

Charter

1. Title

Innovative approach for Article 36 networking and management of the List

2. Type of request

☐ External ☐ Self Task ☒ Internal

3. Background

Strategic Objective 3 of EFSA's Strategy 2020 is to *"build the EU's scientific assessment capacity and knowledge community"*. Article 36 of EFSA's Founding Regulation sets the basis for networking with and among MS organisations operating in the fields within EFSA's mission. This networking is rooted in the List of Competent Organisations, the establishment of which is stipulated in Article 36, providing EFSA with a unique tool to foster European networking and cooperation. After almost 10 years of implementing Article 36 of the regulation, *"the role of the Article 36 network will be reviewed and strengthened to implement common risk assessment priorities"*, as a key activity under the Strategic Objective.

Although, over the years, AFSCO has improved the procedures within the set concept of implementing Article 36, they remain lengthy and involve a high administrative burden for EFSA and Member States (MS). The need for changes is augmented by the approved IT Roadmap, which previews the replacement of current customer-developed IT tools, including the Article 36 Database. The current project will therefore develop a new concept for implementing Article 36, to be supported by a new solution (procedures and IT tool), and leading to a newly drawn-up List of Competent Organisations.

4. Objectives

To support EFSA's Strategic Objectives, the **overall aim** of the project is to strengthen European networking and collaboration amongst competent organisations and with EFSA.

The **specific objectives** are to:

1. Establish, as the base for European networking and collaboration, a more agile up-to-date List covering the needed spectrum of scientific excellence, through:
 - developing a more efficient solution (procedures and IT tool) for managing the List; and
 - increasing consistency and engagement of MS in managing the List;
2. Enhance the engagement of MS and competent organisations in networking and collaboration, by:
 - simplifying the assignment of tasks to competent organisations;
 - supporting organisations to identify potential partners;
 - including members of EFSA scientific networks in the List;
 - strengthening liaison of MS with competent organisations; and
 - fostering partnerships between MS.

5. Leading Unit and/or Panel

Advisory Forum and Scientific Cooperation Unit (AFSCO)

6. Terms of reference and action plan

The project will develop a new concept for implementing Article 36, which will be supported by a new solution (procedures and IT tool), and lead to a newly drawn-up List of Competent Organisations. The project will be composed of three Phases (see also Fig.1):

Phase 1: Development of the new concept

(Final milestone: Presentation of new concept to MB; 12/2016)

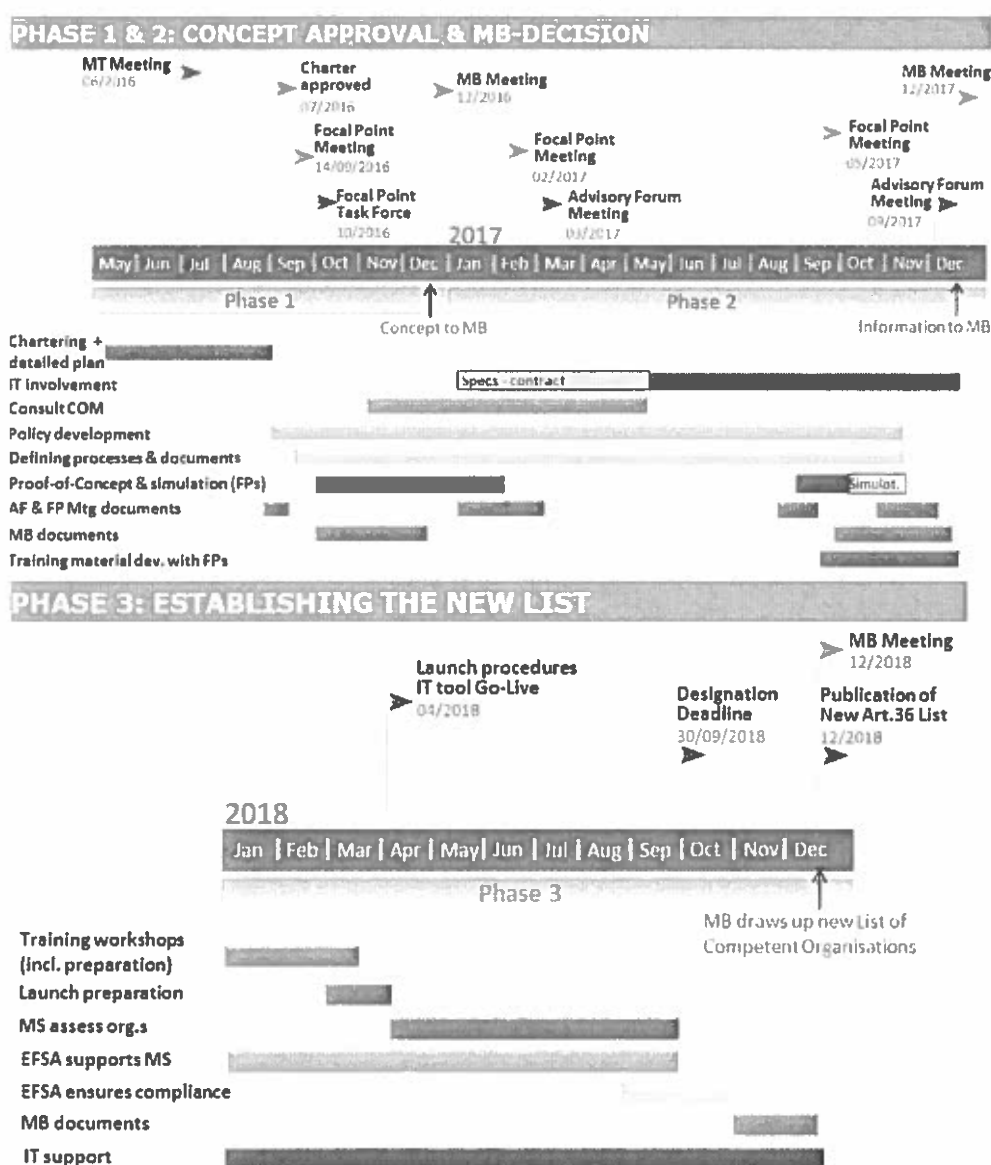
Phase 2: Development of a new solution (policy, procedures, templates and IT tool) to manage the List of Competent Organisations and support networking

(Final milestone: Informing MB of new solution; 12/2017)

Phase 3: Drawing-up newly the List of Competent Organisations

(Final milestone: MB newly drawing-up the List of Competent Organisations; 12/2018).

Figure 1: High-level Work Plan (2016-2018)



6.1.	
Description	A new concept will be developed for the implementation of Article 36 of EFSA's Founding Regulation, to strengthen European networking and collaboration amongst competent organisations and with EFSA. This will be supported by a new solution (processes and IT tool) to newly establish and manage the List of Competent Organisations, providing names and information of the partners for networking and collaboration. Training will increase consistency and engagement of MS in managing the List and support networking.
Timeline by (dd/mm/yyyy)	The project will be composed of three Phases: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development of the concept: 14/12/2016 2. Development of a new solution (policy, procedures, templates and IT tool) to manage the List of Competent Organisations and support networking: 31/12/2017 3. Drawing-up newly the List of Competent Organisations 31/12/2018
Duration, months	28
Deliverable(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed project plan (Q3 2016) • Presentations to Focal Points and Advisory Forum members on the new concept and procedures (Q3 2016, Q1 2017, Q3 2017, Q4 2017) • Focal Point Task Force established to run a proof-of-concept, support the development of the new procedures, run a simulation of the new solution, be involved in developing the guidelines, best practices, training materials and conduct the training workshops (Q3 2016) • Concept paper to the MT/MB on new concept (Q4 2016) • Completed proof-of-concept of new concept with Focal Points (Q1 2017) • Contracts with software provider and with IT tool implementer (Q2 2017) • New procedures for managing the List, clearly indicating the roles and responsibilities of all players (Q4 2017) • Templates for designation documents (Q4 2017) • New procedure for inserting data on organisations' activities with EFSA into the new tool (Q4 2017) • Completed simulation of new solution (procedures and tool) with Focal Points (Q4 2017) • Information to MB of new solution and start of procedures to newly draw up the List at the end of 2018 (Q4 2017) • New guidelines, best practices and training materials (Q1 2018) • 5 Training workshops for MS assessing organisations (Q1 2018) • New IT tool supporting the management of the List, ensuring efficient flow, sharing and archiving of information of competent organisations and the List (Q2 2018)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letters to the Permanent Representations / Missions to the EU in Brussels informing the MS of the new procedures adopted by EFSA's MB for newly drawing-up the List of Competent Organisations (Q2 2018) Information published on EFSA's website about timeline and procedures for newly drawing-up the List (Q2 2018) Completed consultation with the Commission on Art.6 of the Implementing Rules (Q2 2018) MB-Decision newly drawing-up the List of Competent Organisations (Q4 2018) Letters to the Permanent Representations / Missions to the EU in Brussels on having newly drawn-up the List of Competent Organisations by EFSA's MB (Q4 2018)
Communication plan	See point 11 below
Unit(s)	AFSCO, LRA, PTT, FIN, CORSER, RISKCOM
Panel(s)	N/A
Working group	N/A
Network(s)	N/A
Other	Focal Points
Expertise availability	Available in-house EFSA
Evidence	N/A
Methodological approach	<p>A new concept of implementing Article 36 will be developed in phase I of the project, in close collaboration with a Focal Point Task Force. The new concept will be provided to the MB in December 2016. It will set the frame for developing the new solution (phase II), which will be composed of a set of procedures and an IT tool, to support the establishment (phase III) and management of the List of Competent Organisations. The solution will be developed in close collaboration between AFSCO, PTT, the Article 36 Committee (AFSCO, LRA, FIN) and the Focal Point Task Force. Focal Points and the Advisory Forum will be informed about developments. A simulation will be run with Focal Points to validate the new solution before its launch in April 2018. Training workshops will help ensure effective use of the new solution by MS to newly designate competent organisations. The MB shall newly draw up the List of Competent Organisations at the end of 2018.</p>

7. Signatures

Parma, 30.7.2016

"[Executive Director - Bernhard Url]"