



Update on EFSA's Communications Activities

Anne-Laure Gassin
Director of Communications

Stakeholder Consultative Platform
Brussels, 17-18 November 2011

- Recent & upcoming communications activities
- Focus on:
 - Zoonoses thematic approach
 - Applications Helpdesk
- Joint EFSA/Advisory Forum WG on Communications – Risk communications guidelines

Annual report on pesticide residues

(published early November)

The report covers 2009, the first year of fully harmonised legislation on Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) across the European Union. It shows that 97.4% of samples analysed were below legal MRLS.

Communication activities:

- Press release
- Interviews with mainstream and specialised media
- Topic update
- Plants Newsletter

Risks posed by STEC and other pathogenic bacteria in seeds and sprouted seeds

EFSA (BIOHAZ Panel) has assessed the public health risk caused by STEC and other pathogenic bacteria that may contaminate seeds and sprouted seeds intended for direct human consumption.

Publication wk 14 November

Communication activities:

- Press release
- Update of topic on the STEC outbreaks
- Food newsletter
- Possible interviews with specialised media

Public Consultation on draft Guidance on Food Additive submissions

New guidance will replace the 2001 SCF guidance on submission of new food additives and new uses of existing food additives. The guidance uses the latest thinking on risk assessment and adopts a three-tiered approach to data requirements .

Draft guidance endorsed at ANS September Plenary.

Public consultation to be launched mid November 2011.

Communication activities:

- Web news story
- Updated topic on food additives
- Food newsletter

Re-evaluation of aspartame (E 951) – publication of data

Following a call for data (deadline: September 2011) EFSA received a substantial amount of data, studies and other information for this re-evaluation.

To promote transparency in the risk assessment process (and subject to any confidentiality restrictions,) all data will be published including the 112 original studies going back to the 1970s.

EFSA to launch public consultation on draft opinion; final opinion in 2012.

Communication activities:

- Web news story and publication of data (end Nov/early December 2011)
- Updated topics on Aspartame, Food additives; new topic on Sweeteners
- Food Newsletter

Response to Anses reports on BPA

In early November 2011, CEF Panel members and EFSA staff held a meeting with Anses to discuss the findings of the Anses reports and to assess any possible implications for EFSA's previous scientific advice on Bisphenol A (September 2010).

CEF Panel to review the scientific approach, the methodology followed and the data used in the Anses reports, and assess any possible implications for EFSA's previous advice. Results to be published in a Statement of the CEF Panel.

Publication expected end November/early December

Communication activities:

- Web news story
- Topic update (Bisphenol A)

Evaluation of enzymes

100s of applications are expected in this area over 2011-2013, all of which will be evaluated by the CEF Panel (with GM-related aspects done by GMO Panel).

EFSA aims to raise awareness about scientific requirements and encourage stakeholders to submit applications.

Communication activities:

- Web news story (Jan/Feb 2012)
- New topic on enzymes – including link with GMM
- Food Newsletter

Joint EFSA/WHO/FAO guidance on Total Diet Studies

The organisations are jointly publishing a guidance for a harmonised Total Diet Study approach to determine population dietary exposure to chemicals in food (contaminants, nutrients...).

Guidance proposes general principles for harmonising TDS methods internationally, which would allow for pan-European data on dietary exposure to chemicals in food.

Publication of guidance expected in early December.

Communication activities:

- Joint press release with WHO and FAO
- Update of topic on data collection

Guidelines for 90-day feeding trials with whole food and feed

Development of principles and guidance by EFSA's Scientific Committee for the establishment of a protocol for 90-day feeding studies in rodents with whole food and feed relevant to GM and novel food applications.

Publication in early December 2011.

Communication activities:

- Web news story
- EFSA News & Food newsletter

Reassessment of safety of GM maize 1507 (self-task)

GMO Panel has reassessed environmental safety of maize 1507 in light of new advances in methodology and scientific literature.

Publication mid-November

Communication activities:

- Web news story
- Topic update

Guidance on the risk assessment of GM animals including animal health and welfare aspects

Public consultation on draft guidance launched over summer 2011.

Final guidance to be published in January 2012.

Guidance on ERA (Fish / Insects / Birds & Mammals) to follow in Spring 2012

Communication activities:

- Web news story
- Topic update

Risk assessment of plants developed through new plant breeding techniques – Cisgenesis

First of several safety assessments carried out by EFSA on new biotechnological techniques for plant breeding. The EFSA assessments will feed into EC work to determine whether new techniques should be defined – and therefore regulated in the same way – as GMOs or GMMs.

Possible adoption in December plenary

Communication activities:

- Web updates
- Topic update

Assessment of the post-market environmental monitoring (PMEM) report for the Amflora potato

First EFSA assessment of PMEM report on Amflora potato (for 2010 cultivation season)

Follows recent EFSA assessment of yearly PMEM report for maize MON810

Possible adoption of scientific opinion in January plenary.

Communication activities:

- Web news story
- Topic update

Adoption of additional guidance for applicants on claims related to:

- antioxidants, oxidative damage and cardiovascular health
- bone, joints and oral health
- appetite ratings, weight management and blood glucose concentrations

Publication expected by December

Communication activities:

- Web news story

Guidance for assessment of environmental risk from plant pests

Self-task to develop guidance on assessing the environmental risk from plant pests (invertebrates, diseases, plants).

Publication expected in December 2011

Communication activities:

- Homepage highlight
- Plants Newsletter

Scientific Opinion on the risk to conifer species from the pine wood nematode (PWN)

The pine wood nematode is a threat to conifers worldwide and a major problem in Portugal. EFSA has been requested to deliver an opinion on the likelihood of PWN spreading to the whole EU territory.

Publication expected in January

Communication activities:

- Web news story
- Plants Newsletter

Norovirus in oysters

Based on the request of the Irish Food Safety Authority, EFSA will provide a scientific opinion on the methods, limits and control options for norovirus in oysters in the EU.

Publication expected January 2012.

Communication activities

- Web news story
- Update of food-borne viruses topic
- Food newsletter

Scientific opinions on use of animal-based measures to assess the welfare of dairy cows and pigs

First two opinions of a series looking at welfare indicators for all farm animals. They deal with the use of animal-based measures to assess welfare as opposed to resource-based or management measures.

Likely adoption of first two opinions in January 2012; opinions for remaining species due by end of 2012

Communication activities:

- Web news story
- Topic update

Safety evaluation of PET recycling processes

EFSA has received some 90 applications for PET recycling processes. First opinions using new criteria for safety evaluations (CEF Panel, July 2011) may be adopted in November 2011.

Expected publication of first opinions: December/January 2012

Communication activities:

- Web news story on publication of first opinions (general)
- Topic update (Food contact materials – ‘recycled plastics’)

Threshold of toxicological concern (TTC) approach

The opinion explores options for the use of the TTC approach for chemicals which are not regulated substances. TTC can be useful as screening tool for substances of known chemical structure for which specific toxicological data may be lacking and exposure is known to be low. Use of TTC by EFSA's Scientific Committee and Panels could assist risk managers in setting priorities and allow for more rapid scientific advice regarding possible health risks.

Adoption of final opinion expected in February 2012.

Communication activities:

- Web news story
- Food newsletter

Update of compendium on botanicals

EFSA will update the compendium on botanicals reported to contain toxic, addictive, psychotropic or other substances of concern.

Publication expected in February 2012.

Communication activities:

- Web news story (tbc)
- Update of topic on botanicals
- Plants newsletter

Report of ESCO working group on isoflavones

Report on the use and health effects of isoflavones in food supplements for women during and after menopausal period. Review of scientific literature.

Publication of report expected in Spring 2012.

Communication activities:

- Web news story
- ESCO working group web page update
- Food newsletter

EFSA's Scientific Committee will prepare an overview which will serve as a basis for further discussion on the harmonisation of terms used in risk assessment.

An Article 36 call looked at EFSA opinions adopted between 2007 and 2009 to compare how safety/risks have been expressed.

Adoption expected in Spring 2012.

Communication activities:

- Web news story (tbc)
- EFSANews

Consultation on policy on Independence & Scientific decision-making processes



The screenshot shows the EFSA website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with language options (de, en, fr, it) and a search bar. Below the navigation bar is a main menu with categories like 'About EFSA', 'News & events', 'Publications', 'Panels & units', 'Cooperation', 'Calls & consultations', 'Applications helpdesk', and 'Topics A-Z'. The 'News & events' category is highlighted. The main content area displays a news article titled 'EFSA closes public consultation of its independence policy with constructive stakeholder debate'. The article is dated 'Brussels, 12 October 2011' and includes a video link for a webcast of the meeting. The text of the article describes a meeting where 150 delegates discussed the EFSA draft policy on independence and scientific decision-making processes. A sidebar on the left contains links to 'Press releases & news stories', 'Newsletters', 'Events', 'Speeches', 'FAQs', and 'Press contacts'. A 'See also' section on the right lists related links such as 'Executive Director homepage', 'Independence', and 'News story: EFSA to hold consultative workshop with stakeholders on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes'.

de en fr it

efsa
European Food Safety Authority
Committed to ensuring that Europe's food is safe

Search site Go

About EFSA News & events Publications Panels & units Cooperation Calls & consultations Applications helpdesk Topics A-Z

Home > News & events > Events > EFSA closes public consultation of its ind...  Print

Press releases & news stories
Newsletters
► Events
Speeches
FAQs
Press contacts

EFSA closes public consultation of its independence policy with constructive stakeholder debate

Brussels, 12 October 2011

 **Video** [Webcast of the meeting](#)

More than 150 delegates gathered in Brussels on 12 October to discuss the European Food Safety Authority's (EFSA) draft policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes. A broad spectrum of participants attended the event where everyone shared the same objective: how to ensure EFSA provides the highest calibre of scientific advice while remaining independent.

In his address, John Dalli, European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy recognised the efforts that EFSA has made over the years to ensure that the Authority is independent: *"I can underline that over the years the independence provisions have been strengthened considerably and have contributed significantly to the fact that EFSA's reputation is one of a truly independent body offering solid scientific advice."* Commissioner Dalli then continued: *"EFSA's rigorous scientific output has been the very backbone of many of our legislative initiatives. It has also been the basis of our risk management decisions, some of which have dealt with very serious threats to the food chain – the recent E. coli crisis being a very good example."*

See also

- » Executive Director homepage
- » Independence
- » News story: EFSA to hold consultative workshop with stakeholders on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes

- 2012 – 10-year anniversary of General Food Law and establishment of EFSA
- Opportunity to integrate/reference in EFSA activities throughout the year (as well as EFSA's move to its new Seat)
- Milestones include:
 - 28 January launch (press release); dedicated web area
 - Joint events with Member States
 - Schuman Day/Festa dell'Europa (May)
 - Events with institutional partners (eg EP event)
 - 2-day scientific conference in New Seat (Nov)
 - etc...



Zoonoses thematic approach: update & next steps

- Communicate the benefits, results, impact of EFSA's work over time
- Move focus from individual outputs to "key issues"
 - ⇒ Integrating all outputs in a given area but focusing on those which provide "news" value
- More effective use of website to better explain overall work and structure thematic approach (e.g. new topics and sub-topics)
- New tools (eg fact sheets, videos, leaflets with MS...)

Zoonoses: Yesterday

Rabies

What is it?

Why important?

E. coli



Campylobacter

Vector-borne

Deadly?

Dangerous?

What: EFSA Role?

Listeriose



BSE

MS Role?



Rabies

Not Important?

Salmonella

Close contact

Food-borne Q Fever

Anti-microbial resistance?

Harmless?

Brucellosis

Clostridium



How transmitted?

Cysticercus

ECDC Role?

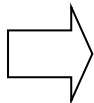
Rabies

How: EFSA helps

Trichinella

ZOONOTIC DISEASES

Overview topic page with access to all related topics regarding zoonoses



Food-borne zoonotic diseases

Campylobacter

Salmonella

Listeria (as part of zoonoses monitoring)

Food-borne viruses (as part of zoonoses monitoring)

Parasites in food

Monitoring and analysis of food-borne diseases

BSE (sub-topic of TSEs)

Non-food borne zoonotic diseases

Vector-borne zoonotic diseases

Avian influenza

Q-fever

MRSA (subtopic of antimicrobial resistance)

Focal areas and upcoming main outputs 2011-2013

Key focal areas:

2011-2012

Salmonella

Antimicrobial resistance

2013 ->

Listeria

Campylobacter

General thematic material

- **Zoonoses topics** package on website – published in October 2011
- **Zoonoses fact sheets** (distribution, events, website) - available
- **Joint zoonoses event** at European Parliament (EFSA, DG SANCO, ECDC) – 10 October 2011
- **Understanding science videos** on zoonotic diseases – January 2012
- **EFSA's 10 year anniversary**

EU Summary Report on zoonoses and food-borne outbreaks 2010

The EFSA-ECDC annual EU Summary Report on zoonoses, zoonotic micro-organisms and food-borne outbreaks will be published in spring 2012.

Communication activities:

- Press release
- Update of web topics in zoonoses package
- All newsletters

EFSA explains ZOOTIC DISEASES FOOD-BORNE ZOOSES



What are zoonoses?

Zoonoses are infections or diseases that can be transmitted directly or indirectly between animals and humans, for instance by consuming contaminated foodstuffs or through contact with infected animals.

Research indicates that between one third and one half of all human infectious diseases have a zoonotic origin, that is, are transmitted from animals. About 25% of the new diseases that have affected humans over the past 10 years (such as the West Nile virus) are of zoonotic origin.

Food-borne zoonoses are a significant and widespread public health threat. More than 320,000 human cases are confirmed in the European Union each year, but the real number is likely to be much higher.

Human salmonella cases were reduced by almost one-half from 2004 to 2008 thanks to the coordinated action of all EU actors.

The European Food Safety Authority's independent scientific advice on the food safety and animal health-related aspects of zoonotic diseases supported by data collected in Member States help European decision-makers in setting policies and making decisions to protect consumers from this public health threat.

"Europe's integrated approach to combating zoonoses by monitoring on animals contributes to the protection of the citizens with other zoonoses impacting on human health, such as the presence of these micro-organisms in food."



EFSA explains ZOOTIC DISEASES

Campylobacter

What is *Campylobacter*?

Campylobacter is a bacterium that can cause an illness called campylobacteriosis in humans. With over 190,000 human cases annually, this disease is the most frequently reported food-borne illness in the European Union (EU). However, the actual number of cases is believed to be around nine million each year. The cost of campylobacteriosis to public health systems and to lost productivity in the EU is estimated by EFSA to be around EUR 2.4 billion a year.

Raw poultry meat is often contaminated with *Campylobacter* since the bacterium can live in the intestines of healthy birds. It is also found in pigs and cattle. Eating undercooked chicken, or ready-to-eat foods that have been in contact with raw chicken, is the most common source of infection.

EFSA explains ZOOTIC DISEASES

Zoonotic *E. coli*

What is zoonotic *E. coli*?

Escherichia coli (*E. coli*) is a bacterium that is found in the gastrointestinal tract of humans and most warm-blooded animals, and which is part of the normal flora. However, some *E. coli* strains can cause diseases and lead to serious complications that can be fatal. A virulent, rare strain of VTEC known as O157 identified as the source of the *E. coli* outbreaks that struck Germany and France in spring and summer of 2011.

Humans are infected with VTEC by consuming or handling contaminated water or through contact with infected animals. Person-to-person transmission is also possible among close contacts (in families, childcare centres, nursing etc.). A wide variety of food has been implicated in outbreaks, including unpasteurised milk and cheese, undercooked beef and a variety of fresh fruits (such as sprouts, spinach and lettuce).

The main source of such zoonotic infections is cattle. The main source of such zoonotic infections is cattle. The main source of such zoonotic infections is cattle.

EFSA explains ZOOTIC DISEASES

Antimicrobial Resistance

What is antimicrobial resistance?

Antimicrobials, such as antibiotics, are substances used to kill micro-organisms or to stop them from growing and multiplying. They are commonly used in humans and animals to treat a wide variety of infectious diseases.

Antimicrobial resistance refers to the ability of micro-organisms to withstand antimicrobial treatments. A well known example of a bacterium that is resistant to multiple antibiotics is methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA).

The overuse or misuse of antibiotics has been linked to the emergence and spread of micro-organisms that are resistant to them, rendering treatment ineffective and increasing the risk of death.

Many routes. When antimicrobial resistance in animals and food it can compromise the food safety and food quality.

Consumers need to protect themselves from risks both the best control options to reduce such risks. Examining the factors which may lead to antimicrobial resistance in food and animals to provide information.

Access to EU-wide antimicrobial resistance

Support and advice to risk managers on the use of antimicrobials in food and animals. EFSA takes an integrated approach involving a number of its Scientific Panels and other relevant EU agencies such as the European Commission (EC) and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC).



EFSA explains ZOOTIC DISEASES

Salmonella

What is *Salmonella*?

Salmonella is a bacterium that can cause an illness called salmonellosis in humans. In the European Union (EU), over 190,000 human cases are reported each year. EFSA has estimated that the overall economic burden of human salmonellosis could be as high as EUR 3 billion a year.

Salmonella is commonly found in the intestines of healthy birds and mammals. In foods, it is most frequently found in eggs and raw meat from pigs, turkeys and chickens. It can spread to humans through contaminated foods.

Usual symptoms of human salmonellosis include fever, diarrhoea and abdominal cramps. If it affects the bloodstream it can be life-threatening. Safe handling of raw meat and other raw food ingredients, thorough cooking and good kitchen hygiene can prevent or reduce the risk posed by contaminated food.

How EFSA supports the EU's fight against *Salmonella*

The European Food Safety Authority provides independent scientific support and advice through the collection and analysis of data on the prevalence of *Salmonella* in animals and foods as well as by assessing the food safety risks posed by the bacterium for human health and advising on possible control and mitigation options. EFSA findings are used by risk managers in the EU and the Member States to help inform policy, and to support the setting of possible reduction targets for *Salmonella* in the food chain.

EU-wide surveys on prevalence of *Salmonella*

To ascertain the original situation, EFSA produces EU wide baseline surveys on the prevalence of *Salmonella* in food and food-producing animals, including chickens, turkeys and pigs, and on the risk factors that contribute to the prevalence of *Salmonella* in animal populations and in food. The findings are used by risk assessors such as EFSA's Panel on Biological Hazards to provide risk estimates and also by risk managers to define possible control options and/or reduction targets.

Risk assessment and recommendations

EFSA's Panel on Biological Hazards evaluates the food safety risks of *Salmonella* and provides scientific advice on control options at the request of risk managers or on its own initiative. EFSA also assesses the impact of setting new EU-wide reduction targets for *Salmonella* in various animals. This work helps the European Commission and the Member States to monitor the situation and consider possible reviews of reduction targets set for *Salmonella* in the food chain.

EFSA is assisted in its work by the Scientific Panel on Biological Hazards composed of 21 independent experts on biological hazards in the food chain and by the Task Force on Zoonoses Data Collection, a pan-European network of national representatives of EU Member States, other reporting countries, as well as the World Health Organisation (WHO) and World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

Annual monitoring of *Salmonella* in animals and food to measure progress
EU wide data on the prevalence of *Salmonella* in the food chain as well as the prevalence of animal and human infections is collected and analysed in annual EU Summary Reports prepared by EFSA and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC).

WHAT ARE ZOOSES?

Zoonoses are infections or diseases that can be transmitted directly or indirectly between animals and humans, for instance by consuming contaminated foodstuffs or through contact with infected animals.

FoodWorld Just another WordPress.com site

HOME ABOUT



← FDA – Starts Testing Pet Food

Salmonella Contamination of

Paan/Betel Leaves →

European Food Safety Authority Fact Sheets

Posted on November 4, 2011 | 1 Comment

You may find one or more of these fact sheets from the EFSA useful. They are quite brief and relatively easy to digest.

[Campylobacter](#)

[Salmonella](#)

[Antimicrobial Resistance](#)

ARCHIVES

Select Month

EMAIL SUBSCRIPTION

Enter your email address to subscribe to this blog and receive notifications of new posts by email.

Join 34 other followers

Sign me up!

Applications helpdesk web area



The screenshot shows the EFSA website's 'Applications helpdesk' section. The header features the EFSA logo and the tagline 'Committed to ensuring that Europe's food is safe'. A navigation bar includes links for 'About EFSA', 'News & events', 'Topics A-Z', 'Publications', 'Panels & units', 'Cooperation', 'Applications helpdesk' (highlighted with a red box), and 'Calls & consultations'. Below the navigation bar, a search bar and a 'Go' button are visible. The main content area is titled 'Applications helpdesk – support for scientific evaluation of regulated products'. It contains a paragraph about EFSA's work, a section for 'See also' with links to 'Workflow for scientific opinions' and 'Organisational structure 2011', and a list of topics for application: 'Animal by-products', 'Decontamination', 'Feed additives', 'Food contact materials', 'Food ingredients', 'Food processing', 'GMO', 'Nutrition', 'Pesticides', and 'Ask a question'. A sidebar on the left lists the same topics. The footer includes 'Copyright EFSA', 'RSS feeds', 'Sitemap', 'Legal notice', 'Extranet login', and 'Contact us'.

de en fr it

efsa
European Food Safety Authority

Search site Go

About EFSA News & events Topics A-Z Publications Panels & units Cooperation **Applications helpdesk** Calls & consultations

Home > Applications helpdesk

Animal by-products
Decontamination
Feed additives

Applications helpdesk – support for scientific evaluation of regulated products

A growing part of EFSA's work relates to the safety assessment of regulated products, substances and claims submitted for authorisation in the European Union (EU). EFSA does not grant market authorisation but rather provides independent scientific advice and a solid scientific foundation to the market authorisation decisions taken by EU Member States and the European Commission.

Work in relation to the scientific evaluation of regulated product applications is carried out by its panels of independent experts and by the experts working in EFSA's scientific units. Most of these units are grouped under the Scientific Evaluation of Regulated Products (REPRO) Directorate.

From November 2011, the Applications Helpdesk acts as a front office and support desk for applicants, EU Member States and other stakeholders who have questions regarding applications. In the future, it will be responsible within EFSA for centralising and processing the initial administrative steps of all applications (including reception, registration and verifying the administrative completeness of the application in the submitted application).

Question about applications

If you have any questions, such as how to make an application, what the legal framework is or what the requirements for submissions are, please read the dedicated Frequently Asked Questions regarding applications in the following scientific areas:

- Animal by-products
- Decontamination substances
- Feed additives
- Food contact materials
- Food ingredients
- Food processing
- GMOs
- Nutrition
- Pesticides

See also

- Workflow for scientific opinions
- Organisational structure 2011

Animal by-products
Decontamination
Feed additives
Food contact materials
Food ingredients
Food processing
GMO
Nutrition
Pesticides
Ask a question

Copyright EFSA

RSS feeds | Sitemap | Legal notice | Extranet login | Contact us

Applications helpdesk web area



European Food Safety Authority
Committed to ensuring that Europe's food is safe

de en fr it

Search site Go

About EFSANews & eventsTopics A-ZPublicationsPanels & unitsCooperationApplications helpdeskCalls & consultations

Home > Applications helpdesk > GMO

Print

Animal by-products
Decontamination
Feed additives
Food contact materials
Food ingredients
Food processing
► GMO
Guidance documents
Nutrition
Pesticides
Ask a question

GMO applications

EFSA provides scientific advice on the safety evaluation of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and their use as food or feed and/or for cultivation. This includes GM plants, GM microorganisms and GM animals.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. I have submitted a GMO application for safety evaluation by EFSA. How can I check the status of my application?
2. I am not sure if my GMO requires authorisation. Who should I contact?
3. Is there an official list of all authorised GMOs?
4. I am a new applicant. How do I prepare an application?
5. Are the requirements for applicants the same for all GMO evaluations?
6. What happens to my application when EFSA has received it?
7. How does EFSA assess an application?
8. How long does EFSA's evaluation take?
9. Do I need to pay?
10. Does EFSA authorise GMOs?
11. Short cuts for applicants

1. I have submitted a GMO dossier for evaluation by EFSA. How can I check the status of my application?

All applications received and accepted by EFSA are given an application number and assigned an EFSA Question number (e.g. EFSA-Q-2009-12345) in the [Register of Questions \(ROQ\)](#) once the mandate is received from the European Commission. In the ROQ, applicants can monitor the status and progress of EFSA's scientific work related to their applications. To find an application in the ROQ, click on the 'Question' option in the top menu of the ROQ, then in the 'Question type' field select 'Application' and select the relevant 'Food sector area' (there are four options for GMO applications). You can then search using key words or a Question number if you know it. After locating your application, the 'Status' column indicates the present stage of the evaluation. When a question is 'Finished', an opinion has been adopted by EFSA's Panel on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) and is scheduled for publication within a few days. Once the opinion is published, it is available via the 'View' link. Further information: [ROQ User Guide](#)

See also

- [Genetically Modified Organisms homepage](#)
- [Genetically modified animals homepage](#)

Applications helpdesk web area



European Food Safety Authority
Committed to ensuring that Europe's food is safe

de en fr it

[About EFSA](#) [News & events](#) [Topics A-Z](#) [Publications](#) [Panels & units](#) [Cooperation](#) [Applications helpdesk](#) [Calls & consultations](#)

[Home](#) > [Applications helpdesk](#) > [GMO](#) > [Guidance documents](#)

[Animal by-products](#)
[Decontamination](#)
[Feed additives](#)
[Food contact materials](#)
[Food ingredients](#)
[Food processing](#)
[GMO](#)
► Guidance documents
[Nutrition](#)
[Pesticides](#)
[Ask a question](#)

GMO applications – guidance documents

EFSA has prepared several guidance documents for the risk assessment of GMOs and derived food and feed. These documents detail the type of scientific data that applicants must include in GMO applications and outline the approach followed by the GMO Panel in the evaluation of the risk assessment. EFSA regularly updates its guidance documents and therefore applicants are reminded to ensure that they use the latest version of these documents.

There are **six main guidance documents** that should be used by applicants when compiling technical dossiers in support of GMO applications to be submitted to EFSA:

- Risk assessment of food and feed from GM plants (2011)
- Environmental risk assessment of GM plants (2010)
- Guidance on the submission of applications for authorisation of GM food and feed and GM plants for food and feed (2011)
- Risk assessment of GM microorganisms and their products intended for food and feed use (2011)
- Risk assessment of GM plants used for non-food or non-feed purposes (2009)
- Renewal of authorisations of existing GMO products (2006)

The first two documents, compiling all relevant information from earlier EFSA documents on different aspects of GMO risk assessment, provide a comprehensive overview of the principles and data requirements for food and/or feed and environmental risk assessment, respectively.

The third document – submission guidance – provides instructions to applicants on how to prepare and present data in an application to be submitted to EFSA.

Please note, the above current guidance documents **replace** the following previous guidance documents:

- Working document GM plants and plant protection products interplay (2008)
- Guidance document on stacked transformation events (2007)
- Guidance on risk assessment of GM plants and derived food and feed (2006)
- Risk assessment of GM microorganisms and their derived products intended for food and feed use (2006)

In addition, EFSA has published several other documents which support the current guidance documents and/or provide additional information.

- Guidance on the selection of comparators (2011)
- Opinion on statistical considerations including field trials (2010)
- Opinion on the assessment of allergenicity of GM plants and microorganisms (2010)
- Opinion on potential impacts on non-target organisms (2010)
- Report on animal feeding trials (2008)
- Guidance on Post-market environmental monitoring (PMEM) of GM plants (2011)

Copyright EFSA

 [RSS feeds](#) | [Sitemap](#) | [Legal notice](#) | [Extranet login](#) | [Contact us](#)

Applications helpdesk web area



European Food Safety Authority
Committed to ensuring that Europe's food is safe

de en fr it

About EFSANews & eventsTopics A-ZPublicationsPanels & unitsCooperationApplications helpdeskCalls & consultations

Home > Applications helpdesk > GMO

Animal by-productsDecontaminationFeed additivesFood contact materialsFood ingredientsFood processingGMOGuidance documentsNutritionPesticidesAsk a question

GMO applications

EFSA provides scientific advice on the safety evaluation of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and their use as food or feed and/or for cultivation. This includes GM plants, GM microorganisms and GM animals.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. I have submitted a GMO application for safety evaluation by EFSA. How can I check the status of my application?
2. I am not sure if my GMO requires authorisation. Who should I contact?
3. Is there an official list of all authorised GMOs?
4. I am a new applicant. How do I prepare an application?
5. Are the requirements for applicants the same for all GMO evaluations?
6. What happens to my application when EFSA has received it?
7. How does EFSA assess an application?
8. How long does EFSA's evaluation take?
9. Do I need to pay?
10. Does EFSA authorise GMOs?
11. Short cuts for applicants


1. I have submitted a GMO dossier of my application?

All applications received and accepted by EFSA are assigned a unique EFSA Question number (e.g. EFSA-Q-2013-0001). Once the EFSA Question number is received from the European Commission, the status and progress of EFSA's scientific evaluation can be followed on the EFSA website. To access the ROQ, click on the 'Question' option in the left-hand menu, select 'Application' and select the relevant application(s). You can then search using the EFSA Question number, or by locating your application, the 'Status' of the application. If the application question is 'Finished', an opinion has been adopted by EFSA's Panel on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) and is scheduled for publication within a few days. Once the opinion is published, it is available via the 'View' link. Further information: ROQ User Guide

Ask a question about applications

I have carefully checked both the administrative guidance and the technical guidance documents and I still have a question related to my application – what should I do?

Applications helpdesk web area



European Food Safety Authority
Committed to ensuring that Europe's food is safe

de en fr it

[About EFSA](#) [News & events](#) [Topics A-Z](#) [Publications](#) [Panels & units](#) [Cooperation](#) **[Applications helpdesk](#)** [Calls & consultations](#)

[Home](#) > [Applications helpdesk](#) > [Ask a question](#)

[Animal by-products](#)
[Decontamination](#)
[Feed additives](#)
[Food contact materials](#)
[Food ingredients](#)
[Food processing](#)
[GMO](#)
[Nutrition](#)
[Pesticides](#)
[Ask a question](#)

Ask a question about applications

Email*

First name

Last name

Affiliation

Name of organisation

Country

Scientific area*

Subject*

Application registration number


Your question*

* Mandatory field


Copyright EFSA

 [RSS feeds](#) | [Sitemap](#) | [Legal notice](#) | [Extranet login](#) | [Contact us](#)

Applications helpdesk web area




European Food Safety Authority
Committed to ensuring that Europe's food is safe



de en fr it

Search site Go

About EFSA News & events Topics A-Z Publications Panels & units Cooperation **Applications helpdesk** Calls & consultations

Home > Applications helpdesk > Ask a question  Print

- Animal by-products
- Decontamination
- Feed additives
- Food contact materials
- Food ingredients
- Food processing
- GMO
- Nutrition
- Pesticides
- Ask a question

Ask a question about applications

Thank you for your interest in the European Food Safety Authority. We do our best to answer all questions within 15 working days and are normally able to respond in a shorter period.



**Risk Communications Guidelines:
A joint initiative between
EFSA & Advisory Forum
Communications WG (AFCWG)**

Why do we think the guidelines will be valuable?

- Facilitate consistency in risk communications approaches across Europe
- Partly for simple shared learning and development
- But also to underpin how we operate with a stronger understanding of how we communicate on risk, how we explain different types of risk, different levels of risk, different groups affected by risk etc
- And what channels and tools are appropriate for different audiences and types of risks

- Openness
- Transparency
- Independence
- Responsiveness / timeliness

- Publishing all key documents
- Understandable and usable communications
- Timely communications
- Dialogue between risk assessors and risk managers
- Dialogue with stakeholders, understanding audiences
- Acknowledging and communicating uncertainty

Factors impacting on levels and types of communications

- Aim is to cover all main issues from basic public health risk, through risk perception issues, through who is affected etc etc
- Approach offers a menu of factors to consider – some always applicable, some occasionally - when reaching decisions on communications

Levels of risk from a communications perspective

- None / negligible
- Low
- Medium
- High
- Unknown

Uncertainty can be associated with each level

- Who is affected
- The nature of the hazard/substance
- Levels of exposure to the hazard/risk
- How people / plants / animals are affected
- Ability to control the risk
- Other factors related to risk perception

- Low level impact / interest
- Medium level impact / interest
- High level impact / interest

- Media relations
- Printed & digital publications
- Meetings & workshops
- Partner/stakeholder networks
- Public consultations
- Websites
- Social networking
- Blogging
- Microblogging

- Animal Cloning (EFSA)
- Zoonoses (EFSA)
- Salt Campaign (UK)
- Food colours: Southampton Study (UK)
- Q-Fever (NL)
- Fortodol (SWE)
- Dioxin crisis (IRE)
- (EHEC to be added in 2012)

- Academic literature
- Practical Guides
- AFCWG to complete with MS-level initiatives

- Incorporate Advisory Forum feedback
- Finalise content by written procedure with AFCWG
- Further consultation with EFSA's Advisory Group on Risk Communications
- Final document to be published early 2012
- Creation of a AFCWG TF for annual review & identification of case studies
- Creation of a feedback mechanism for practitioners to provide input in guideline initiative
- Stakeholder outreach
- Speaking platforms where appropriate

THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS?

