



European Food Safety Authority

EFSA Colloque: Involving our stakeholders from 23 to 25 October 2003

To initiate what will become an ongoing and widening dialogue with EFSA's stakeholders over time, a Colloque is planned for October this year. Beginning on the afternoon of 23rd and finishing by mid-day on the 25th October, the issues on the table will range from opening up the risk assessment process to discussions around areas of particular concern to consumers, industry and other EFSA stakeholders.

This Colloque is restricted to a limited number of people and sectors to create an atmosphere of intimacy and to allow for greater concentration on the particular requirements of each sector. The grouping of delegates will include consumer and industry representatives, the chairs of our Scientific Committee and Scientific Panels, a Commission representative and some EFSA staff.

Through this initial dialogue, we hope to lay good foundations for future stakeholder involvement with EFSA and to identify the means by which it can be achieved. In particular, EFSA would like to discover what these stakeholders expect from EFSA in terms of opening up the risk assessment process and to consider how their views can be taken into account.

The programme includes a series of workshops that will focus on discussions around these questions and will aim to come up with some realistic objectives. In addition, the Colloque will explore the potential for positive interaction between EFSA and its stakeholders, through a short risk communication simulation.

Proceedings will be in English and French with simultaneous interpretation.

The hoped for outcome of the Colloque is a set of proposals which can be put to the Management Board in December. The intention is also to brief the Advisory Forum at its November meeting so that any comments can be taken forward to the Board.