

AF. 6/7 March 2003

## National Agencies info note



## European Food Safety Authority

### National Agencies and Food Administrations

(NB. In all MSs, including those with new agencies, there are still Ministries of Agriculture or Health responsible for certain aspects covered by the EFSA. There is no one pattern for national agencies, some cover risk management, communication and risk assessment, some risk assessment, risk management, or controls only. In addition there are differences in the parts of the food chain covered. For example, few dealing with food safety at the retail level also deal with primary production or pesticides or the range of matters covered by the EFSA in relation to GMOs)

Member State	Responsibilities
Belgium	<b>L'Agence fédérale pour la Sécurité de la Chaîne alimentaire (AFSCA)</b> since 2000; regroups control activities, Scientific advice (but limited) and communication to general public ; no management of legislation
Italy	<b>Istituto Superiore de la Sanita</b> . Independent body advises Ministry of Health. Risk assessment and Risk communication, scientific research. Plans for a broader agency in the past but not so far under this government.
France	<b>Agence française de sécurité sanitaire des aliments (AFSSA)</b> formed in 1999. Primarily risk assessment and communication. Accountable to Ministries of Agriculture, and Consumer Affairs and Health. Not RAS. Website for more details <a href="http://www.afssa.fr">www.afssa.fr</a>
United Kingdom	<b>Food Standards Agency</b> since 1999. Answerable to a Management Board. Risk assessment, control (policy and actual enforcement), Rapid Alert System, risk communication and management. Codex Alimentarius and other international work. Reports ultimately to Minister of Health. Website for more details <a href="http://www.foodstandards.gov.uk">www.foodstandards.gov.uk</a>
Ireland	<b>The Food Safety Authority of Ireland</b> , formed in 1999, is a science based, consumer protection, agency accountable to the Minister of Health. It is involved in risk assessment, risk communication and risk management. It co-ordinates enforcement of food legislation via service contracts, for a standard and level of food safety activity, with the range of agencies and Government Departments that are responsible for supervising different segments of the food chain and which together make up the National Inspectorate. Website for more details <a href="http://www.fsai.ie">www.fsai.ie</a>
Spain	<b>Agencia de Seguridad Alimentaria (AES)</b> . Agency established by law 11/2001 of July 2001. Responsibilities : promote co-ordination of food safety administrations, co-ordination in crises, planning and co-ordination of the control activities, central point of reference for the assessment of food risks. Will be the contact point of the EFSA. Does not seem to be operational.
Portugal	AQSA, is the newly formed (2003) <b>Portuguese Agency for Quality and Food Safety</b> , which is responsible for risk assessment and risk communication.
Lux	Ministère de la Santé, Lab National de Santé. Risk management, control, risk assessment, surveillance research, RAS.
Germany	<b>New Federal Agency: BVL</b> (Bundesamt für Verbraucherschutz und Lebensmittelsicherheit) coordination and risk management only; BVL will be the EFSA interlocutor.
NL	Since 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2004, the <b>Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (VWA)</b> comes formally under the Ministry for Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, but the VWA still fulfills an important advisory task for the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport. The main tasks of the VWA are risk assessment, scientific research and risk communication activities. For the activities considering Inspection, the VWA has two subsidiary companies: the Inspectorate for Health Protection and Veterinary Public Health and the National Inspection Service for Livestock and Meat. With RAS.
Denmark	<b>Danish Veterinary and Food Administration</b> formed 1997. Part of MFAF. Responsible for regulations, co-ordination, research and development controls and risk communication. RAS.

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Finland	<p><b>National Food Agency (NFA)</b> directs, plans and develops food control in Finland. Responsible for risk management and risk communication and meat inspection. The municipal control authorities conduct food control. NFA is subordinate to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry MAF. Performance targets are set to the NFA annually also by the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health.</p> <p>- A new food control authority will be created in 2006 (NFA, The Plant Production Inspection Centre KTTK and National Veterinary and Food Research Institute EELA unite).</p>
Sweden	<p><b>National Food Administration (NFA)</b>, connected to Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, has the following mission: safe food, fair trade and healthy eating habits. Tasks: Risk assessments, scientific advice (internal and external), RASFF, food regulations, food control and communication.</p>
Greece	<p>The <b>Hellenic Food Authority (EFET)</b> is a <i>new science based Authority</i> that functions since 2000 as Legal Entity of Public sector, under the responsibility of the Ministry of Development and its mission is the assurance of a high level of protection of human health and consumer's interests.</p> <p>One of its <i>primary responsibilities</i> is the implementation of an integrated and coherent official food control system after primary production, applied by the local authorities coordinated and, supervised by EFET's Regional Directorates, so as to amplify its efficiency and ensure its consistency.</p> <p>The Authority has got enforcement powers and is responsible to ensure compliance of food establishments to food safety and quality standards. It establishes policies and sets standards to the safety and nutritional quality of food and ensure that consumers and all the interested parties have access to objective and reliable information for issues relevant to food safety and nutritional policy.</p> <p>Its second main competency is relevant to the scientific assessment of food and nutritional risk factors, by the Scientific Committee of Food Control, involving monitoring and research programs in cooperation with a net of specified laboratories, Universities and Research Institutions, as well as the issue of scientific opinions.</p> <p>The Hellenic Food Authority will be the contact point for EFSA and for more information you can visit our website: <a href="http://www.efet.gr">www.efet.gr</a></p>
Austria	<p>In Austria the Ministry for social security and generations is responsible for food legislation and coordination of the food inspection services of the nine districts ("Bundesländer"), the <b>Agency for Health and Nutrition Safety (Österreichische Agentur für Gesundheit und Ernährungssicherheit)</b> and food investigation laboratories of three districts (Wien, Vorarlberg und Kärnten). In the Agency for Health and Nutrition Safety all existing capacities on federal level for food and feed investigation, for feed control, for the approval of pesticides and for scientific advice are summarized.</p> <p>The ministry responsible for feed and pesticides is the Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry, Environment and Water Management.</p>
Norway	<p>- New <b>Norwegian Food Safety Authority (Mattilsynet)</b> from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2004. The new organization will be responsible for risk management such as rules and regulations, enforcement, control, information, guidance and communication with all interested parties (producers, importers, retailers, consumers, etc.) The new Authority is under the administration of the Ministry of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Fisheries.</p> <p>- Risk assessment will be the responsibility of the new independent <b>Norwegian Scientific Committee for Food Safety (Vitenskapskomiteen for Mattrygghet, VKM)</b> which will be appointed by the Ministry of Health within a few weeks. The structure of the committee will be similar to the EFSA system with 8 scientific groups and a Head committee experience. A <b>secretariat</b> of 12 persons with scientific and communication background will assist the committee in scientific and practical matters and will be responsible for open and transparent risk communication to and from the committee.</p>