

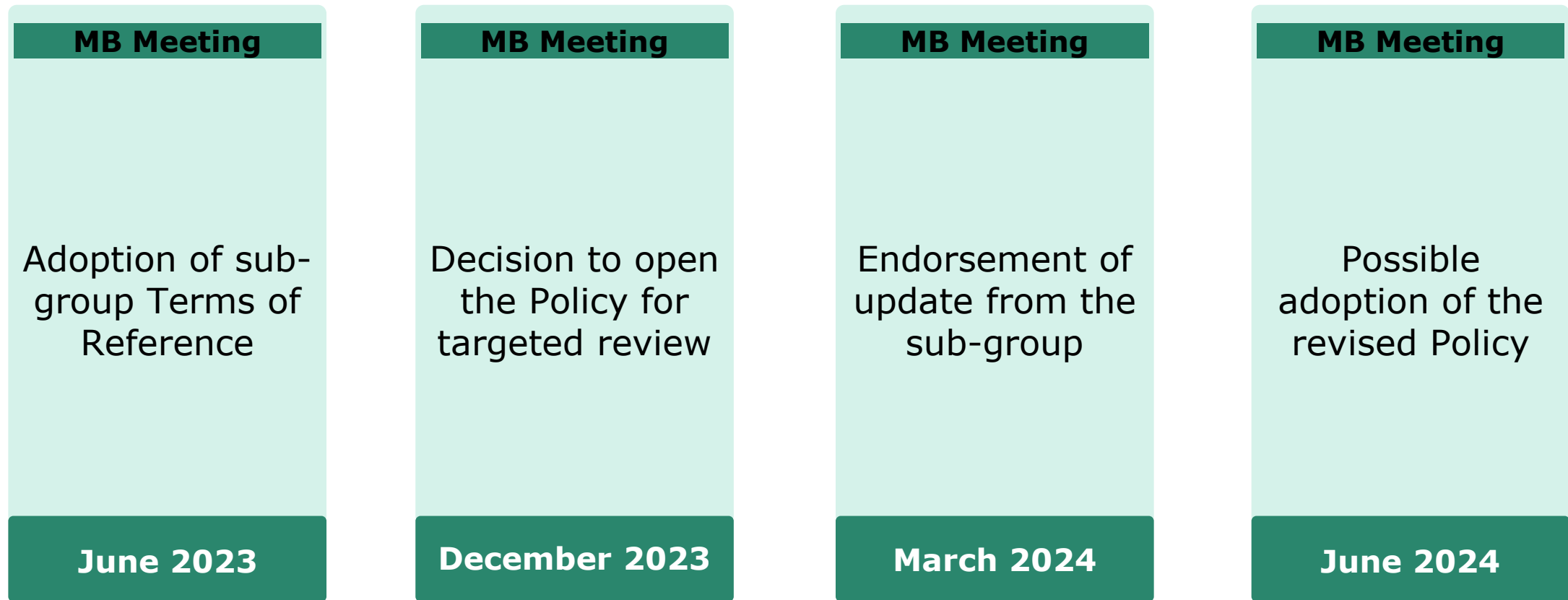
Management Board
20 June 2024

EFSA INDEPENDENCE POLICY REVIEW

Pamela Byrne

Chair of the Management Board
sub-group on independence

MILESTONES



21

14

23

20

Management Board sub-group



BACKGROUND: MEMBERS OF THE SUB-GROUP



Pamela Byrne (Chair)
Ireland: Food Safety Authority



Marie-Luise Trebes
Germany: Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture



Floriana Cimmarusti
Consumer Org.: Safe Food Advocacy Europe



Ana Vilorio
Netherlands: Ministry of Public Health, Welfare and Sport



Astrid Thors
European Parliament



Hrönn Jörundsdóttir
Iceland: Food and Veterinary Authority



Claire Bury
Commission: DG Health and Safety



BACKGROUND: CONCLUSIONS OF THE POLICY EVALUATION

EFSA has a robust system in place that ensures a **satisfactory level of independence and prevention of undue conflicts of interest** (...). The Policy is **coherent** with objectives and values in EFSA's corporate strategy and requirements laid down in the legal framework.

There is widespread recognition of EFSA recent **improvements** in relation to independence(...). Evidence of **positive reputational impact** can be found in EU supervisory bodies' reports, as well as in feedback from scientific community and stakeholders.

(...) future **sustainability could be challenged** by the expected increase in EFSA activities, especially through outsourcing of scientific work. (...). Other minor issues mainly regarding the **clarity and the consistency** of specific provisions or implementation measures (...) **not represent substantial and/or urgent threats** to the functioning and achievement of the Policy's objective

21 recommendations suggesting possible interventions worth exploring



SUB-GROUP OPINION ON RECOMMENDATIONS IMPLEMENTATION

R# part of the review

R# 1, 2, 3, 8, 10,
11, 13, 14, 15, 16,
17, 18, 19, 20, 21

R# rejected by the MB on 14
December 2023 and 21 March
2024

R# 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 12



OVERVIEW OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS' IMPLEMENTATION

- Communication on independence (R# 1, 2, 3)
- Clarity & effectiveness (R# 8, 10, 19, 20)
- Sustainability (R# 11, 13, 14)
- Coherence & cooperation (R# 15, 16, 17, 18, 21)



Communication on independence (R# 1, 2, 3)

- Ad hoc communication action plan with EU institution, Member States and stakeholders over 2024-2025.



CLARITY & EFFECTIVENESS

Clarity & effectiveness (R# 8, 10, 19, 20)

- Additional clarity to the provisions relating to hearing experts, granting of waivers, research funding, modalities for the detection of Col for targeted groups. Scrutiny of Management Board Dols performed by EFSA Executive Director.



Sustainability (R# 11, 13, 14)

- Ex-post checks performed internally by EFSA and externally by specialised consultants. Deployment of enhanced IT tools and and automatization considering advancements in technology.



OUTSOURCING MECHANISMS

Coherence & cooperation (R# 15, 16, 17, 18, 21)

- Same independence and transparency rules of Working Group (WG) experts when Art. 36 organisations carrying out activities equivalent to those performed by WGs. Increased reliance on the Art. 36 mechanism and scrutiny performed at the list inclusion stage. Continued work on harmonised quality criteria. Individual DoI scrutiny with regard to contractors.



PROPOSAL AND NEXT STEPS

Based on the review of the ex-post evaluation report, the Management Board sub-group on independence proposes to the Management Board the adoption of targeted revisions in the EFSA Independence Policy.

Depending on the MB decision:

Adoption of the Policy
implementing rules

• Target: Dec. 2024

Communications enhancement

• 2nd half 2024

