



European Food Safety Authority

LEGAL

Subject: implementation of Article 36 – networks Regulation

1. The so-called Article 36 – or networks Regulation has recently been adopted and published in the Official Journal: Commission Regulation (EC) No 2230/2004 of 23 December laying down detailed rules for the implementation of European Parliament and Council Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 with regard to the network of organizations operating in the fields within the European Food Safety's mission Regulation (OJ L 379, 24.12.2004, p.64). The text is set out in Annex.
2. As stated in the second whereas to the Regulation, networking aims at fostering a framework of scientific cooperation allowing information and knowledge to be shared, common tasks to be identified and optimum use to be made of resources and expertise.
3. It now falls to the Authority to put the mechanisms in place to activate this important mechanism to further enhance scientific cooperation with Member States.
The following actions will be undertaken in due course
 - a) Identification of competent organisations
The Authority will write to the Member States (via the Advisory Forum membership and the EU Permanent Representations) with a request to identify competent organizations. In doing so, the Authority will provide a format aimed at facilitating the compilation of the required information, i.e. name and details of organisations, evidence that they comply with the criteria of Article 1.1 of the Regulation¹ and details of their fields of competences.
 - b) Drawing up the list
Once the information is received from the Member States, the Authority will check the proposals from the Member States against the criteria set out in Article 1.1 of the Regulation. On that basis, the proposal for the list will be drawn by the Executive Director for presentation to the Management Board for adoption.
 - c) Assignment of tasks
In parallel to b), the Authority will develop procedures for assignment of specific tasks and allocation of financial support. The Authority is currently undergoing consultation with Commission services (DG BUDG and SANCO) on these.

¹ In summary: (1) Performing scientific and technical tasks in the fields of EFSA's mission; (2) legal entities pursuing public interest objectives; (3) possession of high level of scientific or technical expertise; (4) capacity to operate in a network on scientific actions.