

COVER NOTE
REPORT ON THE EVALUATION OF SCIENTIFIC EXPERTS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE
MEMBERSHIP OF EIGHT SCIENTIFIC PANELS AND THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
(2009)

In accordance with Article 28(5) of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002, EFSA opened on 23 October 2008 the call for expressions of interest for members for the Scientific Committee and 8 Scientific Panels. The call closed on 14 January 2009. The panels included into the call were *Animal Health and Welfare (AHAW)*; *Biological Hazards (BIOHAZ)*; *Contaminants in the food chain (CONTAM)*; *Feed Additives and products or substances used in animal feed (FEEDAP)*; *Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO)*; *Dietetic products, nutrition and allergies (NDA)*; *Plant Health (PLH)* and *Panel on Plant Protection Products and their residues (PPR)*.

In order to promote the awareness of the call, a promotion plan including communication activities was carried out. This included the publication of the call, not only on the EFSA website or in its newsletters, but also in one leading national newspaper for each Member State and in 18 important scientific journals. In addition, experts currently working for EFSA in various groups received emails. The information about the call was also disseminated via leading scientific associations, presentations and posters in scientific conferences, and during EFSA meetings. In addition, two seminars were organized to motivate experts from the 12 new Member States, one in Hungary and one in Poland, in which 103 experts, representing all New Member States, participated.

Out of 848 experts applying to the call, 732 were eligible. The total number of the eligible experts applying per available post increased by 7% compared to the call in 2006. On average, 79% of current panel members reapplied. This result is in accordance with the expert survey results launched by EFSA in 2008 where a majority of respondents declared that they would be interested in continuing to participate in EFSA's work.

The evaluation of all eligible candidates, having a complete Declaration of Interest with no general conflict of interests, was independently carried out by two EFSA evaluators per Scientific Panel/Scientific Committee, assisted by EFSA scientific staff. All applicants were screened against the selection criteria listed in the published call for expressions of interest (Experience in carrying out scientific risk assessment, Proven scientific excellence, Experience in peer reviewing scientific work and publications, Ability to analyse complex information and dossiers, Professional experience in a multidisciplinary environment, Experience in project management related to scientific matters, Proven communication skills).

In order to confirm that the evaluation was done in a fully independent and consistent manner, three independent external evaluators were selected by the Executive Director on the basis of their internationally-recognized scientific expertise and in-depth knowledge of EFSA. They convened in the Authority's offices to evaluate the same random sample of 10% of all eligible candidates and to compare their evaluation with the internal one. During the comparison meeting 6 cases out of the 76 samples had a discrepancy (8%). The discrepancy found was within the range of maximum allowed discrepancy and therefore the evaluation process was confirmed as valid. Subsequently, the shortlist containing the best candidates from the EFSA evaluation was shared on a confidential basis with the Advisory Forum for comments. Taking into consideration the comments received, the Executive Director reviewed the final list of suitable candidates and now submits this proposal to the Management Board for approval.

Of the 174 candidates proposed for nomination 26% are women and 74 % men, with an average age of 55 years. The share of women increased by 5 percentage points in comparison to the previous call launched in

2006, in which 21.2% of the nominated candidates were female. In the 2009 call, the number of experts below 51 years old has increased by almost 5 percentage points and now represents one third of the panel members. The nominated candidates' average age shows a decrease of 1 year.

In 2009, candidates from 42 nationalities applied. The candidates proposed for nomination have 26 different nationalities, including 7 of the 12 new Member States. An increase occurred with respect to the 2006 procedure, which included applicants from 38 nationalities and nominated candidates from 25 nationalities, comprising 5 new Member States. As a result of the current call, 13 of the nominated candidates are from the new Member States compared to 10 candidates in the 2006 call.

Adoption of the list by the Management Board and appointment of the candidates

In accordance with Article 28(5) of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002, the Executive Director presents to the Management Board for possible adoption the list of candidates to be appointed as members of the Scientific Committee and Panels and the reserve list. Upon approval of the proposal by the Management Board, EFSA will contact the experts to notify their appointment and invite them for the first plenary meeting of the relevant body. EFSA will notify the candidates on the reserve list and the unsuccessful applicants of the outcome of the selection procedure.

In accordance with Articles 3(1) and 24 of the Decision concerning the establishment and the operations of Scientific Committee and Scientific Panels, where a need is identified to replace members, replacements will be selected from the reserve list and proposed by the Executive Director to the Management Board for approval, following consultation with the Chair of the Scientific Panel/Scientific Committee

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Selection Procedure

Call for members of the Scientific Committee and Scientific Panels

The European Food Safety Authority launched a call for expression of interest for the membership of the following Scientific Panels: *Animal Health and Welfare (AHAW)*; *Biological Hazards (BIOHAZ)*; *Contaminants in the food chain (CONTAM)*; *Feed Additives and products or substances used in animal feed (FEEDAP)*; *Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO)*; *Dietetic products, nutrition and allergies (NDA)*; *Plant Health (PLH)*; *Plant Protection Products and their residues (PPR)* and the Scientific Committee (SC) (Annex II).

In accordance with Article 28(5) of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002, EFSA published on 23 October 2008 the call for expressions of interest in the Official Journal and on the Authority's website. The closing date, initially foreseen on 7 January 2009, was extended until 14 January 2009. During the extension of the call 264 additional applications were received. In total, 848 applications were received.

In order for the call to be given the widest dissemination possible EFSA advertised the call in other media, frequently consulted by scientific experts, and asked the members of the Advisory Forum and their Focal Points to inform national authorities, academia and other entities (see Communications and Networking).

Each application was screened against the eligibility criteria listed in the vacancy notice (Annex II, point A) and 732 candidates were retained eligible having a complete Declaration of Interest. The results of the validity and eligibility check were reported to the EFSA Evaluation Team (EET)¹ which reviewed and confirmed the outcome. In the application form the candidates had to indicate their preference for one or two Scientific Panels and/or for the Scientific Committee (Table 1).

Table 1 The number of first choice and second choice preferences for each Scientific Panel/Scientific committee.

Panel	First Choice and Second Choice Preferences	First Choice and Second Choice Eligible Candidates
AHAW	216	183
BIOHAZ	197	162
CONTAM	269	229
FEEDAP	107	99
GMO	109	96
NDA	154	122
PLH	90	80
PPR	129	114
SC	423	366

¹ For this call, the EET was chaired by the Director of Risk Assessment (RA) and comprised the Director of Scientific Cooperation and Assistance (SCA), the Heads of all relevant Units of the RA Directorate, the Head of the Scientific Committee and Advisory Forum Unit, and a Project Coordinator representing the Human Resources (HR) Unit.

In the 2009 call the number of eligible candidates per post increased by 7% when compared to 2006 call (Table 2).

Table 2 The number of applications in the 2009 and 2006.

Call	Applications received	Eligible Candidates	% eligible	Total number of Panel members*	Eligible candidates per position
9 SP and SC 2006	874	768	88%	195	3.9
8 SP and SC 2009	848	732	86%	174	4.2

* The Scientific Committee will have 6 members (in addition to the Chair of the Panels) and the Scientific Panels will have 21 members each

Evaluation of eligible candidates

The evaluation of all eligible candidates, on the basis of the selection criteria listed in the published call for expression of interest, was carried out independently by two EFSA's evaluators per Scientific Panel/Scientific Committee, assisted by EFSA scientific staff. Candidates who expressed an interest in more than one Scientific Panel and/or the Scientific Committee were scored independently for each Scientific Panel and/or Scientific Committee.

Before the evaluation of the applications started, the EET agreed on the interpretation of the selection criteria as referred to in the call for expressions of interest (Annex II, point B) in order to achieve a consistent and objective approach. To this end, a grading and scoring grid was drawn up and used to evaluate all candidates. In order to differentiate the impact of the various criteria, a weighting coefficient was attributed to the criteria foreseen in the evaluation grid.

Each selection criterion was weighted. Three selection criteria² were given a higher weighting than the others. In case a candidate would be given a maximum score for all criteria, the previously mentioned three criteria would together represent 60% of the maximum total score.

There were no significant discrepancies found between the independent evaluations of the two Authority's evaluators of the valid applications for the same Panel.

External review of the evaluation

In order to confirm that the evaluation and scoring of all eligible candidates was done in a fully independent and consistent manner, three independent external evaluators were selected by the Executive Director on the basis of the following criteria:

- a. Internationally-recognized scientific expertise and experience;
- b. Knowledgeable about EFSA and its scientific working procedures; and
- c. Not currently participating in, or applying to, any of EFSA's scientific activities.

The external experts convened on 18 and 19 February in the Authority's offices in Parma to evaluate, first individually, then jointly, the stratified random sample consisting of 76 applications (10% of eligible candidates

² For: a) Experience in carrying out scientific risk assessment and/or providing scientific advice in fields related to food and feed safety in general and, in particular in the areas of competence and expertise of the Scientific Committee or the Scientific Panel preferred. b) Proven scientific excellence in one, or preferably several fields linked to the area covered by the Scientific Committee or the Scientific Panel preferred. c) Experience in peer reviewing scientific work and publications, preferably in fields related to the area covered by the Scientific Committee or the Scientific Panel preferred.

per Panel and Scientific Committee divided equally into 3 groups - high, medium and low scores) applying the selection criteria drawn up by the EET. Their scores were then compared to those of the Authority's evaluators on 20 February. Only the applications that had an apparent discrepancy between internal and external evaluators were discussed.

During the meeting in which the results of the internal evaluation and external evaluation were compared and discussed, consensus was reached on most of screened applications; 6 cases out of the 76 samples had a discrepancy (8%), which falls within the range of maximum allowed discrepancy of 20% in the number of sampled applications.

The review process was considered by the External Evaluators as transparent and well supported. They expressed confidence on the quality of the evaluations carried out by EFSA's evaluators. No issues were identified that could cause concern regarding the later stages of the Renewal of Scientific Panels and Scientific Committee. The evaluation process was therefore confirmed as valid.

Shortlist of the best candidates

Following the positive outcome of the external review, the EET established a shortlist of the best candidates for the Scientific Committee and each of the Scientific Panels.

In order to ensure that the proposed candidates did not have a general conflict of interest, the EET screened the declarations of interest (DoI) of all selected candidates in accordance with EFSA's Policy on DoI (MB 11.09.2007 - 5.2).

The selection was then done by setting a cut-off mark of 2/3 of the maximum achieved score above which candidates with an approved DoI were considered suitable members of a Scientific Panel or the Scientific Committee.

Shortlist for the Advisory Forum

In order to select the best candidates, EFSA shared on a confidential basis the shortlist of suitable candidates with the Advisory Forum. Comments from 12 Focal Points regarding 36 candidates were received and taken into consideration for drawing up the final shortlist.

Selection of candidates from the shortlist

The EET submitted to the Executive Director a report with candidates proposed for appointment, taking into account the following factors:

- i) the position of the candidate on the shortlist;
- ii) the expertise required for the relevant Scientific Panel or for the Scientific Committee. This relates in particular to the candidate's potential contribution to a broad range of the Scientific Committee or Scientific Panel work, the candidates scientific expertise and experience, disciplines of work and characteristics of opinion development;
- iii) a thorough knowledge of the English language;
- iv) the nationality and gender of the candidate; and
- v) advice from the members of the Advisory Forum.
- vi) completed DoI for which no general conflict of interests were identified.

The Executive Director reviewed the report and provides a proposal to the Management Board on the experts to be appointed as members of the relevant Scientific Panel(s) and/or the Scientific Committee or to be placed on the reserve list.

Of the 174 candidates proposed for nomination 26% are women and 74 % men, with an average age of 55 years. The share of women increased by 5 percentage points in comparison to the previous call launched in 2006, in which 21.2% of the nominated candidates were female. In the 2009 call, the number of experts below 51 years old has increased by almost 5 percentage points and now represents one third of the panel members. The nominated candidates' average age shows a decrease of 1 year (Annex I).

In 2009, candidates from 42 nationalities applied. The candidates proposed for nomination have 26 different nationalities, including 7 of the 12 new Member States. An increase occurred with respect to the 2006 procedure, which included applicants from 38 nationalities and nominated candidates from 25 nationalities, comprising 5 new Member States. As a result of the current call, 13 of the nominated candidates are from the new Member States compared to 10 candidates in 2006 call.

The percentage of the current Panel and Scientific Committee Members re-applying for the 2009 call is 79%. Out of the 174 Members proposed for nomination, 101 will be re-appointed for a second or third mandate. Therefore the percentage of newly selected members will be 42%.

Communication and Networking

To support the call, EFSA developed a promotion plan and promotional products to target leading scientists. This included an advert in leading national newspapers and major scientific journals, and also posters, banners and postcards for events. A press release was issued and a web banner advertising the call was posted on the EFSA website and sent to Focal Points. Various other partners, stakeholders and key EFSA bodies also assisted EFSA in its call. Most experts learnt about the call from EFSA staff (30%), the EFSA website (26%) or in EFSA newsletters (10%).

Following EFSA's Management Board concern about the low number of applicants from new Member States (MS) to the 2008 call for the CEF and ANS Panels, the Scientific Cooperation Unit, in collaboration with Focal Points (FPs), organised two seminars, in Budapest and in Warsaw, to motivate experts from new MS to apply. The seminars were attended by 103 experts, from all 12 new MS, of whom 18 have submitted a full application³. In addition, FPs promoted the call through their national networks, created links (incl. banners) from dedicated FP webpages to EFSA's application portal, and announced the call at national events, like Focal Point Kick-off Meetings.

³ In total 106 applications were submitted by experts from the 12 New Member States.

ANNEXES TO THE
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ANNEX I – STATISTICS

ANNEX II – VACANCY NOTICE

ANNEX I – STATISTICS

Figure 1 Eligible candidates 2009 and 2006: share of nominated and reserve list

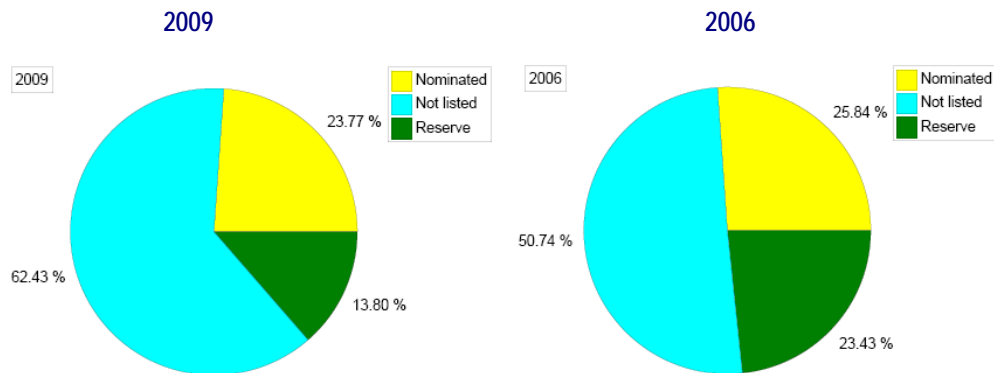


Figure 2 Shortlist candidates 2009 and 2006 by gender and age group

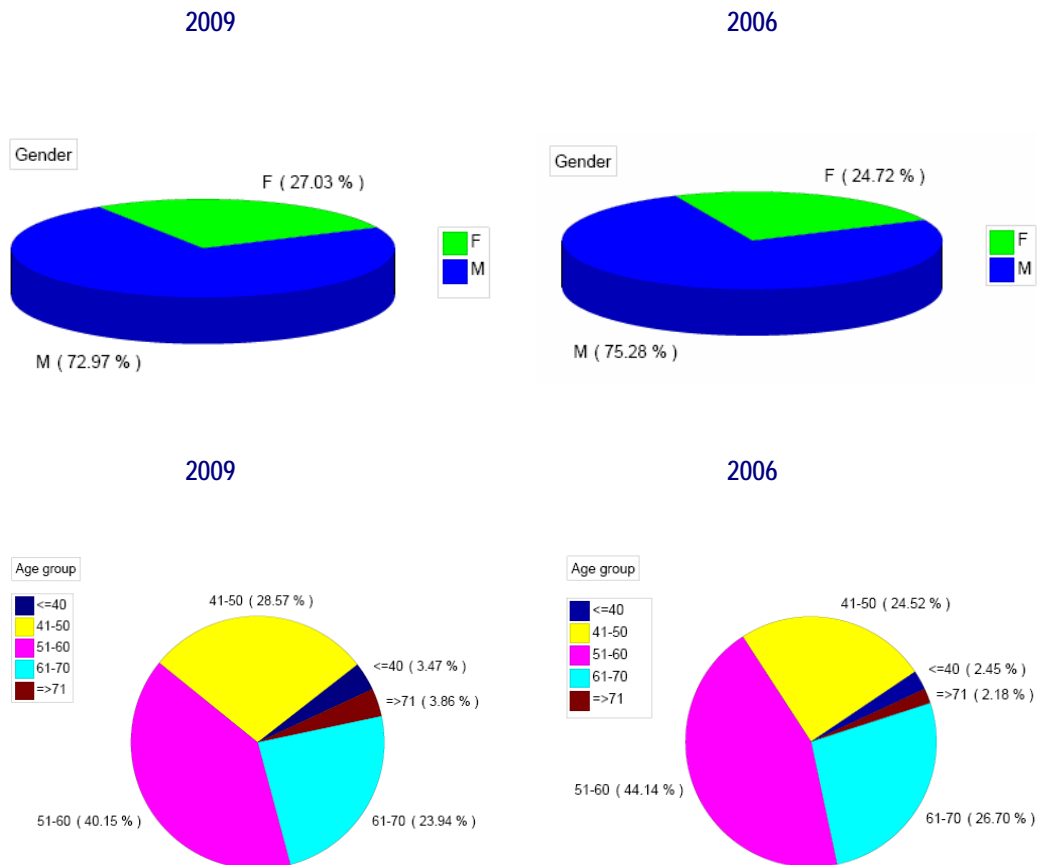
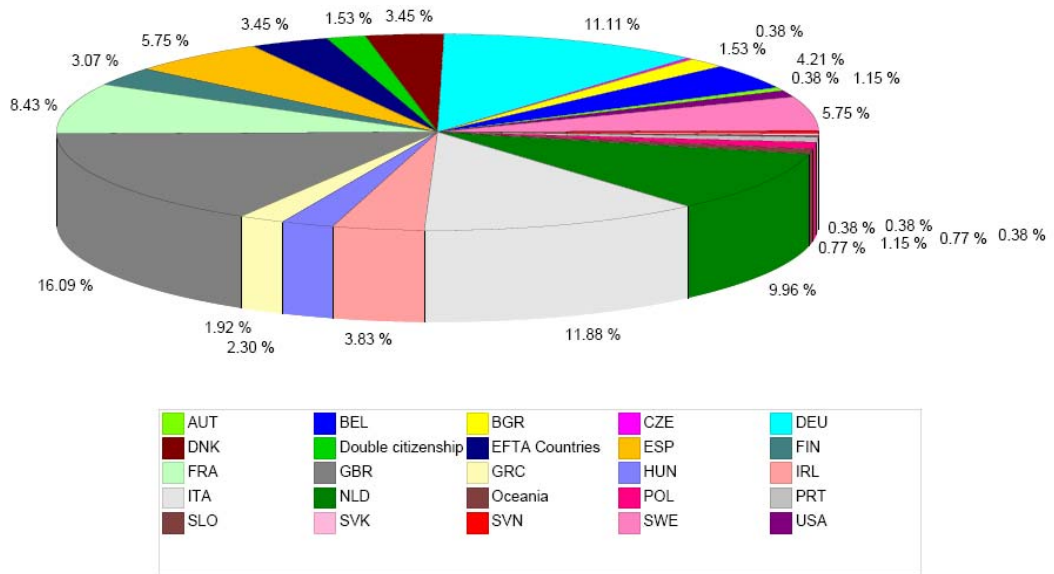


Figure 3 Shortlist candidates 2009 and 2006 by nationality

2009:



(Double citizenship: ROU/USA, SERB/GBR, UKR/USA, USA/NZD; EFTA Countries: NOR, CHE)

2006:

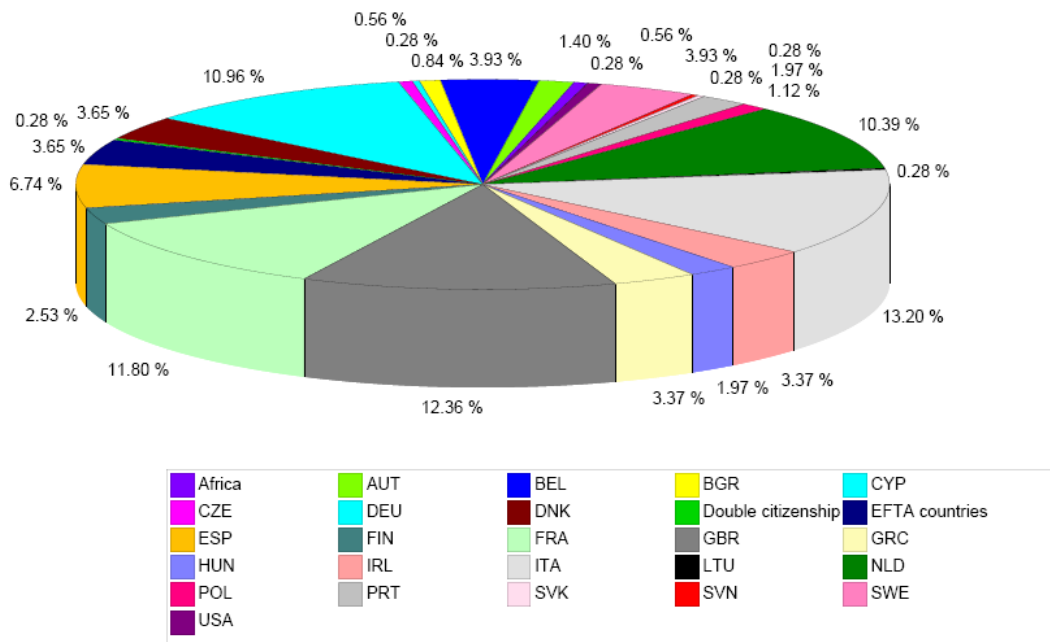
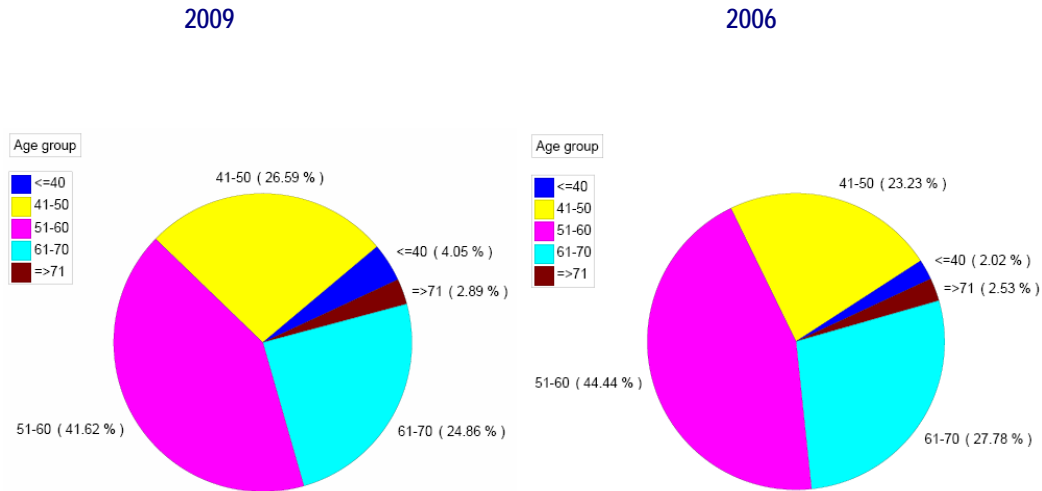
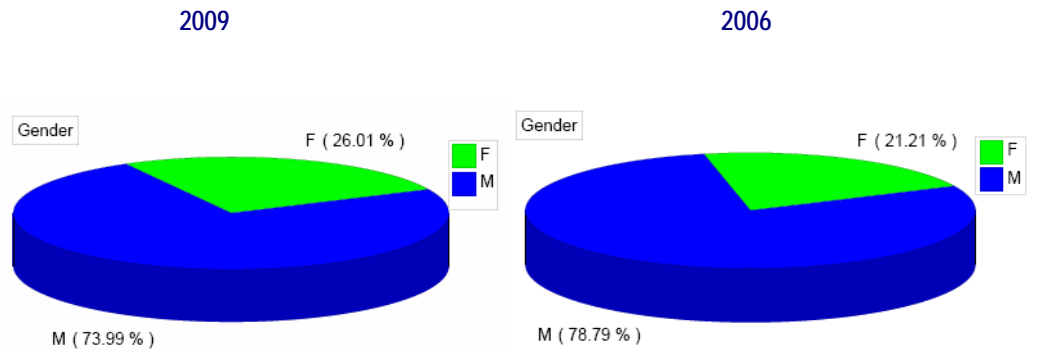


Figure 4a Nominated candidates 2009 and 2006 by gender, age group and average age

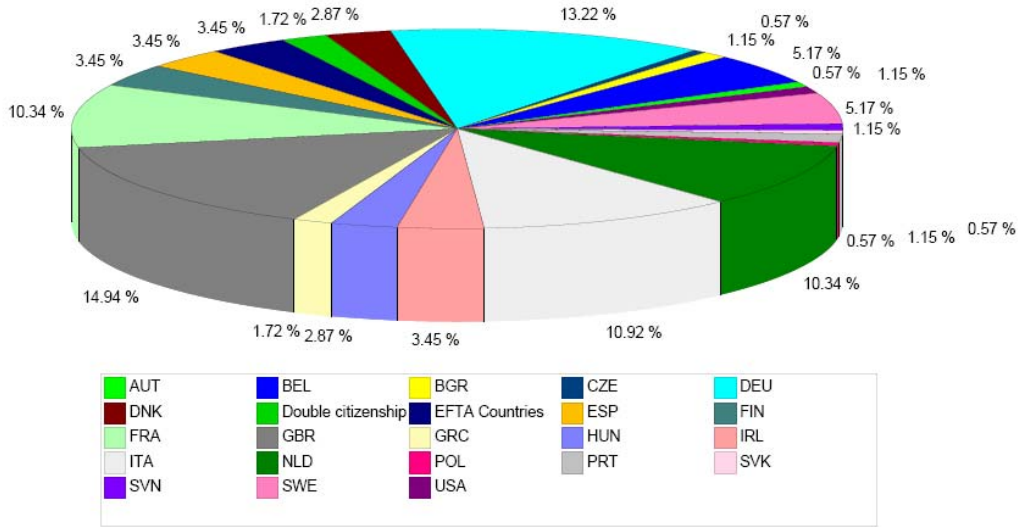


Average age 2009: 55.22

Average age 2006: 56.17

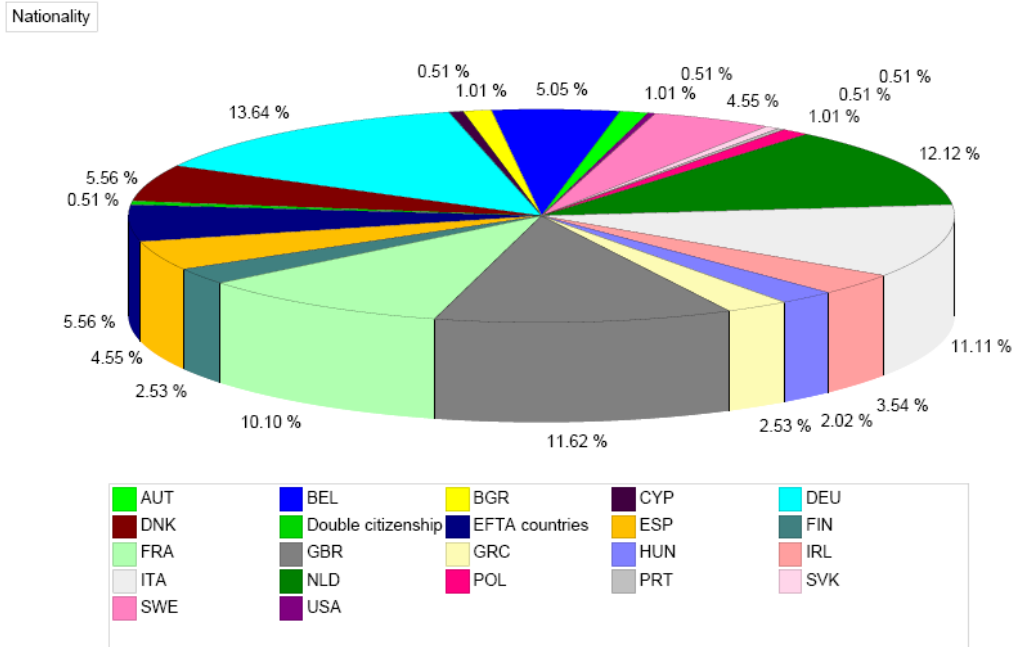
Figure 4 b Nominated candidates 2009 and 2006 by nationality

2009:



(Double citizenship: ROU/USA, SERB/GBR, UKR/USA; EFTA Countries: NOR, CHE)

2006:



ANNEX II – VACANCY NOTICE

**CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR
MEMBERSHIP OF THE SCIENTIFIC PANELS OF THE EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY (PARMA,
ITALY)**

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) is the keystone of European Union (EU) risk assessment regarding food and feed safety. In close collaboration with national authorities and in open consultation with its stakeholders, EFSA provides independent scientific advice and clear communication on existing and emerging risks.

The Authority has set up a selection procedure that aims to draw up a reserve list of:

**SCIENTIFIC EXPERTS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE MEMBERSHIP OF EFSA SCIENTIFIC PANELS
and SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**

**Panel on Animal Health and Welfare (AHAW);
Panel on Biological Hazards (BIOHAZ);
Panel on Contaminants in the food chain (CONTAM);
Panel on Feed Additives and products or substances used in animal feed (FEEDAP);
Panel on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO);
Panel on Dietetic products, nutrition and allergies (NDA);
Panel on Plant Health (PLH);
Panel on Plant Protection Products and their residues (PPR);
Scientific Committee (SC).**

Ref.: EFSA/E/2008/002

This call is addressed to scientists wishing to be considered for membership of the scientific Panel on Animal Health and Welfare (AHAW), on Biological Hazards (BIOHAZ), on Contaminants in the food chain (CONTAM), on Feed Additives and products or substances used in animal feed (FEEDAP), on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO), on Dietetic products, nutrition and allergies (NDA), on Plant Health (PLH), on Plant Protection Products and their residues (PPR) and for membership of the Scientific Committee (SC) of the European Food Safety Authority in order to identify Europe's best scientists for this task.

The European Food Safety Authority

EFSA is the cornerstone of the EU system of risk assessment for food and feed safety; its scientific advice on existing and emerging risks underpins the policies and decisions of risk managers in the European Institutions and EU Member States. The Authority's most critical commitment is to provide transparent and independent scientific advice and clear communication grounded in the most up-to-date scientific methodologies and data available.

EFSA brings together Europe's best available experts in risk assessment in the field of food and feed safety, who act in an independent capacity for an autonomous, self-governed organisation to provide the European Institutions and the Member States with scientific advice of the highest standard.

The Authority is committed to the core standards of scientific excellence, openness, transparency, independence and responsiveness. By working independently, openly and transparently EFSA delivers the best possible scientific advice and therefore contributes to strengthening the European food and feed safety system.

The role of EFSA's Scientific Panels and Scientific Committee

The Scientific Panels are responsible for providing the scientific opinions of the Authority and other advice as appropriate, each within their own spheres of competence.

The Scientific Panels are composed of normally 21 independent scientific experts.

Members of the Scientific Committee and Panels are appointed for a three-year term of office that may be renewed twice and are expected to attend and contribute actively to all meetings of the Panel where opinions, statements or guidance documents are adopted. It is estimated that the Scientific Committee and the Scientific Panels meet depending on the workload between six and ten times per year in two-day meetings usually in Parma, Italy. Panel members are also expected to participate, as appropriate, in working groups. Meetings and most documents are in English. Applicants should take into account that meetings in general involve preparatory work.

The Chairs of each Scientific Panel are also members of the Scientific Committee of EFSA together with 6 other Scientific Experts.

The members of the Scientific Panels are entitled to a compensation decided by EFSA Management Board for each full day meeting (for 2008 this amount is stated at € 300). In addition, the scientific experts receive subsistence allowance and incurred travelling expenses in accordance with EFSA's compensation guide for experts meetings.

Panel on Animal Health and Welfare (AHAW)

The AHAW Panel provides independent scientific advice on all aspects of animal diseases and animal welfare. Its work chiefly concerns food producing animals, including fish.

Its risk assessment approach is based on reviewing scientific information and data in order to evaluate the risks as consequence of a given hazard. This helps to provide a science-based foundation for European policies and legislation and supports risk managers in taking decisions.

Visit the AHAW key topics section on the EFSA website for more details.

Panel on Biological Hazards (BIOHAZ)

The Panel on Biological Hazards (BIOHAZ) provides independent scientific advice on biological hazards in relation to food safety and food-borne diseases. This covers:

- food-borne zoonoses (animal diseases transmissible to humans)
- transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (BSE/TSEs)
- food microbiology
- food hygiene and associated waste management issues

The panel is one of EFSA's key drivers on work on BSE and TSE.

It carries out risk assessments in order to produce scientific opinions and advice for risk managers. This helps to provide a sound foundation for European policies and legislation and supports risk managers in taking decisions.

Visit the BIOHAZ key topics section on the EFSA website for more details.

Panel on Contaminants in the food chain (CONTAM)

The CONTAM Panel provides independent scientific advice on contaminants in the food chain and undesirable substances such as natural toxicants, mycotoxins and residues of unauthorised substances not covered by another Panel.

It carries out risk assessments in order to produce scientific opinions and advice for risk managers. This helps to provide a sound foundation for European policies and legislation and supports risk managers in taking decisions.

Visit the CONTAM key topics section on the EFSA website for more details.

Panel on Feed Additives and products or substances used in animal feed (FEEDAP)

The FEEDAP Panel provides independent scientific advice on the safety and/or efficacy of additives and products or substances used in animal feed. The Panel evaluates their safety and/or efficacy for the target species, the user, the consumer of products of animal origin and the environment. It also looks at the efficacy of biological and chemical products/substances intended for deliberate use in animal feed.

The Panel performs much of its work in relation to substances which must be evaluated by EFSA before they can be authorised for use in the EU.

Visit the FEEDAP key topics section on the EFSA website for more details.

Panel on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO)

The GMO Panel provides independent scientific advice on the safety of:

- genetically modified organisms (GMOs) such as plants, animals and micro-organisms;
- genetically modified food and feed.

The Panel carries out risk assessments in order to produce scientific opinions and advice for risk managers. Its risk assessment work is based on reviewing scientific information and data in order to evaluate the safety of a given GMO. This helps to provide a sound foundation for European policies and legislation and supports risk managers in taking decisions. The Panel carries out much of its work in the context of assessing applications, since all GM food and feed products must be evaluated by EFSA before they can be authorised in the EU.

Visit the GMO key topics section on the EFSA website for more details.

Panel on Dietetic products, nutrition and allergies (NDA)

The NDA Panel deals with questions related to dietetic products (foods intended to satisfy particular nutritional requirements of specific population groups), human nutrition and food allergies. It also advises on associated subjects such as novel foods (foods or ingredients which have not been consumed in the EU to a significant degree before 15 May 1997).

The Panel's work is based on reviewing scientific information and data in order to evaluate risks, for instance in relation to food allergies and novel foods, and to provide scientific advice concerning human nutrition and the nutritional value of foods, food ingredients and products. The Panel's activities also include assessing whether any claims about the health benefits or nutritional value of foods are scientifically reliable and justified and work on Population Reference Intakes. The Panel provides scientific opinions and advice for risk managers. This helps to provide a sound foundation for European policies and legislation and supports risk managers in taking decisions. For more information on EFSA's role with regard to Nutrition and Health Claims, see Nutrition and Health Claims in Focus and/or visit the NDA key topics section on the EFSA website for more details.

Panel on Plant Health (PLH)

The PLH Panel provides independent scientific advice on the risk posed by plant pests which can cause harm to plants, plant products or biodiversity in the EU. The Panel reviews and assesses those risks with regard to the safety and security of the food chain.

Its risk assessment work is based on reviewing scientific information and data in order to evaluate the risks posed by a given issue. This helps to provide a sound foundation for European policies and legislation and supports risk managers in taking decisions.

Visit the PLH key topics section on the EFSA website for more details.

Plant Protection Products and their residues (PPR)

The Panel on plant protection products and their residues (PPR Panel) provides independent scientific advice on the risk assessment of plant protection products (commonly known as pesticides) and their residues, looking at risks for the user/worker, the consumer and the environment.

This helps to provide a sound foundation for European policies and legislation and supports risk managers in taking decisions.

The Panel works closely with the Pesticide Risk Assessment Peer Review (PRAPeR) which is responsible for the EU- peer review of active substances used in new or existing plant protection products. The PPR Panel is asked for its opinion on any issues that cannot be resolved within this procedure or when further scientific guidance is needed, mostly in the field of toxicology, ecotoxicology, fate and behaviour of pesticides and residues. Another activity is to update the existing European Guidance Documents in risk assessment of plant protection products and to develop ones in new scientific areas.

Visit the Pesticides “In Focus” section for more information on EFSA’s work with regard to pesticides.

Visit the PPR key topics section on the EFSA website for more details.

Scientific Committee (SC)

The Scientific Committee is composed of the Chairs of each Scientific Panel and six (6) other scientific experts.

EFSA’s Scientific Committee has the task of supporting the work of EFSA on scientific matters of a horizontal nature and providing strategic advice to EFSA’s Executive Director. It is also responsible for general co-ordination to ensure consistency in the scientific opinions prepared by the Scientific Panels. The Scientific Committee focuses on developing harmonised risk assessment methodologies in fields where EU-wide approaches are not already defined.

The Scientific Committee produces scientific opinions and advice for risk managers, to provide a sound foundation for European policies and legislation and to support risk managers in taking decisions.

Visit the SC key topics section on the EFSA website for more details.

For more information regarding the selection of Members of the Scientific Committee and Panels please refer to the *“Decision concerning the establishment and operations of the Scientific Committee and Panels”*
http://www.efsa.eu.int/EFSA/DocumentSet/mb_32ndmeet_annex_a_en_4_1,2.pdf?ssbinary=true

For more information on Scientific Panels:

www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_ScientificPanels.htm

Selection Procedure

Candidates are requested to provide in the application form their preferences for the Scientific Panels and/or Scientific Committee.

The requirements

Qualifications and experience

A. Eligibility criteria

- i. A university degree in areas including Toxicology, Ecotoxicology, Environmental Sciences, Chemistry, Biochemistry, Food technology, Pharmacology, Veterinary Medicine, Human Medicine, Pharmacy, Biology, Life Science, Agronomy/Agricultural Science, Food microbiology, Epidemiology, Occupational Medicine, Public Health or in areas related to public health, at post-graduate level;

- ii. At least ten (10) years of professional experience relevant to the remit of the Panel(s) chosen at a level to which above required qualifications give admission;
- iii. Good knowledge of the English language;
- iv. Candidates must complete the Declaration of Interests included in the application in an extensive, accurate and complete manner. Please note that failure to fill in this part of the form in a complete manner will result in the rejection of the application;

For more information regarding Declarations of Interests:

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/cs/BlobServer/General/doi_guidance_allannexes.pdf?ssbinary=true

- v. Candidates must be nationals of a Member State of the European Communities, European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries and EU accession countries. Experts from non-European countries may also apply but will be considered only when the required level of expertise cannot be found among European experts.

B. Selection criteria

- Experience in carrying out scientific risk assessment and/or providing scientific advice in fields related to food and feed safety in general and, in particular in the areas of competence and expertise of the Scientific Committee or the Scientific Panel preferred.
- Proven scientific excellence in one, or preferably several fields linked to the area covered by the Scientific Committee or the Scientific Panel preferred.
- Experience in peer reviewing scientific work and publications, preferably in fields related to the area covered by the Scientific Committee or the Scientific Panel preferred.
- The ability to analyse complex information and dossiers, often from a wide range of scientific disciplines and sources and to prepare draft scientific opinions and reports.
- Professional experience in a multidisciplinary environment, preferably in an international context.
- Experience in project management related to scientific matters.
- Proven communication skills, based on teaching experience, public presentations, active participation in meetings, publications.

Applications meeting the eligibility requirements will be admitted to a comparative evaluation carried out by EFSA on the basis of the selection criteria given above. EFSA reserves the right to consult third parties on the professional experience of applicants in the context of their application.

Members of the Scientific Panels and Scientific Committee will be appointed by the Management Board acting upon a proposal from the Executive Director.

Apart from the Scientific Committee, candidates may indicate their preference for two (2) Scientific Panels but can only be appointed to one of them. Applicants may, with their prior consent, be assigned to a Scientific Panel even if they did not specifically apply for that Panel. Candidates meeting the requirement for membership but who are not appointed may be invited to remain on the reserve list in case vacancies occur or may be invited to contribute to the activities of a Scientific Panel or Scientific Committee as ad hoc expert.

All the short listed experts will be contacted and asked the permission to include their data in the expert database of EFSA.

For more information regarding EFSA's expert database:

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/AboutEfsa/WhoWeAre/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178712806106.htm

Independence and declarations of commitment and interest

The members of the Scientific Panels are appointed on a personal basis. Applicants are required to include a declaration that they will undertake to act independently of any outside influence and a declaration of interests which may be deemed to be prejudicial to their independence.

Equal opportunities

EFSA takes great care to apply the principles of equal treatment in its procedures.

Submission of applications

Candidates are requested to submit their application together with Declaration of Interests electronically through the EFSA's website: www.efsa.europa.eu

Applications delivered via email will not be accepted.

Candidates are kindly invited to fill in their application form in English in order to facilitate the selection procedure.

All candidates applying to this call for expressions of interest will be informed by mail about the outcome of the selection process.

The personal information EFSA requests from candidates will be processed in line with Regulation (EC) N° 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data. The purpose of processing of the personal data candidates submit is to manage applications in view of a possible pre-selection and selection at EFSA.

Closing date for sending applications

Applications must be submitted no later than **7th January 2009 at midnight** (Local time, GMT +1). For those sent by registered mail, the postmark date will serve as a proof.

Please note that, due to the extremely large number of applications we receive, when reaching the deadline for submission of applications, the system may have problems to process the large amounts of data. We therefore advise the applicants to send in their application well ahead of the closing date.

Note:

In the event of inconsistency or discrepancy between the English version and any of the other linguistic versions of this publication, the English language version shall prevail.