

# Early Identification of Emerging Risks – Key elements from the work of the EFSA Scientific Committee

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## What I will address

- **EFSA's responsibility and challenges**
- **Scientific Committee Work**
- **Scientific Committee Recommendations**
- **Role of EFSA's Advisory Forum, Stakeholder Consultative Platform**
- **Cooperation with competent organisations (Art 36 of 178/2002)**
- **Way forward**

# Emerging Risks

## EFSA's Responsibility

**“The Authority shall establish monitoring procedures for systematically searching for, collecting, collating and analysing information and data with a view to the identification of emerging risks in the fields within its mission”**

**(Art 34(1) of 178/2002)**

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# Emerging Risks

## Working Definition

**Issue which may pose in the future a risk to the health of the consumer, animals or the environment**

**May relate to a significant exposure to a hazard not recognised earlier or to a new/ increased exposure to a known hazard (re-emerging risk)**

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## Building EFSA's capability to identify and evaluate emerging risks

### *Current Challenges*

- Collection of information from many sources
- Analysis of the information
- Prediction of emerging risks

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## Work conducted by the Scientific Committee

- To advise on a system to identify emerging risks
- To advise on a procedure for evaluation and prioritisation of identified issues
- To support the Authority in establishing a network of key sources to systematically collect information on emerging risks
- To advise on an operational system for maintaining appropriate contacts within such a network

(EFSA Mandate, 18 Feb 2004)

# Work conducted by the Scientific Committee

- EFSA Service Contract EFSA/SC/Tender/01/2004 "Forming a Global System for Identifying Food-Related Emerging Risks – EMRISK", coordinated by the Dutch Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (VWA) **published 20 July 2006**
- SC Opinion on Emerging Risks adopted on 4 July, **published 20 July 2006**

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## Forming a Global System for Identifying Food-related Emerging Risks – VWA Final Report

- [Annex 1 \(First interim activity report EMRISK\)](#)
- [Appendix 1 to annex 1 \(Guidance Document Case Analysis\)](#)
- [Appendix 2 to annex 1 \(Analysis of FP 6 Projects\)](#)
- [Annex 2 \(First interim activity report EMRISK: Identification & Analysis of key sources of information\)](#)
- [Annex 3 \(Options to create a pre-early warning system; proposed practice \(including search engines\)\)](#)
- [Annex 4 \(Handling indicators and signals\)](#)
- [Annex 5 \(List of an initial set of key indicators and key sources of information\)](#)
- [Annex 6 \(Report; interview with Dr. A. Mawudeku of GPHIN\)](#)
- [Annex 7 \(Report; visit to SDE/FOS department of WHO, Geneva\)](#)

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# SC Opinion on Emerging Risks

## *Partners and sources of information*

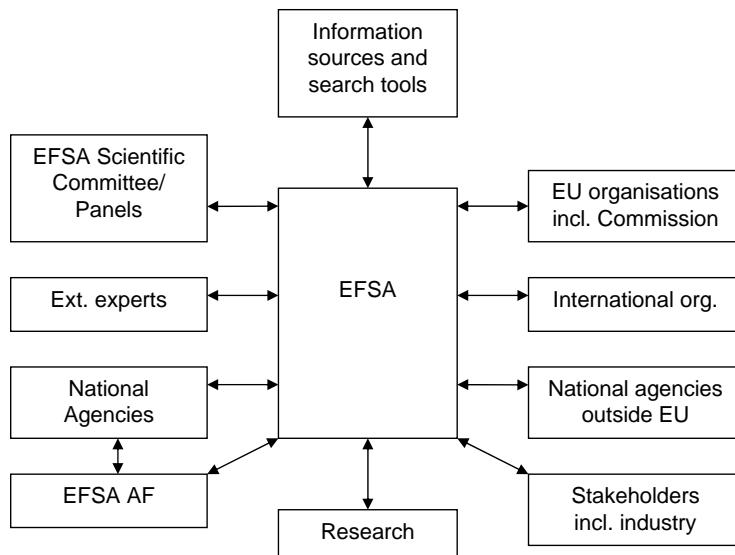
- **Scientific literature**
- **Members of SP/SC and their WGs and EFSA staff**
- **Advisory Forum**
- **Stakeholder Consultative Platform**
- **Organisations Art 36**
- **Food Agencies outside EU (e.g. US FDA, US EPA, Health Canada, Japan Food Safety Committee, FSANZ...)**
- **DG-Research projects**
- **EU (e.g. non-food SCs, EMEA, ECDC, EEA, Eurostat ...), Chairs' meeting**
- **International organisations (WHO, OIE, FAO, ILSI, ...)**
- ✓ **Accessibility to relevant information**
- ✓ **Quality and related evaluation of the information**

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## Most important links (short-term)



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# SC Opinion on Emerging Risks

## *Systems for the identification of emerging risks*

- Identification and monitoring of parameters/indicators that are remotely and often indirectly connected to the food and feed chain
- Evaluation of indicators
- *Early warning or horizon scanning systems*

✓ Resource demanding, collaboration with organisations with a similar interest needed

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## Some examples of programmes and tools for identification of Emerging Risks

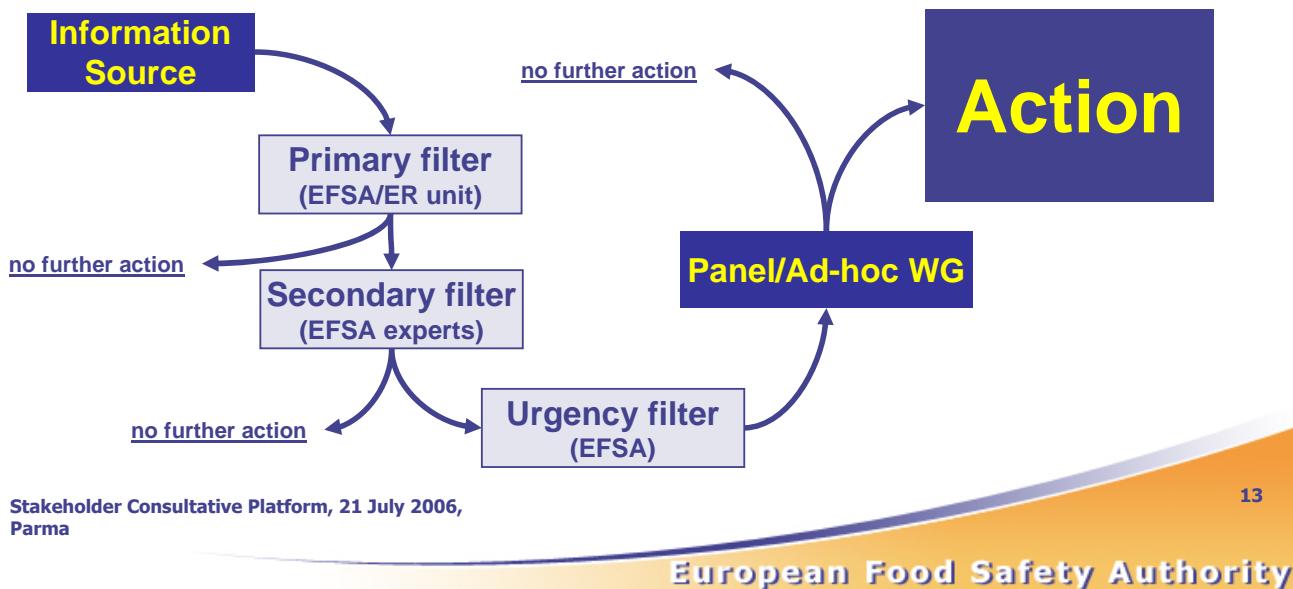
- **GPHIN** *Public Health Agency of Canada*
- **INFOSAN** *International Food Safety Authorities Network (WHO)*
- **Pathfinder** *Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health Centers for Emerging Issues*
- **GOARN** *Global Outbreak and Alert and Response Network (WHO)*
- **GLEWS** *Global Early Warning and Response System*

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## Proposed procedure for the handling of a signal indicating an emerging risk (short-term)



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### *Recommendations (1)*

- **Gradual development process**
- **Use of smaller collaborative networks rather than all information in one network**
- **Establish ER resources within EFSA to initiate and ensure co-ordination**
- **Build links initially to internal EFSA resources (SC, Panels, AF, SES-zoonoses, pesticides residues)**
- **Involve Member States National Agencies**

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## *Recommendations (2)*

- Establish an ad hoc WG under the umbrella of the Stakeholder Consultative platform –Stakeholder network
- Establish bilateral contacts and co-operations with institutions already active
- Organise a workshop to discuss systems currently in use and future networking
- Establish transparent rules on how the information is to be treated and released
- Establish contacts with food related research activities (fast information transfer)

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## *Recommendations (3)*

- Build a database to store and retrieve the evaluated information (validation, repeated signals, refinement filters)
- Identify useful information sources and tools based on experience of other organisations and VWA report
- Initially use of most useful indicators (selection in experts consultations), larger number of indicators in the long term
- Create a roster of experts willing to support in the assessment and judgement of the information

# Role of the Advisory Forum in ER

<b>MEMBERS:</b>	National bodies with a similar role as EFSA
<b>REPRESENTATIVES:</b>	CEO's or Science Directors
<b>FREQUENCY:</b>	4-5 meetings per year
<b>CHAIR:</b>	Executive Director of EFSA
<b>SECRETARIAT:</b>	EFSA, Department of I&I
<b>AGENDA:</b>	ad-hoc subjects, standing matters (a.o. emerging issues)
<b>WG's:</b>	IT, Communications, Input of National Authorities
<b>SPECIFIC ISSUES:</b>	semicarbazide, furan, MeHg, botanicals, marine biotoxins, BSE, nanotechnology, ...

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## Cooperation with competent organisations

**(Article 36 of Regulation 178/2002)**

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# Cooperation under Art. 36

## Background documents

- Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002 of 28 January 2002
- Regulation (EC) No 2230/2004 of 23 December 2004

**Letter of EFSA's ED to the Permanent Representations of EU Member States (27 July 05)**

**Questionnaire to facilitate the designation of organisations by EU Member States**

**All documents (still) available on EFSA's website**

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# Cooperation under Art. 36

## OBJECTIVE

**Establishing *scientific cooperation allowing knowledge to be shared and making optimum use of resources and expertise* by creation of a network with scientific organisations *carrying out tasks which are complementary to those of the Authority***

**(Podger, 27 July 2005)**

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# Conclusion

## State-of-play 2006 And Future plans

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## State-of-Play mid-2006

- EFSA needs to continue with building its ER capability
- Information and data sources shall represent many disciplines and approaches
- A global perspective and a holistic approach is needed
- There will be no single network in emerging risks
- Collaboration unavoidable
- Key factors: « trust » and « incentives » (funds, reciprocity and mutual cooperation)

## Future Plans

- **Consideration of advice from the Scientific Committee and definition of action plans to further build EFSA's ER capability**
- **Definition of projects to be outsourced through the Article 36 network**
- **Launch of calls for scientific and technical support**
- **Creation of (*ad-hoc*) networks in area of collection of occurrence and food consumption data**
- **Participation in selected research platforms relevant for EFSA**

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Thank You !