



## **European Food Safety Authority**

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### **Key issues emerging from EFSA's Stakeholder Consultative Platform and from the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Colloque with stakeholders**

Below Members of the Board will find a note on key points from the first meeting of the EFSA's Stakeholder Consultative Platform and an update of several procedural matters related to the Platform. A brief outline of key issues emerging from the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Colloque is also included. This outline follows the chronological order of the events.

#### **I. Stakeholder Consultative Platform – 6 and 7 October 2005**

The inaugural meeting of the recent established Stakeholder Consultative Platform took place on 6 & 7 October in Parma and, in the absence of an “elected Chair” this meeting was chaired by Geoffrey Podger, Executive Director of EFSA. Nearly all members of the Platform attended the meeting. Since the meetings of the Platform are open to the public, several organisations followed the discussions as “observers”. The European Commission also attended the meeting as an “observer”.

Despite the fact that the meeting was rather procedural –Terms of Reference, election of the Chair and Vice-Chairs, work programme - there were very good discussions with stakeholders with regards to EFSA's stakeholder policy, EFSA's scientific priorities and communication activities. In addition, stakeholder groups had the opportunity to present their main concerns.

The next meeting of the Platform will take place on 9 and 10 March 2006.

#### **Main points arising from the discussions at the meeting**

The minutes of the inaugural meeting will be published on EFSA's website. The minutes will be circulated to the Management Board for information.

The following issues can be summarized as the key points from the meeting:

- unanimous welcome of the setting up a permanent Platform for stakeholders;
- willingness of stakeholders to be more involved in EFSA's activities, providing input on EFSA's work programme, providing data in the context of scientific assessments and exchanging information with EFSA on emerging risks;

- support from stakeholders with regard to EFSA's self-tasking activities and great desire to explore ways to be able to input self-tasking activities and , if possible, to call on EFSA to initiate self-tasking activities in areas of concern for them and /or their constituencies;

Other issues that emerged from the discussions were:

- how uncertainties are addressed in the context of EFSA's scientific assessments,
- criteria for consultation and
- EFSA's capacity together with others in the area of emerging risks.

As indicated by Geoffrey Podger at the meeting of the Management Board in October, members of the Platform expressed their desire to interact with the Board and to be able to present any papers the Platform may produce to the Management Board. As laid down in the Terms of Reference setting up the Platform, the Management Board will be kept regularly updated on the discussions in the Platform and will receive for information the minutes and papers the Platform might produce.

### **Election of the Chair and Vice-Chairs**

Mrs Sue Davies, Chief Policy Adviser at Which? UK consumer organisation and member of BEUC<sup>1</sup>, has been elected Chair of the Platform. The result of the election of the two Vice-Chairs is foreseen in the first week of December and will be reported to the Management Board at its meeting in December. Due to the fact that the Platform will run for an initial period of 1 year, the Chair and Vice-Chairs will also be elected for this period.

It will be up to the Chair to consider the way she would wish to work with members of the Platform and with the Vice-chairs. EFSA will provide the secretariat of the Platform.

### **“Associated members” of the Platform – list published on EFSA’s website**

The list of eligible “associated member” organisations that resulted from the public call from expression of interests was published on EFSA’s website at the end of November. All applicants were notified about the outcome of the selection procedure.

The “associated members” can be invited to attend a meeting of the Platform as “observers” on a case-by-case and on specific-topic related basis. The list of “associated members” is attached to this note for information.

Further information about the Stakeholder Consultative Platform can be found at:

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<sup>1</sup> BEUC, the European Consumers’ Organisation

[http://www.efsa.eu.int/stakeholder\\_stakeholder\\_consultative\\_platform/consultative\\_platform/catindex\\_en.html](http://www.efsa.eu.int/stakeholder_stakeholder_consultative_platform/consultative_platform/catindex_en.html)

## **II. 3<sup>rd</sup> Stakeholder Colloque – 9 and 10 November 2005**

EFSA held its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Colloque on 9 and 10 November in Parma. Ms Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle, Vice-Chair of EFSA's Management Board, opened the 3<sup>rd</sup> colloque where more than 50 organisations met for a two-day meeting to share thoughts with EFSA on plans for the future.

The key topic of the Colloque this year was the Review of EFSA and in particular well known issues emerging from the Review. The purpose of the meeting was not to present the main conclusions or recommendation of the independent evaluation commissioned by EFSA, but to explore more in detail with stakeholders some of the issues that came out from the evaluation exercise.

In this regard, the first part of the Colloque discussed 4 major areas that have been identified as being of relevance for stakeholders – nutrition, fees, communications and data input from stakeholder organisation on EFSA's scientific opinions. The audience was split into 4 working groups that looked at each of the topics and were chaired by a stakeholder organisation. The outcome of the discussions were reported back in plenary session by the rapporteurs of each of the working groups. The main conclusions can be summarized as follows:

- stakeholder groups stressed their desire for EFSA to play a greater role in the debate on nutrition and therefore underlined the need to extend its mandate on nutrition and nutrition related-areas, e.g. obesity debate, nutritional profiling;
- stakeholder groups opposed the establishing of a fees structure for EFSA. If fees were to be established, they called on limiting the fees regime to certain areas and for it to be applied on a case-by-case basis. This view was held by a range of stakeholders represented including consumers, industry producers and NGOs;
- participants highlighted the difficulty of communicating on risk associated to food. They called for the improvement of co-operation between the Commission, Member States and EFSA in the area of risk communication;
- stakeholder groups stressed their interest to provide EFSA with any relevant scientific data in the context of scientific assessments.

The second day of the Colloque dealt with the transparency of EFSA's opinions, statements and advice. A Questions & Answers session with a member of the Management Board and members of EFSA's Management Team concluded the 3<sup>rd</sup> stakeholder colloque.

During the meeting a lot of common views were expressed, mainly as regards the role of EFSA on nutrition and the possible "fees regime" for EFSA. Participants expressed

strong support for EFSA and in particular for what EFSA is doing with regards to strengthening its relations with stakeholders.

A full report of the Colloque will be circulated to the Management Board for information.

Further information about the Colloquia organized by EFSA can be found at:

[http://www.efsa.eu.int/stakeholder\\_stakeholder\\_consultative\\_platform/annual\\_colloques/catindex\\_en.html](http://www.efsa.eu.int/stakeholder_stakeholder_consultative_platform/annual_colloques/catindex_en.html)

## Annex

### **“Associated membership” of EFSA’s Stakeholder Consultative Platform: List of organisations/institutes that have shown an interest<sup>2</sup>**

- **AESGP** – Association of the European Self-Medication Industry
- **AIPCE-CEP** – Association des Industries de Poisson de la CE
- **Ambiotec**
- **AmCham EU** – American Chamber of Commerce to the European Union
- **AMFEP** - Association of Manufacturers and Formulators of Enzyme Products
- **ARVALIS** - Institut du végétal
- **ASSIFONTE** – Association d l’industrie de la fonte de fromage de l’EU
- **AVC** – Association des Vétérinaires Consultants
- **AVEC** – Association of Poultry Processors and Poultry Import and Export trade
- **CANTOX** – Cantox Health Sciences International
- **Ce.E.R.A** – Centro Interdipartimentale di ricerca per la valorizzazione degli Alimenti – Università di Firenze
- **CEEV** – Comité Européen des Entreprises Vins
- **CEPS** - The European Spirits Organization
- **CLITRAVI** – Centre de Liaison des Industries transformatrices de Viandes de L’Unione Européenne.
- **COCERAL** - Comité du Commerce des céréales, aliments du bétail, oléagineux, huile d’olive, huiles et graisses et agrofouritures
- **Consorzio Unimar**
- **CoRiBiA** – Consorzio di Ricerca sul Rischio Biologico in Agricoltura
- **DS – DBMC** – Danish Bacon & Meat Council.
- **ECSLA** - European Cold Storage and Logistics Association
- **EFEO** – European Federation of Essential Oils
- **EFPPRA** - - European Fat Processors and Renderers Association
- **EHPM** – European Federation of Associations of health product manufactures
- **ELC** – Federation of European food additives, Food enzymes and Food cultures Industries
- **EMFEMA** – International Association of the European Manufacturers of Major, trace and specific feed mineral materials
- **EPIC** – European Packaging Institutes Consortium
- **ESA** - European Snacks Association
- **EUCOLAIT** – European Union of Dairy trade
- **EUROCHAMBRES** – Association of EU chambers of Commerce and Industries
- **EUEVPRO**- European Vegetable Protein Federation
- **FEAP** – Federation of European Aquaculture Producers
- **FECC** – European Association of Chemical distributors
- **FEBA** - Fédération Européenne des banques alimentaires

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<sup>2</sup> See list of Members of the EFSA’s Stakeholder Consultative Platform  
[http://www.efsa.eu.int/stakeholder\\_stakeholder\\_consultative\\_platform/consultative\\_platform/1058/list\\_stakeholder\\_org1.pdf](http://www.efsa.eu.int/stakeholder_stakeholder_consultative_platform/consultative_platform/1058/list_stakeholder_org1.pdf)

- **FEDIAF a.i.s.b.l** – Fédération Européenne de l'industrie des aliments pour animaux familiers
- **FEDIOL** – The EU Oil & Protein Industry
- **FESASS** - Fédération Européenne pour la Santé Animale et la Sécurité Sanitaire
- **FPME** – Food Processing and Packaging Machinery Europe
- **GIRACT** – (*consultancy*)
- **IBC** - International Butcher's Confederation
- **IDACE** – Association Des Industries des Aliments Diététiques de l'union Européenne
- **IFAH Europe** – International Federation for Animal Health Europe
- **INC** - International Tree Nut Council
- **La Versa Spa** - (*commercial company*)
- **MARINO S.R.L** – (*commercial company*)
- **SEFEL** – European Manufactures of light metal packaging
- **The European Heart Network**
- **UECBV** – European Livestock and Meat Trading Union
- **Università di Bologna – ARIC- Area della Ricerca/Servizio Europeo AlmaUE**
- **CEPE** - European Council of the Paint, Printing Ink and Artists' Colours Industry