Risk Assessment at EFSA:

selection of experts, modus operandi of the Scientific Committee and Panels,

role of the secretariat of the SC/Panels

Dr. Riitta Maijala

EFSA Director of Risk Assessment

EFSA STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIVE PLATFORM

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Scientific Priority Objectives:

- Provide scientific opinions and advice to the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Member States:
  - ✓ Applications
  - ✓ General opinions
  - ✓ Self-tasks
- Enhance risk assessment methodologies and other scientific activities:
  - ✓ Guidance documents
  - ✓ Methodology development

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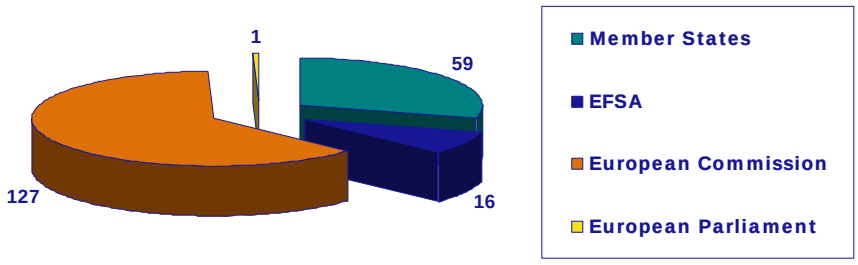
Scientific panels

1. Panel on dietetic products, nutrition and allergies (NDA)
2. Panel on additives, flavourings, processing aids and materials in contact with food (AFC)
3. Panel on contaminants in the food chain (CONTAM)
4. Panel on biological hazards (BIOHAZ)
5. Panel on Animal health and welfare (AHAW)
6. Panel on additives and products or substances used in animal feed (FEEDAP)
7. Panel on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO)
8. Panel on plant protection products and their residues (PPR)
9. Panel on planth health (PLH)

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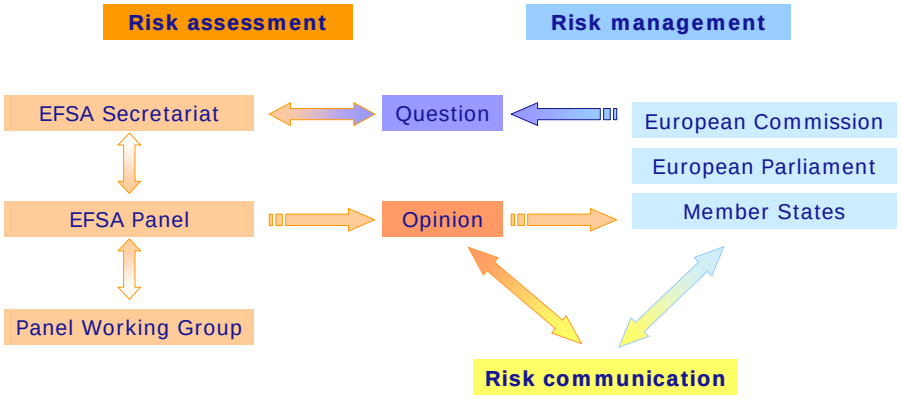
Origin of scientific requests

Origin of requests for 2007



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Scientific opinions of EFSA



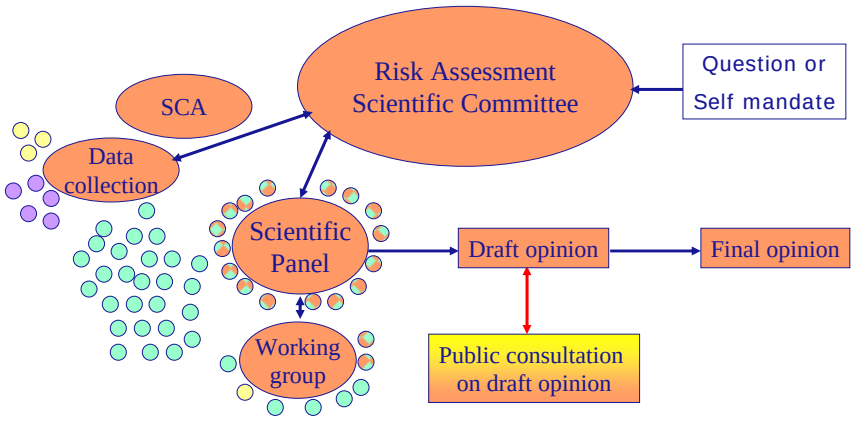
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Important elements in the process of opinions

- Request ⇒ adopted mandate
- Allocation to suitable panel(s)
- Decision by a Panel to use a working group
- Selection of experts to the working group
- Allocation of roles in the working group
- Draft opinion / parts of opinion prepared by working group
- Panel discussions on draft opinion
- Public consultation for some opinions
- Adoption of final opinion by a Panel / Panels / Scientific Committee
- Publication of adopted opinion

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Scientific opinions in EFSA



Scientific community | Industry, producers etc | Other Authorities e.g. ECDC

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Selection of experts for panels

- **Selection of experts for the Scientific Committee and Panels**:
  - Launch of a call for expressions of interest published in the Official Journal, in relevant leading scientific publications and on the EFSA website together with criteria (including DoI)
  - EFSA evaluation team is put together involving senior scientific staff of EFSA
  - Three independent external evaluators
  - EFSA shares shortlist with AF for advice
  - The evaluation team then selects the experts which are proposed to the MB for appointment

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Selection of experts for working groups

- a literature search on the subject
- a web search for experts/expertise sought
- a written request to the Advisory Forum members or Focal Points
- a survey among members of the Scientific Panel, Scientific Committee or EFSA network seeking external experts
- a survey among EFSA scientific staff

- Expert database (under construction)

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Declaration of Interest

- Annual Declaration of Interest (ADoI)
  - Every expert working for EFSA needs to fill in the ADoI
  - ADoI is screened by EFSA to identify the possible conflicts of interest
  - If ok, ADoI approved and put on the web of EFSA
- Specific Declaration of Interest
  - for specific items of agenda in the meeting
  - Identified conflicts are minuted

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Conclusions

- Panel is always responsible for the opinion adopted
- Working groups have a preparatory role for drafting opinions
- EFSA secretariat aims to support the Panel and Scientific Committee in their work
  - Discussion of possible mandates
  - In planning of work
  - Through WG and panel meetings
  - Data collection
  - Publication of adopted opinion

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