

Note to the Management Board

Report on the implementation of the EFSA's Anti-Fraud Strategy

Background

The anti-fraud strategy of the Commission, adopted in June 2011 (CAFS)¹ stated that anti-fraud measures within the European Agencies should be promoted. The same idea was reflected in the roadmap on the follow-up to the Common Approach on European decentralised Agencies.

Against the above background, EFSA has developed its own Anti-Fraud Strategy in line with the guidance document provided by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF). The Anti-Fraud Strategy, together with its Action Plan, was discussed by the Audit Committee in its meeting of the 17th of December 2014 and adopted by the Management Board on the 19th of March 2015.

The Anti-Fraud Strategy's Action Plan contained a set of 7 actions covering a period of 2 years and linked to the four objectives identified on the basis of an EFSA-wide fraud risk assessment exercise. One of these actions was the monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the Action Plan. The Legal and Regulatory Affairs Unit (LRA) was identified as the lead responsible for this action. This draft report serves the purpose of informing the Management Board on this topic in a dedicated manner.

The draft implementation report has been reviewed by the Audit Committee of the EFSA's Management Board. It is hereby submitted to the Management Board for endorsement.

Content of the draft report

For each action of the Action Plan an indicator was identified to allow the monitoring of the implementation of each of them. The draft implementation report presents detailed information on the activities carried out to implement each of the seven actions, by referring to these indicators.

The main findings of the report show that all the actions foreseen in the Action Plan have been implemented. It also acknowledges a very low occurrence level of fraud at EFSA and as a consequence considers a risk-based approach as the best fit approach for future anti-fraud measures to put in place at EFSA.

In light of that and on the basis of the results of the reporting period, the report puts forward also some indications on the way ahead. Fraud prevention and the continuous monitoring of the effectiveness of the anti-fraud measures in place should remain the pivotal objectives of the incoming years. Future developments comprise a compulsory anti-fraud e-learning training course for all staff scheduled for 2017, the adoption of implementing rules on whistle-blowing further to the adoption of a model decision for agencies by the European Commission and a new fraud risk assessment exercise which will benefit from the additional synergies generated by the internal control re-organisation exercise.

Next steps

The Management Board to endorse the draft report. EFSA will report in its annual activity report on the implementation of the Anti-Fraud Strategy.

¹ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, and the Committee of the Regions and the Court of Auditors on the Commission anti-fraud strategy, 24.6.2011, COM (2011) 376 final.