



European Food Safety Authority

EVALUATION OF THE CANDIDATES FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE OR A SCIENTIFIC PANEL OF EFSA

FINAL REPORT

The Management Board in its meeting of 19-20 March 2003 approved the selection process and timetable as presented in the report on the Scientific Committee and Panels recruitment (MB 19/20 March 2003 – 10).

The call for expressions of interest in membership of the Scientific Committee or a Scientific Panel of the European Food Safety Authority closed on 14 March 2003 and 1,024 applications were received. 16% of the applications could not be evaluated due to non-compliance with the formal requirements, i.e. (1) a university degree in a relevant scientific area, (2) at least 10 years' experience at a level to which these qualifications give admission, and (3) a complete application file. Additional statistical information on the applications is provided in annex 3. Since some applicants identified up to 8 Scientific Panels, it was decided that only the top 3 of their preferences would be evaluated by at least 2 evaluators per Panel. Consequently a total of 3,852 evaluations were carried out in a timeframe of 7 weeks; 55% of the applications were received in the last week of the call. In case of discrepancy or controversy between the different evaluations, an additional evaluator was assigned to the application.

The Authority's evaluation team who led the exercise, was reinforced in the first stage of the evaluations by Commission scientists (42 experts from 5 Directorate-Generals) with experience in the relevant areas (confidential list in annex 2). The Commission evaluators were briefed on the selection criteria and guidelines set by the Authority.

Prof G. Pascal (INRA, Paris) and Dr J. Tarrago (IRTA, Barcelona) formed an audit committee and met on 2 and 3 April in the Authority's offices in Brussels. This committee did a sample of 96 evaluations in the Scientific Committee and all the Panels against the selection criteria as stated in the call. The scores were compared to those of EFSA's evaluators and it could be concluded that the scoring was in the same range. In addition, a meeting was held between Prof Pascal, Dr Tarrago and the EFSA evaluators to discuss the rationale behind the scores. Prof Pascal and Dr Tarrago confirmed from their audit that the processes being undertaken were correct as was their implementation by the assessors. No significant differences of approach were identified.

Upon having assessed the application by at least 2 evaluators and upon having completed the quality control by the audit committee, the co-ordination team and evaluation team of EFSA selected those to be proposed as the most appropriate and suitable candidates for the Scientific Committee and for each of the Panels. Every effort has been made to secure a proper nationality balance albeit not at the price of losing much needed expertise and scientific competence. Inevitably, this has had the result that several very good candidates have not been found places as preference has been given to equally good candidates from countries which would otherwise be underrepresented. Conversely, candidates with special expertise from

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countries which might be considered ‘overrepresented’ have nevertheless been maintained in the interest of providing the highest level of expertise for the EU as a whole.

As reported to the Management Board, members of the Advisory Forum were asked by the Executive Director to provide to him any comments they wished to make on the shortlisted candidates. Eleven Member States submitted comments and EFSA’s proposals have been reconsidered and some changes made in the light of these.

Two Member States have suggested a need for the Scientific Committee and Panels to have a membership drawn more from younger scientists who are still working in the laboratory and also publishing original work. EFSA staff agrees on the value of such members but also stress the value of these with more and wider experience and who may have more time at their disposal in later life. The current proposals therefore embrace a balance of members at different stages in their scientific careers and we have not sought to reduce the number of older members. That said, we do propose to try and recruit younger scientists to working groups of the new structure to give them helpful experience to prepare them for possible subsequent membership of the Scientific Committee and Panels. The Board is asked to confirm that they are content with this approach.

It is intended to review the experience gained in involving the Advisory Forum in this process at its next meeting on 14 May. This will provide valuable lessons for running the next selection procedure in 3 years’ time.

In accordance with Regulation EC/178/2002¹ (Article 28, §5), the Executive Director presents in annex 1 a proposal of nominated experts for appointment by the Management Board at its meeting of 29 April 2003. As required by the Decision concerning the establishment and operations of the Scientific Committee and Panels², the Authority will maintain a reserve list of candidates if those initially chosen do not continue to serve for the reasons laid down³. Replacement candidates will be put forward for the approval of the Management Board, as and when the need arises. The Board should note that there could be a need to urgently agree such replacements if not all these proposed for appointment in this exercise are able to accept. In such circumstances, the Management Board’s approval will be sought through correspondence so that there is, as far as possible, a complete set of members for the Panels’ first meeting.

Upon approval of the proposed list of candidates by the Management Board, the Authority will contact the experts to accept their nomination and to invite for the kick-off plenaries in Brussels on either 21, 22, 26 or 27 May. In addition, the Authority will write to the candidates on the reserve list and to unsuccessful applicants.

¹ REGULATION (EC) No 178/2002 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF 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

² Decision adopted by the Management Board in its meeting of 17 October 2002.

³ Article 5 “When it is found that a Member does not contribute effectively to the work of the Scientific Committee or Panel or wishes to resign, the Management Board, acting on a proposal of the Executive Director, may appoint a replacement from the reserve list mentioned in paragraph 1, Article 4.”

STATISTICAL INFORMATION CONCERNING THE SELECTION OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE AND PANELS

1. Applications received per nationality

Nationality	N°	%
AUT	7	0,68%
BEL	62	6,05%
DEU	101	9,86%
DNK	29	2,83%
ESP	88	8,59%
FIN	18	1,76%
FRA	95	9,28%
GBR	84	8,20%
GRC	55	5,37%
IRL	31	3,03%
ITA	190	18,55%
LUX	0	0,00%
NLD	53	5,18%
PRT	23	2,25%
SWE	39	3,81%
OTHER	130	12,70%
Not identified	19	1,86%
	1024	

2. Evaluated applications per nationality

Nationality	N°	%
AUT	7	0,81%
BEL	53	6,15%
DEU	90	10,44%
DNK	28	3,25%
ESP	72	8,35%
FIN	15	1,74%
FRA	80	9,28%
GBR	78	9,05%
GRC	40	4,64%
IRL	24	2,78%
ITA	154	17,87%
LUX	0	0,00%
NLD	49	5,68%
PRT	19	2,20%
SWE	34	3,94%
OTHER	115	13,34%
Not identified	4	0,46%
	862	

3. Shortlisted candidates per nationality

Nationality	N°	%
AUT	4	1,22%
BEL	18	5,50%
DEU	38	11,62%
DNK	17	5,20%
ESP	19	5,81%
FIN	8	2,45%
FRA	35	10,70%
GBR	52	15,90%
GRC	14	4,28%
IRL	9	2,75%
ITA	34	10,40%
LUX	0	0,00%
NLD	31	9,48%
PRT	3	0,92%
SWE	21	6,42%
OTHER: Argentinean	2	0,61%
OTHER: Bulgarian	2	0,61%
OTHER: Czech	1	0,31%
OTHER: Israeli	1	0,31%
OTHER: Norwegian	6	1,83%
OTHER: Polish	4	1,22%
OTHER: Serb/New Zealand	1	0,31%
OTHER: Swiss	5	1,53%
OTHER: USA	2	0,61%
	327	

4. Final list of candidates

Nationality	N°	%
AUT	3	1,91%
BEL	9	5,73%
DEU	19	12,10%
DNK	8	5,10%
ESP	10	6,37%
FIN	5	3,18%
FRA	17	10,83%
GBR	23	14,65%
GRC	8	5,10%
IRL	5	3,18%
ITA	16	10,19%
LUX	0	0,00%
NLD	15	9,55%
PRT	1	0,64%
SWE	10	6,37%
OTHER: Argentinian	1	0,64%
OTHER: Bulgarian	0	0,00%
OTHER: Czech	1	0,64%
OTHER: Israeli	0	0,00%
OTHER: Norwegian	3	1,91%
OTHER: Polish	1	0,64%
OTHER: Serb/New Zealand	1	0,64%
OTHER: Swiss	1	0,64%
OTHER: USA	0	0,00%
	157	