

ANNEX 1

Declaration of Commitment of the Members of the Advisory Forum of the European Food Safety Authority

Statement of the Slovak Republic

Slovak Republic considers as a great honour that the Declaration of Commitment of the Members of the Advisory Forum of the European Food Safety Authority is being signed during the Slovak Presidency of the Council of the European Union in Bratislava.

Since the first meeting in 2003 the Advisory Forum has contributed not only to the reinforcement and effective cooperation between the European Food Safety Authority and the member states but the Advisory Forum has played important role in the closer mutual cooperation and communication between member states too. This helps us to understand each other and work together not only for the food safety in our common market but also for better and stronger Europe.

From this point of view the Slovak Republic welcomes the signature of the Declaration of Commitment of the Members of the Advisory Forum of the European Food Safety Authority and we would like to stress out the importance of the declaration for members to work in collaboration with EFSA supporting the common goals.

It is not in the powers of the Slovak Republic as a small country with the open economy to cover all areas of the risk assessment in the whole food chain. Also from this reason we appreciate the signature of the declaration which in addition strengthen the relationships between EFSA and the food safety institutions in the member states, promotes scientific excellence and scientific networking, allows the member states to contribute to the EU risk assessment agenda and collects the information on potential or emerging risks to food safety.

The activity of the Advisory Forum also contributes to increase consumers' confidence in the food in our common European market. The Slovak Republic believes that the signature of the declaration in which the members of the Advisory Forum commit to provide early warning of potential divergence of scientific opinion and to review and resolve any real or potential divergence of scientific opinion between member states or between member states and EFSA, would contribute to strengthening the consumers' confidence in the food safety in the European market.

Bratislava 28 September 2016

Dr. Zuzana Bírošová
AF member

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Statement of Cyprus

This is a visionary meeting and a strategic one, because the Advisory Forum, one of the four constituent bodies provided for in the founding EC Regulation 178 of 2002, is called to make the 3rd Declaration since 2006 that is indeed of strategic importance.

This Declaration does not only reiterate the previous Declaration of intent concerning the enhancement of the exchange of scientific information and the Declaration on the confidence in the independence and scientific making process of EFSA, but is delivered in an updated form with a vision: «To support EFSA, with shared determination to protect the European consumers and to contribute to the global efforts on food and feed safety through the individual commitment of the Advisory Forum Members».

It is a timely commitment on behalf of the members of the Advisory Forum since globalization of trade new technologies in the food chain and climatic changes bring an avalanche of challenges ahead of us that have to be met with the highest scientific evidence and expertise.

The Declaration's emphasis is on sharing methodologies with EFSA and among MS exchanging information, pooling knowledge, identifying opportunities, providing advice and above all supporting the mission and strategic goals of EFSA.

Given its position as a highly visible and independent European Agency on Risk Assessment EFSA has the opportunity to play a pivotal and catalytic role in enhancing international co-ordination and coherence in this area as well as in food and feed safety that have important implications for global public health.

A vision with no commitment is no vision. The commitment of the Advisory Forum through this Declaration can enhance further EFSA's role to promote global dialogue, build effective partnerships and stimulate coordinated intergovernmental and inter-agencies actions.

EFSA's capacity to fulfil this leadership mandate depends on political consensus, particularly on the part of the Member States through their representatives in the Advisory Forum.

We therefore as Advisory Forum Members adhere to this commitment and we send a powerful message to the EU and the rest of the world through this Declaration.

Bratislava 28 September 2016

Stelios Yiannopoulos
AF alternate

Declaration of Commitment of the Members of the Advisory Forum of the European Food Safety Authority

Statement of Germany

Today, we are signing the new declaration of commitment. Also on behalf of the German Advisory Forum member, Andreas Hensel, I am very honored to speak a few words on the rationale behind the elaboration of this declaration.

It is the mission of EFSA and each of our risk assessment institutions to strengthen food safety and consumer protection. But none of us is able to meet the challenges of a globalized world alone.

We have established a strong and influential network over the last 14 years – and I am proud to be part of it.

What lies ahead of us?

Together we will continue to work on harmonizing methodologies for risk assessment. Especially in the time of crisis we will benefit from the joint development of customized tools for outbreak investigations and the forward and backward tracing.

By using the available resources in a conscious and efficient manner - the joint development of the European risk assessment agenda will further contribute to our common mission.

Further, risk assessment capacity building - beyond the boarder of Europe - will become of increasing importance to us as a network. The term ‘capacity building’ covers knowledge transfer and knowledge exchange between scientists. It also encompasses the important aspect of advising governments and respective government agencies on the international stage.

Let’s jointly promote science-based state-of-the-art risk communication principles for the best policy advice – but also for the communication with other important stakeholders - including the public. In this regard, the extension of our valuable collaboration with social scientists and communication experts is a good example. Also in the context of communication and transparency – today’s statements in support of the declaration of commitment should be accessible on EFSA’s website.

Let’s attract the best minds to support our mission to sustain and improve human health! The EUFORIA fellowship programme starting in 2017, will offer a great chance to inspire young scientific talents to become part of the risk assessment community.

I am wishing us a successful meeting. – That we achieve the goals we have set for ourselves to ensure food safety and the protection of consumers in Europe and beyond.

In terms of the future of international risk assessment activities - our declaration of commitment represents a powerful signal.

Bratislava 28 September 2016

Reiner Wittkowski
AF alternate