croatia and Cyprus provided feedback on recent ED visits to their countries. In Croatia, the visit coincided with a 2-day conference, hosting 22 lecturers from Croatian and European institutions, with support by the German, Danish, Swedish and Hungarian Food Safety Authorities. Joint projects were agreed in the area of Food Consumption Data and on the work with Pre-accession (IPA) countries. In Cyprus, the Food Safety Council held a meeting, which included a workshop on the IMPRORISK model, with participants from countries under the European Neighbourhood Programme (ENP). A joint project on development and training for the IMPRORISK model was agreed for participation by MS and for ENP countries to foster capacity building. MS are requested to notify their interest in joining a workshop on IMPRORISK ().

Action Point 1: MS to notify their interest in joining a workshop on IMPRORISK

b. G&P Programme and Thematic Grants

Stef Bronzwaer introduced the consultation on the Grants and Procurement Programme which was launched in August. Comments have been received from Belgium, Denmark and Germany, which will be taken into consideration in developing the programme. The Chair outlined the outcome of the first round of Thematic Grants and the future direction of this new tool. The evaluation of proposals had been completed and acceptance and rejection letters will be sent in November to the candidates. The agreements will be signed by end of 2015. Kick-off meetings are envisaged for February. The next round of thematic grants is going to be launched at the beginning of 2016.

Stef also reminded participants to indicate whether they would be willing and able to host fellows under the proposed fellowship programme.

Action Point 2: AF/FP to express interest to be a Fellowship Site and/or to host one or more of the three one-week training course modules

c. Forthcoming RA Table

As a standing item on the agenda of AF and FP meetings, MS presented their Forthcoming Risk Assessment activities, summarized in the respective table.

d. COMMS update and Crisis Exercise

Shira Tabachnikoff provided an update on Communication activities. The Eurobarometer which EFSA executed in 2005 and 2010, will now be replaced by EU Insights, a new tool to survey risk perception on a specific complex and potentially controversial topic. One topic per year will be surveyed and an accompanying EU-wide risk communications plan, based on the risk perceptions per country, will be developed by the AFCWG and shared with the AF. Potential topics will be identified at the next AFCWG meeting on 5-6 November. Input from AF Members will be requested and is welcome (Action Point 2). The Norwegian Focal Point alternate will join the Communication Department on the Guest Scientist Exchange programme in October. AF and FPs are invited to encourage staff to participate in the staff exchange programme (Action Point 3). Discussions were run on how to establish closer ties to the AFCWG, which will also be an item on the next AFCWG Meeting on 5-6 November. For this purpose the AF Member

from Sweden, Leif Busk, will actively participate in the meeting to lead a discussion on closer alignment and bring the perspective of the AF to the AFCWG members. The 2015 Crisis Simulation Exercise, involving scientists from MS, DG Sante, WHO and EFSA will take place on 4-5 November. The AFCWG is developing "Recommendations for Best Practice in case of an Incident/Crisis" that will be test-driven during this exercise and finalized with the feedback from the participants. Shira mentioned the development of a Glossary of Laymen's terms and definitions, which may be translated and implemented once EFSA has launched it (end November, with the launch of EFSA's new website). Finally, Shira mentioned that a Global Roundtable would take place just prior to EFSA's Scientific Conference to scope interest in creating a collaborative platform for food risk communicator on a global scale.

Action Point 3: AF Members to reflect on topics for the EU Insights survey that would best serve their needs as it will provide a European-wide Communication Plan for 2016.

Action Point 4: AF and FP to encourage staff to participate in the staff exchange programme.

e. Tools for Information Exchange

Jeffrey Moon gave an overview on Tools for Information Exchange: the idea is to utilise specific tools to meet needs beyond the Document Management System. For the AF, the communication platform YAMMER will go live later in October; as an alternative for the Focal Point network, JIVE has been investigated and a pilot phase is planned to start by the end of the year.

f. Luxembourg Presidency

Luxembourg gave an outlook on their EU Presidency, highlighting key events during this period.

g. Any other business: AF video

A video prepared on the AF during the last AF Meeting in Riga, was shown, which will be available in the EFSA YouTube channel along with other short video covering different aspects of EFSA's work.

4 STRATEGIC DISCUSSIONS

a. REFIT exercise

While not being able to attend, the European Commission (EC) had prepared a presentation on the REFIT exercise on EFSA's Founding Regulation 178/2002 that had been circulated as a background document. Dirk Detken provided an overview of EFSA's perspective on the intermediate report, pointing out that the exercise is a check on the fitness of the existing system, not an introduction of changes. The intermediate report on the parts relevant to EFSA is going to be finalised by the end of 2015 and will be annexed to the EC working document. On the basis of this document, the EC will take a decision in 2016 on whether the EU food Law has to be opened up for changes.

b. Scientific Cooperation Roadmap

Alberto Spagnoli gave an update on the implementation of the Scientific Cooperation Roadmap, which has led to various initiatives with a high degree of MS interaction and will be phasing out as the EFSA strategy takes shape to provide a new framework for cooperation.

c. EFSA Strategy 2020

Ilias Papatryfon presented an outline of the EFSA Strategy 2020. The public consultation on the draft EFSA Strategy document was launched on October 8th and will remain open for six weeks, until 20th November 2015. Bernhard Url asked AF and FPs their view on how MS could help EFSA to prepare the implementation of the strategy, which will be for discussion on the AF meeting in December. MS welcomed the strategy and contributed with many important ideas to the discussion of further developing the strategic paper. Particularly, the engagement of the public and the differing perceptions of consumers, experts and institutions should be reflected. They stressed the importance of cooperation through various for a and internationally as well as the importance of a definition the level of ambition in the implementation plan, especially regarding open data and confidentiality.

Bernhard Url welcomed the participants' comments and invited them to send further recommendations via the public consultation tool. The AF will come back to discuss the implementation of the strategy on the meeting in December.

Action Point 5: AF and FP to send recommendations on EFSA Strategy 2020 via the public consultation tool

Action Point 6: AF to discuss EFSA Strategy 2020 in AF meeting on 8-9 December

5 JOINT ACTIVITY: Case studies

Stef Bronzwaer introduced the final session driven by a combined presentation of several AF and FP Members in different working areas.

France introduced their experience regarding the information flow between AF Members, Network Representatives and FPs concerning Scientific Networks at national level. Germany supplemented the discussion with their national perspective, highlighting the different areas of responsibilities and challenges of ensuring adequate information exchange. The plenary concluded that progress has been made but that there is still opportunity for improving. The UK reported on collaboration between AF and FP Members. In Norway, AF and FP shared information on how to exchange works on the Table on Forthcoming Risk Assessments at national level so to avoid duplication of effort. Latvia provided an overview on a Topical Cooperation of Baltic MS (Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia) and Poland on African Swine Fever.

6 CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

Two final MS announcement were made: Germany informed about an upcoming BfR Symposium on Antibiotic Resistance in the Food Chain on 2-3 November. Italy invited participants to join the Satellite Meeting before the start of the Conference on the next morning under the title "Globalized Trade as a Driver of Emerging Risks in Food Safety".

The Chair closed the meeting, noting that the half-day meeting showed the importance of bringing both groups together and the progress that has been made in their

collaboration. It also provided some ideas on the way forward to ensure continuing scientific cooperation with EFSA, between MS and at a national level.

The next meeting of the Advisory Forum will be held on 7-8 December in Luxembourg. The next meeting of the Focal Point Network will take place in Parma, on 18-19 November.

**57TH ADVISORY FORUM MEETING
24TH MEETING WITH THE FOCAL POINT NETWORK**

SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

Action Number	Action
1	MS to notify their interest in joining a workshop on IMPRORISK
2	AF/FP to express interest to be a Fellowship Hosting Site and/or to host one or more of the three one-week training course modules
3	AF Members to reflect on topics that would best serve their needs to have a European-wide Communication Plan for 2016
4	AF and FP to encourage staff to participate in the staff exchange programme
5	AF and FP to send recommendations on EFSA Strategy 2020 via the public consultation tool
6	AF to discuss EFSA Strategy 2020 in AF meeting on 8-9 December