



European Food Safety Authority

SCIENCE

NOTE FOR THE ADVISORY FORUM FROM THE SECRETARIAT

REQUEST FOR ADVICE ON EXPOSURE ASSESSORS' EXPERTS

1. Exposure assessment is a key step in risk assessment. Typical exposure assessments consist of combining data on the occurrence of a chemical substance or biological agent in foods consumed across Europe (or intended use levels of food additives, flavourings or other substance to be authorised) with data on the consumption of the relevant foods by general population or subpopulations of specific interest (e.g. infants, adults, pregnant women, immune compromised people).
2. The quality of the exposure assessment depends highly on the quality of the data and the methodologies used to assess the exposure. A lack of information on the occurrence of a substance in a certain food or on the consumption of that food, as well as a lack of representative data for a certain country (e.g. occurrence data) or a certain subpopulation (e.g. infants, elderly) is not seldomly hampering the quality of the exposure assessment. This situation also applies to EFSA and it therefore requested its Scientific Committee already in 2003 to provide an opinion on how EFSA could build up and strengthen its capabilities in the area of exposure assessment. The Scientific Committee released its opinion in June 2005¹ and a second opinion is expected to be adopted at its plenary meeting at the end of May.
3. In its opinion of June 2005, the Scientific Committee recommended EFSA, among other issues, to build an EU-wide food consumption database and to make existing databases better accessible for the Scientific Panels and Committee. In the area of methodologies for exposure assessment, the Committee advised to use existing international guidelines and to participate actively in platforms when guidelines are developed or further updated. The various approaches for collection of food consumption data and the development of a food consumption database at European and international level has been extensively discussed at EFSA's third Scientific Colloquium in April 2005².

¹ See http://www.efsa.eu.int/science/sc_commitee/sc_opinions/1028_en.html

² See http://www.efsa.eu.int/science/colloquium_series/col_consumption/824_en.html

4. One of the steps EFSA wishes to tackle in further building its capability in exposure assessment is to increase its capacity in this area. The number of experienced experts in exposure assessment involved in its scientific activities is currently quite limited and needs to grow. It however realises that there are a considerable number of experts performing exposure assessments at national level who may assist EFSA to increase its capacity.
5. In order 1) to increase its capacity in the area of exposure assessment and 2) to bring new views and ideas for improvement and harmonisation of the methods currently used in Europe for the collection and compilation of food consumption and occurrence data for exposure assessment purposes, EFSA would like to identify additional exposure assessors. These exposure assessors would be involved in working groups to perform *ad hoc* exposure assessments or to revise and prepare guidelines for exposure assessment to support the EFSA Panels.
6. EFSA would like to ask the Advisory Forum for advice on names of exposure assessors in their countries who would be willing to get involved in such activities at EFSA. For convenience a template is annexed to this note, which should be completed and returned **before 31th of July 2006** to the Secretariat of the Scientific Committee:

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REPLY FORM for the ADVISORY FORUM

ADVICE ON EXPERTS IN EXPOSURE ASSESSMENT

Please complete this form and return it before July 31th, 2006, to **Valérie Rolland** by post at **European Food Safety Authority, Largo N. Palli 5/A, I-43100 Parma**; or by email at valerie.rolland@efsa.eu.int, or by fax at + 39 0521 036 518. THANK YOU !

Title:

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Forename:

Affiliation:

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Address:

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City: ZIP Code: Country:

Telephone: Fax:

E-mail:

Experience in risk assessment:

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Specific field of expertise in risk assessment:

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Additional comment:

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