

Announcement of EFSA Advisory Forum Event Berlin – 8-9 November 2004

*Creating a European network to enhance risk assessments regarding the food chain:
EFSA and its Advisory Forum*

About the event

The European Food Safety Authority's (EFSA) Advisory Forum provides a unique arena for dialogue, co-ordination and collaboration in European risk assessment on food and feed. Since its inaugural meeting in March 2003, the Advisory Forum, whose members include representatives from national food authorities responsible for risk assessment, has held 9 meetings in countries throughout the EU. From the beginning, the Advisory Forum has made its documents and records of its meetings publicly available on the EFSA website. On 8-9 November 2004, the Advisory Forum will organise its first public event, hosted by the Bundesinstitut für Risikobewertung (German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment) in Berlin. In holding this event, the Advisory Forum aims to engage in a broader public debate regarding future perspectives in risk assessment; open up its work to a wider audience; and more generally, to exchange views with interested parties.

Who should attend ?

This programme will be particularly relevant to those having an interest in food safety, risk assessment and EU institutional affairs. While the conference addresses the role of EFSA and that of national authorities in risk assessment, it is intended for all those with an interest in scientific advice on risks associated with the food chain including: academics; food and food policy specialists; legislators; representatives from consumer, environmentalist and other non-governmental organisations; industry and trade associations; media; and health professionals.

Preliminary Programme

Day 1: 8 November 2004

13.30 – 18.00:

- **Future perspectives in risk assessment: key challenges and opportunities**

Chair: Dr. Herman Koëter, Deputy Executive Director and Director of Science,
EFSA

External speakers will include: Professor Jean-Louis Jouve (former Chief, Food Quality and Standards Service, Food and Nutrition Division, FAO), Professor Victor J. Feron (Institute for Risk Assessment Services, Utrecht University), Professor Vittorio Silano (Chair, EFSA Scientific Committee)

In this session, experts will discuss current risk assessment processes and reflect on how European risk assessment could be taken forward to stay at the forefront of scientific developments.

- **Enhancing dialogue and exchange of views on risk assessment approaches in Europe: the role of EFSA's Advisory Forum**

Session chaired by Mr. Geoffrey Podger, Executive Director, EFSA and involving members of the Advisory Forum.

In this round table discussion on collaboration between EFSA, Advisory Forum members and national authorities, the audience will be able to field questions on how such collaboration works in practice. In registering for the conference, participants will have the possibility of submitting questions in advance to the panel members.

Day 2: 9 November 2004

10.00 – 12.30

- **Evaluating risks and benefits: a new challenge for risk assessors**

Chair: Dr. Ada Knaap, Vice-Chair, EFSA Scientific Committee
External speakers will include: Professor Albert Flynn (Chair, EFSA Scientific Panel on Dietetic Products, Nutrition and Allergies), Professor Ortwin Renn (University of Stuttgart).

In this session, experts will discuss and share experiences regarding how to integrate the evaluation of benefits in the risk assessment process, and implications arising both for science and communications to the public.

Venue

**Bundesinstitut für Risikobewertung
Diedersdorfer Weg 1
12277 Berlin (Marienfelde)
Germany**



Programme, logistics and registration

The complete programme, all the logistical details and the registration form for the Advisory Forum event will be published on EFSA's website, end August/early September. Should you wish to be placed on our mailing list now for further notifications regarding the event, please send an email to:

AF_Berlin_Event_04@efsa.eu.int.

Attendance at the conference will be free of charge. However, for logistical reasons you will be required to fill in the registration form.

For further information concerning the Advisory Forum event, please contact Jan Bloemendal at jan.bloemendal@efsa.eu.int or Katty Verhelst at katty.verhelst@efsa.eu.int of EFSA's International and Institutional Affairs Department.

Notice for stakeholders

Immediately following the Advisory Forum event, EFSA will be holding a meeting by invitation only with its stakeholders to look at issues regarding the Authority's future development and stakeholder involvement. Invitations to this event will be issued separately. For more information regarding the stakeholder event, please contact Victoria Villamar, International and Institutional Affairs Department, at victoria.villamar@efsa.eu.int.

