

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)

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)

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**

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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Partners and sources of information

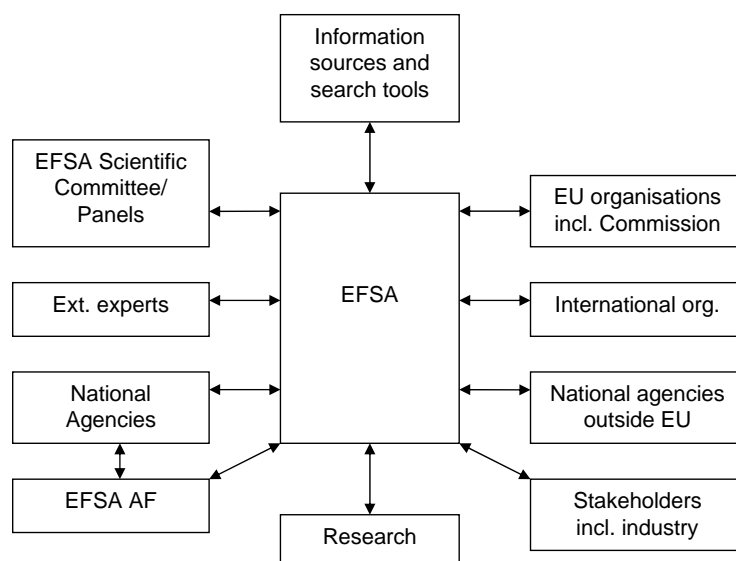
- Scientific literature
- Members of SP/SC and their WGs and EFSA staff
- Advisory Forum
- Stakeholder Consultative Platform
- Organisations Art 36
- Food Agencies outside EU (e.g. US FDA, US EPA, Health Canada, Japan Food Safety Committee, FSANZ...)
- DG-Research projects
- EU (e.g. non-food SCs, EMEA, 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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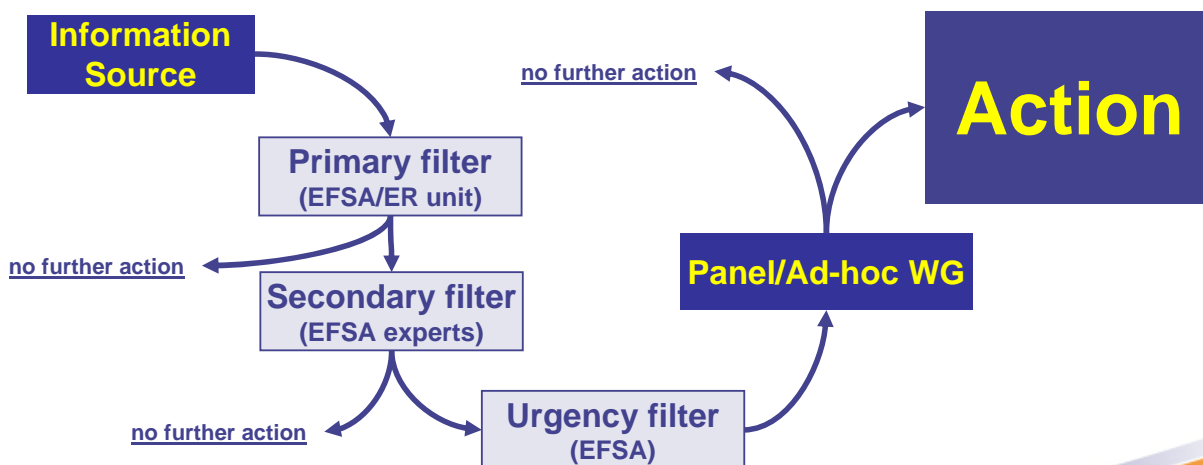
Systems for the identification of emerging risks

- 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

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 |

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

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

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)

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 !

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