

Parma, 24/09/2012
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NOTE TO THE DIRECTOR OF SCIENTIFIC EVALUATION OF REGULATED PRODUCTS

Type of the Mandate: Internal Mandate proposed by EFSA to the FEED Unit for the operation of a Standing Working Group¹ on Biomasses

Title of the Mandate: Standing Working Group on Biomasses

In accordance with Title II of the Executive Director Decision concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panel and external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work², the external scientific experts providing the required expertise could be invited on:

- *an ad hoc basis for a single meeting or for the duration of the work on a specific mandate or project, or*
- *on a longer term when the required expertise is needed for more than one mandate or project.*

When a working group of experts is required for more than one mandate, it is called a Standing Working Group.

The FEED Unit is requested to manage the administrative and scientific activities of the Standing Working Group on Biomasses. The FEED Unit will organise the meetings of the Standing Working Group and assist in the production of the scientific outcomes in agreement with the respective mandates addressed by the Standing Working Group. The Head of Unit will ensure coordination with work programs of other units so that when Working Groups of other panels assess overlapping substances or organisms, the Standing Working Group is provided with applicable information and data from other panels.

¹ A Standing Working Group is a Working Group of experts created on the basis of a decision of the corresponding scientific Panel, designed to coordinate discussions and provide scientific contributions on specific related mandate(s), for a set period of time within the three years mandate of the Panel.

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

MANDATE OF THE STANDING WORKING GROUP ON BIOMASSES

Background:

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) is the keystone of European Union risk assessment regarding food and feed safety, animal health and welfare, nutrition, plant protection and plant health. In close collaboration with national authorities and in open consultation with its stakeholders, EFSA provides independent and transparent scientific advice and clear communication on existing and emerging risks associated with the food chain. On request from the European Commission, European Parliament or Member States or on its own initiative³, EFSA provides scientific opinions on issues falling under its remit.

The Panel on Additives and Products or Substances used in Animal Feed (FEEDAP), which deals with questions of regarding the safety and/or efficacy of additives and products or substances used in animal feed, confirmed during its 88th Panel Plenary Meeting the need of a Standing Working Group on Biomasses. This Standing Working Group will deal with questions related to the safety and nutritional value of microbial biomasses intended to be used for animal nutrition. It may also deal with questions on novel feed materials in the context of Regulation (EC) No 767/2009.

Terms of reference:

The objective of the Standing Working Group on Biomasses is to draft scientific opinions on questions related to the assessment of safety for target animals, consumers, users and the environment and the nutritional value of microbial biomasses intended to be used in animal nutrition, or other novel feed materials. In order to fulfil its objectives, the above mentioned Standing Working Group should consist of members with expertise in the following scientific areas: animal nutrition/production, microbiology and toxicology. Additional expertise may be required for specific applications/mandates, which will be covered with ad-hoc external experts.

Scope in EFSA's work and outsourcing programme:

The Standing Working Group will assess the available relevant scientific information and data provided to EFSA by Member States and stakeholders, as well as, those submitted through the applicants' dossiers or through public calls for data. As appropriate, EFSA will outsource collation or analysis of scientific information in order to support the scientific assessment of the Standing Working Group.

IT impact:

No

Timeline:

At the onset of a new Panel mandate (during an inaugural meeting) there is a need to confirm the continued need for all ongoing working groups. There is also a need for the Panel Chair to appoint a Chair and Vice-Chairs of all working groups. It is the task of a newly appointed or re-confirmed Chair of a Standing

³ Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and the Council of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety. OJ, L 31, 1.2.2002, p. 1-24.

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Working Group in collaboration with the respective Head of Unit to select members of the Working Group following the procedure as laid down in the Executive Director Decision 2011⁴.

Scheduled Standing Working Group meetings in the 3 months period following the inaugural meeting will be conducted by experts selected during the previous Panel mandate.

Expected deliverables (e.g. scientific output, scientific article):

Scientific contribution(s), which will be submitted for consideration and possible adoption by the FEEDAP Panel.

Declarations of interests for external experts (only if applicable):

The Decision of the Executive Director implementing EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes regarding Declarations of Interests⁵ will be followed while setting up and operating this Standing Working Group.

Production of scientific outputs			Consultation Mechanisms			Resource and Timing Impact			
Panel	Standing Working Group	EFSA Staff/ annum	Network meetings	Workshops Seminar	Public Consultation	Financial Resources/ annum	Duration of execution	IT Costs	Total cost
FEEDAP	Biomasses	0.3	No	No	No	Meetings: 18 240 € Missions: 850 €	36 months	No	57 270 €

SIGNED

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⁴ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

⁵ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules.pdf>