

Minor updates to MB decision on the establishment and operations of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and of their Working Groups

Introduction

This update introduces minor changes to reflect current practices that were established following lean-ing of some administrative steps to increase the efficiency of setting up and managing Working Groups (WGs). It is suggested to inverse the order of the action by the Secretariat and the Chair of the Scientific Committee (SC) or Scientific Panel (SP) in the nomination of the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the WGs, while keeping both actors involved in the decision taking. A similar change is suggested for the appointment of Rapporteurs. Finally, it is suggested to state that EFSA will invite observers instead of the Executive Director, which simplifies the delegation of this activity.

Amendments

The present amendments are limited to articles 14, 20, 22 and 23 and mainly concern the role of secretariat in relation to the Working Groups - see yellow highlights as follows:

Art 20: Role of The Secretariat in chair appointment:

Nomination of the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Working Groups

1. The Chair of the Working Group is nominated by the Secretariat supporting that Working Group in consultation with the respective Chair of the Scientific Committee or the Chair of the relevant Scientific Panel and in compliance with the principles referred to in Article 30.
2. When appropriate, Vice-Chairs of the Working Groups may be nominated by the Secretariat in consultation with the respective Chair of the Scientific Committee or the Chair of the relevant Scientific Panel.

Art 22: Role of The Secretariat in the designation of rapporteurs:

Rapporteurs

1. After the acceptance of a request for a draft opinion, the Secretariat supporting that Working Group in consultation with the Chair of the Working Group may designate one or more Rapporteurs. Rapporteur(s) shall ensure *inter alia* that the draft opinion is prepared, if necessary within a set time period. The Rapporteur(s) shall work in close co-operation with the relevant Secretariat and may present the draft opinion of the Working Group to the relevant Scientific Panel.

Finally, the last amendment refers to the decentralisation and facilitation of the procedure for invit-ing observers:

Art 14 and Art 23: EFSA instead of ED inviting observers:

EFSA may invite observers to attend the meetings of the Scientific Committee and the Scientific Panels.