

Decision of the Management Board of the European Food Safety Authority on the criteria for accreditation of stakeholders and the establishment of the Accredited Stakeholder Forum and Stakeholder Bureau

THE MANAGEMENT BOARD OF THE EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY

Having regard to

Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and the Council of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and laying down procedures in relation to food safety as last amended, and in particular to Articles 40(4) and 42 thereof;

The decision of EFSA's Management Board establishing the Terms of Reference of the Stakeholder Consultative Platform¹ and their following revision²;

The decision of EFSA's Management Board to extend the mandate and composition of EFSA's Stakeholder Consultative Platform until 30 June 2016³.

Whereas

In recent years, societal expectations in relation to the accountability of, and engagement with, public organisations have changed. For EFSA, this means a demand from a large number of interested parties and civil society stakeholders for more transparency and closer involvement in the scientific process;

A more meaningful engagement with a wider range of stakeholders will raise the quality of the Authority's work and help to define the organisation as a trusted partner and as an active guardian of food safety in the EU;

An accreditation process for stakeholders will allow for a broader range of interests, perspectives and technical knowledge to be represented among EFSA stakeholders;

A series of permanent and targeted mechanisms for stakeholder engagement will improve the opportunities stakeholders have to contribute to the different stages of scientific assessment and communications, while preserving the independence and transparency of these processes;

¹ MB 20.06.2005 – 8 - ADOPTED

² MB 12.09.2006 – 6 - ADOPTED

³ mb 19 03 15 – Extension of the mandate of the SHP - ADOPTED

EFSA has carried out a comprehensive review of the way in which it engages with stakeholders, including consultation with the Management Board and the existing Stakeholder Consultative Platform, and this review has resulted in a proposal for a new approach.

Has decided the following:

Article 1 – Repeal of the Terms of Reference for the Stakeholder Consultative Platform

1. The Terms of Reference for the Stakeholder Consultative Platform⁴ are hereby repealed.

Article 2 – Establishment and role of the Accredited Stakeholder Forum

1. The Accredited Stakeholder Forum is hereby established as a permanent mechanism for the engagement of stakeholders in EFSA's activities.
2. The Accredited Stakeholder Forum shall provide recommendations to EFSA on strategic planning and the implementation of activities that EFSA carries out.
3. The Accredited Stakeholder Forum shall be a mechanism of engagement that is accessible to accredited stakeholders.

Article 3 – Criteria for the accreditation of stakeholders

1. The process for the accreditation of stakeholders is carried out by EFSA and the Authority adopts the decision on which stakeholders are accredited.
2. EFSA checks if the criteria below are respected by the stakeholder organisation applying for accreditation:
 - a. It is a legally established organisation;
 - b. It has track records and/or legitimate interests in EFSA's work or in the wider food and feed sector;
 - c. It is a representative organisation in the field of competence of the stakeholder, not including individuals or group of individuals acting on behalf of specific companies;
 - d. It is a non-profit making organisation;
 - e. It is registered in the EU Transparency Register.

Article 4 – Establishment and role of the Stakeholder Bureau

1. The Stakeholder Bureau is hereby established as a permanent mechanism for EFSA stakeholder engagement.

⁴ MB 20.06.2005 – 8 – ADOPTED and MB 12.09.2006 – 6 – ADOPTED

2. The Stakeholder Bureau shall provide input to EFSA at a high level with regards to civil society's concerns on health, environment, food production and other issues in the Authority's remit.
3. The Stakeholder Bureau shall comprise seven people, one from each of the following representative stakeholder groups: consumers; environmental/health NGOs and/or advocacy groups; farmers and primary producers; business and food industry; distributors and HORECA (food service industry preparing and serving food and beverages); practitioners' associations; academia.

Article 5 – Entry into force

1. The present decision shall enter into force and becomes effective on the day of its signature, with exception of Art. 1, which becomes effective on the 1st of July 2016.

Submitted for adoption in Parma on 16 March 2016

For EFSA's Management Board

Sue Davies

Chair of the Management Board