

Call to stakeholder organisations for nominating experts to the EFSA Discussion Group on Emerging Risk Identification

Deadline for submission of nominations: 2 February 2018

1. Introduction

As stipulated in the Strategy 2020 - Trusted science for safe food, EFSA is committed to increasing public and stakeholder involvement in the process of risk assessment (EFSA 2016). The new approach to stakeholder engagement (SEA)¹ enables EFSA to interact with a larger range of stakeholders through a number of permanent and targeted platforms. Stakeholders can now engage with EFSA at a technical level through targeted platforms defined by the set of interests and the specific knowledge stakeholder communities bring to the various phases of EFSA's work..

The Stakeholder Discussion Group on Emerging Risks (StaDG-ER) is a targeted platform that has allowed EFSA to capitalise on stakeholders' specialist knowledge in the identification of new or emerging issues since 2010. The group was created to improve the exchange of information about emerging risks identification and to enhance communication and dialogue on issues pertaining to emerging risks with stakeholders.

A balance composition of the group is essential as it may determine the scope of the possible emerging issues identified. In order ensure a balanced representation of different views and to be aligned with the new EFSA Stakeholder Engagement Approach (SEA), the composition of the current StaDG-ER shall be revised and renewed for the period 2018-2020.

2. Scope of the Stakeholder Discussion Group on Emerging Risks

The role of stakeholders is essential to increase EFSA's capacity to anticipate emerging issues.

The renewed group shall be composed of at least one representative from a registered stakeholder in each of the following categories: consumers; environmental/health NGOs and/or advocacy groups; farmers and primary producers; business and food industry; distributors and HORECA, associations of practitioners, and academia².

The themes and topics of each meeting are determined by demands from its registered stakeholders and by the priority areas identified by EFSA. The group will produce recommendations for EFSA as well as available data on the potentials emerging issues identified and discussed at the meetings.

3. Stakeholders' involvement

The Discussion Group will be coordinated by the Scientific Committee and Emerging Risk Unit (SCER) with the support by EFSA's External Relations (EXREL) Unit. The costs of taking part in the meetings organised by EFSA which foresee the participation of stakeholders will be borne by each individual stakeholder organisation

¹Stakeholder Engagement Approach

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/EFSA%20Stakeholder%20engagement%20approach_FINAL.pdf

² Who are EFSA's 'stakeholders'?

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/partnersnetworks/stakeholder>

Exceptionally, EFSA may contribute to financing the costs of those organisations that could not otherwise afford to participate. Financial contributions may only be awarded to stakeholder organisations which are non-governmental, non-profit making, independent of industry, commerce and business and have as their primary objectives and activities the promotion and protection of the health and safety of consumers and the environment. Requests for financial support shall be assessed on a case-by-case basis and will need to be properly documented by the requesting organisation. Representatives of the European Parliament and the European Commission may participate in meetings of this Discussion Group as observers.

The StaDG-ER should be a group run for the mutual benefit of EFSA and of the stakeholders members to help ensure the importance of sharing of information on potential emerging issues to be prepared and to be able to anticipate and identify possible emerging risks. Therefore, the commitment of its members is necessary for its success.

4. Process for nomination of representatives of stakeholder organisations for membership in the Discussion Group on Emerging Risk

EFSA's stakeholders are representative organisations that have an interest in the Authority's work. EFSA divides stakeholders into seven major groups³; all groups with interest in the area are invited to nominate members for the Discussion Group. Additional information on EFSA's stakeholder engagement is available at this [web link](#).

Organisations already registered as EFSA stakeholders⁴ can proceed directly with the nomination of the member for the Discussion Group. Other organisations interested in nominating a member for this Discussion Group should send first a request to become registered as an EFSA stakeholder; information for submitting a request is available at and this [web link](#).

As stipulated in Article 3 of the Decision of the Management Board of EFSA on the criteria for establishing a list of stakeholders and the establishment of the Stakeholder Forum and Stakeholder Bureau⁵, a non-registered stakeholder may be invited to the meetings of EFSA Discussion Groups based on the need for specific expertise or technical knowledge. Such engagement will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Any involvement of non-registered stakeholders will be made public in a transparent and timely manner. Nominations of members for the Discussion Group should be sent by email to sc.secretariat@efsa.europa.eu and submitting in attachment a fulfilled Nomination form.

The deadline for submission of the nominations is 2 February 2018. Organisations may submit nominations for up to three experts; however, no more than one stakeholder expert per organisation will be selected by EFSA.

5. Criteria for the selection of EFSA stakeholder representatives in the EFSA Discussion Group on Emerging Risks

EFSA will select a maximum of 20 stakeholder representatives from the nominations received through this call, distributed according to the following criteria:

- Up to 4 experts representing consumer organisations;
- Up to 4 experts representing business and food industry;

³ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/partnersnetworks/stakeholder>

⁴ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/stakeholders-registered-list.pdf>

⁵ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/Document18992.pdf>

- Up to 4 experts representing environmental/health NGOs and/or advocacy groups;
- Up to 4 experts representing farmers and primary producers;
- Up to 4 experts representing distributors and HORECA,
- Up to 4 experts representing practitioners;
- Up to 4 experts representing academia.

The selection will follow the principles established in EFSA's Stakeholder Engagement Approach and the Decision of the Management Board of EFSA on the criteria for establishing a list of stakeholders and the establishment of the Stakeholder Forum and Stakeholder Bureau.

For the selection, EFSA will consider the following criteria:

- Interest in the field and expected benefits from the participation of the organisation as expressed in its application;
- Role and remit of the organisation at the EU level;
- Achieving a balanced representation of stakeholder interests;
- In addition, the nominated stakeholder member should demonstrate experience in the area of emerging risks identification as well as good knowledge on relevant methodologies for the identification of emerging risk in the areas under the remit of EFSA.

EFSA will inform all the nominating organisations of the outcome of the selection process. The stakeholder experts are responsible for ensuring that their comments represent the views of the organisation, considering, as appropriate, the views of other non-selected organisations within the same main stakeholder groups. Non-selected organisations will be invited to contribute to the process via selected stakeholder organisations representing their stakeholder category. The names of the stakeholder experts and nominating organisations will be made publicly available.