



## European Food Safety Authority

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### Management Board meeting 19 December 2006

**Subject: Strategy for Cooperation and Networking between the EU Member States and EFSA**

1. Members will have received the Strategy Paper for Cooperation and Networking between the EU Member States and EFSA prior to discussions at Advisory Forum on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2006. The Strategy has now been amended and agreed by the Advisory Forum and discussed with the chair and vice chairs of the Scientific Committee. The document was originally based on two strategic documents discussed at the Advisory Forum meeting in Berne in September 2006 (Doc AF 29.09.2006 – 4, Previous and current scientific cooperation with Member States and Doc AF 29.09.2006 – 5, Background on the legal tools for funding scientific cooperation with Member States).
2. In October 2006, an ad hoc Working Group of the Advisory Forum discussed views, needs and possible tools for further cooperation more in depth and formulated a draft Strategy paper. The European Commission and EFSA's Scientific Committee were consulted on this draft Strategy paper and both provided their input. The draft Strategy was thoroughly discussed at the Advisory Forum meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> November in Helsinki and accepted in principle. Editorial and clarifying changes have been agreed upon by written procedure.
3. This Strategy paper describes four priority areas on how to further strengthen the Cooperation and Networking of EFSA and the Member States. These are: 1) on the exchanging and collecting of scientific data and information; 2) on the sharing of risk assessments practices; 3) on the contributing to the harmonisation of methodologies for risk assessments and 4) on promoting coherence in risk communications.
4. The Paper also gives further interpretation of the role of the Advisory Forum. Focal points will be established in the Member States to ensure the adequate and timely transfer of all relevant information to and from the Member States.
5. It is proposed that the Strategy will be implemented through a number of projects in order to make the four priority areas operational. Discussions on the nature of these have already been opened with the Advisory Forum but the nature, content, participation and timelines still have to be further discussed during early 2007 with the Advisory Forum after consultation with the Scientific Committee.

6. This Strategy document meets to a large extent the first Recommendation made by the Management Board in June 2006 following the Article 61 Evaluation to develop active networking and stronger cooperation with the Member States.
7. The Management Board is therefore asked to endorse this document. The Management Board will consider progress reports of the implementation of this strategy on a regular basis and the strategy will be reviewed within 2 years.