

AMENDMENTS TO THE LIST OF COMPETENT ORGANISATIONS DESIGNATED BY THE MEMBER STATES

SUMMARY

Commission Regulation (EC) No 2230/2004¹ foresees that the “*Authority’s Management Board, acting on a proposal from the Executive Director, shall draw up the list of competent organisations*” (Art.2(2)) and that “*the list shall be updated regularly, on the basis of proposals from the Authority’s Executive Director, taking account of reviews or new designation proposals from the Member States*” (Art.2(4)).

Organisations are “*designated by the Member States on the basis of criteria*”². In accordance, new designations of competent organisations to be included in the List, as well as substantial changes to organisations already included in the List, need to be endorsed by the Management Board.

The Management Board is presented with the updated List of Competent Organisations designated by Member States, for possible adoption (Annex I), following Member States’ designations of 4 new organisations for inclusion in the List. The Management Board is informed about the withdrawals of 2 previously designated organisations from the List.

The updated List of Competent Organisations designated by Member States, including all changes, is herewith presented for the adoption of the Management Board.

The Management Board is invited to discuss the consequences of the UK’s withdrawal (Brexit) on the List of Competent Organisations designated by Member States in the context of the agenda item on Brexit.

¹ Commission Regulation (EC) No 2230/2004 of 23 December 2004 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of European Parliament and Council Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 with regard to the network of organisations operating in the fields within the European Food Safety Authority’s mission (OJ L 379, 24.12.2004, p. 64–67)

² The criteria the designated organisations have to meet can be described as follows, ref. Commission Regulation (EC) No 2230/2004, Art.1(1):

- A. They must “carry out scientific and technical support tasks in the fields within the mission of the European Food Safety Authority”;
- B. They must be “legal entities pursuing public interest objectives” and be able to ensure that the “tasks entrusted to them by the Authority will be performed with independence and integrity”;
- C. They must “possess a high level of scientific or technical expertise in one or several fields within the Authority’s mission”;
- D. They must “have the capacity to operate in a network on scientific actions”.

AMENDMENTS TO THE LIST OF COMPETENT ORGANISATIONS DESIGNATED BY THE MEMBER STATES

The List was initially drawn up by the Decision of the Management Board of 19 December 2006, following the procedure set out in Commission Regulation (EC) No 2230/2004. The List is regularly reviewed by the Member States for new designation proposals, deletions and changes to organisations included in the List.

I. New designations for the List

The Permanent Representations to the EU of Bulgaria, Finland and Poland have officially notified EFSA of new designation proposals for inclusion in the List of the following competent organisations, which may assist EFSA with its mission:

Bulgaria (2):

Risk Assessment Center on Food Chain

Type of organisation: Governmental organisation

Mission of the organisation and task corresponding to EFSA's remit: The Risk Assessment Center on Food Chain (RACFCH) is nationally recognized as a competent body for risk assessment and risk communication in Bulgaria and international partner in relation to safety of food and feed, animal health and welfare, nutrition, plant protection and plant health. RACFCH is an independent, responsive and reliable partner for all risk management bodies, and it contributes actively for ensuring high level of consumer protection as adopted by European Union by its scientific opinions and risk assessment outputs. According to the Law on Risk Assessment Center on Food Chain (LRACFCH), the main task of RACFCH is to carry out scientific risk assessment by independent, transparent and impartial analysis of the scientific information concerning issues that directly or indirectly affect the food chain. Requests for scientific risk assessments could be received from EFSA, government authorities, stakeholders and legal entities. RACFCH maintains a network of organisations working in the field of food safety for exchange of scientific information, cooperation and networking. RACFCH carries out activities for approval, renewal and review of approval of active substances, safeners and synergists with the terms and conditions of Regulation (EC) 1107/2009; participates in projects of EU, EFSA and in projects of other international organisations. RACFCH is providing independent scientific advice for risk assessment throughout the food chain in its role of the independent, transparent, responsive and reliable partner for risk managers, and networking and scientific cooperation at national and international level.

Financial information: The annual budget is covered by 97% from governmental sources and by 3% from other public sources (e.g. EU funding).

AgroBioInstitute

Type of organisation: Governmental organisation / Academic institution

Mission of the organisation and task corresponding to EFSA's remit: AgroBioInstitute (ABI) is a scientific research organisation, member of the Agricultural Academy in Bulgaria. ABI is carrying out its activities in the frame of the State Agrarian Policy by organising and implementing research activities (fundamental and applied research) and the related activities in the field of plant



biotechnology; improving the methods and systems for intensifying the breeding of economically important crops by using in vitro cultivation and modern technologies for genetic engineering, genomic and biosafety; participating in the development of national and other outlooks, programmes, concepts and plans for social and economic development of the country, assigned by Agricultural Academy, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry and other institutions; participating in international cooperation via creation of joint research groups and conclusion of contracts in the frame of universities, private companies and others on a bilateral and multilateral basis. In its capacity of being Centre of Excellence, AgroBioInstitute is coordinating the scientific research and the education of personnel in the field of plant biotechnology in Bulgaria and the Balkan region, organising and participating in national and international scientific events, performing education of PhD students and improving the qualification of specialists.

The main areas of ABI research are: Plant Genetic Resources, Abiotic Stress, Biotic Stress and Phytopathology, Plant Virology, Plant Functional Genetics, Molecular Genetics of Plants, Molecular Genetics of Animals and Microorganisms, Gene Cloning and Expression, Plant Metabolomics, Metagenomics, Valorisation of waste and by-products from Agro-industry. ABI is conducting research projects based on priorities which are in close correspondence with EFSA's mission:

1. Safety and quality control of raw materials, foods and forages; utilization of traditional and new foods, beverages and technologies; introduction of technologies for forages' collection, keeping and utilization;
2. Knowledge based agriculture to increase the competitiveness: application of traditional and new technologies in agriculture and stock breeding, land preservation and improvement;
3. Preservation of natural and genetic resources: preservation and utilization of the national plant and animal genetic resources;
4. Improvement in the quality of live in rural areas by transfer of technologies, knowledge training and providing information to farmers: transfer of modern foreign high yield and quality varieties, traditional cultures, products and services, typical for different country's regions.

Financial information: The annual budget is covered mostly by 67.72% from governmental sources (direct funding) and by 32.28 % from non-governmental sources, almost entirely public, i.e. 31.92% from projects funding at national and international level (National Science Fund of Bulgaria, EU and others) and 0.36% from private sources (analysis and consultancy).

Finland (1):

Ruokavirasto (Finnish Food Authority)

Type of organisation: Governmental organisation

Mission of the organisation and task corresponding to EFSA's remit: The Finnish Food Authority promotes, monitors and studies the safety and quality of food, the health and welfare of animals and plant health. The tasks comprise fertilizer products, animal feeds and plant protection products that are used in agricultural and forestry production and propagating materials e.g. seeds and planting materials. The Authority is responsible for the use of the funds provided by the European Union's agricultural guarantee and rural development funds in Finland, monitors the implementation of EU and national grants (farming subsidies, project, entrepreneurship and structural subsidies as well as market subsidies). Authority's operations incorporate also scientific risk assessment, designed to produce for both domestic and international use. In addition, the Authority develops and maintains the information systems used in rural business administration, develops online services, maintains and develops the registers used in the field, and produces information management services for the agencies and departments that operate under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland, as well as other public authorities.

The Finnish Food Authority is responsible for food safety issues with the "from the field to the table" principle. Tasks corresponding to EFSA's mission are linked to food and feed safety, nutrition, animal health & welfare, and plant health. The main Authority's activities of risk assessment are



related to: 1) food and feed safety (in particular food / microbiological and chemical risk assessment of food), 2) animals (risk assessment of infectious animal diseases) and 3) plants (risk assessment of plant health).

Tasks specifically corresponding to EFSA's mission are: risk assessment of food and feed contaminants and microbes, zoonoses, infectious animal diseases, TSE, GMOs and plant health, and also the EFSA national Focal Point activities.

Financial information: The annual budget is covered by 98% from governmental sources and by 2% from non-governmental sources (EU funding and private sources). The figures are the best formal estimate for 2019, as it is the first year of the newly created (merged) organisation. The Finnish Food Authority began its operations on 1 January 2019 when the Finnish Food Safety Authority, the Agency for Rural Affairs and part of the IT services of the National Land Survey of Finland were merged into one single Authority.

Poland (1):

Lodz University of Technology

Type of organisation: University / Academic institution

Mission of the organisation and task corresponding to EFSA's remit: The mission of the Lodz University of Technology is to contribute to society through the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence. The University's core values are: freedom of thoughts and expression, freedom from discrimination in education field, the encouragement of a questioning spirit, an extensive range of academic subjects in all major subject groups, quality and depth of provision across all subjects, the close inter-relationship between teaching, scholarship, and research, strong support for individual researchers as well as research groups, and education which enhances the ability of students to learn throughout life.

One of ten faculties of Lodz University of Technology carries out basic and applied research in industrial, environmental and food biotechnology. The Faculty started its scientific and educational activity in 1950. Currently students are studying at the Faculty on the following courses: biotechnology, food technology and human nutrition, environmental biotechnology and environmental protection. The Faculty consists of four institutes: Technical Biochemistry (IBT), General Food Chemistry (GFC), Technology and Food Analysis (TFA) and Fermentation Technology and Microbiology (FTM). The GFC is focused on studies in the field of bioorganic and bioinorganic chemistry, bioactive peptides, enzyme-based biosensors and biotransformations of organic compounds. Researchers at the TFA are experts in food analysis and quality evaluation (detection and determination of alcohols, organic acids, saponins, saccharides and inorganic ions). Staff of this Institute have developed chemical and enzymatic methods of starch modification as well as new technologies of prebiotic oligosaccharides synthesis and production of chocolate containing probiotic strains of bacteria. Researchers from the FTM have experience in bread fermentation processes and selenium supplementation of food. The Institute has developed traditional and modern technologies of wine, beer and spirits production as well as has developed studies on microbial biodegradation and biodeterioration of technical materials. Research in the ITB is focused on bacterial nanocellulose production and application, microbial enzymes of potential applicability in industrial biotechnology, bioremediation of biotopes polluted by petroleum, X-ray crystallography of proteins and other biomolecules and plant natural products.

Financial information: The annual budget is covered mostly (68.23%) from governmental sources and by 31.77% from non-governmental sources, incl. student fees (16.34%) and other fees for educational services provides (5.56%) and 9.87% from private sources (revenues from sale of services and goods).



EFSA has ensured that the organisations designated by the Member State comply with the criteria set out in Article 1(1) of Commission Regulation (EC) No 2230/2004. The brief abstract from the profile for each organisation provided above is based on the information submitted via the Art36-Database. Member States concluded that the organisations meet the criteria and have designated them for inclusion in the Article 36 List.

II. Withdrawals

In addition, the Management Board is informed about:

- withdrawals, upon notifications received from the Permanent Representation of Bulgaria and Finland to the EU, of **2** included organisations in the List, which merged into the new designated organisations, namely:

Bulgaria (1):

Entry no. 1: Risk Assessment Center.

merged into the new designated organisations the Risk Assessment Center on Food Chain

Finland (1):

Entry no. 1: Finnish Food Safety Authority Evira

merged into the new designated organisations the Ruokavirasto (Finnish Food Authority)

Conclusion

The Management Board is presented for adoption the **updated List of competent organisations**.

The Article 36 List will be updated immediately upon approval by the Management Board, with **four** newly designated organisations added by Bulgaria (2), Finland (1) and Poland (1).

Details of each organisation on the List, including specific fields of competence, are available in the Search Tool of the Article 36 Database to: all Article 36 organisations, EFSA national Focal Points, EFSA Advisory Forum members and alternates and to EFSA staff.

The updated List will be published on the EFSA website and notified via the Official Journal of the European Union.