Update on EFSA’s strategy for the identification of emerging risks in the food/feed chain

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Article 34
Identification of emerging risks
1. The Authority shall establish monitoring procedures for systematic searching for, collecting, collating and analysing information and data with a view to the identification of emerging risks in the fields within its mission.

Collecting and collating  Analyse and filter  Sharing
**Timeline**

**2006**
- EMRISK Project
- SC Opinion on Emerging Risks

**2007**
- EFSA Adopts Emerging Risk Definition
- ESCO Working Group on Emerging Risks

**2008**
- Emerging Risks Unit
... an emerging risk to human, animal, and/or plant health is understood as a risk resulting from a newly identified hazard to which a significant exposure may occur or from an unexpected new or increased significant exposure and/or susceptibility to a known hazard.

• Food and feed – EMRISK
  – Includes zoonotic agents

• Animal and plant health - AMU
Four timescales

• Preparation for urgent issues
• Urgent! - anticipation of urgent questions (crises) to ESFA (same day – 1 week)
• Medium term – early identification of emerging risks (1 month -1 year)
• Long term – prediction of emerging risks (years)
Overall strategy

• In the process of being finalised ……….

• Relies on three steps:
  – Data collection
    • Soft – media, grey literature
    • Regulatory – RASFF, trade data, compulsory monitoring/surveillance
    • Scientific literature
    • Expert judgement – Panels, Units, Networks, Stakeholders
  – Data analysis, signal detection and filtering
  – Exchange of information
Emerging risks identification system

Data collection

Data analysis, signal detection and filtering

Exchange of information

Database assessment
- Identification of data type
- Identification of data source
- Assessment of data source and development of analysis tools

Primary Filter
Managed by EMRISK Unit, and to include other EFSA units

Secondary Filter
EFSA’s Panels – standing item on the agenda

Recommendation
Monitoring, Data gathering, risk assessment, research ...........

Industry Support Group
Candidates proposed by the SHP

Emerging Risks Exchange Platform
MS, EC and International organisations

* Soft – media, grey literature
Regulatory – RASTT, trade, compulsory Monitoring/surveillance
Scientific literature
Expert judgement – Panels, Units, Networks, Stakeholders
• Initially, largely an expert opinion based approach.
• As signal analysis becomes available, this will be fed into the expert opinion process.
Development of methodology

Develop procedures and best practices for;

- data collection (for emerging risks)
- data analysis
- signal identification, and filtering

For example;
Article 36 call on “Modelling, predicting, and mapping the (re)emergence of aflatoxin B1 in cereals in EU due to climate change”
Current tools under development

• Rapid Alerts
  IT applications for data analysis of the Rapid Alert System for Food & Feed (RASFF) – identify trends and first reporting

• Media monitoring
  European Media Monitor
  - Now screens about **90,000** news articles per day in **50** languages
  - It is fully automatic, 24/7, real-time and updated every 10min

• Trade data
  Eurostat Comext
  UN Comtrade
  - Trends in volumes traded
  - New trading partners
  - New commodities
Next Steps
Setting up working group and formal networks

**Emerging risks collaboration group (primary filter)**
Representatives from EFSA’s scientific units, meeting once per month

**Standing working group**
Representatives from EFSA’s 10 scientific Panels, plus experts on emerging risks methodology (to meet 6 times per year)

**Stakeholders support group**
Stakeholder representatives, proposed through EFSA’s Stakeholders Consultation platform (to meet 3-4 times per year).

**Emerging risks information exchange network**
Representatives from Member States, European Commission, European and International Agencies (to meet 2-3 times per year).
• **Medium term: (ER identification)**
  – Regular monitoring (monthly summaries)
  – Monthly reporting: dealing with a specific emerging risk (Internal)
    • EU imports of fresh/chilled mackerel and *Anisakis*.
  – Annual reporting: Identification of Emerging Risks (External)

• **Long term: (ER prediction)**

Also technical reports on methodology development