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**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Parma, 23 June 2010  
Ref CGL/DL/TN/ (2010)

**Note to Djien Liem - Head of Unit of the Scientific Committee and Advisory Forum**

**Subject: Internal Mandate on Research Priorities proposed by EFSA for the SCAF Unit for an Internal Task Force**

EFSA's Scientific Committee, Panels and scientific units frequently identify areas where further research could strengthen the risk assessments. Likewise, the Advisory Forum members have highlighted research priorities through discussions in the Advisory Forum and submission of concrete research proposals. The main target of these proposals is obviously DG Research who has agreed to receive inputs from EFSA on research priorities to be considered in the context of DG Research Framework Programmes. However, there are several other possible targets for the research priorities identified by EFSA, such as the JRC and other Directorates of the EC. Also other potential research funding organisations for research proposals identified by EFSA should be reviewed.

There is a need to streamline the process for collecting and reviewing research proposals from EFSA's Scientific Committee, Panels and units as well as from the AF members in order for EFSA to highlight the research priority areas identified to DG Research and other potential funding organisations. These could address risk assessment as well as risk communications aspects. In the light of developing an overall approach to deal with all inputs, I would like to request the SCAF Unit to:

1. establish an Internal Task Force with representatives of the RA, SCA and Communications Directorates to collect and review research proposals from EFSA's Scientific Committee, Panels and units as well as the AF members, Advisory Group on Risk Communications and AFCWG,
2. prepare a consolidated proposal on key research priorities, taking into account the proposals resulting from the work of the Internal Task Force as well as views expressed at the SC and AF meetings in November 2010

according to the timeline given in the Annex.

I will arrange the submission of the final proposal to DG Research and other potential research funding organisations in December 2010, once the draft consolidated proposal has been discussed and endorsed by the Mandate Review Committee.

Yours sincerely,



Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle

Annex: Background and Terms of Reference

Cc: Management Team, Torben Nilsson

## ANNEX I

### MANDATE PROPOSED BY EFSA FOR THE SCAF UNIT FOR AN INTERNAL TASK FORCE ON RESEARCH PRIORITIES

#### **Background**

EFSA's Scientific Committee, Panels and scientific units frequently identify areas where further research could strengthen the risk assessments. Likewise, the Advisory Forum members have highlighted research priorities through discussions in the Advisory Forum and submission of concrete research proposals. The main target of these proposals is obviously DG Research who has agreed to receive inputs from EFSA on research priorities to be considered in the context of DG Research Framework Programmes. However, there are several other possible targets for the research priorities identified by EFSA, such as the JRC and other Directorates of the EC. Also other potential research funding organisations for research proposals identified by EFSA should be reviewed.

There is a need to streamline the process for collecting and reviewing research proposals from EFSA's Scientific Committee, Panels and units as well as from the AF members in order for EFSA to highlight the research priority areas identified to DG Research and other potential funding organisations. These could address risk assessment as well as risk communications aspects.

In cases where research proposal of EFSA have been accepted by DG Research or other organisations, it is obviously important for those who generated the proposal to know it and also to receive information that would enable establishing a connection with the research group.

#### **Terms of reference**

The SCAF Unit is requested to establish an Internal Task Force on research priorities, with representatives of the RA, SCA and Communications Directorates, to streamline the process for collecting and reviewing research proposals from EFSA's Scientific Committee, Panels, units as well as EFSA's Advisory Forum, in order to highlight research priority areas to DG Research and other research funding organisations. These could address risk assessment as well as risk communications aspects.

Specifically the assignments of the Internal Task Force are to:

- Collect and review research proposals from EFSA's Scientific Committee, Panels and units as well as the AF members, Advisory Group on Risk Communications and AFCWG.
- Provide an overview of the research proposals, grouped according to the topics defined by DG Research or other funding organisations identified, develop principles for prioritisation, and propose research priorities for discussion at the SC and AF meetings in November 2010.

- Following the consideration by the research funding organisations, to acquire and divulgate the information on the outcomes of EFSA's initiatives and, in particular, on the research projects being funded and relevant research groups.

### **Working method and timelines**

- The SCAF Unit will collect research proposals from EFSA's Scientific Committee, Panels and units until 30 September 2010.
- The SCAF Unit will collect research proposals from the AF members until 31 August 2010 and arrange a consultation meeting with the AF members having submitted research proposals in connection with the AF meeting in Malta in September 2010.
- The Communications Directorate will collect research proposals regarding risk communications aspects from the Advisory Group on Risk Communications and AFCWG until 30 September 2010 and arrange a consultation meeting with the AFCWG members having submitted research proposals in connection with the AFCWG meeting in Belgium in October 2010.
- The SCAF Unit will prepare an overview of the research proposals received, grouping them according to topics, for discussion by the Internal Task Force at a meeting in October 2010.
- The Internal Task Force will agree on general criteria for prioritisation of the research proposals received and, based on these discussions, a proposal on key research priorities will be drafted for endorsement by the Mandate Review Committee in October 2010.
- The proposal will be shared with the SC members for discussion at the SC meeting on 9-10 November 2010.
- Following the SC discussion, the proposal will, where necessary, be revised by the Internal Task Force and shared with the AF members for discussion at the AF meeting on 24-25 November 2010. DG Research representatives will be invited to attend the AF discussions and to provide a feedback on how the previous research proposals were considered.
- The Internal Task Force will then finalise the proposal on key research priorities and submit it to the Mandate Review Committee for discussion and possible approval
- Once approved, the Executive Director will submit the final consolidated proposal to DG Research and other identified research funding organisations in December 2010.
- The Internal Task Force will follow up on the outcomes of the research proposals and will ensure that those who originated the proposals are informed, especially in case of funding of the proposed research projects.

### **Expected deliverables**

1. General criteria for prioritisation of research proposals received from EFSA's Scientific Committee, Panels, units, Advisory Forum, Advisory Group on Risk Communications and AFCWG for discussion and possible endorsement by the Mandate Review Committee.
2. A proposal of key priorities for DG Research and other research funding organisations based on an evaluation of the proposals received from EFSA's Scientific Committee, Panels, units, Advisory Forum, Advisory Group on Risk Communications and AFCWG using the general criteria endorsed by the Mandate Review Committee (as mentioned in 1).
3. A consolidated proposal from EFSA on key research priorities for DG Research and other research funding organisations based on the proposal resulting from the work of the Internal Task Force (as mentioned under 2) and taking into account the views expressed by members of the SC and AF at their meetings in November 2010.
4. A database on ongoing research projects considered as priorities by EFSA and an analysis of the results of this undertaking in order to detect possible improvements to be adopted in following years.