

RISK ASSESSMENT AND SCIENTIFIC ASSISTANCE DEPARTMENT

Parma, 12 October 2015

**Note on the establishment of a Standing Working Group on Guidance
Review of the Scientific Committee (2015-2018)**

The Scientific Committee and Emerging Risks (SCER) Unit is requested to manage the administrative and scientific activities of the Standing Working Group on Guidance Review. The Scientific Committee and Emerging Risks Unit is also requested to organise the meetings of the Standing Working Group and assist in the preparation of the relevant EFSA scientific outputs in line with the tasks delegated to the Standing Working Group.

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 and Member States or on its own initiative¹, EFSA provides scientific opinions on issues falling under its remit.

The Scientific Committee, which deals with questions on in the area of new and harmonised approaches for risk assessment of food and feed, confirmed during its 75th Plenary Meeting the need of a Standing Working Group on Guidance Review.

Terms of reference:

The objectives of the Standing Working Group on Guidance Review are:

- To review existing SC and EFSA cross-cutting guidance documents to confirm whether they are still relevant and scientifically up to date, and to identify whether revision or replacement guidance should be developed
- To provide recommendations and set priorities for the preparation of new EFSA guidance documents. This task will be conducted also considering advices from the LRA Unit when needed or considered appropriate;
- To develop a plan and to assist in the implementation and use of EFSA guidance documents across EFSA;
- To assist in the development of advanced scientific training programmes for experts of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and EFSA's scientific Units.

In order to fulfil these objectives, the above mentioned Standing Working Group should consist of members with expertise in the various scientific areas covered by EFSA. As such, all EFSA Panels should be represented in the Standing Working Group.

Members:

During the 76th Plenary Meeting of the Scientific Committee the Chair appointed (in consultation with EFSA) the Chair of the Standing Working Group on Guidance Review. The decision on the composition of the Standing Working Group was made by the Chair of the Standing Working Group upon proposal of the respective EFSA Head of Unit. The composition of the Standing Working Group on Guidance Review is available on the EFSA website².

¹ 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).

² <https://ess.efsa.europa.eu/doi/doiweb/doisearch>

Timelines:

Provided the Standing Working Group on Guidance Review is not closed earlier, as a result of a period of inactivity, then its mandate will terminate 3 months after the inaugural meeting of the subsequent Scientific Committee (2018-2021).

Expected deliverables:

Draft EFSA scientific outputs, which will be submitted for consideration and possible adoption by the Scientific Committee.

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