



## European Food Safety Authority

### INTERNATIONAL & INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

#### Note to the Advisory Forum regarding upcoming EFSA's stakeholder events

This is a note in order to inform members of the Advisory Forum on the upcoming Stakeholder events that EFSA will be organizing in October and November 2005.

#### I. Stakeholder Consultative Platform

##### ▪ Introduction

EFSA's Management Board agreed on 20th June 2005 on setting up a Stakeholder Consultative Platform that will advise EFSA's Executive Director with regard to general issues regarding the work of EFSA and, in particular, the impact of its work on stakeholders.

The members of the Platform are organisations representing consumers, food operators active in the whole food chain – e.g. farmers and other primary producers, the food industry, the food trade and NGOs active within the mandate of EFSA.

The participating organisations must meet with all the following criteria: 1. organisations set up at the EU level (e.g. large, EU-wide organisations); 2. organisations with a legitimate interest in the areas of work of EFSA; 3. organisations which are representative in the field of their competence and involved in the areas covered by EFSA; 4. organisations with whom the Authority does not have a legal obligation (e.g. EU institutions); 5. organisations which legitimately have frequent dealings with EFSA and 6. organisations permanently established at the EU level and well-known at the Community level for their activities in the area within the remit of EFSA. The list of member organisations is enclosed for your information.

As requested by EFSA's Management Board, EFSA launched a call for expressions of interest on 4<sup>th</sup> August in order to draw a list of stakeholder organisations that might wish to be invited to the meetings of the Platform on topic-related and on a case-by-case basis. The deadline for submitting applications to EFSA was 8<sup>th</sup> September and at this stage EFSA's secretariat is in the process of considering the applications received (at around 50 applications).

The platform will meet twice a year and will hold its meetings in Parma. The meetings of the Platform are open to the public.

For further information about the Platform please see the Terms of Reference and other relevant documents available at EFSA's website:  
[http://www.efsa.eu.int/stakeholder\\_stakeholder\\_consultative\\_platform/consultative\\_platform/1058\\_en.html](http://www.efsa.eu.int/stakeholder_stakeholder_consultative_platform/consultative_platform/1058_en.html)

The terms of reference and membership of the Platform will be reviewed by EFSA's Management Board after 1 year of operation.

## **AF 30.09.2004 – 9**

### **Note on upcoming EFSA's stakeholder events**

The setting up of the Stakeholder Consultative Platform responds to a wish of the stakeholder organisations to have a more institutionalized way to interact with EFSA and that has been called on EFSA at the two last annual colloques that EFSA organized. Equally, it responds to the wish of EFSA to strengthen its links with stakeholder organisations.

It is to be noted that the Platform will not substitute some of the current exercises with stakeholder organisations, which include annual colloques, public consultations, scientific colloquia, technical hearings, bilateral meetings at the request of stakeholder organisations.

#### **▪ Inaugural meeting – Parma, 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> October 2005**

The first meeting of the Platform will take place on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> October in Parma. The meetings of the Platform will be chaired by a Chair person who will be designated by the members of the Platform from among its members. As long as a Chair person is not elected the meetings of the Platform will be chaired by EFSA's Executive Director.

Since the first meeting is the "inaugural meeting" of the Platform the topics for discussion at this meeting will mainly deal with procedural and horizontal matters, such as the modus operandi of the Platform, the election of the Chair, overviews on science, communications and stakeholder policy, stakeholder concerns.

The agenda, the minutes of the Platform and any other relevant documents will be posted on EFSA's website.

#### **II. 3<sup>rd</sup> Stakeholder colloque**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Stakeholder colloque will take place on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> November in Parma. This colloque follows a series of annual colloques that started in 2003 and that aim at allowing interested parties to interact with EFSA and to discuss stakeholder-related issues that are relevant to all parties involved. Bearing in mind this background and as a continuation of the annual colloques initiated in October 2003 (first stakeholder colloque, Ostende, Belgium) and continued in November 2004 (second stakeholder colloque, Berlin, Germany), the aim of the 3<sup>rd</sup> stakeholder colloque is to further discuss with interested parties the future of EFSA, and mainly what the role of EFSA is, what EFSA should do in the future and what the Authority should become from an stakeholder points of view.

The programme for the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual colloque with stakeholders is currently being elaborated by EFSA's secretariat. Members of the Advisory Forum will be informed on any update during the meeting in Cyprus and subsequently by EFSA's secretariat.