

Final Minutes

70th MEETING OF THE EFSA ADVISORY FORUM

Meeting location:	Fleming's Selection Hotel, Vienna, Austria
Meeting date:	28-29 November 2018
Meeting hours:	09:00 – 17:30 (28.11.2018) 09:00 – 12:30 (29.11.2018)
Chair:	Bernhard URL

Members	
Austria	<i>Johann Steinwider</i>
Belgium	<i>Benoit Horion</i>
Bulgaria	<i>Iliyan Kostov</i>
Croatia	<i>Darja Sokolić</i>
Cyprus	<i>Stelios Yiannopoulos</i>
Czech Republic	<i>Jitka Götzová</i>
Denmark	<i>Flemming Bager</i>
Estonia	<i>Martin Minjajev</i>
Finland	<i>Matti Aho</i>
France	<i>Charlotte Grastilleur</i>
Germany	<i>Andreas Hensel & Annemarie Käsbohrer</i>
Greece	<i>Eirini Tsigarida</i>
Hungary	<i>Ákos Bernard Józwiak</i>
Iceland	<i>Jon Gíslason</i>
Ireland	<i>Pamela Byrne</i>
Latvia	<i>Vadims Bartkevičs</i>
Lithuania	<i>Jurgita Bakasėnienė</i>
Luxembourg	<i>Nathalie Welschbillig</i>
Malta	<i>Ingrid Borg</i>
Netherlands	<i>Antoon Opperhuizen</i>
Norway	<i>Danica Grahek-Ogden</i>
Poland	<i>Jacek Postupolski</i>
Portugal	<i>Pedro Portugal Gaspar</i>
Romania	<i>Cristian Duicu</i>
Slovenia	<i>Urška Blaznik</i>
Slovak Republic	<i>Petra Vanková</i>
Spain	<i>Ana Canals Caballero</i>
Sweden	<i>Per Bergman</i>

United Kingdom	<i>Jesus Alvarez-Pinera</i>
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Observers	
Albania	<i>Pamela Radovani</i>
Bosnia and Herzegovina	<i>Dzemil Hajric</i>
Montenegro	<i>Vesna Dakovic</i>
FYR of Macedonia	<i>Zoran Atanasov</i>
Serbia	<i>Tamara Bošković</i>
Switzerland	<i>Vincent Dudler</i>
Turkey	<i>Serap Hanci</i>
Republic of Kosovo ¹	<i>Valdet Gjinovci</i>
European Commission	<i>Alexandra Tuijtelaars</i>

EFSA Representatives	
<i>Advisory Forum Secretariat: Sérgio Potier Rodeia</i>	
<i>Bernhard URL</i>	<i>Jane Richardson</i>
<i>Barbara Gallani</i>	<i>Antonio Ciccarelli</i>
<i>Juliane Kleiner</i>	<i>Eileen O'Dea</i>
<i>Guilhem de Seze</i>	<i>Mary Gilsean (VC)</i>
<i>Marta Hugas</i>	<i>Paul Devalier (VC)</i>
<i>Hans Verhagen</i>	<i>Stefano Cappé (VC)</i>
<i>Ilias Papatryfon</i>	<i>Agnes De Sesmaisons – Lecarré (VC)</i>

Wednesday 28 November 2018

1. Opening of the meeting

Bernhard Url, Chair of the meeting welcomed participants to the 70th Advisory Forum (AF) meeting. Apologies were noted from Italy. The Chair welcomed the representative of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection, Dr. Karin Gromann; and Alexandra Tuijtelaars attending an AF meeting for the first time as DG-SANTE representative.

2. Welcome address from the Austrian EU Presidency

The floor was given to Dr. Karin Gromann who welcomed participants to the meeting and to Vienna. Dr. Gromann highlighted the future challenges ahead in food safety risk assessment and the importance of the current legislative review process for further enhancing transparency, sustainability, cooperation and consumer trust.

3. Adoption of Agenda and Matters Arising

The Chair tabled the draft Agenda of the meeting for adoption, opening for any additional items to be included under AoB. NL asked for delivering a short presentation on prioritization

¹ This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence

of compounds for a risk-based national plan for residues; BG expressed the wish to report on a recent Memorandum of Cooperation established between Bulgaria and Ukraine; ES asked to share a brief reflection on the new approach to the management of the Art36 List; and GR asked to provide feedback on an Art36 training event occurred recently in Athens. The Chair noted all items for discussion under AoB; further informed that all action points from the last AF meeting were implemented; and noted that the minutes of the 69th AF meeting were published on the EFSA website on 19.10.2018.

3a. EFSA's Scientific Conference – what's next? (10 min.)

Hans Verhagen provided an overview on key figures and immediate outcomes of #EFSA2018. The conference was an opportunity for EFSA and its broader community of stakeholders to discuss the state-of-play and upcoming challenges impacting the ecosystem in which it operates. During the 4 days of the event, 1120 participants shared views and analysed the complex interplay between science, risk assessment and policy.

The Chair added that the Conference was a great opportunity to engage with social scientists, NGOs and researchers all around the world. The main outcomes will help to shape EFSA's strategy 2021-2027, influencing mid- and long-term workplans.

FR asked which experts were identified for developing recommendations for follow-up actions from #EFSA2018, seeking clarification on whether all key speakers had been invited. Hans explained that the Project Committee made the decision not to invite all but just some of the speakers. DE asked if any steps are anticipated in order to harmonise strategic actions with "sister" Agencies (e.g. ECHA, EMA, JRC, etc.), stressing the lack of a clear regulatory framework to this end. The Chair clarified that EFSA is progressively aligning its strategic workplans and activities with the "sister" Agencies, highlighting that a proposal has been made to build a virtual "One Health - One Environment" Agency, with more details to be provided under Agenda item 4b.

3b. Feedback on ED visits to Spain and Switzerland

ES and CH shortly briefed AF members on the recent ED visits to these countries. On 23.10.2018 a high level visit to the Spanish Ministry of Health, Consumer Affairs and Social Welfare took place, comprising discussions with the Minister and as well participation in a scientific workshop and in the celebration of the 15th anniversary of AECOSAN's Scientific Committee. On 25.10.2018 a meeting with the President of the Swiss Confederation took place, allowing for the opportunity to share information on the joint work achieved between EFSA and CH. The meeting at the Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office on the same day enabled the opportunity for an exchange of views on challenges in food safety and to discuss future cooperation opportunities. CH also acknowledged high level advice given by EFSA on risk communication.

3c. Feedback on China International Food Safety & Quality Conference

Barbara Gallani provided feedback on EFSA's participation in the China International Food Safety & Quality Conference 2018 which took place in Shanghai, China, on 07-08.11.2018. The presence of EFSA at the conference provided the opportunity to foster the visibility of the organisation in a global policy environment and to engage into bilateral discussions. The activity supported the EC work in the region and reinforced the European risk assessment and risk communication approaches. DE added that these events provide an opportunity for a joint engagement with other EU countries and to speak with "one EU voice" towards Asian and South American partners. IE asked for more information on discussions regarding risk communication. Barbara replied that the CEN network would be the right platform for such information to be disseminated, noting that discussions on risk communication included other dimensions and were therefore referred to as "food communication".

4. Strategic Issues

4a. MB recommendations on EFSA's External Evaluation

Juliane Kleiner provided a summary of the MB recommendations following EFSA's 3rd External Evaluation, with focus on interactions with MS. At its 78th meeting in 10.2018, EFSA's Management Board expressed its general appreciation for the work of EFSA, adopting some recommendations which were published on EFSA's website².

During plenary discussions, DK expressed the view that the One Health concept should also be extended to chemical exposure discussions when considerable data gaps are identified. The Chair noted that data is already available from environmental monitoring survey programs. NL mentioned that 6 recommendations refer to "co-design", asking clarification on what is meant with the expression. The Chair replied that co-design refers to initiatives that allow being connected, namely through collaborating in joint projects and/or co-creating future strategies, which allows moving from a fragmented to a holistic approach. FR stressed that model-based data mining and artificial intelligence may prove useful though the proposed models might not be equal, requiring science-based appraisal prior to their use. IE asked if the Action Plan being prepared by EFSA for implementing the Management Board recommendations can be shared with members. BE highlighted an apparent misalignment between the national scientific programs and the topics chosen in the yearly EFSA grant and procurement programmes, asking whether actions are already being taken for improving this situation. In reply to FR, NO noted the activities of the AFDG on artificial intelligence led by DK, asking FR if they would wish to join, which was confirmed on the moment. DE noted that EFSA has recently become more active in social sciences and communication, and that more concrete planning is needed on social scientific research. FI highlighted the importance of measures to enable open science and communication to citizens. The EC noted the development of a general risk communication plan in the current proposal for a targeted amendment of the GFL, which will be prepared jointly by EFSA and MS. Juliane Kleiner clarified that the Action Plan will illustrate a more concrete approach to address the MB recommendations.

Action 1: *EFSA to circulate the Action Plan for implementing of the Management Board recommendations.*

4b. Collaboration between EU sister Agencies

Barbara Gallani, jointly with Guilhem de Seze, shared EFSA's current strategy for a structured approach to scientific cooperation among EU ENVI Committee Agencies and the EC Joint Research Centre (JRC). This course of action has been further encouraged by the latest external evaluation of EFSA and the recommendation from the MB to strengthen collaboration among ENVI Agencies. The presentation illustrated an overview of the Network of EU Agencies and highlighted EFSA's initiatives during the chairing the Network in the recent past.

FR welcomed this presentation, thanked EFSA for setting up (in this context) the Task Force on Bisphenols and raised concerns with regards to the definition of "nanomaterials" for which alignment should be sought with ECHA. FR also advised a shift into a more global public health approach and integrative questions such as nutrition, obesity, occupational and environmental risks, carbon footprint, addressing in this way also public concerns. NL advised a collaborative approach through co-creation and co-design of collaborative initiatives and a shift from a problem/solution approach to a value-driven one.

4c. Update on the EC proposal for a targeted amendment of the GFL

Alexandra Tuijtelaars (from DG-SANTE) provided an oral update on the current state-of-play of the targeted amendment of the GFL. The general preliminary views of the Council and of the EP showed overall support to the EC proposal, while raising certain elements that need clarifications in preparation for future trilogues.

FR asked whether details on amendments by the ENVI Committee of the European Parliament could be of interest to AF members. ES expressed the view that the AT Presidency has been working intensely and questioned about the ongoing handover process to the RO Presidency. RO replied that close collaboration with AT is ongoing and acknowledged the great

² https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/MB_Recommendations.pdf

collaborative work done so far, to be further continued until the conclusion of the handover. In reply to FR and ES, the EC representative highlighted that important amendments are related to the proposed timing of public disclosure of scientific data/studies and other relevant information supporting a request for authorisation, as well as on items that could be claimed confidential.

5. AF input into EFSA's Work Planning and Strategy

Ilias Papatryfon presented the main input MSs have provided into EFSA's strategic work-planning and feedback cycle after one year of piloting a new approach, highlighting the most relevant feedback and possible improvements to the input process. Reference was made to the customer/stakeholder survey feedback, particularly on the input received on improvement areas and follow-up actions. The second part of the presentation focused on the new strategic cycle (2021–2027), with specific reference to the ongoing strategic environmental analysis process and upcoming workshop with AF members.

FR expressed the view that the questionnaire for provision of input into the EFSA strategic workplan was too complex and asked more time for provision of input in future exercises. ES agreed with FR, questioning if it would not be possible to make this consultation process more simple and lean. ES also asked if the strategic environmental analysis workshop being organised could not be open to all AF members and if the relevant documentation could be shared. DE expressed the view that EFSA should take the lead in setting and prioritising the future key strategic directions, noting that MS priorities often derive from national governments. Ilias Papatryfon agreed that the exercise now concluded on a pilot basis has been too complex and that the future approach will be simplified. In reply to ES, Ilias clarified that, for the upcoming workshop, it was not possible to involve all MSs, though additional consultation steps will still be carried out with all AF members. Ilias also informed that the relevant workshop documentation will be shared.

Action 2: *EFSA to share with AF members the relevant strategic environmental analysis workshop documentation and, once ready, the draft strategic environmental report analysis report.*

6. EU Risk Assessment Agenda update

Sérgio Potier Rodeia presented a proposal for assessing the uptake of the EU-RAA during (to run during 12.2018–01.2019) and explained the tools and procedures for updating the current EU-RAA catalogue with new project ideas, including the review of obsolete ones. The presentation also included a broader discussion on the need for re-running a process for identification of common MS risk assessment priorities and if a new Delphi study would be needed for that purpose at the end of the current EFSA strategic cycle.

ES acknowledged the effort of EFSA for trying to monitor the execution/success of the EU-RAA, expressing the view that a new database for this purpose might not be needed, given the already existing databases on MS risk assessment plans and the new Art36 database. SE noted that the common MS Delphi priorities established back in 2015 should be considered still valid; and that an assessment of those not yet covered (and as well of their actual relevance) is needed ahead of setting any new agenda. IE agreed with the comments from ES and SE, expressing the view that it would be more efficient to identify gaps not covered (i.e. priorities not addressed), reminding the Forum of the joint commitment³ made back in February on the occasion of the RARA event in support of research needs and areas. In reply to ES and SE, Sérgio clarified that the new tool to monitor the execution of the implementation of the EU-RAA is, in fact, an extension of the existing database on MS risk assessment plans, with beneficial interlinks between both; and that, the improved monitoring system will allow not only assessing the uptake of the implementation of project ideas but as well of the Delphi priorities. The Chair concluded discussions highlighting the AF endorsement

³ https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/news/180206_rara_statement.pdf

on the proposed way forward on the EU-RAA; and that a gap analysis will be a better option for re-assessing common MS priorities instead of a new Delphi study.

Action 3: EFSA to assess the uptake of project ideas in the EU-RAA catalogue (by 02.2019); and review the current list of project ideas (by 06.2019); both with the support of the Focal Point network.

Action 4: EFSA to bring back for AF plenary discussion (during 2019) the actions undertaken to implement the Declaration of Commitment supporting the European Research Area.

7. Risk Assessment

7a. Outcome of the information session on the EFSA opinion on Dioxins

Juliane Kleiner updated AF members about the Information Session⁴ on the EFSA scientific opinion on the risk for animal and human health related to the presence of dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs in food and feed⁵, published on EFSA's website on 22.11.2018. The information session was attended by 14 MSs of which 9 sent written comments. During the session, EFSA experts addressed the comments received with different presentations and concluded that the issues raised were covered in the opinion. Some MSs indicated that they will maintain their position which may be perceived as a diverging view with EFSA.

FI congratulated EFSA for the excellent meeting held with MS and encouraged similar approaches (i.e. targeted consultations with MSs) for other scientific opinions in the future. The Chair agreed and reminded that the current practice for the Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain is to always launch public consultations while opinions are still on a draft stage. SE asked clarification on TEF values and how they are established (or how they will be reviewed) by WHO. FR highlighted that exposure has reduced drastically in the past 40 years and that such information could have been better communicated in the opinion. FR further noted that a risk-benefit approach would have been helpful for risk managers. Juliane Kleiner informed that EFSA had not been informed by the EC of any risk management follow-up measures; however, EFSA would start working on a mandate on risk-benefit of fish consumption when it arrives from the EC. DE thanked EFSA for the good initiative regarding the session and noted that it would be important if MSs could provide input to EFSA's opinions. The Chair noted that the current Panel system is intended to provide independent science. NL suggested that it would be important to start looking at risk communication aspects before work is initiated on a scientific opinion, enabling better communications at the end of an assessment. The Chair agreed with the suggestion from the NL for considering the possibility of looking into risk communication aspects when setting the mandates ToR.

7b. EFSA Mandates

Guilhem de Seze and Juliane Kleiner updated AF members on the list of EFSA mandates shared for the period 28.09.2018-13.11.2018. Special note was made to the re-evaluation of some food additives and the subsequent launch of calls for technical and toxicological data; to the phased approach being planned for addressing the synthetic biology mandate; and to the request for a scientific opinion on aflatoxins in food. Mention also to past, ongoing and upcoming activities on Chlorpyrifos originating from an EFSA Article 12 MRL review (2017) that identified risks for consumers and more recently focusing on the development of neurotoxicity. NL asked for additional information on a mention made at the last AF meeting concerning a request from the EC for a scientific opinion on the killing of animals for human consumption and for other purposes than slaughter. Juliane Kleiner replied that the mandate (M-2018-0124) has been accepted by EFSA and more information can be found on EFSA's Register of Questions⁶ under the respective mandate number.

7c. MS Mandates

⁴ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/181113>

⁵ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/press/news/181120>

⁶ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/ListOfQuestionsNoLogin?0>

Guilhem de Seze noted key entries in the database on MS risk assessment plans for the period between 28.09.2018-13.11.2018 and relevant to current EFSA's work, in particular: an entry from DK on soy-intake and possible adverse health effects in Nordic children and pregnant women; an entry from IE on a scientific review of the BELFRIT approach to risk assessment of botanicals and its applicability at national level (IE); and another entry from IE on the impact on the use of coccidiostats in poultry, and zinc in pigs, and links to antimicrobial resistance. Juliane expressed EFSA's interest on an ongoing activity in DK concerning risk ranking of pathogens in ready-to-eat foods of animal origin and vegetables.

The Chair gave the floor to participants for sharing any relevant national risk assessments. NL informed that a potential divergence has been noticed with EFSA's DRVs as a result of recent scientific assessments in the NL, and that more detailed information will soon be shared with EFSA. DE asked the floor to share information on three current national risk assessments, namely: on parasitosis with zoonotic relevance in game meat; on levels of tetrahydrocannabinol in hemp-containing foods; and on thebaine in poppy seeds.

7d. Upcoming public consultations

Guilhem de Seze briefed the plenary on 2 upcoming public consultations under the pesticides review process (clomazone and S-metolachlor); and 2 other public consultations coming up in 2019 on a guidance on "Risk assessment for active substances of plant protection products that have isomers and for transformation products of active substances that may have isomers"; and on a draft opinion on 4 phthalates.

Juliane informed the plenary on public consultations in the area of plant health (a guidance on the evaluation of technical dossiers to support demands for import of high risk plants, plant products and other objects); contaminants (a scientific opinion on the health risks related to the presence of hydrocyanic acid in foods other than raw apricot kernels – launched the day prior to the meeting; and a scientific opinion on the risks for animal and human health related to the presence of glycolalkaloids in feed and food, in particular in potatoes and potato-derived products); and the recently launched open consultation on the draft guidance on the use of the Threshold of Toxicological Concern approach in food safety assessment.

8. Communications and engagement update

Barbara Gallani presented an update on recent communication and engagement activities including recent media highlights; social media monitoring activities; a summary of the outcome of the public consultation of the guidance for communication of uncertainty; social science research at EFSA and in particular a study on awareness and perceptions on chemical mixtures; key outcomes of the recent Stakeholder Forum meeting; and the recent inclusion of information on scientific divergence on EFSA's website⁷ as per request of the Forum and aiming to enhance visibility and transparency on the topic. Barbara also highlighted the recent ED letter sent to all MS seeking the secondment to EFSA of a national expert in social sciences, inviting MS to consider this request at national level.

9. Data collection

9a. International workshop on Interactive Data Visualization

Hans-Peter Stüger (AT) presented the results of an international workshop supported by EFSA which aimed at sharing experiences on interactive web-based data visualizations using the software R. In the beginning of 2018 the statistics department of AGES initiated an internal project to assess the possibilities of different forms of interactive web-reporting using R. In order to exchange experiences, the results of the project were presented to a broader group of experts during an international workshop. AGES expressed interest in cooperating with other national organisations that might wish to use the tool and proposed the organisation of a 2nd workshop to exchange views/experiences, since the 1st workshop was

⁷ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/howwework/independentscience>

more related to technical discussions. DE asked whether the tool would be compatible with the use of QR code and NL expressed interest in participating in the proposed second workshop, ideally taking place in the first half of 2019. Hans-Peter Stüger clarified that QR code might be used and that, depending on the web tool used, different possibilities are available. On a quick tour-de-table, the Chair concluded that some MS (DE, NL, SE, FI, and IE) and EFSA have interest on the second workshop, including Pre-accession countries.

9b. Proactive Publication of Survey and Monitoring Data

Jane Richardson presented in plenary the key conclusions of a Technical Report on Data Publication. A Working Group was set up in 09.2017 to prepare a technical report on describing the process for publishing data from the scientific data warehouse in line with EFSA strategic objective on Open Data, a key component of the Digital Single Market Strategy aiming for transparency in risk assessment and citizen engagement. The draft technical report was circulated to relevant scientific networks (Veterinary Medicinal Product Residues, Pesticide Residues, Contaminants and Food Consumption Data Collection) and as well to the AF, for endorsement via a survey, with two countries (DE and BE) expressing reservations and with a non-endorsement by one country.

SI clarified that the draft technical report had not been endorsed due to general objections on zoonoses data and that an explanatory meeting is foreseen in SI with the General-Director and data providers the week after the AF meeting. FR expressed full support to this initiative and announced that a survey was recently published on the open data governmental website regarding a study on dietary exposure to chemicals of children below three years of age. The Chair concluded that the Forum agrees with the publication of the technical report and to proceed with the proactive publication of data from the scientific data warehouse taking into account the above mentioned reservations or non-endorsement, respectively.

9c. Update on the Task Force on data collection and data modelling

HU provided an update on the activities of this AF Task Force, including the main outcomes of the last meeting. The main objective of the Task Force is to overview the data collection and reporting processes, and the data model and IT infrastructure used and to formulate recommendations at a strategic level. The Task Force is chaired by the HU AF representative and will work for an estimated period of 2 years.

The Chair acknowledged the importance and complexity of the topic, noting that information on Task Force activities should continue to be provided in future AF meetings. NL proposed to prolong the meetings of the Task Force for two days in order to reach sufficient progress. Ákos Józwiak clarified that teleconferences are taking place in between meetings, though the remark will be further considered. DE noted that work will last for two years in order to reach outcomes and asked if a milestone approach could be introduced so to enable the implementation of intermediate actions. Ákos Józwiak clarified that the project has four main objectives which will lead to individual reports and that these could be considered as milestone outcomes. NL recommended that work is carried out at national level in parallel to Task Force activities. The Chair added that EFSA will also do its "homework" in order to increase workforce and speed up results.

9d. Single Scientific Network on Chemical Monitoring Data Collection

Jane Richardson presented to members the revised draft terms of reference for a single Scientific Network on Chemical Monitoring Data Collection, an item discussed at the 68th AF meeting, and as well the outcome of the consultation with the 3 impacted networks (Chemical Occurrence Data + Pesticide Residue Data + Veterinary Medicinal Product Residue Data). The presentation listed the key issues raised during the consultation process and the mechanisms to address them.

DK requested that catalogues are ready by 01.2019 and that the data reporting season starts earlier than the current EFSA proposal (mid. May), allowing more time for reporting by MSs. LU stressed that the specificities of each domain might be lost with the merge. AT supported the DK comments and asked for an early communication of the new rules. DE congratulated EFSA and appreciated the initiative. IE supported the proposal and asked for the topic to be

brought back to the plenary on the occasion of future discussions on data strategies. Jane Richardson clarified that the single network will lead to more complex catalogues but as well to a simplification of existing materials, which is a long-term goal. The Chair informed that comments were noted and more discussions should occur at the 04.2019 AF meeting, jointly with the new EFSA data strategy. The proposal for the merge was endorsed.

Action 5: *EFSA to bring back outcomes on the merge of the three scientific networks (Chemical Occurrence Data + Pesticide Residue Data + Veterinary Medicinal Product Residue Data) to plenary in 04.2019 on the occasion of the discussion of the new EFSA data strategy.*

9e. Bringing EFSA Scientific Data Warehouse to the next level – DAMA

Antonio Ciccarelli (with Paul Devalier and Stefano Cappe supporting on videoconference) updated AF members on EFSA's plans for migrating data in the EFSA data warehouse onto a protected EU cloud community. The presentation provided details on why a cloud infrastructure is safer with respect to a local infrastructure; how additional risks deriving from a cloud option have been minimized; and which benefits EFSA and its stakeholders can derive from the adoption of a scientific computing environment based on the Community Cloud.

The Chair noted that the DAMA project is in line with the future EU digital strategy. SE asked how sensitive (e.g. personal) data will be treated and possibly excluded from being shared with third parties. DE acknowledged the importance of the step forward and asked about possible limitations of a cloud environment. DK congratulated this initiative and noted that DTU manages its data on a cloud-mirrored environment with no restrictions/limitations. HR updated the plenary on recent developments on their national cloud-based data management system and asked if EU community clouds are being considered only for EU Agencies or as well for MSs. BE noted that most of their national data has moved to a cloud-based environment and that they have experienced some problems with the process. Paul Devalier noted that all data will be transferred from the scientific warehouse and that a decision has been taken not to exclude any data. Paul also highlighted that the migration process has been tested, audited and verified, and all requirements were met during testing.

Thursday 29 November 2018

10. Assessment of R&I on Food Systems by European MS

HU presented key findings of the advanced report on national research allocation from the EU Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR). The SCAR Strategic Working Group on Food Systems published a report on qualitative and quantitative mapping of food related policies and food system related public R&I funds in MSs. The mapping provides information on (a) existing policies and strategies linked to food and nutrition security; and (b) public R&I funding at national and regional level related to food systems and their alignment to the FOOD 2030.

The Chair asked about sources, quality and accountability of data collected. HU clarified that the mapping was done through a centralised developed questionnaire, although some issues were faced when extracting data from policy strategies, in particular on research funds, which required quite some manual work. IE asked about the proportion of funding that flows from EU systems as opposed to the one under control of MSs. HU replied that funding/grants originating directly from the EU were not included in the mapping. ES noted that mapping research funding in the area of food safety is extremely complicated and that this is much easier for primary production and agriculture. Spain further asked whether the group compared results of national research funding with EU research funding. HU clarified that extraction of information on EU research funding for mapping purposes is very laborious and thus such comparison has not yet been done, though it is foreseen in the future. AT shared their experience with mapping research funds, expressing the view that food safety is not directly related with innovation, since the latter concerns more the development of new analytical methods. IE added that there is a misalignment between food safety research and innovation, and this could justify why investments in food safety research have been

decreasing in the last 2 years. IE suggested raising awareness to the issue, especially in regulatory science.

11. Achievements and advances of the One Health EJP

FR jointly with DE briefed AF members on the state-of-play of the One Health EJP, with focus on the Work Package oriented to stakeholders. This EJP, set under Horizon 2020, is developing a European network of public mission organisations mainly with reference functions, integrating medical, veterinary and food scientists in the field of food and feed safety. Currently, 39 partners from 19 MSs are involved. A strategic research agenda has been developed and updated taking into account national priorities, needs of key EU stakeholders, and synergies with other EU funded projects.

FI asked if new partners may still join this program. RO noted their participation in this EJP through the National Food Safety Institute and asked about the possibility to involve the national Competent Authority in a more consistent manner. IE questioned about the schedule for stakeholder engagement foreseen in the project and whether there is a connection between the EJP and the European Action Plan for antimicrobial resistance. Annemarie Käsbohrer clarified that the current procedure (still under negotiation) foresees the possibility to include additional partners, either through their integration in planned activities or as sub-partners. Annemarie further advised FI and RO to contact the EJP responsible persons for additional information. With regards to the schedule for engagement with stakeholders, Annemarie noted that such schedule will be presented next week to the stakeholders programme committee. Interaction is foreseen four times per year and as well through the publication of information on the programme website. In reply to the second question from IE, requirements in the application of the second call foresee that the possibility for references to be made to the abovementioned European Action Plan. Marta Hugas expressed high expectations from the project and the wish for future collaboration.

12. Horizon Europe - the next R&I framework programme

Alexandra Tuijtelaars (from DG-SANTE) presented the programme and opportunities under this new research framework. Horizon Europe is the EC proposal for the EU Research and Innovation Framework Programme that will succeed from Horizon 2020, covering the period from 2021 to 2027. The presentation outlined the overall structure of Horizon Europe with specific focus on Cluster 5 "Food and Natural Resources".

IE asked whether more details are available on how the programme will strengthen the European Research Area, which aims to align research funding at MS level and promote collaboration. ES asked for details on how the programme was designed and agreed upon, and how MS might still provide input. Alexandra clarified that the current proposal will continue promoting partnering, twinning and networking of MS institutions in different collaborative models as well as scientific excellence. The original proposal stems from the EC in coordination with DG-RTD, coupled by additional consultations with other Directorate-Generals. MSs can provide input through their national representatives in the Council and EP while the proposal is under negotiation. As regards the strategic planning, consultations will be organised with stakeholders. Alexandra highlighted that when suggesting research needs for Horizon Europe, these need to be accompanied by a solid justification on expected impacts.

13. Setting food safety risk analysis research priorities for Horizon Europe

Marta Hugas provided a brief summary of the work ahead for setting food safety risk analysis research priorities. EFSA consulted the outgoing EFSA Panels, the AF, the participants of the EFSA Scientific Conference, and as well recently the registered EFSA stakeholders to define research needs. Furthermore, EFSA initiated the process for starting the definition of its new Strategy 2021-2027, by analysing changes, developments and trends occurring or likely to occur in the external world, and the implications these may have for EFSA in the future. In

collaboration with Communication colleagues, a research platform⁸ was also built on EFSA's website for facilitating access to research information.

The Chair noted that the different research needs stemming from the consultations made will be clustered into 5 research streams and that this would be an input for the upcoming workshop organised by DG-RTD in 01.2019. The EC advised the inclusion of an element of expected impact jointly with the submission of future research needs. IE congratulated EFSA for the progress done in this domain and asked whether the discussion paper on future research needs has already been circulated to members, as it might prove useful in discussions occurring in national workshops. It was also advised to capture in the 5 future research streams not only the research questions but as well other ongoing or upcoming initiatives that align with them (e.g. the DAMA project, capacity building initiatives, etc.). ES welcomed the alignment of research ideas and funds, and questioned about the expected stakeholders at the DG-RTD workshop. Marta Hugas replied that the discussion paper is ready for circulation to MS and has already been shared with stakeholders, welcoming feedback once shared. Marta pointed out that the workshop is organised by DG-RTD and that EFSA is contributing to it, thus the invitation letters and draft Agenda will be shared with MS by DG-RTD. The Chair clarified that, in total, 50 people are invited to the DG-RTD workshop. The Chair advised a strategic alignment among EFSA and MS on the main key topics.

Action 6: *EFSA to circulate to AF members the discussion paper on food safety risk analysis research priorities for Horizon Europe.*

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS – AOB

14a. Dietary Reference Values interactive tool

Agnes De Sesmaisons-Lecarré presented via videoconference the DRV Finder interactive tool. Dietary Reference Values (DRVs) guide professionals on the amount of a nutrient needed to maintain health, as well as on the maximum amount of a nutrient that can be consumed safely over a lifetime. The tool is intended to be used by risk managers, policy makers and health practitioners. This interactive web tool allows interested parties to retrieve EFSA DRVs in a way that fits their purpose. The tool has been translated in 4 languages (English, German, French and Italian).

Barbara Gallani briefed participants on the dissemination strategy for this new tool. A "soft" launch occurred on the day of the meeting; translation into Spanish will be available in January 2019; and a dissemination package (with a short video, background information on the tool and suggested tweets for promoting the tool) would soon be sent to the AF, FP and CEN networks, and as well to registered EFSA stakeholders. Barbara further noted that the new tool is not intended to be used by individual consumers.

GR asked about the possibility to translate the tool into their national language. Barbara answered that the request will be considered, raising the possibility for a translation to occur with the support of the FP network on a voluntary basis. SE congratulated the developers of the tool and shared the intention to further promote the tool at national level.

Action 7: *EFSA to consider possible ways for translation the DRV interactive tool into other EU languages.*

14b. Decision of the Executive Director on a change of the EFSA organisational structure

Guilhem de Seze briefed the plenary on organisational changes about to occur in EFSA in the regulated products domain. Guilhem noted in particular that the EFSA PRAS Unit will be split into two Units as of 01.01.2019. One unit will be in charge of the peer review process; and the other one in charge of activities related to pesticide residues.

⁸ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/engage/research-platform>

14c. AF Meetings in 2019

Sérgio Potier Rodeia provided an overview to members on upcoming meetings in 2019. The presentation included a proposal for a more structured agenda setting approach, through which main themes for discussion are identified, agreed upon, and discussed during plenary meetings, possibly under the lead of MS. The new approach will enhance the co-design/co-creation of joint cooperation initiatives in key strategic topics, enabling also a higher participation/engagement of members during meetings. Participants welcomed in general the new agenda setting approach. The Chair invited members to actively engage with the new approach in support of higher quality strategic discussions in future plenary meetings.

14d. Prioritization of compounds for a risk-based National Plan for Residues

NL presented a national project aiming to prioritize compounds for a risk-based national residues plan. The aim of this initiative is to generate more capacity to address emerging issues under a risk-based decision tree designed for contaminants and pesticides. The project is ongoing for two years and two publications are available. Guilhem questioned whether this information has been shared with the pesticides network. NL confirmed to follow up with this suggestion in case not yet done.

14e. Memorandum of Cooperation between Bulgaria and Ukraine

BG briefed the plenary on a recent Memorandum of Cooperation signed between Bulgaria and Ukraine in the food safety domain. Based on this Memorandum, initiatives aiming the exchange of information and training are foreseen in Sofia.

14f. Reflections on the new approach to the management of the Article 36 List of Competent Organisations

ES welcomed the new approach to the management of the Art36 List of Competent Organisations. Concerns were raised with regards to the timeline set for submission of information for inclusion of organisations in the list as more time is anticipated to be needed. The new tool will become an important instrument for the networking among Art36 organisations and it would be a missed opportunity if organisations would fail to be included in the list due to lack of time for provision of information. Sérgio Potier Rodeia replied that the request will be taken back to EFSA for further consideration on the possibilities for extension of the currently set timeline.

Action 8: *EFSA to discuss the request from ES and GR to extend the deadline for submission of information regarding the newly appointed Art36 organisations.*

14g. Article 36 training in Athens

GR briefed the plenary on a successful Art36 training workshop occurred recently in Athens and expressed support to the ES proposal for extending the deadline for submission of information on Art36 organisations to be included in the new list.

Close of meeting

The Chair closed the meeting, thanking AGES and the Austrian AF representative for all the preparatory work done for hosting the 70th AF meeting; and as well AF members, guest speakers and EFSA colleagues who contributed to the meeting. The Chair addressed a special thank you note to Matti Aho, AF representative from Finland, for his contribution to the work of the Forum over the past years and wished him all the best for his new professional challenges.

SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

Number	Action
1	<i>EFSA to circulate the Action Plan implementing of the Management Board recommendations</i>
2	<i>EFSA to share with AF members the relevant strategic environmental analysis workshop documentation and, once ready, the draft strategic environmental report analysis report</i>
3	<i>EFSA to assess the uptake of project ideas in the EU-RAA catalogue (by 02.2019); and review the current list of project ideas (by 06.2019); both with the support of the Focal Point network</i>
4	<i>EFSA to bring back for AF plenary discussion (during 2019) the actions undertaken to implement the Declaration of Commitment supporting the European Research Area</i>
5	<i>EFSA to bring back outcomes on the merge of the three scientific networks (Chemical Occurrence Data + Pesticide Residue Data + Veterinary Medicinal Product Residue Data) to plenary in 04.2019 on the occasion of the discussion of the new EFSA data strategy</i>
6	<i>EFSA to circulate to AF members the discussion paper on food safety risk analysis research priorities for Horizon Europe</i>
7	<i>EFSA to consider possible ways for translation the DRV interactive tool into other EU languages</i>
8	<i>EFSA to discuss the request from ES and GR to extend the deadline for submission of information regarding the newly appointed Art36 organisations</i>

Document history

Document reference	Version 1.1
Prepared by	Deimante Bikneryte
Reviewed by	Sérgio Potier Rodeia
Last date modified	20.12.2018