

**Communication, Engagement and Cooperation Department**

# **Stakeholder Engagement**

## **3rd Meeting of the EFSA Stakeholder Bureau**

**Brussels, 17 October 2018**

## Introduction

The Stakeholder Bureau is one of two permanent mechanisms under EFSA's Stakeholder Engagement Approach (SEA). It is made up of seven members representing different stakeholder categories, namely the consumer and environment NGOs, food industry and business, farmer organisations, distributors, practitioners and academia. Their role is to advise EFSA on civil society's concerns regarding food safety, health, the environment, risk communication and other issues in the Authority's remit. Members of the Bureau act in the interests of the whole stakeholder category that they represent.

The task of the Bureau is also to contribute to the general understanding of EFSA's scientific risk assessment process among stakeholders, thereby enhancing the trustworthiness of decisions taken. It helps to shape the agenda of the Stakeholder Forum, the annual gathering of all registered stakeholder organisations.

The previous meeting of EFSA's Stakeholder Bureau<sup>1</sup> took place on 18 April 2018 in Brussels. The Bureau discussed progress with the implementation of the SEA, the priorities for the Stakeholder Forum in 2018, as well as stakeholder engagement in the framing of EFSA self-mandates and guidance documents. EFSA representatives presented upcoming communication activities and the results of the reputation barometer 2017. European Commission members from DG SANTE presented the main elements of the proposal for a regulation on the transparency and sustainability of risk assessment in the food chain<sup>2</sup>.

## The third meeting of the Stakeholder Bureau

The third meeting of the Stakeholder Bureau took place in Brussels on 17 October 2018. It was chaired by EFSA's Executive Director, Bernhard Url. Delegates were welcomed by the Chair of EFSA's Management Board, Jaana Husu-Kallio.

The agenda of the meeting was co-created with the Bureau members and designed with a view to allow space for interaction and questions.

## Discussion Points

Péter Bokor, Head of DG SANTE's Food Chain Science and Stakeholder Relations Unit, provided an update on the progress with the legislative proposal on transparency and sustainability of risk assessment in the food chain.

Dr Url expressed his concerns about the European Parliament's position that more time is needed at the Parliament level to process the proposal.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/180418-2>

<sup>2</sup> [COM \(2018\) 179: Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the transparency and sustainability of the EU risk assessment in the food chain](#)

Bureau members expressed worries that the proposed budget increase to support EFSA's work could be lost if the proposal were put on hold.

Ms Husu-Kallio presented the recommendations made by the Management Board further to their meeting of 10 October 2018 on the basis of EFSA's external evaluation. She stressed the importance of cooperation with the Member States, international organisations and stakeholders.

The Bureau discussed the goals and practicalities of the Stakeholder Forum scheduled to take place in Brussels on 20 November 2018. Members agreed on the distribution of tasks and agreed on their roles of chairs/facilitators for the workshops.

Barbara Gallani, Head of EFSA's Communication, Engagement and Cooperation Department, presented the Authority's latest communication activities and upcoming public consultations. Ms Gallani also updated the Bureau on the Communicators Lab, the application of digital communication tools and the latest user figures for the EFSA Journal. She said that positive experiences gained from the piloting of digital collaboration tools could be applied to stakeholder engagement.

The Bureau then discussed a number of topics, such as take-home messages from the EFSA scientific conference 2018 (submitted by the Industry category); follow-up on the external evaluation of EFSA (submitted by the Industry Category); EFSA's opinion on the presence of dioxins (PCDD/Fs) in feed and food (submitted by the Consumer category); risk perception among the general public and EFSA's work to inform and educate consumers on risk assessment in food safety (submitted by the Industry category); and on the independence of science (submitted by the Academia category).

The Bureau agreed to continue with the half-day, biannual format to meet.

A call for nominations of stakeholder representatives as alternate members of the Bureau will be launched in the coming weeks.

## **General remarks and next steps**

Ms Husu-Kallio acknowledged the work of the Bureau and reminded members that the Stakeholder Forum meeting on 20 November would be an additional opportunity for EFSA's registered stakeholders to provide input to the mid-term review of EFSA's Strategy 2020. She also invited the Bureau to contribute to the Stakeholder Forum's discussions and help to set priorities for the EFSA Strategy 2027.

Dr Url thanked the Bureau members for their active participation, adding that EFSA will continue to exchange information with them and was looking forward to more interaction over the coming months. He closed the meeting by saying that “together, we can go further by doing our bit for the overall European project and bring Europe’s food safety system ever closer to the citizen”.

The next meeting of the Stakeholder Bureau may take place in April 2019 (date tbc).

## Annex 1. Draft Agenda

### 3rd Meeting of the Stakeholder Bureau

Meeting date: **17 October 2018**  
 Meeting hours: **08.30-14.00**  
 Meeting venue: **Silversquare, Square de Mèus, 35 Brussels**  
 Chair: **Bernhard Url, EFSA**

Overall objective: The Bureau shall provide input to EFSA at a high level on issues in the Authority's remit taking societal concerns in consideration. The Bureau shall contribute to the preparation of the annual Forum and monitor the actions EFSA takes as a result of the Forum

Time	No	17 October 2018	Objective	Presenter
08:30		Welcome coffee		
09:00	1	Opening by Chair of the Bureau	Welcoming the participants and presenting the outline of the 3rd meeting of the Bureau. Overview of action points from the last meeting, implementation so far and what comes next	Bernhard Url, EFSA's Executive Director and Chair of the Bureau
09:10	2	Welcome by the Chair of the Management Board	The Chair will share views of the Management Board with regards to the implementation of SEA and present the Management Board recommendations adopted on the basis of EFSA's external evaluation	Jaana Husu-Kallio, Chair of the Management Board of EFSA
09:30	3	Update on the European Commission initiative on transparency and sustainability of the food safety risk assessment regulatory process	The European Commission will present an update on the progress with this legislative proposal	Peter Bokor, The European Commission, DG SANTE
09.45	4	Preparatory work for the Stakeholder Forum 2018	Exchange of views on; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Outcome of EFSA Conference</li> <li>- Desired outcome of the Forum and how to get there,</li> <li>- Co-ownership of the event</li> <li>- Clarification on roles of Bureau members as contributors on behalf of stakeholder categories</li> </ul>	Goran Kumric, Stakeholder Engagement Officer, Engagement and Cooperation Unit (ENCO)
10.45		<i>Coffee break</i>		
11.00	5	EFSA engagement and communication activities	Exchange of views on; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Overall communication and dissemination of information</li> <li>- Communicators Lab - State of play and planned activities</li> <li>- Application of digital communication tools</li> </ul>	Barbara Gallani, Head of Department Engagement, Communications and Cooperation

12.00	6	Issues raised by the Stakeholders	<p>Based on input provided by the Bureau in advance of the meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EFSA opinion on presence of dioxins (PCDD/Fs) and dioxin-like PCBs (DL-PCBs) in feed and food (point submitted by Consumer Category),</li> <li>- Take-home messages from the EFSA conference (point submitted by Industry Category),</li> <li>- Risk perception by general public and EFSA work to inform/educate consumers on risk assessment concept in food safety (point submitted by Industry Category),</li> <li>- Follow-up on external evaluation of EFSA (point submitted by Industry Category)</li> </ul>	Bureau Members
12.30	7	Closing remarks	Take home messages	Chair of the Bureau
12:45		<i>Networking Lunch</i>		

## Annex 2. Participants list

### Members of the Stakeholder Bureau

	<b>Stakeholder Category</b>	<b>Stakeholder Organisation</b>	<b>Name and Surname</b>
1.	<b>Consumers</b>	BEUC	Camille Perrin
2.	<b>NGOs and Advocacy Groups</b>	Pesticide Action Network Europe	Martin Dermine
3.	<b>Farmers and Primary Producers</b>	COPA-COGECA	Pekka Pesonen – apology Javier Valle
4.	<b>Business and Food Industry</b>	FoodDrinkEurope	Beate Kettlitz
5.	<b>Distributors and HORECA</b>	Euro Commerce	Els Bedert
6.	<b>Practitioners</b>	European Federation of the Associations of Dietitians–EFAD	Ayla Gulden Pekcan
7.	<b>Academia</b>	Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry Europe–SETAC	José Julio Ortega Calvo

### EFSA's Representatives

	<b>Name and Surname</b>	<b>Function</b>
1.	Bernhard Url	EFSA's Executive Director
2.	Jaana Husu-Kallio	Chair of the Management Board of EFSA
3.	Barbara Gallani	Head of Communication, Engagement and Cooperation Department, EFSA
4.	Marta Hugas	EFSA's Chief Scientist
5.	Erika Cavalli	Institutional and Stakeholder Relations Assistant, Engagement and Cooperation Unit (ENCO), EFSA
6.	Francesca Avanzini	Media Relations Officer, Communications Unit, Communications, Engagement and Cooperation Department, EFSA
7.	Goran Kumric	Stakeholder Engagement Officer, ENCO, EFSA

### European Commission Representatives - Observer

	<b>Name and Surname</b>	<b>Function</b>
1.	Peter Bokor	Head Of Unit D1- Food chain science and stakeholder relations, DG SANTE, European Commission
2.	Anastasia Alvizou	Deputy Head Of Unit D1, DG SANTE, European Commission
3.	Fatima Darago	Administrative Assistant, D1, DG SANTE, European Commission