

Draft Minutes

61st MEETING OF THE EFSA ADVISORY FORUM BRATISLAVA, SLOVAKIA; 28TH-29TH SEPTEMBER 2016

Chair: Bernhard Url (28/09), Barbara Gallani (29/09)

Members	
Austria	<i>Klemens Fuchs</i>
Belgium	<i>Benoît Horion</i>
Bulgaria	<i>Boiko Likov</i>
Croatia	<i>Andrea Gross-Bošković</i>
Cyprus	<i>Stelios Yiannopoulos</i>
Czech Republic	<i>Jitka Götzová</i>
Denmark	<i>Flemming Bager</i>
Estonia	<i>Martin Minjajev</i>
Finland	<i>Matti Aho</i>
France	<i>Charlotte Grastilleur</i>
Germany	<i>Reiner Wittkowski</i>
Greece	<i>Eirini Tsigarida</i>
Hungary	<i>Maria Szeitzné Szabó</i>
Iceland	<i>Jón Gíslason</i>
Ireland	<i>Wayne Anderson</i>
Italy	<i>Simonetta Bonati</i>
Latvia	<i>Vadims Bartkevičs</i>
Lithuania	<i>Snieguolė Ščeponavičienė</i>
Luxembourg	<i>Nathalie Welschbillig</i>
Malta	<i>Ingrid Borg</i>
Netherlands	<i>Antoon Opperhuizen</i>
Norway	<i>Danica Grahek-Ogden</i>
Poland	<i>Jacek Postupolski</i>
Portugal	<i>Pedro Portugal Gaspar</i>
Slovak Republic	<i>Zuzana Bírošová</i>
Slovenia	<i>Urška Blaznik</i>
Spain	<i>Ana Canals</i>
Sweden	<i>Per Bergman</i>
United Kingdom	<i>Javier Dominguez</i>

Observers

Albania	<i>Pamela Radovani</i>
FYR of Macedonia	<i>Zoran Popovski</i>
Serbia	<i>Tamara Boskovic</i>
European Commission	<i>Jeannie Vergnettes</i>

EFSA Representatives

AF Secretariat:

Jeffrey Moon; Julia Finger

<i>Stef Bronzwaer</i>	<i>Stefano Cappè*</i>
<i>Guilhem De Seze</i>	<i>Valeriu Curtui*</i>
<i>Barbara Gallani</i>	<i>Hubert Deluyker*</i>
<i>Juliane Kleiner</i>	<i>Dirk Detken*</i>
<i>Hermine Reich</i>	<i>Andrea Gervelmeyer*</i>
<i>Hans Verhagen</i>	<i>Djien Liem*</i>
	<i>Ilias Papatryfon*</i>

* Teleconference

Guest Speaker

Colin Ockleford (PPR Panel)

Apologies:

Romania, Montenegro, Switzerland, Turkey.

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

Bernhard Url, Executive Director (ED) of the European Food Safety Agency (EFSA) and Chair of the meeting opened the 61th Advisory Forum (AF) meeting hosted by Slovakia (as holder of the EU Presidency) in Bratislava. The Chair welcomed new members to the plenary, namely Javier Dominguez, new AF member representing the UK, Vadims Bartkevičs, representing Latvia, Simonetta Bonati, new alternate member from Italy, Stelios Yannopoulos, new alternate member from Cyprus, Wayne Anderson, alternate member from Ireland and Nathalie Welschbillig from Luxembourg, formerly FP member and recently appointed AF member.

Bernhard Url introduced Guilhem De Seze, attending the AF meeting for the first time after having taken up his position as Head of Department for Scientific Evaluation or Regulated Products.

Bernhard Url informed members that the ED visit to Slovakia had taken place the day prior to the plenary meeting and thanked Zuzana Bírošová, AF member from Slovakia for the hospitality, inviting her to give an address to the Forum. Zuzana welcomed members and emphasised the importance for Slovakia to host the AF meeting noting that only 30 years ago such level of cooperation with the other European countries could not have been imagined. She underlined the benefit that European cooperation has brought to the area of food safety from the perspective of a smaller Member State (MS).

Bernhard Url noted that the minutes of the 60th AF meeting had been approved by written procedure and published on EFSA's website prior to this meeting.

In line with the requirements on independence, members were asked for additional Oral Declarations of Interest (ODOIs) and no additional interest was declared.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The draft meeting agenda was tabled for additional items. The following items were raised for inclusion under Any Other Business (AoB): Proposed dates for AF meetings in 2017 raised by EFSA, an update on biotoxins by the Netherlands. The agenda was then adopted.

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.a ED Progress Report

The EFSA Progress Report for the period 1 June to 15 September 2016 was shared with the EFSA Management Board (MB) just before the meeting and has been circulated to members.

3.b Action Points from last meeting

The Action Points of the last meeting were shared with the AF members with the final documents for the meeting. Some Action Points still outstanding will be followed up bilaterally with Members.

3.c ED Country Visits – BE, SK

Bernhard Url gave the floor to the AF members from Belgium and Slovakia, countries which had been visited since the last meeting, to give a verbal update. Belgium outlined the discussions from the visit in June, where Bernhard met with top scientists from all institutions working in the area of food safety to exchange views and discuss potential collaboration on a number of projects. Of the 9 topics presented as possible joint projects with EFSA, the characterization of nanoparticles in food additives was chosen for further discussion. The visit to Slovakia took place on the day before the AF meeting and Slovakia provided feedback on the meeting where the State Secretary of the Slovak Ministry of Agriculture took part in the visit. In line with the priorities of the Slovak presidency, the agenda focussed on topics of Animal Health and Welfare (AHAW), particularly vector borne diseases and parasites.

Bernhard Url informed that the next ED visits will be to Finland and Sweden in October and later in the year to Hungary.

4. ADVISORY FORUM COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP – TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Chair gave the floor to Barbara Gallani, who presented the new governance model and the draft Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Advisory Forum Communications Working Group (AFCWG). Barbara reiterated that the proposal to establish the AFCWG as a Network should not be seen as a means of changing the current membership, which was a concern of the AFCWG members, but to allow a wider scope to the activities and to have a better governance model. As the AFCWG was created under the auspices of the AF, a clear agreement of the plenary to the proposal was needed to formally end the AFCWG by the end of the year and the new Communication Experts Network (CEN) to start from 2017.

Norway suggested a better link of the deliverables to the objectives. The Netherlands agreed to the ToR, which reflects the discussions on the meeting in June, but pointed out that it did not address all aspects of Risk Communication which would need to be further developed in the future through the Network's work programme and further suggested that instead of three meetings per year, two meetings would be sufficient with additional workshops. Belgium endorsed the ToR, but noted that the current WG had a role in crisis communication, thus the role of the CEN in crisis situations should be defined for the future. Belgium, The Netherlands and France commented on the issue of further alignment with the AF, proposing the possibility of joint workshops, and ensuring a

regular exchange between the two groups. Spain welcomed the inclusion of social sciences in the ToR. Greece and the UK proposed changes to the wording of the objectives. Finland underlined the importance of a strategic approach and suggested to take a link to risk management (RM) and the role of the European Commission (EC) into account.

Bernhard Url welcomed the comments and suggestions and agreed that the important challenge will be to find the right balance of input from the AF. Barbara thanked AF members for the input to be reflected in revised wording which would be circulated to members. Barbara also agreed to consider further suggestions to change from 3 meetings per year to 2 meetings per year plus a symposium or workshop to address practical issues and to address the crisis element further in the work in-between meetings.

The Forum agreed to the ToR pending revisions discussed and to close the AFCWG after the last meeting on 6-7 October in Bratislava and for the group to continue as a Network as from 2017.

Action Point 1: EFSA to include comments of AF into ToR and circulate final version to AF

5. EFSA INDEPENDENCE POLICY

Bernhard Url gave the floor to Dirk Detken, Head of EFSA's Legal Unit, to present via teleconference an overview of the proposed changes to EFSA's Independence Policy. EFSA's Policy on Independence was adopted in December 2011, with a commitment for the Authority to review it 5 years after its adoption. Dirk gave an overview of the process and of renewal and the respective timelines. The Management Board will receive and at the December meeting.

The Netherlands asked for a broader discussion including different options instead of a written consultation on the independence policy as a whole. Norway, Germany, Sweden and Ireland noted difficulties relating the issue of experts working at MS level and for EFSA being considered as a conflict of interest which had a negative impact on national activities, particularly for small countries.

Finland welcomed the approach highlighting the importance to link the EFSA independence policy to the open EFSA approach including open data and transparency and proposed that the European Parliament (EP) should be involved. Germany added that problems may arise as the general public does not perceive science as intrinsically independent. Therefore there is a need for explaining what science is and to elucidate how the risk assessment process works. The German representative added further, that in his view, national experts working for independent risk assessment authorities in MS do not have a conflict of interest working in an EFSA panel that deals with the same topic the experts work on in their national institutions.

Bernhard stated problems for EFSA occur in discussions with the EP which emphasises the potential of experts to be influenced and that there is currently no counterbalance to the opinion of the EP combatting the loss of expertise by too strict rules. The UK informed about their current update in their independence policy, which could be shared in draft form and suggested an exchange of all MS independence policies.

Bernhard Url thanked MS for their support and promised to come back with further information on the topic on the next AF meeting.

6. EU RISK ASSESSMENT AGENDA: PROJECT COMPENDIUM

Bernhard Url gave the floor to Stef Bronzwaer to present the state-of-play regarding the implementation of the EU Risk Assessment Agenda (EU RAA). Stef thanked the 12 countries that had submitted in total 45 project proposals to date. Stef noted that other countries had indicated the intention to submit proposals and therefore proposed a new

deadline of 25 November for these to be sent to the secretariat ahead of the next AF meeting. France expressed apologies for not having sent proposals, indicating that the meaning of leading a project was not clear. Stef explained that the main function for the project lead would be to form a consortium of interested parties and explore funding opportunities –from a range of national and European wide funding possibilities that have been compiled by the Focal Points (FP). Spain asked to plan for a possibility to invite stakeholders, also from industry to the discussions, which might be of benefit particularly regarding funding opportunities. The idea could be taken up through the organisation of an EU RAA conference, similar to the Information Days organised by the Commission. To reach out for funding opportunities, Norway proposed that EFSA could issue a generic letter of support to the projects, an idea that was welcomed by other MS. Upon question from Belgium, Stef confirmed that in fact not all project ideas in the catalogue will materialize to concrete projects, and participation of organisations in projects is not limited to Article 36 organisations.

Action Point 2: MS to submit further project ideas for taking the lead in joint projects by filling in the template and submitting it to the secretariat before 25 November

7. ADVISORY FORUM'S DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT

Bernhard Url gave an introduction to the signature of a Declaration of Commitment of the AF. The Declaration of Commitment was suggested by the members during discussions following the review of the AF at the 58th AF meeting in December 2015 with the intention to renew the Declaration of Intent dating from 2006 at its tenth anniversary. The document has been translated into all MS languages. The Chair gave the floor to Slovakia, Finland, Germany and Cyprus for statements on behalf on the MS (statements from Slovakia, Cyprus and Germany are annexed). Greece informed that the Declaration was endorsed by the Management Board of the Hellenic Food Authority. The countries expressed their acknowledgement for the progress made since the former Declaration of Intent was signed ten years before and stressed the importance of collaboration and ever closer ties among the MS. Though not binding legally, the Declaration brings MS together to contribute to the European project and support each other in achieving common risk assessment goals. The Declaration sets a powerful basis for joining forces in collaboration, reiterating and enhancing trust in scientific excellence of EFSA and MS partners to contribute to universal health of the European consumers. Bernhard Url thanked the MS for their statements, adding that the Declaration is a step into a new era of cooperation in the spirit of respect and solidarity going back to the founding principles of the EU. He then invited Members to join the ceremony of signing the Declaration of commitment.

8. RISK ASSESSMENT SESSION

The Chair gave the floor to Hans Verhagen to facilitate the RA Session, a standing item on the agenda of AF meetings to exchange information on forthcoming RA activities and highlight any potential areas of divergence. Participants had received an overview of EFSA mandates received and upcoming MS RA activities collated since the last meeting.

Member State Mandates

Hans gave the floor to Juliane Kleiner, joined by Valeriu Curtui (via teleconference) to provide details on the mandate EFSA received from Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Norway and Iceland requesting "scientific assistance in line with Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 in assessing of a dietary reference value for sugar with particular attention to added sugar". Juliane informed that the mandate was discussed by the NDA Panel at its meeting on 21-23 September 2016. Since the panel requested further information, EFSA will request clarification from the submitting countries in writing and will arrange a teleconference to discuss further if necessary. France noted having worked on this topic recently with an opinion to be expected in December. Ireland confirmed having done a systematic review regarding links between sugar sweetened beverage consumption and obesity that is available to be shared with EFSA.

Juliane proposed to initiate a workflow for MS mandates similar to a workflow EFSA is maintaining with the EC for submitting mandates. The plenary agreed to the proposal and Ireland, Sweden and Norway volunteered to help EFSA preparing a draft proposal for the workflow which will be brought to the plenary on the next meeting. Spain remarked that though a written procedure is favourable, it can be a burden in urgent matters. Bernhard Url confirmed that for emerging risks there should be a means of ensuring quick response and dialogue. On remark from Finland that EFSA should address also risk management options, the Chair underlined that EFSA's task is science. Spain suggested involving risk managers once mandates are adopted to hear their views.

Hans then gave the floor to Guilhem De Seze to introduce the proposal of consulting on guidance being developed on low level presence (llp) of non-authorised GMO, highlighting the novelty and the benefits of the dedicated MS consultation. Guilhem explained that this approach is under exploration with currently neither established procedures nor facilitating IT or other tools available. The consultation process will last for 6 weeks and feedback is requested from the official Competent Authorities under Regulation (EC) No 1820/2003. Members will be asked to confirm the procedural approach for the MS consultation through AF or FPs. France informed about the outcome of a similar opinion, which can be shared including translation.

Exchange of information on forthcoming risk assessment activities

Hans of behalf of the RASA Department raised a number of points on activities in relation to forthcoming risk assessment activities in MS including the scientific criteria for defining endocrine disruptors (France); hay as food or food additive (Austria); Chronic Waste Disease (CWD) (Norway); RA of cyanobacterial toxins (Sweden).

Slovenia informed about 5 issues in the area of Plant Health (PLH) that will be brought to the attention of EFSA's PLH Unit. Hans noted interest of the EMRISK Unit for the report from ANSES (France) on the prioritisation of disease concerning exotic pets, zoos and circus and laboratory animals. France will verify if their mandate is already available. Norway informed about having published an opinion on circus animals. Finally, Hans raised possible overlaps of activities of the Netherlands and the UK with EFSA's BIOCONTAM Unit working on Hepatitis E virus (HEV) on self-tasked mandate. It is planned to invite the UK and the Netherlands as hearing experts to the EFSA WG on HEV to exchange views and avoid divergence. The UK will send more information to be passed on the BIOCONTAM Unit.

Hans invited Guilhem De Seze to raise issues of importance for EFSA in the area of regulated products. With regard to the opinion on risks from caffeine intake among Estonian children and adolescents, Guilhem informed that for the EFSA opinion on safety of caffeine published in 2015 no data on caffeine consumption by children and adolescents in Estonia was available to EFSA. Estonia confirmed that the RA focussed on dietary exposure to caffeine, and was not intended as a revision of the scientific evidence for establishing a safe level in children. Guilhem then gave the floor to Norway to provide details on a recently published report on potential risks posed by macroalgae for application as feed and food. Norway emphasized that it is preliminary work in this field. A link to the report can be provided. Ireland is expecting a similar mandate and proposed information exchange. Spain informed about a scientific opinion on microalgae as novel food, regarding the use as a condiment. An English version of the opinion dating back to 2013 can be shared with the AF.

Action Point 3: France to check if information on RA on sugar is already published or can be made accessible

Action Point 4: Ireland to share systematic review on sugar with EFSA

Action Point 5: EFSA, Ireland, Sweden and Norway to take part in further discussions on workflow for MS mandates

Action Point 6: France to share opinion on llp of non-authorised GMO in English version

Action Point 7: Norway to send opinion on circus animals to France and EFSA

Action Point 8: UK to send information regarding work on HEV

Action Point 9: Norway to provide link to the report on macroalgae for application as feed and food

Action Point 10: Spain to share opinion on microalgae as novel food

9. STRATEGIC TOPICS

9.1 Zoonoses Report – Alimentary and Waterborne Diseases

Bernhard Url gave the floor to the host country Slovakia to present the details of a recently published comprehensive report on Zoonoses. Zoonoses and vectorborne diseases are high priority under the Slovak Presidency, in continuity with the priority on AMR under the presidency of the Netherlands. The report is based on epidemiological data, official control research and monitoring surveillance. Slovakia gave a detailed overview of the findings by causative agents, in human-epidemiological and animal-epizootological situations, regarding food and feed, environment and antimicrobial resistance. The report has been shared with EFSA and the AF and an English summary is available. On question from France, Slovakia confirmed that also the movement of borreliosis has been monitored. Finland welcomed the cooperation between the veterinarian and human health sector. Slovakia explained that part of the data has been sent to EFSA via the Scientific Network on Zoonoses Data Collection. The report itself is in Slovak, but a summary in English has been sent. Bernhard Url added that EFSA is currently running a project on waterborne diseases with ECDC and is going to discuss with Slovakia and other MS active in this area how to align activities.

Action Point 11: MS working on waterborne diseases to express interest on joint project EFSA-ECDC-Slovakia

9.2 Animal Diseases – LSD & ASF

Bernhard Url gave the floor to Hans Verhagen to give an update on the on-going work regarding Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) and African Swine Fever (ASF). Hans informed that EFSA has released 3 scientific outputs about LSD, a vector borne disease: a scientific opinion in January 2015 on risk characterization, the risk of introduction and spread in the EU, the impact of the disease and its control measures, a scientific statement recently issued in August 2016 on the assessment of the effects of total versus partial culling in combination with different vaccination policies and an event report of a workshop of EFSA and DG SANTE that took place in May 2016. African Swine Fever (ASF) spread in 2014 from Russia and Belarus to the EU affecting Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and Poland. The latest EFSA opinion from 2015 assessed the parameters that can influence the local behaviour of ASF in the wild boar population and its interaction with domestic pigs. To enable better epidemiological analysis of the on-going outbreak, EFSA launched a joint project with the Baltic countries and Poland to harmonize ASF data collection. A related workshop was held in Riga on 29-30 June.

Finland welcomed the new opinion on LSD, and added that a seminar with Russia was planned. FYROM confirmed being one of the most affected countries of LSD that vaccination is the most effective measure. Greece informed about the collaboration of the Greek Ministry of the Rural Development and Food in providing data for the scientific opinion on LSD. Bulgaria thanked EFSA and the EC for having taken up actions both on LSD and ASF. Estonia asked about the mandate that EFSA has received from the EC. Andrea Gervelmeyer from the AHAW Unit explained via teleconference that a first report is going to be published in October 2016 and further analysis foreseen for October 2017. Certain questions regarding the opinion will be updated which is work in progress. Andrea thanked the MS for their collaboration.

10. SURVEY OF EFSA EXPERTS' EMPLOYERS

Bernhard Url gave the floor to Hubert Deluyker, who joined the meeting by teleconference, to explain a survey proposed among experts' employers aiming at assessing the national and organisational impact of having experts working in EFSA Panels and Working groups. The survey will address the benefits and challenges during the application for Panel membership, the organisational involvement at the start of the Panel activity, the costs and resources devoted to support and monitoring Panel involvement and possible improvements regarding the participation in and efficiency of Panels. The survey will be conducted between October and November 2016, with a final report available in January 2017. AF Members were asked to support the exercise. The survey will be tested with 5 AF member organisations. The Netherlands, France, Germany, the UK and Denmark confirmed their participation. On question from Germany Hubert clarified that the contact details to be provided are the contact details of the employer not of the Panel member. On question from the Czech Republic, Hubert confirmed that the survey is targeting Panel members and not Representatives in Scientific Networks. Hungary asked regarding MS that do not have Panel members. Hubert explained that in these cases, the FPs could provide other institutions that should receive the questionnaire. Regarding concerns relating to data protection raised by Germany and the UK Hubert promised to clarify all issues with the EFSA Legal Unit. *Action Point 12: EFSA to clarify issues on data protection regarding employers' survey*

The Chair then closed the meeting of the first day

11. SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION IN THE AREA OF PESTICIDES

Barbara Gallani, chairing on the second day, opened the meeting, welcoming Hermine Reich from the EFSA Pesticide Unit and Colin Ockleford, Chair of the PPR Panel to the meeting for a session dedicated to EFSA's work in the area of Pesticides.

PPR Panel Progress Report

Colin Ockleford presented a detailed overview on the structure, work and interaction of the Panel of Plant Protection Products and their residues (PPR). The Panel provides scientific advice on the RA of pesticides for workers, consumers and the environment by responding to mandates and developing and reviewing guidance documents on the RA of pesticides. This work supports the evaluation of active substances used in pesticides, which is carried out by rapporteur MS and peer reviewed by EFSA staff. Colin informed about epidemiology, the regulatory framework, topics of interest and emerging concepts. He also gave various examples of cross-cutting guidance such as that regarding infant food. Finally Colin explained the consultation process with the public and RM.

Sweden, Latvia and Germany posed general questions on the risk assessment process and changes of use of pesticides as well as noting that it was not always clear from when guidance documents are to be used in the MS. Hermine explained that guidance documents are adopted in the Commission's Standing Committee which specifies the date of entering into force. Juliane Kleiner added that the acceptance of the EFSA guidance documents by the MS is extremely important therefore EFSA tries to involve MS at an early stage in the development cycle.

Recent Developments and Future Plans in the EFSA Assessment of Pesticides

Hermine Reich presented recent developments and the future plans in RA of Pesticides. Hermine explained the interaction of the EFSA Pesticide Unit with the Panel activities and the processes of the pesticide peer-review. Hermine gave an overview on peer-review outputs and specific requests from the EC. Hermine gave insight in the MRL activities and an overview of tasks in the area of Pesticides in EFSA and on EU level. On a question from Spain on the peer review by the rapporteur MS, Hermine explained that the

rapporteur MS is chosen by the applicant but that the peer review is a collective activity of EFSA and the MS. Hermine confirmed that all MS can potentially contribute to the process, however the participation of all MS is not always the case. She reminded MS to take the peer review as an opportunity and also responsibility of the MS. The Netherlands asked about EFSA's involvement in supporting Codex Alimentarius and how EFSA deals with diverging opinions. Hermine explained the role EFSA has with the Commission in relation to Codex discussions. Colin explained that through the process from working group to panel and then endorsement by the Scientific Committee potential divergences can be resolved or detailed in the opinion. Sweden expressed interest in the future use of Biocides, on which also a Unit of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) is working. Hermine confirmed cooperation with ECHA took place to develop guidance and approaches. Juliane Kleiner reminded of the guidance on endocrine disruptors, where a strong alignment of EFSA and ECHA took place. A respective meeting of EFSA, ECHA and EC will take place in October. Latvia remarked that the latest pesticide monitoring report revealed substantial differences in national monitoring programmes. Hermine confirmed that a certain number of samples is assigned to each MS and MS decide according to their prioritisation what is done at national level.

12. DATA QUALITY PILOT SCHEME

Barbara Gallani gave the floor to Hans Verhagen to give an update on the proposal for improving data quality from the MS and the initiation of a pilot project which was already discussed with the AF on the 59th and 60th meeting. The project aimed to improve data quality and ensure stable resources to the national data collection process. Hans explained that the pilot project will concentrate on chemical contaminants, pesticide residues, veterinary medicinal product residues and zoonoses data collections. Further areas of data collection will be considered for the full project to be implemented in 2019. Of the countries that have volunteered to take part in the pilot, the following countries have been selected on base of a matrix of country size and geographical distribution: Cyprus, Denmark, Germany, Slovak Republic and France.

Greece asked if a reserve list is still open for MS. Stefano Cappè from the DATA Unit, joining by teleconference, confirmed that those countries that have expressed interest to volunteer, but have not been chosen, are on a reserve list and other countries interested can be added to the reserve list. Finland commented on the Scoping Paper on Data Quality that had been shared with the AF, suggesting that closer linkage could be established to the data collection Network report. Hans answered that after gaining experience in the pilot, the scope of the project might be revised. Spain remarked having 17 autonomous regions providing data makes collection almost impossible to manage and would welcome the EC establishing a legal obligation for data collection. Hans confirmed that a change in legal framework would be supportive, and that all MS must be convinced to use FOODEX and SSD II for data collection. The UK informed that the UK government has committed itself to open up as many data sources as possible, suggesting other MS to do the same but noted that this brings huge challenges for example regarding meta-data. Belgium reminded that issues regarding co-financing and transparency will need to be clarified, which, as Hans explained, is exactly the aim of the pilot phase. There will not be a one-size-fits-all system. Hans confirmed that EFSA is well aware of the differences among MS regarding organisation, production and ownership of data. The pilot project is meant to reveal the best way forward in the future.

Action Point 13: EFSA to add Greece on reserve list for Data Quality Pilot Project

13. INTERNATIONAL RISK ASSESSMENT CAPACITY BUILDING – A PROPOSAL FOR JOINING FORCES ON THE EUROPEAN LEVEL

Barbara Gallani gave the floor to Germany to present a proposal for collaborating on international RA capacity building. Germany indicated that it happens that MS authorities, as well as EFSA, develop cooperation activities with the same countries

outside the EU and with international organisations. Hence, it would seem beneficial to join forces and in particular share materials developed for training and other capacity building initiatives. Germany proposed creating an AF Discussion Group (DG) that will develop a strategy for joint international capacity building activities. Germany suggested also to survey Article 36 organisations to make an inventory of which training activities are offered possibly through a “request for exchange of information” via the FPs.

The Netherlands supported the suggestion for a Discussion Group (DG), and suggested to clarify first the scope of such a survey on training opportunities. Spain informed about a meeting in Chile with participation from EFSA, Spain and Germany, as one example of already existing MS collaboration in the international area. Norway supported the idea of a DG and expressed interest to volunteer. Stef Bronzwaer suggested that the focus of such a discussion group could reach out beyond training activities, to also include workshops and strategic meetings / conferences. The idea could expand to creating a platform for the development of joint projects for capacity building in risk assessment and risk communication. Germany suggested developing Terms of Reference for the proposed AF DG to be clear on the scope and mandate by the AF. The EC reminded that EFSA should take into account the already existing training activities of the BTSF trainings. Stef summarized the consensus for creating a DG that can also consider the usefulness of a possible survey on training initiatives. The group of volunteers for the DG will be led by Germany and comprises Norway and the Netherlands with more expressions of interest welcome. The plenary will then come back on the topic in the December meeting.

Action Point 14: MS to volunteer for WG to align international activities

14. GRANTS AND PROCUREMENT WORK PROGRAMME 2017

Barbara Gallani welcomed Ilias Papatryfon, who joined the meeting by teleconference. Ilias outlined the changes in the procedure for consulting on the draft annual work plan that had been circulated among the AF members. The Programming Document 2018-2020 will include the draft work programme on Grants and Procurement under the strategic objectives, so that links between these activities and the EFSA strategic objectives become clearer. Ilias then asked feedback from the plenary on the planned EFSA procurement and grant calls for 2017/2018, particularly with regards to their appropriateness for MS organisations, synergies, avoidance of duplications and any missing priorities. Finland mentioned that methodologies for RA in the food chain should be added to the document. Spain asked for clarification regarding the external evaluation of Scientific Networks, which was confirmed by the Chair. Spain further asked about the reason the Information Exchange Platform (IEP) had not been included. Jeff Moon explained that the IEP concept would be developed as be part of the Open SCAIE platform (Open Scientific Advanced Information and Evidence Hub Project) as a starting element of the open library, with initial information provided at the FP meeting in September to be followed by regular updates on the project as it is developed. France asked if ECHA has been consulted and if any feedback has been received. Ilias confirmed having sent a letter to all three sister agencies, EMA, ECHA and ECDC and response is expected within the deadline of 7 October. The EC welcomed that EFSA keeps in touch with DG Research and Innovation colleagues, which will also be invited to the December meeting.

Action Point 15: AF to give feedback on EFSA Grants and Procurement Work Programme 2017 until 7 October

15. GENERAL SESSION

15.1 BfR scientific network for authenticity testing of food and feed

Barbara Gallani gave the floor to Germany to inform about an initiative for a German-wide scientific network of public research institutions, surveillance authorities and government departments for authenticity testing. An international symposium on "Standardisation of non-targeted methods for food authentication" will take place on 28-29 November at the BfR. Germany then gave information on the European project "FoodIntegrity", to collect analytical methods for authenticity testing, which includes a database of experts and stakeholders and will be made available for the public after the project period.

15.2 Fellowship Programme

Barbara Gallani gave the floor to Stef Bronzwaer to give an update on the Fellowship programme. Following discussions with the FPs, the acronym EU FORA has been chosen for the programme, in abbreviation for: The EU Food Risk Assessment Fellowship Programme. Two calls will be launched in October, one for selecting up to 15 fellows and one for selecting 8-10 fellow hosting sites. Closing dates for both calls will be in January 2017. The launch of the calls will be supported by a communication plan and the creation of a dedicated web page on EFSA's website for information. The placement process of the fellows is planned for March-April 2017, with a grant agreement signed between EFSA and each hosting site to fund the monthly subvention of the fellow. Stef asked the members to promote the fellowship programme to the appropriate fora and audiences. The UK asked if the costs for the supervisor are covered as well. Stef clarified that the hosting site is receiving a grant for the fellow, but no reimbursement for the supervisor.

15.3 Art.36 Network

Barbara Gallani gave the floor to Stef Bronzwaer to describe developments and changes in managing the Art.36 network list. The new project "Innovative approach for Article 36 networking and management of the List" foresees close collaboration with MS to develop a new concept to implement Art.36. It will take aboard the experience of FPs as main actors in the process and continuously inform the AF of developments. A FP task force is currently being established, chaired by the Italian FP, and a kick-off meeting will take place on 5-6 October, which will help ensure that the new concept is feasible for developing a more agile up-to-date list of competent organisations and enhancing the engagement of MS and competent organisations in European networking and collaboration. AF and FP will regularly be updated on the progress.

16. AOB

Update on Biotoxins – The Netherlands

Barbara Gallani gave the floor to the Netherlands who informed about the latest development in the area of biotoxins: A monitoring programme has been launched and research on DTX is on-going. The activities are carried out by two universities. A related request has also been sent to EFSA. Hans Verhagen confirmed that an EC mandate has been received and an opinion should be delivered by spring 2017. Spain informed that a working group at the European Reference Laboratory (EuRL) is looking at methodologies and a workshop took place organised by the EC, on which information would be desirable. On question from France, how the issue has been discovered, the Netherlands explained that identification took place via chemical analysis. Thus for the methodology also chemical analysis is preferred to the bioassay. However, data is lacking. Hans Verhagen asked the Netherlands to pass all relevant information to EFSA.

Action Point 16: EC to inform about workshop on biotoxins

Action Point 17: The Netherlands to pass information on biotoxins to EFSA

Change of naming of Panels - Spain

On request from Spain, Juliane Kleiner gave an update on the planned change of EFSA Panel's names. EFSA has submitted a request to the EC to re-align the appointment of

the panels to enable them all to be renewed at the same time and to rename some of them to better reflect their activities. The ANS and CEF Panel are in process of renewal, for appointment in 2017 with a mandate of only one year. In 2018 a new regulation will come in place followed by the renewal of all Panels and the Scientific Committee. The renewal of all Panels at the same time is an advantage regarding administrative workload.

Outlook on AF meetings in 2017 - EFSA

Barbara Gallani gave the floor to Jeff Moon to set out the provisional dates for the next AF meetings: The next meeting will take place in Parma on 8-9 December. Topics addressed will be emerging risks, Horizon 2020 and the repository of RA models. Added topics from this meeting to be carried over are the REFIT analysis, the EURAA, EFSA's Independence Policy, cooperation on international activities and the change from AFCWG to CEN. Germany asked to add Glyphosate to the agenda.

The meetings in 2017 are planned as follows: 63rd Meeting on 8-9 March in Malta, 64th Meeting on 8-9 June in Parma, 65th Meeting on 3-4 October in Estonia (to be confirmed), 66th Meeting on 5-6 December in Parma. Members are invited to suggest topics.

Action Point 18: AF members to propose topics for 2017 (until 62nd AF meeting)

CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

Barbara Gallani closed the meeting, thanking participants for their attendance and active contribution, and expressed special thanks to the EFSA colleagues supporting the meeting in Bratislava and in Parma. She particularly thanked Slovakia for hosting the meeting and accompanying events.

SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS	
Action Number	Action
1	EFSA to include comments of AF into CEN TOR and circulate final version to AF
2	MS to submit further project ideas for taking the lead in joint projects by filling in the template and submitting it to the secretariat before 25 November
3	France to check if information on RA on sugar is already published or can be made accessible
4	Ireland to share systematic review on sugar with EFSA
5	EFSA, Ireland, Sweden and Norway to take part in further discussions on workflow for MS mandates
6	France to share opinion on IIP of non-authorised GMO in English version
7	Norway to send opinion on circus animals to France and EFSA
8	UK to send information regarding work on HEV
9	Norway to provide link to the report on macroalgae for application as feed and food
10	Spain to share opinion on microalgae as novel food
11	MS working on waterborne diseases to express interest on joint project EFSA-ECDC-Slovakia
12	EFSA to clarify issues on data protection regarding employers' survey

13	EFSA to add Greece on reserve list for Data Quality Pilot Project
14	MS to volunteer for WG to align international activities
15	AF to give feedback on EFSA Grant and Procurement work programme 2017 until 7 October
16	EC to inform about workshop on Biotoxins
17	The Netherlands to pass information on biotoxins to EFSA
18	AF members to propose topics for 2017 (until 62 nd AF meeting)

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