



24th December 2018

http://www.securite-alimentaire.public.lu/point_focal/index.html

LUXEMBOURGISH EFSA FOCAL POINT NEWSLETTER

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Public Consultations

Draft guidance on commodity risk assessment for the evaluation of high risk plants dossiers

We would like to inform you that the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has launched today a public consultation on a **Draft guidance on commodity risk assessment for the evaluation of high risk plants dossiers**.

This guidance is intended to describe how the commodity risk assessment on high risk plants will be performed.

The public consultation will remain open **until 24 January 2019**:

https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/Public_consultation_on_commodity_risk_assessment

For any questions on the content, please contact **Ciro Gardi**, ciro.gardi@efsa.europa.eu

For any other concern, please contact ScientificCooperation@efsa.europa.eu

Events

Foodborne pathogens and whole genome sequencing

Anses and BfR have the pleasure to invite you to the joint conference on **Foodborne pathogens & whole genome sequencing : impact on public health protection** the 26-28 March 2019 in Paris.

Provisional Programme: <http://ptolemee.com/wgs2019/MEDIA/programme-WGS2019.pdf>

Registrations: <http://ptolemee.com/wgs2019/inscription.html> (free of charge, but registration needed)



Training

EU-FORA – The European Food Risk Assessment Fellowship Programme: apply now for third round - EU FORA Hosting sites - promotional video

EFSA is calling for applications from potential fellows and hosting sites for the 2019/2020 cycle of its European Food Risk Assessment (EU-FORA) Fellowship Programme, a key initiative for building the EU's scientific assessment capacity and knowledge community.

Deadline for application for fellows and hosting sites : 31 January 2019

More information: <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/engage/fellowship>

EU FORA Hosting sites - promotional video:

On Twitter: https://twitter.com/EFSA_EU/status/1070656502585798657

On LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6476422357291454465>

Publications

Contaminants update: first of two opinions on PFAS in food published on the EFSA website

We would like to inform you that EFSA today published the Scientific Opinion **Risk to human health related to the presence of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid and perfluorooctanoic acid in food**.

The output is accompanied by the news story "**Contaminants update: first of two opinions on PFAS in food**", which is available in English, French, German and Italian [on the EFSA website here](#).

The key messages are:

- *In the first of two assessments of perfluoroalkylated substances (PFAS), EFSA proposes to revise the tolerable intakes of perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA). PFAS are chemical contaminants to which humans are exposed through the food chain as a result of environmental pollution.*
- *The conclusions of the opinion are provisional and will be reviewed while the second assessment looking at the remaining PFAS is completed. EFSA will publicly consult on the second opinion in 2019.*

For further information on the Scientific Opinion please contact Karen MacKay (karen.mackay@efsa.europa.eu).

For further information on the news story, please contact Anthony Smith (anthony.smith@efsa.europa.eu).



Publication on the EFSA website: Zoonotic diseases and EU summary report

We would like to inform you that EFSA has published the EU summary report on trends and sources of zoonoses, zoonotic agents and food-borne outbreaks in 2017.

On the [EFSA website](#) you can find a news story “Zoonotic diseases: progress has stalled”, available in English, French, German and Italian as well as the summary report.

Some key messages:

- There were only minor fluctuations in reported cases of three main zoonotic diseases in the EU last year compared to 2016. The number of reported cases of salmonellosis and campylobacteriosis has remained stable over the past five years, although listeriosis continues to rise.
- After several years of decline, salmonellosis cases in the EU have flattened out. In 2017 the number fell slightly from 94,425 to 91,662 but the downward trend that began in 2008 has stalled in recent years.
- S. Enteritidis is the most commonly reported type of Salmonella in humans, causing one in seven foodborne outbreaks. In the period 2013-2017, the trend of confirmed cases of S. Enteritidis in humans was stable and seemed to mirror an analogous trend in laying hens.

For further information on the Scientific Opinion please contact Frank Boelaert (frank.boelaert@efsa.europa.eu).

For further information on the news story, please contact Francesca Matteucci (francesca.matteucci@efsa.europa.eu).

EFSA and the Luxembourgish EFSA Focal Point wish you Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2019!



Trusted science for safe food

Season's Greetings 2018



“I would like to thank all our partners and stakeholders for working with us in 2018 and I wish a happy and peaceful festive season to all. I look forward to another year of delivering together trusted science for safe food.”

Bernhard Url