

4th Meeting of the Stakeholder Bureau

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Brussels, Square de Mêus 35

Feedback of an NGO

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Federation of
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NGO Perspectives

Existential Crises

- Climate change,
- Loss of Biodiversity and
- The loss of Antimicrobials Tools as a result of AMR.
- Population Growth -“Sustainable Intensification” of Livestock Production –risk of compromise of animal welfare and questions whether these animals have “ a life worth living “.
- Global food supply chains and Food Safety Concerns Etc.



NGOs need Reassurance th...



- Is EFSA financially Resourced.?
- Is EFSA Independent of Industry. ?
- Has EFSA access to Independent Scientists without conflicts of interest.?
- Is EFSA trusted Internationally.?



The Stakeholder Engagement Approach

Offers Reassurance through:

- Stakeholders' input throughout different stages of the risk assessment process.
- Roundtable Engagement
- Providing information on ongoing work and stakeholder engagement initiatives.

Positive Initiatives from EFSA



- EFSA organised two Scientific Symposia on data sharing and collection in the area of bee health in the EU in 2017 and 2018.
- In May 2018, as a follow-up of these meetings and facilitated by EFSA, the various stakeholders (NGOs, industry, beekeepers, farmers, researchers) established an EU Bee Partnership to improve the collection, management and sharing of data and thus assist the development of a holistic approach to assess bee health in Europe and beyond.
- Support for these activities in area of bee health has since been further confirmed by the European Parliament in the form of a specific mandate sent to EFSA.
- EFSA has reviewed its Guidance on the risk assessment of plant protection products on bees EFSA presented its ongoing work in the environmental risk assessment of plant protection products, the way data is collected and used, and an indicative plan for updating relevant guidance documents.



Work in progress

- EFSA is committed to seek feedback and suggestions from NGOs to continuously improve the way of working together and looking ahead.
- EFSA will continue engaging with Stakeholders on the implementation of the revised Food Law, in setting the priorities of the next EFSA strategy, and looking for options to test the “framing of questions” initiative.



Promoting Trust

- **Through continued engagement with NGOs and other Stakeholders, resulting in a trusted science.**
- **Working with EU Institutions-**

In **February 2019** the European Union took an important step forward towards the modernisation of the EU food safety policy. The European Parliament and the Council reached a provisional agreement regarding the Commission's proposal for a Regulation on the transparency and sustainability of the EU risk assessment in the food chain.

- **Ensuring more transparency:** Citizens will have automatic access to all studies and information submitted by industry in the risk assessment process. Stakeholders and the general public will also be consulted on submitted studies. At the same time, the agreement will guarantee confidentiality, in duly justified circumstances, by setting out the type of information that may be considered significantly harmful for commercial interests and therefore cannot be disclosed
- **Increasing the independence of studies:** The [European Food Safety Authority](#) will be notified of all commissioned studies to guarantee that companies applying for authorisations submit all relevant information and do not hold back unfavourable studies. The Authority will also provide general advice to applicants, in particular SMEs, prior to the submission of the dossier. Commission may ask the Authority to commission additional studies for verification purposes and may perform fact-finding missions to verify the compliance of laboratories/studies with standards
- **Strengthening the governance and the scientific cooperation:** Member States, civil society and European Parliament will be involved in the governance of the Authority by being duly represented in its Management Board. Member States will foster the Authority's scientific capacity and engage the best independent experts into its work
- **Developing comprehensive risk communication:** A general plan for risk communication will be adopted and will ensure a coherent risk communication strategy throughout the risk analysis process, combined