

## NOTE TO THE MANAGEMENT BOARD

### **The General Food Law (GFL) (Regulation (EC) No 178/2002) revision and how EFSA is addressing new requirements**

In 2002, EU food law was revamped following a series of food crisis in the late 1990s that shook consumers' trust in food, resulting in disruptions of trade and questioning the EU's ability to manage food risks. The General Food Law (GFL) (Regulation (EC) No 178/2002) is the cornerstone of the EU regulatory framework since it covers the entire agri-food sector, i.e. 'from farm to fork', and all stages of production, processing and distribution of food and feed.

In 2014 the Fitness Check, launched by the European Commission, assessed whether the GFL is 'fit for purpose' for the entire food/feed sector and whether it still captures and reflects policy trends of today. It focused on five evaluation criteria: relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and EU added value. The outcome identified challenges for the future risk assessment to match the speed with scientific developments, and the need to improve transparency and confidentiality, Engagement and Risk Communication with stakeholders, Governance and decision-making processes.

EFSA's programmes and projects are ensuring the actions needed to address those challenges and to prioritise resources accordingly.

In the presentation we are conveying to the EFSA Management Board we illustrate what can be implemented by March 2021, foreseen entry into force date of the revised GFL.