



European Food Safety Authority

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

**Management Board
20 March 2014
Parma**

Meeting :	Management Board, Open Session	
Subject :	Report on the appointment of the members of the ANS and CEF Scientific Panels and placement of suitable candidates in the reserve list	
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COVER NOTE

Evaluation of Scientific Experts considered for the ANS & CEF Scientific Panels of the European Food Safety Authority as well as for the placement on the Reserve List

Members of EFSA's Scientific Panels and the Scientific Committee are nominated for 3 years. The term of the Scientific Panels of EFSA on Food Additives and Nutrient Sources added to Food (ANS) and Food Contact Materials, Enzymes, Flavourings and Processing Aids (CEF) Scientific Panels is due to expire in July 2014.

In accordance with Article 28(5) of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002, EFSA published a call on 13 April 2013 on the Official Journal of the European Union.

In order to promote the awareness of the call, a promotion plan including communication activities was carried out. This included, besides the publication of the call, a press release, a web banner and further advertisement through key EFSA bodies and EFSA's Networks, stakeholders as well as presentations in conferences.

The Executive Director (ED) nominated a team comprising a number of EFSA scientific managers and staff to supervise and coordinate the evaluation process (EFSA Evaluation Team – EET).

Out of 230 applicants, 194 were eligible for the call. In the application form the applicants could select both Panels (in order of preference), resulting in the 194 eligible applicants filling in 349 different applications i.e. around 80% of the applicants indicated a second choice panel.

All eligible applications were evaluated independently by two EFSA evaluators against the selection criteria listed in the published call for expressions of interest. Before the evaluation of the eligible candidates started, the EET agreed on the interpretation of the eight selection criteria in order to achieve a consistent and objective approach for the scoring. To this end a grading and scoring grid was drawn up, including the weighting coefficient attributed to the different criteria listed in the published call for expressions of interest. Scores could range between 0 and 100. All applications scored above 66 points were considered as suitable for candidate nomination pending annual Declaration of Interests (ADoI) screening. Out of the 349 applications (filled in by 194 applicants) 141 applications (filled in by 82 candidates) scored above the 66 points threshold.

In order to assess whether the evaluation was done in an objective and consistent manner, three independent external evaluators were selected by the Executive Director on the basis of their internationally-recognized scientific expertise, in-depth knowledge of EFSA and absence of involvement in EFSA's activities. The External Evaluators evaluated a stratified random sample of 10% of the eligible applications in each Scientific Panel and compared their evaluation with the Internal ones. The conclusions from the external evaluation revealed that the Internal Evaluators presented clear and valuable argumentations for their scoring.

In order to ensure that the proposed candidates did not have a general conflict of interest, the ADols of the 82 candidates scored above the 66 points threshold were screened for compatibility of ANS and/or CEF Panel membership/chairmanship (141 screenings carried out). Consequently six candidates were excluded because of potential conflict of interest.

The list of the remaining 76 candidates was then shared on a confidential basis with the Members of the Advisory Forum for comments.

The final selection of the candidates proposed for nomination was made on the basis of: the result of the scoring exercise; the expertise required for the ANS and CEF Scientific Panels; the nationality and gender; and the advice from the members of the Advisory Forum.

As a result, 40 candidates have been proposed for nomination (21 for ANS and 19 for CEF) and 35 are proposed for inclusion in the Reserve List (common to all Scientific Panels and the Scientific Committee).

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 has presented to the Management Board for adoption the decision on the list of candidates to be appointed as members of the ANS and CEF Panels and the Reserve List.

EFSA will contact the experts to notify their appointment and will invite them to respond whether they accept the nomination. If their reply is positive, experts will be asked to submit an updated Annual Declaration of Interest.

The names of the members appointed by the Management Board will only become public by the end of April when experts have confirmed their agreement. EFSA will inform the EFSA Management Board of the outcome and of any follow up actions that might become necessary.

EFSA will also notify the candidates of their inclusion in the Reserve List and will inform the unsuccessful applicants of the outcome of the selection procedure.

Report on the evaluation of Scientific Experts to be considered for the 2014 Renewal of the ANS & CEF Scientific Panels of the European Food Safety Authority as well as for the placement on the Reserve List

Introduction

Members of EFSA's Scientific Panels and the Scientific Committee are nominated for 3 years. The term of the Scientific Panels of EFSA on Food Additives and Nutrient Sources added to Food (ANS) and Food Contact Materials, Enzymes, Flavourings and Processing Aids (CEF) which were renewed in 2011, is due to expire in July 2014.

The provisions of the 27 February 2013 Executive Director Decision¹ concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work states that the EFSA Evaluation Team (EET) shall submit to the Management Board a report with candidates proposed for appointment, along with a justification for these nominations.

1. Call for expression of interest for membership in the ANS and CEF Scientific Panels

In accordance with Article 28(5) of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002, EFSA published a call for expression of interest for membership in the ANS and CEF Scientific Panels on 13 April 2013 in the Official Journal of the EU (OJ 2013/C 107/07).

The call indicated the eight selection criteria for the evaluation of the eligible applications and the weighting coefficient attributed to the different criteria.

EFSA developed a promotion plan together with promotional products to target leading scientists. The plan included several media, multimedia and offline activities as well as advertisement of the call in leading scientific journals.

On the occasion of the launch of the call, a press release was issued and a web banner was posted on the EFSA website. Further advertisements through EFSA bodies (the Management Board, the Advisory Forum, the Focal Points), other stakeholders (the European Commission, the European Parliament, other EU agencies), EFSA's Networks, experts in EFSA's Expert Database, as well as presentations in conferences also assisted EFSA in promoting this call.

In addition and following statistics from the last call on expression of interest for membership of the 8 Scientific Panels and the Scientific Committee (Ref.: EFSA/E/2011/001), the communication campaign addressed the gender and geographical balance of the Scientific Panels by issuing promotional videos featuring female Panel members and by organizing promotional meetings in the less represented countries (Poland and Romania).

The results of EFSA campaign to promote the call show that experts learned about the call most often from the EFSA website (27.06 %), EFSA Staff (25.10 %), EFSA Panel members /SC /STWGs (18.82 %), or a friend/colleague (8.24%).

The 17 June 2013 initial closing date was extended until 1 July 2013. During the extension of the call, 93 additional experts applied for a total of 230 applicants for the call.

2. Evaluation of eligible candidates

The Executive Director of EFSA established the EET. The EET was chaired by the Head of Department of Science Strategy and Coordination and comprised the Head of Department of Scientific Evaluation of Regulated Products, the Head of Department of Risk Assessment and Scientific Assistance, the Head and the deputy Head of the relevant Unit and a Project Coordinator.

EFSA's Human Capital and Knowledge Management Unit (HUCAP) screened all applications on the basis of the eligibility criteria as set in the vacancy notice (ANNEX I).

¹ Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work signed on 27 February 2013:

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

The results of the eligibility check were reported by HUCAP to the EET, who reviewed, discussed and agreed on the eligible applicants. Out of the 230 applicants, 194 were retained eligible for the call.

The evaluation of applications has been carried out according to the eight selection criteria, categorised into two groups, as laid down in the Decision of the Executive Director²:

- Four criteria taking into account the specific areas under the remit of the Scientific Panel, so called “Panel related criteria”: (i) experience in carrying out scientific risk assessment, (ii) experience in providing other scientific advice, (iii) proven scientific excellence and (iv) experience in peer reviewing scientific work and publications.
- Four general selection criteria, so called “non-Panel related” criteria: (v) ability to analyse complex information and dossiers; (vi) professional experience in a multidisciplinary environment; (vii) experience in project management related to scientific matters; and (viii) proven communication skills.

A grading and scoring grid was drawn up and used to evaluate all applications against the eight selection criteria for each Panel. The weighting coefficient attributed to the different criteria as laid down in the call for expression of interest for membership in the ANS and CEF Scientific Panels, was included into the grid. Scores could range between 0 and 100. All candidates scored above 66 points were considered as suitable for candidate nomination pending annual Declaration of Interests (ADoI) screening.

Each application was evaluated by two Internal Evaluators. Where discrepancies exceeding 10 points were found between the scoring of the two Internal Evaluators for the same Panel, the Evaluators were asked to discuss and reconsider their scores.

Applicants who expressed an interest in more than one Scientific Panel were scored separately for each Scientific Panel (i.e. ANS and CEF Panel) by the respective Internal Evaluators.

In total, 349 applications filled in by 194 applicants were assessed (first and second choice). As a result of the scoring, 141 applications (filled in by 82 applicants) were classified as “above the 66 score threshold” and 208 applications (filled in by 112 applicants) were classified as “below or equal the 66 points threshold”.

3. External review of the evaluation

In order to assess whether the evaluation and scoring of all eligible applications was done in an independent and consistent manner, three independent External Evaluators were appointed by the Executive Director on the basis of the following criteria:

- Internationally-recognized scientific expertise and experience;
- Knowledgeable about EFSA and its scientific working procedures;
- No involvement in any of EFSA’s scientific activities, neither currently or in the last three years; and
- Approved Annual Declaration of Interests

The External Evaluators were provided with a stratified random sample of eligible applications, i.e. a 10% sample per each Panel and per each choice selected by the applicant. The sample consisted of 34 applications.

The External Evaluators carried out their own evaluation of the sample, by applying the selection criteria as indicated in the call and as used by the Internal Evaluators.

The External Evaluators met first among themselves to compare their individual scores on 22 October 2013 and then met again together with the Internal Evaluators of the Panel concerned to discuss discrepancies between external and internal evaluations on 13 November 2013.

² Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work signed on 27 February 2013:
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

The External Evaluators scores were then compared to those of the Internal Evaluators. A discrepancy was identified when, for the same application, the average scores of the Internal Evaluators differed in more than 20 points with those assigned by the External Evaluators. If in the sample of one Panel more than 20% cases of discrepancy are identified, all the applications for that Panel would need to be re-evaluated by the Internal Evaluators and re-sampled for the external evaluation. The external evaluation revealed that the discrepancies for both Panels were far below 20%. The external evaluators concluded that the Internal Evaluators presented clear and valuable argumentations for their scoring.

4. Screening of Annual Declaration of Interests (ADoI)

In accordance with the provisions laid down in the Executive Director Decision and in order to ensure that the proposed candidates did not have a general conflict of interest, the ADoIs of 82 candidates were screened for compatibility of ANS and/or CEF Panel membership/chairmanship (141 screenings carried out) in accordance with EFSA's current Policy on Declarations of Interest and the implementing rules³. Six candidates were excluded from the above 66 category following the identification of a potential Conflict of Interest.

5. Shortlist of the best candidates sent to the Advisory Forum

The list of the remaining candidates was submitted for comments to the Advisory Forum (shortlist of best candidates).

The Advisory Forum members were provided with the details of the shortlisted candidates for the renewal of the ANS and CEF Scientific Panels on Monday 27 January 2014. All responses were positive and expressed support for the candidates from their respective countries.

6. Candidates proposed for nomination in the ANS and CEF Scientific Panels

The nomination as Panel members is determined by:

- The position of the candidate on the shortlist, i.e. the overall score of the candidate;
- The expertise required for the relevant Scientific Panel. This relates in particular to the candidate's availability for EFSA activities and to his/her potential contribution to a broad diversity of scientific expertise and experience related to the Scientific Panel he/she applied for, disciplines of work and characteristics of opinion development;
- The nationality and gender of the candidate; and
- The advice from the members of the Advisory Forum.

Following the mapping of the candidates with the expertise required for the ANS and the CEF Panels, 40 are proposed for nomination (21 for the ANS Scientific Panel and 19 for CEF Scientific Panel⁴. 35 candidates that have been included in the proposed Reserve List.

³Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes of the European Food Safety Authority and Implementing Decision of EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision making processes regarding declaration of interest
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules.pdf>

⁴ One candidate proposed for nomination in the CEF panel passed away during the process and is not further considered.

Some statistics on the outcome of the evaluation

Affiliation/employment:

As illustrated in Figures 1 and 4, EFSA will be able to benefit again from expertise originating from governmental bodies, universities and public research institutes. Figure 2, 3, 5 and 6 provide the distribution by organization type of previous calls.

Figure 1: Affiliation of ANS candidates proposed for nomination in 2014, by organisation type

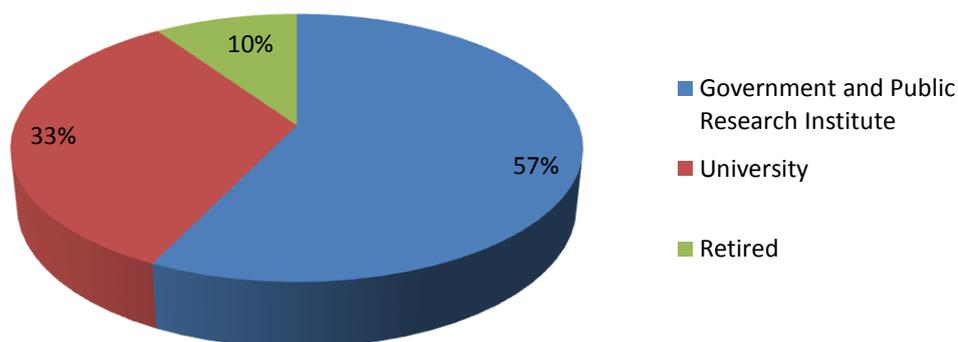


Figure 2: Affiliation of ANS candidates proposed for nomination in 2011, by organisation type

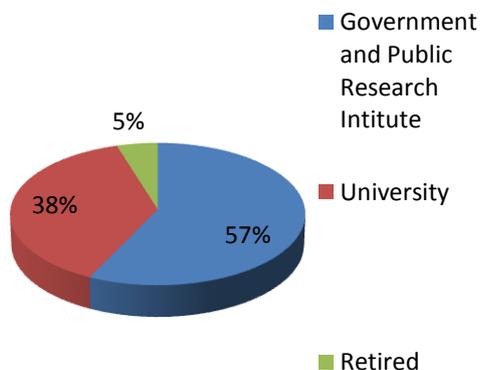


Figure 3: Affiliation of ANS candidates proposed for nomination in 2008, by organisation type

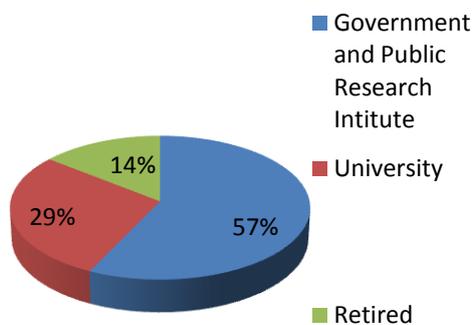


Figure 4: Affiliation of CEF candidates proposed for nomination in 2014, by organization type

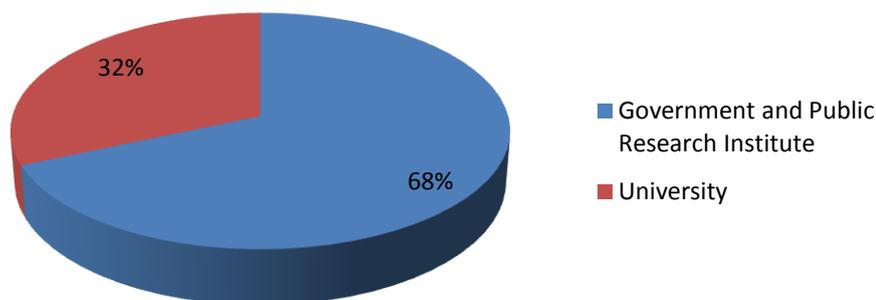


Figure 5: Affiliation of CEF candidates proposed for nomination in 2011, by organization type

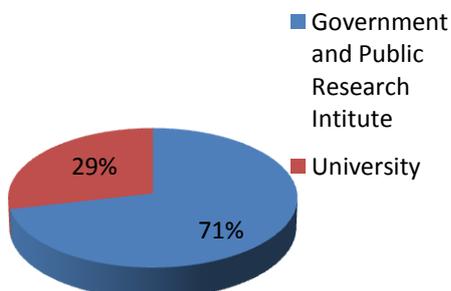
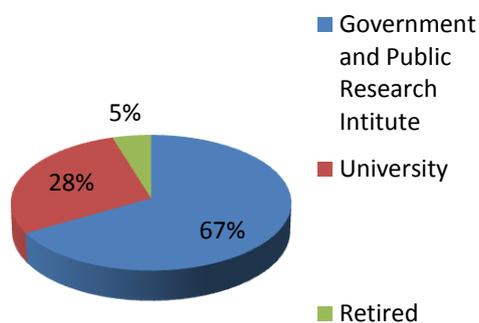


Figure 6: Affiliation of CEF candidates proposed for nomination in 2008, by organization type



Number of Membership Terms:

The ANS and CEF Panels were first established through the 2008 call. The number of successive terms an expert can serve as a member for the same Panel is three.

For ANS nomination proportion of 1st, 2nd and 3rd mandate candidates is only slightly deviating from the optimal turn over rate of 33% (Figure 7)

For CEF nomination, there is currently an overrepresentation of 3rd mandate candidates (Figure 9). However currently only 19 out of 21 vacancies are occupied and the proportion of 3rd mandate candidates is expected to slightly decrease assuming that two new nominations could be added to the 1st mandate candidate's list via the reserve list resulting from the 8 Scientific Panels and the Scientific Committee renewal call for the 2015-2018 Mandate.

Figure 7: Candidates proposed for nomination in the 2014 Renewal, experts serving on the ANS Panel

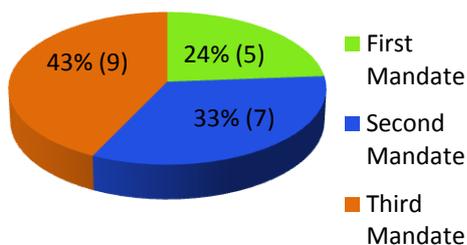


Figure 8: Candidates proposed for nomination in the 2011 Renewal, experts serving on the ANS Panel

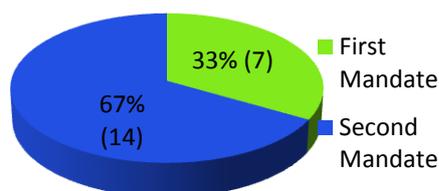


Figure 9: Candidates proposed for nomination in the 2014 Renewal, experts serving on the CEF Panel

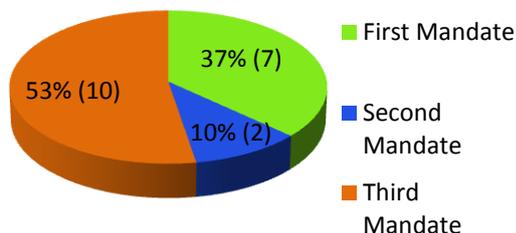
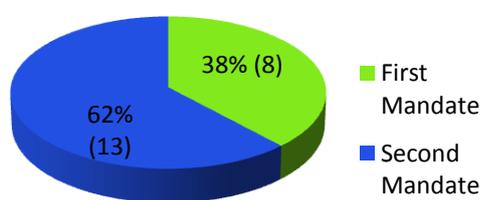


Figure 10: Candidates proposed for nomination in the 2011 Renewal, experts serving on the CEF Panel



Age and Gender distribution:

The age distribution for the proposed ANS and CEF candidates for nomination in 2014 and in 2011 is illustrated in Figure 11 and 12. For the 2014 nomination the average age of the candidates is 59.2 years (54.2 years in 2011). Compared to the 2011 renewal, this represents a 5 years increase of an average age. This is due to an increase of the proportion of experts over the age of 60 years and to the fact that in 2014 there were no candidates nominated in the age range below 40 years.

Figure 11: 2014 Candidates proposed for nomination in ANS and CEF Panels, by age category

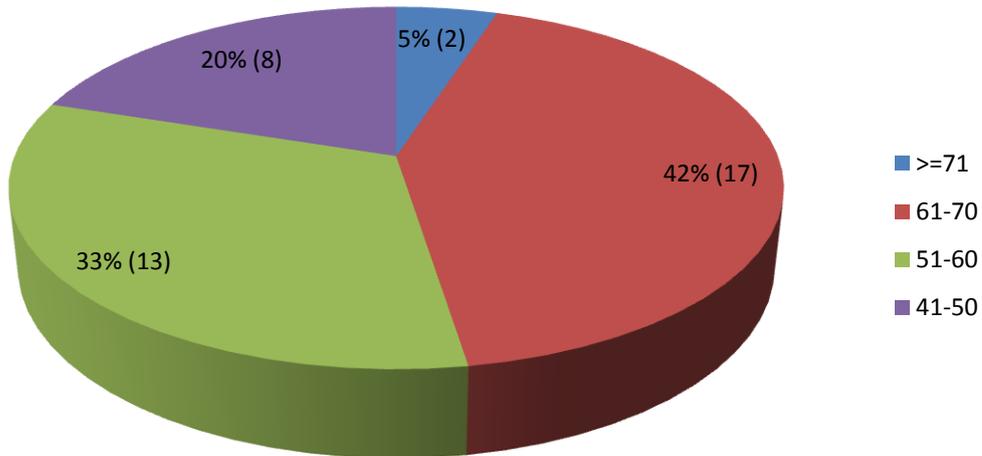
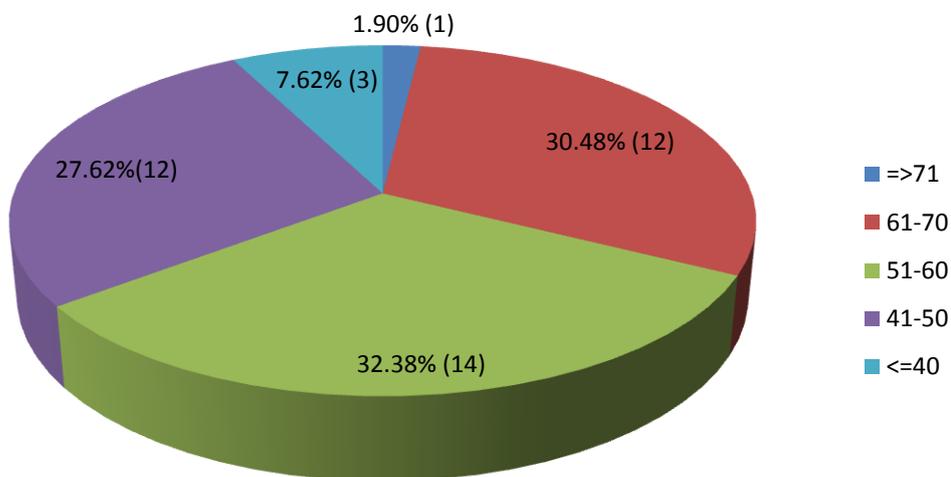


Figure 12: 2011 Candidates proposed for nomination in ANS and CEF Panels, by age category



EFSA made efforts to ensure a proper gender balance. However the figures reveal that the proportion of women of 30% remains stable over the years for the ANS Panel (Figures 13, 14 and 15). The higher proportion of women of 43% achieved in the CEF Panel in 2011 dropped again to around 30% in 2014 (Figures 16, 17 and 18).

Figure 13: 2014 Candidates proposed for nomination in ANS Panel, by gender category

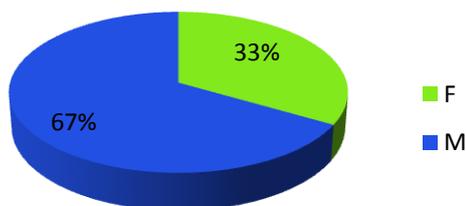


Figure 14: 2011 Candidates proposed for nomination in ANS Panel, by gender category

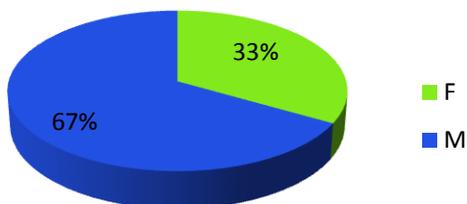


Figure 15: 2008 Candidates proposed for nomination in ANS Panel, by gender category

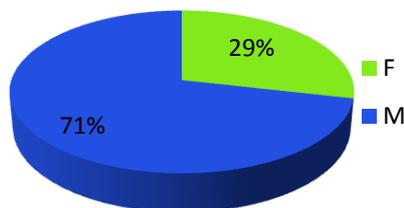


Figure 16: 2014 Candidates proposed for nomination in CEF Panel, by gender category

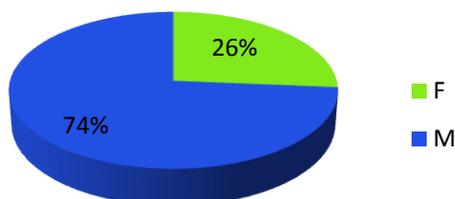


Figure 17: 2011 Candidates proposed for nomination in CEF Panel, by gender category

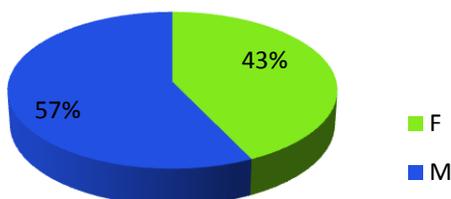
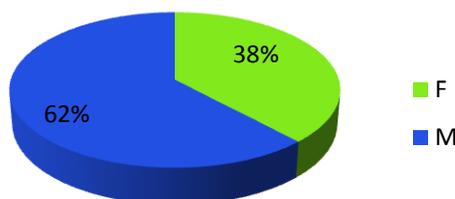


Figure 18: 2008 Candidates proposed for nomination in CEF Panel, by gender category



Geographical distribution:

Regarding the nationalities of the candidates proposed for nomination, in the ANS Panel there is a balanced composition with candidates from 8 EU Member States plus Switzerland and Serbia. The number of countries represented in the Panel is similar to the number of countries represented in 2008 and 2011 (see Figures 19, 20 and 21). The quota distribution by country ranges from 5-19%.

Also in the CEF Panel, there is a balanced composition with candidates from 8 EU Member States plus Norway and Switzerland. The number of countries represented is similar to the number of countries represented in 2008 and 2011 (see Figures 22, 23 and 24). There is a slightly higher quota for the proposed candidates from Germany (21%) as those candidates met the requirement in the most pertinent area of expertise related to food chemistry, migration testing, genotoxicity/ mutagenicity, and food technology. Currently only 19 out of 21 vacancies are occupied.

Efforts were made to attract applicants from the new Member States and eligible applications were received from Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia (number of applications representing 16% of the total applications). However out of these applications only 4 candidates scored above the 66 point threshold out of which one had a potential conflict of interest and the 3 other candidates did not meet the requirements in the most pertinent areas of expertise required for the Panels.

Figure 19: Candidates proposed for nomination to the ANS Scientific Panel in the 2014 renewal, by nationality.

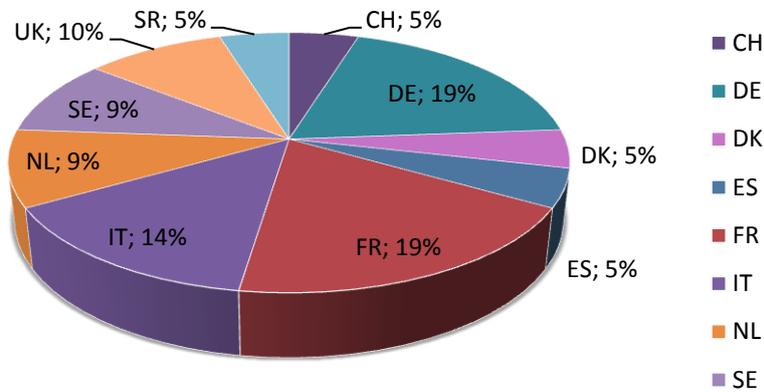


Figure 20: Candidates proposed for nomination to the ANS Scientific Panel in the 2011 renewal, by nationality.

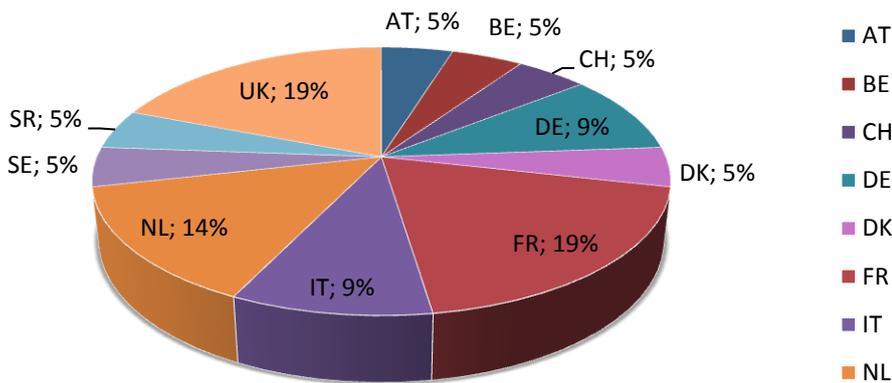


Figure 21: Candidates proposed for nomination to the ANS Scientific Panel in the 2008 renewal, by nationality.

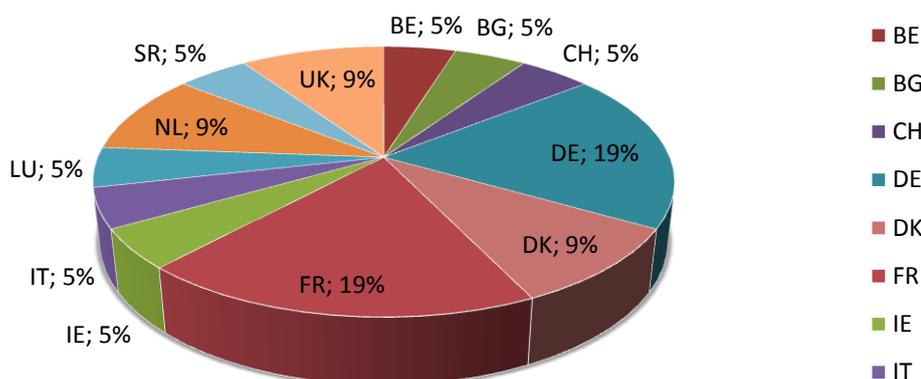


Figure 22: Candidates proposed for nomination to the CEF Scientific Panel in the 2014 renewal, by nationality.

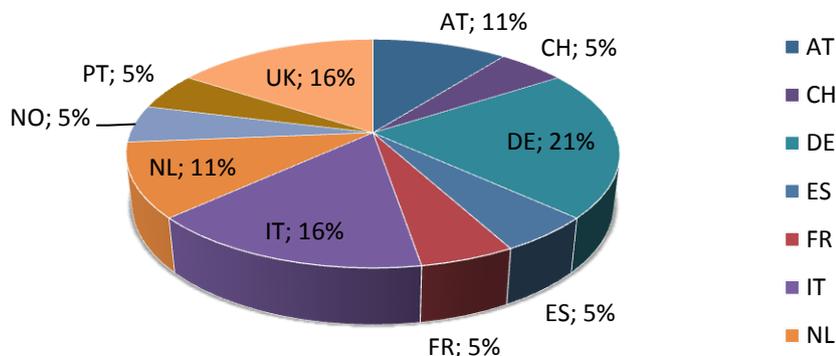


Figure 23: Candidates proposed for nomination to the CEF Scientific Panel in the 2011 renewal, by nationality.

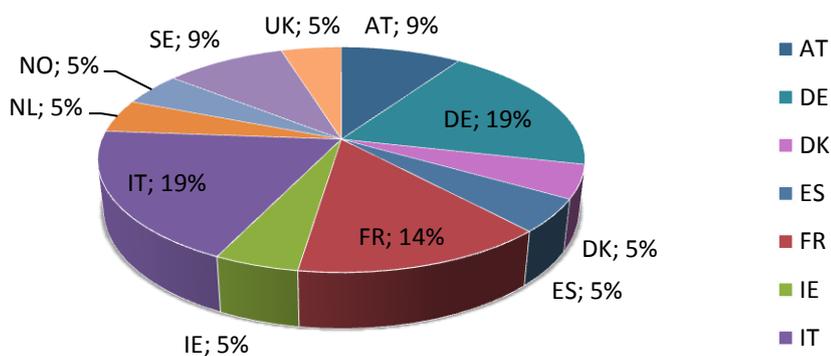
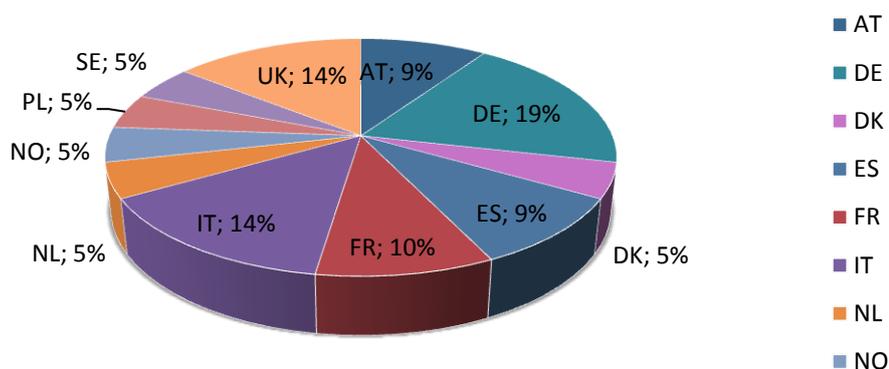


Figure 24: Candidates proposed for nomination to the CEF Scientific Panel in the 2008 renewal, by nationality.



In **conclusion**, the Management Board of EFSA is invited to adopt the list of proposed nominees for the ANS and CEF Scientific Panels and the experts to constitute a common Reserve List for all EFSA's Scientific Panels and the Scientific Committee.

ANNEXES

ANNEX I – Vacancy Notice

ANNEX I - VACANCY NOTICE

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

**“Panel on food additives and nutrient sources added to food” (ANS)
and
“Panel on food contact materials, enzymes, flavourings and processing aids” (CEF)**

Ref.: EFSA/E/2013/001

1. Subject of the Call

This call is addressed to scientists wishing to be considered for membership of either the scientific **Panel on food additives and nutrient sources added to food (ANS)** or the scientific **Panel on food contact materials, enzymes, flavourings and processing aids (CEF)** of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) in order to identify Europe’s best scientists for this task.

The current members of the ANS and CEF Scientific Panels are serving a three-year term of office which is due to expire in July 2014. The applicants who will be successful in the present call will be appointed as member of one of the above Panels for the three-year term starting in July 2014.

2. The European Food Safety Authority

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 grounded in the most up-to-date scientific methodologies and data available. Its scientific advice underpins the policies and decisions of risk managers in the European Institutions and EU Member States.

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.

For more information regarding EFSA, please refer to its Founding Regulation:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CONSLEG:2002R0178:20090807:EN:PDF>

3. The role of EFSA's Scientific Panels

The Scientific Panels and Scientific Committee are responsible for providing the scientific opinions of the Authority and other advice as appropriate, each within their own spheres of competence. They produce scientific opinions and advice for risk managers. This helps to provide a sound foundation for the formulation of European policies and legislation and this supports risk managers in taking decisions.

The Scientific Panels are normally composed of twenty-one (21) independent scientific experts. The Scientific Committee is composed of the Chairs of each Scientific Panel and six (6) other scientific experts.

Members of the Scientific Panels and of the Scientific Committee are appointed for a three-year term of office that may be renewed twice. Members are expected to attend and contribute actively to the meetings of the Scientific Committee or Scientific Panels where opinions, statements or guidance documents are adopted.

These scientific opinions, statements and guidance documents are published in the EFSA Journal, a monthly publication which is indexed in bibliographic databases relevant to EFSA's work.

Applicants are referred to **ANNEX I** published on EFSA's website to consult the detailed description of the remit of the Scientific Panels.

Applicants are advised to give careful consideration to ANNEX I when preparing their applications. In the context of the evaluation on whether they meet the selection requirements (see section 5 below), due consideration will be given to the suitability of the applicants' profiles in relation to the remit of the Scientific Panels.

For more information regarding the selection of Members of the Scientific Panels and the Scientific Committee please refer to the "*Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and external experts*".
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

For more information on the establishment and operations of Scientific Panels and their Working Groups, please refer to the "*Decision of the Management Board concerning the*

establishment and operations of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and of their Working Groups”.

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/paneloperation.pdf>

4. The role of the members of EFSA’s Scientific Panels

Members of the Scientific Panels are experienced, independent scientists selected and appointed in accordance with EFSA’s rules and EFSA’s Founding Regulation.

During their term in office, members of the Scientific Panels will be asked to perform the following tasks:

- Contributing to the discussion, the preparation and the adoption of scientific opinions of the Scientific Panel and the activities of their working groups;
- Contributing to scientific advice on matters falling within the remit of the Scientific Panel;
- Provision of advice on conducting and organising the scientific activities of the Scientific Panel.

Members of the Scientific Panels may be chosen as Chairs, vice-chairs and rapporteurs of the Scientific Panels and of their working groups in line with the EFSA Management Board Decision⁵ concerning the establishment and operations of the Scientific Committee and Panels.

General conditions:

Members of a Scientific Panel will be requested to attend two-day meetings usually held in Parma, Italy. These meetings will take place between six and eight times per year.

In addition, Members of Scientific Panels are expected to participate, as appropriate, in some meetings of the working groups that are established by the Scientific Panels. These meetings usually take place six to eight times a year.

Attendance at the meetings of the Scientific Panels or of the working groups requires some degree of preparatory work, including prior reading and drafting of documents. Meetings and most documents are in English.

Applicants are required to express their commitment that, if appointed, they will participate in the activities of the Scientific Panels.

⁵ For more information refer to: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/paneloperation.pdf>

EFSA will, in accordance with its financial rules, bear the travel costs, daily and accommodation allowance of the members. A special indemnity will be paid for each full day of meeting attendance⁶.

5. Selection Procedure

Candidates are asked in the application form to make a choice between the two Scientific Panels in order of preference.

The requirements

Each application will be screened against the following eligibility requirements.

A. Eligibility criteria

- i. A level of education which corresponds to completed university studies of at least four (4) years attested by a diploma in one of the following fields: Agriculture, Animal health, Biochemistry, Bioinformatics, Biology, Biometrics, Biotechnology, Chemistry, Dietary exposure, Environment, Epidemiology, Food science, Food technology, Genetics, Health and food safety, Human medicine, Life sciences, Mathematics, Microbiology, Natural sciences, Nutrition, Pharmacy, Plant sciences, Public Health, Statistics, Toxicology, Veterinary Medicine or related areas;
- ii. In addition to the above, at least ten (10) years of professional experience relevant to the remit of the Panel(s) gained after obtaining the requested diploma;
- iii. Thorough knowledge of the English language⁷;
- iv. Applicants must complete the Declaration of Interests included in the application in a detailed, accurate and complete manner⁸. Please note that failure to fill in this part of the form in a complete manner will result in the rejection of the application⁹;
- v. Citizenship of a Member State of the European Union (EU), or of a country of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) or of EU Candidate countries. Experts from third countries may also apply but will only be considered for membership of the Scientific Panels, if the required level of expertise cannot be found among nationals of EU, EFTA or EU Candidate countries.
- vi. Commitment to attend meetings and to contribute to the work of the Panels.

⁶ For more information refer to:

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/efsa_rep/repository/documents/Experts_compensation_guide.pdf.

⁷ "Thorough knowledge" shall be intended as corresponding to level B2 or higher (i.e. levels C1 and C2) as specified in the Council of Europe reference document for the European Language Portfolio ("Common European Framework of Reference: Learning, Teaching, and Assessment"). For more information please refer to http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/linguistic/Source/Framework_en.pdf.

⁸ For more guidance on how to fill in the Declaration, please refer to the Guidance document on Declarations of Interest, available on EFSA's website at <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencypolicy.pdf> and <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules.pdf>.

⁹ Please see section 8 of the present call on *Independence and declarations of commitment and interest*.

B. Selection criteria - Evaluation

Applications meeting the eligibility requirements (see section 5. A) will be admitted to a comparative evaluation carried out by EFSA on the basis of the selection criteria indicated below.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to fill in the application form in all sections with the necessary information and evidence, as this will form the basis for their evaluation.

The evaluation of all applications considered eligible will be carried out by means of a scoring range from zero (0) through to five (5) for each of the selection criteria indicated below. In order to reflect the relative importance of the different selection criteria, a weighting coefficient will be attributed. Each application will obtain a score ranging between zero (0) and one hundred (100).

The following selection criteria will be examined:

- Experience in carrying out scientific risk assessment in fields related to food and feed safety in the areas of competence and expertise of the Scientific Panel preferred (Maximum 15 points out of 100).
- Experience in providing other scientific advice in fields related to food and feed safety in the areas of competence and expertise of the Scientific Panel preferred (Maximum 15 points out of 100).
- Proven scientific excellence in one, or preferably several fields linked to the area covered by the Scientific Panel preferred (Maximum 20 points out of 100).
- Experience in peer reviewing scientific work and publications, in fields related to the area covered by the Scientific Panel preferred (Maximum 15 points out of 100).
- 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 (Maximum 10 points out of 100).
- Professional experience in a multidisciplinary environment, preferably in an international context (Maximum 10 points out of 100).
- Experience in project management related to scientific matters (Maximum 5 points out of 100).
- Proven communication skills, based on teaching experience, public presentations, active participation in meetings, publications (Maximum 10 points out of 100).

Applicants may only be considered for membership if their application obtains a score that is above a cut-off score of 66 points (out of 100). EFSA reserves the right to consult third parties on the professional experience of applicants in the context of their application.

In addition to the abovementioned criteria, the Annual Declaration of Interests will be reviewed in accordance with the EFSA Procedure for Identifying and Handling Potential Conflicts of Interest¹⁰. The extent of any potential conflict of interest will be taken into account in deciding whether an applicant will be further evaluated.

For more information regarding the selection of Members of the Scientific Panels please refer to the *“Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and external experts”*

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

6. Reserve list and Appointment

Applicants who are found to meet the requirements for membership may be appointed as members for a three-year mandate, on the basis of a decision by EFSA Management Board on a proposal by EFSA Executive Director.

Before appointment, EFSA reserves the right to check the application of applicants considered for membership against documents and certificates in order to confirm the accuracy and eligibility of the application.

Applicants who are found to meet the requirements for membership will be included in the reserve list. Applicants should note that inclusion on a reserve list does not guarantee appointment as a member.

Applicants placed on the reserve list resulting from this call, may with their prior consent, be appointed as members of a Scientific Panel even if they did not specifically apply for membership of that Panel.

7. Expert database

All eligible candidates will be invited to apply to EFSA’s expert database.

For more information regarding EFSA’s expert database:

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

¹⁰ Available on EFSA’s website at <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf> and <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules.pdf>.

8. Independence and declarations of commitment and interest

The members of the Scientific Panels are appointed in a personal capacity. Applicants are required to include a declaration that they will undertake to act independently of any outside influence as well as a declaration of interests which may be deemed to be prejudicial to their independence (see eligibility criterion iv under Section 5.A). Applicants are responsible for the content of the declaration submitted which will be assessed by EFSA according to the Decision of the Executive Director implementing EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes regarding Declarations of Interests.

Applicants may be contacted for further clarification on the Declaration of Interests they submitted with their application.

See below some examples of what is considered a Conflict of Interest:

- The Membership of Scientific Panels is not allowed for candidates who, at the moment of submitting their application, are employed by any legal or natural person carrying out any of the activities on which EFSA's scientific outputs impact directly or indirectly, such as food production, processing and distribution, agriculture or animal husbandry. This includes any form of regular occupation or business, part-time or full-time, paid or unpaid, including self-employment (e.g. consultancy) to the benefit of the persons above.
- The Membership of Scientific Panels is not allowed for candidates who, at the moment of submitting their application, are involved in Ad hoc or occasional consultancy to bodies such as a European Association of producers of products that the relevant Panel assesses, regarding a range of topics so broad that this activity would regularly be in conflict with items on the agenda of the relevant Scientific Panel.

For more information regarding Declarations of Interests:

Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes of the European Food Safety Authority:

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

Decision of the Executive Director implementing EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes regarding Declarations of Interests:

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules.pdf>

EFSA Report to the European Parliament on the implementation of its independence policy 2007-2012:

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicyreport0712.pdf>

9. Equal opportunities

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

10. Submission of applications

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

Applications will be deemed admissible only if a duly completed online application form is submitted. Applications sent by registered mail will be exceptionally accepted, in case of a serious failure in the online IT system.

Applications delivered via electronic /post mail will not be accepted.

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

All applicants will be informed by mail about the outcome of the selection process.

The personal information EFSA requests from applicants 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 EU institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data¹¹. The purpose of the data processing is to manage applications for membership of the EFSA Scientific Committee or Panels.

11. Closing date for sending applications

Applications must be submitted no later than **17 June 2013 at midnight** (Local time, GMT +1).

Please note that, due to the 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 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.

¹¹ Official Journal of the European Union, L 8, 12.1.2001, p.1