

**anses**  
French agency for food, environmental  
and occupational health & safety



## French cooperation with EFSA



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## ANSES and EFSA

The French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety (ANSES) was created on 1 July 2010 following the merger of the French Food Safety Agency (AFSSA) and the French Agency for Environmental and Occupational Health Safety (AFSSET).

Its missions, established by Ministerial Order No. 2010-18 of 7 January 2010, include risk assessment in the fields of food, the environment and the workplace, for the purpose of assisting the authorities on health issues. The Agency is a public administrative authority reporting to the French Ministries of Health, Agriculture, the Environment, Labour and Consumer Affairs.

ANSES undertakes **independent and pluralistic scientific expert assessments**.

Its principal mission is to contribute to the protection of human health with respect to the environment, the workplace and food.

It also contributes to:

- protecting the health and welfare of animals;
- ensuring plant health;
- evaluating the nutritional and functional characteristics of food.

It also performs missions regarding veterinary medicinal products.

In its area of expertise, the Agency's mission is to conduct risk assessments, to provide the relevant authorities with all available information on these risks and to provide the expert assessment and scientific and technical support necessary for the drafting of laws and regulations and the implementation of risk management measures.

It conducts monitoring, alert, vigilance and reference missions. It defines, implements and funds scientific and technical research programmes.

It recommends measures to the competent authorities for protecting health. When public health is threatened by a serious hazard, it recommends the necessary health measures to these authorities.

It participates in work undertaken by European and international bodies, and represents France at the request of the Government.

It is mainly in this respect that ANSES represents France within the EFSA Advisory Forum and acts as the French focal point.

For additional information on the role of the focal point:

<https://www.anses.fr/en/content/anses-national-focal-point-efsa>

And to contact us: [pointfocal\[@\]anses.fr](mailto:pointfocal[@]anses.fr)

**The purpose of this document, prepared by the French focal point, is to present the channels and tools available for cooperation between France and EFSA.**

Founded in 2002, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) is a European Union organisation responsible for assessing health risks related to food for human and animal consumption, nutrition, animal health and welfare, and plant health and protection.

EFSA is an independent European agency funded by the European Union budget that operates separately from the European Commission, European Parliament and EU Member States.

As in France, the European food safety system has been designed to separate risk assessment from risk management. As part of its risk assessment role, EFSA issues scientific opinions and recommendations to the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Member States of the EU, which then make decisions concerning risk management.

To accomplish its mission, EFSA works closely with partners and stakeholders, and is a proactive member of a range of networks.

Its partners include institutions with which the Authority has as legal obligation to work with under European Union law, in particular risk managers working within the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Member States, as well as groups of stakeholders, or individuals who feel they can contribute to, or are interested in the Authority's work.

## Bodies and channels of cooperation

EFSA cooperates with Member States *via* several channels, particularly through:

- an Advisory Forum;
- a network of national focal points;
- scientific networks supporting the EFSA units;
- a list of competent organisations, under Article 36 of its founding regulation (Regulation (EC) No 178/2002), which are eligible to assist EFSA in its tasks;
- a database of external experts (EDB);
- an information exchange platform (IEP).

Cooperation can therefore take place:

- *via* the **national representative** (representative in EFSA's Advisory Forum and in its "Communications" working group, focal point, representative in the scientific networks);
- at the **institutional level** (cooperation with the competent organisations under Article 36 of EFSA's founding regulation);
- on an **individual basis** (participation in the scientific panels, working groups, expert database).

For additional information on EFSA cooperation:

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/networks.htm>



### National Representation

#### *The EFSA Advisory Forum*

The EFSA Advisory Forum connects EFSA with the national food safety authorities in the 28 Member States of the EU, Iceland and Norway. It is chaired by EFSA's Executive Director. The members of the forum represent each national body responsible for risk assessment in the EU Member States, Iceland and Norway, with observers from Switzerland, candidate countries (Serbia, Montenegro, Turkey, Republic of Macedonia) and the European Commission.

The forum is at the heart of EFSA's collaborative approach to working with the EU Member States, allowing EFSA and the Member States to join forces in addressing European risk assessment and communication issues. In the framework of this forum, the members share information and are consulted on scientific issues, the EFSA work programme and its priorities. Members also use this network to address issues related to emerging risks as early as possible. They work for closer networking which focuses on sharing scientific information, pooling resources and coordinating work programmes.

ANSES is the French representative in the Advisory Forum.

Visit the page of the EFSA Advisory Forum:  
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/networks/af.htm>

#### *The “Communications” working group of the Advisory Forum*

The EFSA “**Communications**” working group (AFCWG) works with the communication services of the national food safety agencies to build a more collaborative and informed approach to communicating risks in the food chain, and to promote coherence of messages on food safety across the Community. The objectives are to:

- develop cooperation and coordination of communications on all areas within EFSA's remit;
- explore opportunities and implement, as appropriate, joint communication activities;
- support the development of best practices and guidelines in communications;
- facilitate training in risk communications;

## Bodies and channels of cooperation

- promote the exchange of information and experiences among the Member States and at European level through the network of AFCWG members and their respective teams;
- share information on public perception of food safety;
- evaluate communications activities in line with the priorities defined by the Advisory Forum, in view of identifying lessons learned.

ANSES is the French representative in the “Communications” working group.

Visit the page of the working group: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/af/afwgs.htm>

### ***The network of national focal points***

EFSA has a national focal point (FP) in each Member State, most often at the national risk assessment agency. These focal points act as an interface between EFSA and the national food safety authorities in the EU Member States. They support the members of the Advisory Forum in the implementation of projects that are common to the Member States and EFSA.

EFSA and the focal points regularly share information and usually meet three or four times per year. The meetings are chaired by EFSA and are also attended by observers from Norway, Switzerland, and the candidate countries for accession to the EU.



The main role of the focal point is to liaise with EFSA for implementation of its scientific cooperation policies regarding assessment of risks related to food. One of the main missions is to ensure the sharing and dissemination of scientific information concerning food safety risk assessments. Specific actions include:

- participation in the focal point meetings organised by EFSA;
- supporting the ANSES representative in the EFSA Advisory Forum (AF);
- analysis and dissemination of calls for tenders and calls for proposals issued by EFSA;
- dissemination to the network of national focal points of “multilateral requests”: specific technical questions addressed by a national focal point to its counterparts in the other Member States;
- updating EFSA’s information exchange platform (IEP) and management of requests for access to this platform;
- promotion of EFSA’s external experts database (EDB) to national experts, so that they can apply.

In France, ANSES is the national focal point for EFSA.

Visit the page on the network of focal points:

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/networks/fp.htm>

### ***The scientific networks supporting EFSA units***

EFSA establishes scientific networks for specific topics. These networks comprise national organisations designated (*via* the member of the Advisory Forum) by the Member States of the EU, with expertise in the fields covered by each network. The networks are chaired by EFSA and supported by relevant EFSA units. Their aim is to facilitate scientific cooperation in the fields of EFSA’s mission by promoting:

- coordination of activities,
- exchange of information,
- development and implementation of joint projects,
- exchange of knowledge and best practices.

EFSA sets up sub-groups from the networks to work on specific scientific issues in collaboration with the Member States.

Representatives of the Commission and of other organisations (including those from outside the European Union) with specific expertise may also be invited to participate in the work of EFSA networks.

## Bodies and channels of cooperation

To date, 14 networks have been set up in the following areas:

Area	Network name	French member agency
<b>Animal health &amp; welfare</b>	Scientific network for risk assessment in animal health and welfare	ANSES
<b>Biological hazards</b>	Scientific network for microbiological risk assessment	ANSES
	Scientific network on BSE/TSE	ANSES
<b>Biological monitoring</b>	Task force on zoonoses data collection	Data collection: MAAF
		Food-Borne Outbreaks: MAAF
		Antimicrobial Resistance: ANSES
		IT: MAAF
<b>Dietary and chemical monitoring</b>	Expert group for chemical occurrence data	ANSES
	Expert group on food consumption data	ANSES
<b>Emerging risks</b>	Emerging risks exchange network	ANSES
<b>Food ingredients and packaging</b>	Scientific network on food contact materials	ANSES
<b>GMO</b>	Scientific network for risk assessment of GMOs	Food & feed: ANSES
		Environment: HCB
<b>Plant health</b>	Scientific network for risk assessment in plant health	ANSES
<b>Pesticides</b>	Pesticide Steering Committee	ANSES
	Networking group on pesticide monitoring	MAAF
<b>Scientific Committee</b>	Scientific network on harmonisation of risk assessment methodologies	ANSES
	Scientific network for risk assessment of nanotechnologies in food and feed	ANSES

Visit the page for the scientific networks supporting the EFSA units:  
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/networks/supportingunits.htm>



## Cooperation with the scientific organisations under Article 36 of EFSA's founding regulation

In accordance with Article 36 of EFSA's founding regulation and its implementing rules, in December 2006, EFSA's Management Board approved a list of competent organisations under Article 36 which are eligible to assist it in its tasks. Networking with these "competent organisations" allows EFSA to exploit a wider range of scientific excellence in Europe and facilitates the coordination of activities, exchange of information, development and implementation of joint scientific projects, as well as the sharing of expertise and best practices in the fields within EFSA's mission.

EFSA may entrust these organisations with tasks concerning data collection, preparatory work for scientific opinions and technical and scientific assistance. EFSA may award grants to these organisations by means of calls for proposals in order to help them carry out the required tasks.

The organisations included in the list are designated by the Member States, with the support of the national focal points. Seventeen competent organisations are listed for France:

- French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES)
- National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA)
- High Council for Biotechnologies (HCB)
- French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD)
- Alfort Veterinary School (ENVA)
- Institut Pasteur (Paris)
- Institut Pasteur (Lille)
- Institute for Higher Education and Research in Food, Animal Health, Agronomic and Environmental Sciences (VetAgro Sup)
- Laboratory of Food Toxicology, EA 3880, University of Western Brittany
- Toulouse Veterinary School (ENVT)
- Agrocampus Ouest
- National Research Institute of Science and Technology for Environment and Agriculture (IRSTEA)
- French Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea (IFREMER)
- French Institute for Public Health Surveillance (InVS)
- Nantes-Atlantic National College of Veterinary Medicine, Food Science and Engineering (ONIRIS)
- International Centre for Higher Education in Agronomic Sciences (Montpellier SupAgro)
- University of Burgundy (uB)

Given that organisations grow and needs may change in response to developments observed in scientific or regulatory matters, this list must be updated regularly.

As a focal point, ANSES maintains a dynamic network by regularly sending information concerning EFSA (e.g. information on calls and consultations, miscellaneous information) and organising an annual meeting of this network. It also participates in updating this list.



The organisations that may be included in the list must meet the eligibility criteria laid down in Regulation (EC) No 2230/2004:

- **Criterion 1:** organisations must carry out scientific and technical support tasks in the fields falling within EFSA's mission.
- **Criterion 2:** organisations must be legal entities pursuing general interest objectives.
- **Criterion 3:** organisations must possess a high level of scientific or technical expertise in one or several fields within EFSA's mission.
- **Criterion 4:** organisations must have the capacity to operate in a network on scientific actions as referred to in Article 3 of this regulation, and/or the capacity to perform efficiently the types of tasks referred to in Article 4 of this regulation which may be entrusted to them by EFSA.

If your organisation is interested, please contact the national focal point:  
[pointfocal@janses.fr](mailto:pointfocal@janses.fr)

Visit the dedicated page: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/networks/art36.htm>



### Individual cooperation through participation in EFSA's Scientific Committee and Scientific Panels

The EFSA scientific committee and scientific panels are composed of independent scientists from universities, research institutions or national food safety authorities.

The experts can sit on the EFSA scientific committee and panels for a mandate of three years. They are appointed following an open and transparent selection procedure on the basis of their proven scientific experience and independence.

The EFSA scientific panels cover the following areas: plant health, GMOs, food additives and nutrient sources, food contact materials, enzymes and flavourings, animal feed, animal health and welfare, plant protection, contaminants in the food chain, biological hazards, dietetic products and allergies, novel foods and nutrition.

Visit the dedicated page: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/panels.htm>

# Cooperation tools

## Calls and consultations

EFSA regularly publishes calls for tenders, calls for proposals (grants) and calls for data, as well as public consultations on various scientific issues within its remit, whose results may be integrated in its work and products, for example the scientific opinions and guidance documents.

EFSA makes use of different types of calls and consultations, but only the first two (calls for proposals and calls for tenders) are funded by EFSA:

	Calls for proposals (CFP) = grants	Calls for tender (CFT) = procurements
<b>Purpose</b>	Encouragement of actions recognised as useful by EFSA, but which fall primarily within the scope of the beneficiary's activities	Purchasing of a product or service which EFSA needs for its own activities
<b>Most common use</b>	Collaborative projects in the general area of risk assessment, data collection	Support for the assessment of authorisation applications (more targeted field), data collection
<b>Legislative Framework</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art. 36 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002</li> <li>• Financial Rules of Regulation (EC) No 1605/2002 and its implementing rules</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Directive 2004/18/EC</li> <li>• Financial rules arising from this directive</li> </ul>
<b>Initiative and control</b>	The request for funding comes from the beneficiary, which submits a proposal to EFSA to support the activities it is carrying out or planning to carry out in response to the EFSA call for proposals. The proposal outlines the specifications for the action to be executed in the framework determined in advance by EFSA	Initiative and control rely entirely on EFSA, which places the initial order for a product or a service and produces detailed specifications. The successful bidder must comply with the specifications
<b>Ownership</b>	As a general rule, the beneficiary of the grant becomes the owner	Since the product or service has been bought and paid for by EFSA, in general it belongs to EFSA in its entirety
<b>Financial contribution</b>	The grant cannot be used to fund the total cost of the action, except in duly justified exceptional cases involving external actions	EFSA usually pays 100% of the lump-sum price
<b>Mutual obligations, monitoring</b>	Conditions are attached to obtaining the grant, but there is no specific direct link between the individual obligations on each side (EFSA and the beneficiary). EFSA has the right to verify the technical implementation of the action and the use made of the funds granted	The contract is bilateral: it imposes reciprocal obligations on EFSA and the economic operator, with the operator providing EFSA with a product or service that it has ordered. EFSA verifies the supply of the product or service it has ordered

	Calls for proposals (CFP) = grants	Calls for tender (CFT) = procurements
<b>Profits</b>	The grant must not have the goal or effect of producing a profit for the contractor	EFSA pays the economic operator. The remuneration of the operator includes a profit component
<b>Procedures</b>	Grant applications are received in response to a call for proposals	The bids are received in the framework of open, restricted or negotiated procedures (depending on the amount allocated)
<b>Who can respond</b>	Only the organisations listed under Article 36	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anyone, if an open procedure</li> <li>• Targeted organisations, if a restricted or negotiated procedure</li> </ul>

### Calls for proposals (“grants”)

EFSA regularly awards grants for projects and activities that contribute to its mission in the following areas:

- data collection,
- preparatory work for scientific opinions, and
- other technical and scientific assistance.

Only organisations included in the list of competent organisations, based on designations by Member States, are eligible to apply for calls for proposals -> grants under Article 36 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002.

Calls for Proposals: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/calls/art36grants.htm>





### **Calls for tenders (“procurement”)**

EFSA is required to put out to competitive tender all contracts for services, goods, works and acquisition or leasing of real estate which it needs for its operation.

These calls for tenders, open to all, respect the principles of good financial management and equal access to suppliers, while ensuring transparency. It is thus possible to identify the applicable tender procedure, namely: open, restricted or negotiated. The procedure to be followed depends on the estimated budget available. Any contract awarded by EFSA is done so subsequent to a strict tendering procedure. The rules governing the EFSA procurement system are based on a broad range of provisions in European Union legislation.

Calls for Tenders: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/procurement/tenders.htm>

### **Calls for data**

EFSA regularly publishes calls for data on scientific subjects specific to its remit.

Calls for data: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/calls/data.htm>

### **Public consultations**

EFSA regularly publishes calls for public consultations on scientific subjects specific to its remit.

Consultations: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/calls/consultations.htm>



### The information exchange platform (IEP)

The information exchange platform (IEP) was developed by EFSA in collaboration with the focal points in order to provide a platform for the Advisory Forum, the focal points and EFSA to facilitate the exchange of results of risk assessment outputs undertaken by official bodies in different Member States. The IEP is accessible *via* EFSA's Extranet site through password-controlled access.

The aim of this site is to facilitate the exchange of information on risk assessment activities between and amongst Member States and EFSA. The following documents can be found:

- mandates and requests to conduct a risk assessment;
- outputs of a risk assessment;
- work plans of national food authorities;
- country-specific information.

Access to this platform is limited. Only the focal point or the member of the Advisory Forum may upload documents to the IEP. Only EFSA, the members of the Advisory Forum, the focal points and the contact persons from the competent organisations under Article 36 have access.

For any request for access to information relating to this platform, contact the focal point: [pointfocal\[@\]anses.fr](mailto:pointfocal[@]anses.fr)

### The expert database (EDB)

EFSA, in cooperation with Member States, has created a database of external scientific experts able to assist its scientific committee, scientific panels, networks and respective working groups. This European database is also accessible to the national health authorities.

## Cooperation tools

This database helps EFSA:

- enhance its capacity to conduct risk assessments in the areas of food and feed safety;
- enhance the transparency of the process through which experts are invited to participate in its scientific activities, and
- respond more effectively and more flexibly to the growing workload, particularly in cases where very specialised, unexpected and urgent work may be required.

The experts included in the database may be invited to participate in two types of assignments:

- EFSA assignments, where the nature of the tasks is the provision of scientific advice to EFSA's Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels, EFSA's networks and related working groups; and
- assignments to scientific projects by direct invitation of Member States, EEA/EFTA countries or the European Commission.

EFSA welcomes applications from experts in all fields of its remit, such as food and feed safety, nutrition, toxicology, chemistry, animal health and welfare, plant protection and plant health; a complete list of the required expertise is available in the "expertise" field of the online registration form.

Scientists with appropriate expertise are invited to apply. All candidates who submit a complete application and meet the eligibility criteria will be included in the database. EFSA will inform each applicant whether they have been included and, if not, the criteria that were not met.

Information on the EDB: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/networks/expertdb.htm>  
To apply: <https://ess.efsa.europa.eu/edbReg/?ApplyOnline=Poser+sa+candidature+en+ligne>







## Symposia and training

### *Symposia*

Every year EFSA also organises and participates in many events on scientific matters falling within its remit. These include workshops, conferences and round tables. These events enable it to inform its partners and interested parties about developments relating to scientific matters falling within its remit, but also to collect comments, information and different points of view on work in progress.

Since 2004, EFSA has organised at least one symposium per year with the aim of deepening understanding of the fundamental scientific issues related to risk assessment of food and feed safety. The deliberations of the discussion groups and the main findings of each colloquium are summarised in a report that is published on EFSA's website.

For more information:

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/networks/scientificcolloquia.htm>

### *Training*

The BTSF (**Better Training for Safer Food**) project is a Commission initiative. The BTSF organises training courses on European legislation relating to food and feed, animal health and welfare, and plant health. The Executive Agency for Health and Consumers, the EAHC, set up the BTSF project in 2009. These courses are organised at the initiative of the European Commission, and are intended for experts working for the competent authorities. EFSA is naturally involved in the context of training in risk analysis. In order to be able to identify all the relevant experts and ensure maximum participation by Member States, EFSA requests the collaboration of the focal points.

For more information about these training courses:

<http://ec.europa.eu/chafea/food/about.html>

# Useful links

## Founding Regulation

Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, established the European Food Safety Authority and lay down procedures in matters of food safety. The full text of the Regulation is available from the following address:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32002R0178>

## EFSA Publications, EFSA Journal and newsletters (EFSA HIGHLIGHTS)

EFSA publishes all its scientific outputs, including its scientific opinions, in the **EFSA Journal** which is an open-access, online scientific journal available on the EFSA website. It publishes all of EFSA's scientific documents (opinions, guidance, statements, conclusions, scientific reports, etc.).

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/publications/efsajournal.htm>

The Authority also publishes a range of **supporting publications** in support of its scientific work, as well as **corporate publications**.

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/publications.htm>

EFSA publishes various **newsletters** on its website, which can also be received by email *via* online subscription, in particular EFSA Highlights which is a short weekly publication featuring what's new on the EFSA website, sent mid-week to subscribers.

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/news/newsletters.htm>

## E-mail alerts

These alerts are updates sent by e-mail of the latest information on EFSA's work, based on your selection. They are a useful way of being kept informed, especially regarding calls for tenders, public consultations, etc.

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/news/alerts.htm>







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