
Legal Affairs Services Unit

NOTE TO THE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Independence Policy review

Background

- EFSA's independence policy, last updated by the Management Board on 21 June 2017, provides that it shall be subject to an ex post evaluation not later than five years after its entry into force.
- In March 2023, EFSA procured the ex-post evaluation of its independence policy to an external consultancy firm (Economisti Associati).
- On 21 June 2023, the Management Board adopted the Terms of Reference of its sub-group on independence (hereinafter referred to as "the sub-group"), whose tasks, *inter alia*, are:
 - To analyse the report on the external evaluation of the EFSA independence policy and advise the Management Board on whether to trigger the revision of the policy and,
 - To steer the revision of the policy providing the Management Board with all necessary elements in support of its decision-making.
- On 20 October 2023, the consultancy firm provided the [evaluation report](#), which includes 21 recommendations suggesting approaches and actions pursuing the enhanced effectiveness and transparency of EFSA's independence policy, as well as a more proportionate efficiency of the Authority's independence system.
- On 14 December 2023 (minutes of the meeting available online at [this link](#)) and on 21 March 2024 (minutes of the meeting available online at [this link](#)), the Management Board received updates from the sub-group on the progress made with the independence policy review and expressed support for the approach proposed by the sub-group in following up on the evaluation recommendations.

Proposed way forward

In occasion of the meeting scheduled on 20 June 2024, the sub-group presents the draft reviewed independence policy of EFSA and invites the Management Board to consider adopting it. In line with its Terms of Reference, the sub-group will support the Executive Director in reviewing the policy implementing rules.