

PESTICIDES UNIT

Charter

1. Title

Pesticide Monitoring Network

2. Type of request

☐ External ☐ Self Task X Internal

3. Background

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 associated with the food chain. On request from the European Commission, European Parliament or Member States or on its own initiative EFSA provides scientific opinions on issues falling under its remit.

The main tasks of the Pesticides Unit of EFSA (PRAS) are to provide support to the Panel on Pesticide Products and their Residues, to organise and conduct the peer review of initial pesticide risk assessments of existing and new active substances used in plant protection products provided by designated rapporteur Member States (complying with Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 and relevant Regulations), to conclude on the risk assessment for these active substances, to provide reasoned opinions in the framework of setting and reviewing maximum residue levels (Regulation (EC) No 396/2005), and to provide scientific advice on pesticide risk assessment on ad-hoc cases or by self-tasking. All these tasks are supported by the EFSA Pesticide Steering Network and, therefore, are not included in these Terms of Reference.

The Pesticides Unit is also in charge of drafting the EU Annual Report on Pesticide Residues in Food and Feed, in accordance with the legal provisions laid down in Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 on Maximum Residue Levels of pesticides in or on food and feed of plant and animal origin; this Regulation requires the Member States to perform monitoring of pesticide residue levels in food commodities and submit the monitoring results data to EFSA and the European Commission in SSD1 (Standard Sample Description) format. According to Article 32 of this Regulation, EFSA is responsible for drawing up an Annual Report on pesticide residues on the basis of the results provided by the reporting countries. Member States shall submit by 31 August each year the monitoring data and other relevant information concerning the previous calendar year. Within 6 months (last day of February)

¹ EFSA (European Food Safety Authority), 2014. Use of the EFSA Standard Sample Description (SSD) for the reporting of data on the control of pesticide residues in food and feed according to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 (Version: 2013 Data Collection). EFSA Journal 2014;12(1):3545, 60 pp. doi: 10.2903/j.efsa.2014.3545

EFSA has to submit the Annual Report to the Commission.

The Pesticides Monitoring Networking Group was established in 2008. The current mandate as an EFSA Network was adopted by the EFSA Executive Director in May 2011 and then renewed in 2014. Since its establishment, the network has highly contributed to the improvement of the collaboration of the activities of EFSA and the Member States regarding all the tasks and topics related to the pesticide monitoring data collection and the drafting of the EU Annual Reports on Pesticide Residues. Furthermore, it is considered that the network plays a key role regarding the coordination and communication between EFSA and the national institutions involved in the national activities concerning pesticide residues controls; therefore, the current terms of reference are still considered appropriate.

The mandate of the members is established for three years and therefore should be renewed in 2017. In July 2017 the Network members were consulted and provided their feedback on the present revised Mandate and agreed by written procedures on the update of the terms of reference.

4. Objectives

The Pesticide Monitoring Network is intended as a consultation and supporting forum for all matters related to pesticide residues monitoring – within the Pesticide Unit's remit - covered by Regulation (EC) No 396/2005. It has also been established to strengthen the EFSA collaboration and communication with the Member States and the Commission.

5. Leading Unit and/or Panel

Pesticides Unit (PRAS)

6. Terms of reference and action plan

The main tasks of the Pesticides Monitoring Network are to:

- review the draft EU Annual Reports on pesticide residues in food;
- review the standardised SSD data model (Standard Sample Description) and controlled terminologies used to collect data on the pesticide residue monitoring;
- contribute to the development of EFSA Guidance and documents on pesticide residue data collections;
- contribute to the development of the methodologies used to assess the consumer's risk to pesticide residues in food and feed;
- contribute to the development of EFSA Guidance and documents on pesticide residues exposure assessment and
- provide recommendations concerning other issues on pesticide residue monitoring.

Members of the network are appointed for a term of three years by the competent organisations of the EU Member States, Norway and Iceland, in accordance with Articles 2 and 3 of the Decision of the Management Board of EFSA on the establishment and operations of networks.

The representatives of the Network should commit to liaise as appropriate at national level before and after each Network meeting. The nominated Network representatives should be national experts on issues which pertain to the national control and monitoring of residue of pesticides in food and feed. Thus, the members of the networks should ensure that the representatives attending the Network meetings have the adequate expertise to actively contribute to both the technical and/or scientific meeting discussions. In line with EFSA's Policy on Independence, the independence of experts representing the views of Member States or international organisations in EFSA's network or networking meetings is to be ensured by each appointing authority in accordance with the applicable legislative and regulatory framework. EFSA may also invite external experts participating on personal capacity, and thus not nominated by Member States, when needed on the basis of their expertise regarding the items in the agenda; the rules under the EFSA's Policy on Independence will be applied according to the role in which the expert is invited to the meeting.

The chair of the network shall be a member of EFSA staff designated by EFSA.

English will be the working language of the network.

Access to meetings: representatives of the European Commission (including its services) and of the European Reference Laboratories are invited to attend the meetings of the network as observers. Representatives from pre-accession Countries and candidate EU Countries may also attend the meeting as observers. Representatives of other agencies, bodies or institutions of the European Union, third countries or international organisations may be invited to attend meetings of networks as observers.

Working methods: The network shall meet at least once a year.

Organisation of the meetings of the network and recording its activities in meeting minutes	
Timeline by (dd/mm/yyyy)	Continuous activity, the mandate is revised every 3 years
Duration, months	Not applicable
Deliverable(s)	Meeting minutes published on the EFSA website
Communication plan	Published at EFSA website
Unit(s)	Pesticides (PRAS)
Panel(s)	Not applicable
Working group	Not applicable
Network(s)	Pesticides Monitoring Network
Other	
Expertise availability	In house
Evidence	Not applicable
Methodological approach	Not applicable

7. Signature

Parma, ../../2017

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