



18th May 2020

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

LUXEMBOURGISH EFSA FOCAL POINT NEWSLETTER

20-6

Calls for tenders and proposals

EXTENSION OF DEADLINE: EFSA tender - OC/EFSA/ALPHA/2020/02 - Epidemiological expertise to support topics related to Regulation (EU) 2016/429 or Animal Health Law

We would like to inform you that EFSA has launched the **call for Epidemiological Expertise to Support Topics Related to Regulation (EU) 2016/429 or Animal Health Law** and that it is available on OJ and EFSA web site.

This tender is divided into two lots

- Lot 1: Review of existing literature and other sources of relevant data in the field of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), with a further literature review focused on the selected AMR bacteria;
- Lot 2: Assessment of preparedness, control, eradication and mitigation measures, to include a review of relevant literature, available data and/or any other source of information for listed diseases and their plausible further analysis.

The deadline for this tender has been extended to May, 26 2020.

In case of any doubt or need of clarification, please do not hesitate to contact EFSAProcurement@efsa.europa.eu.

EFSA TENDER REFERENCE: [OC/EFSA/ALPHA/2020/02](#)

EU TED WEBSITE: [Epidemiological Expertise to Support Topics Related to Regulation \(EU\) 2016/429 or Animal Health Law](#)

Public Consultations

Now open: public consultation on genome editing in plants

EFSA has just launched a public consultation on the draft scientific opinion “[Applicability of the EFSA opinion on site-directed nucleases type 3 for the safety assessment of plants developed using site-directed nucleases type 1 and 2 and oligonucleotide-directed mutagenesis](#)”.

The deadline for submitting comments is **27 May 2020**.

Find more information on EFSA's work on new advances in biotechnology here:

- **Editorial:** [Advances in genetic engineering](#) – EFSA's public consultations in 2020
- **Topic** "[New advances in biotechnology](#)" on EFSA website

Please contact gmo@efsa.europa.eu for enquiries related to the public consultation.

KIND REMINDER - Deadline approaching: 2 public consultations on synthetic biology

We would like to remind you that the deadline for any interested party to submit written comments to the below-mentioned **two EFSA public consultations on synthetic biology** is **26 May 2020**.

- Public consultation on draft scientific opinion on Evaluation of existing guidelines for their adequacy for the [molecular characterisation and environmental risk assessment of genetically modified plants](#) obtained through synthetic biology
- Public consultation on draft scientific opinion on Evaluation of existing guidelines for their adequacy for the [microbial characterisation and environmental risk assessment of micro-organisms](#) obtained through synthetic biology

Events

Registration opening for observing the 105th Open Plenary meeting of the Panel on Plant Protection Products and their Residues (PPR) | 10-11 June 2020

We would like to inform you that the registration to observe the **105th Plenary meeting of the Panel on Plant Protection Products and their Residues (PPR) of June 10-11, 2020** is active in the EFSA website.

Please note that the Plenary will be held as a web meeting and that the registration to observe is open until the **1 June 2020 - 12:00 (CEST)**.

OPEN PLENARY: [105th Plenary meeting of the Panel on Plant Protection Products and their Residues \(PPR\)](#)

Training

Webinar - EFSA Activities on Horizon Scanning for Plant Health | 9 June 2020

We would like to invite you to participate to the webinar "**EFSA Activities on Horizon Scanning for Plant Health**".

This webinar, one of a series being organised by EFSA's plant health team in 2020, the International Year of Plant Health in which the new EU Plant Health Law is fully applied, will present the horizon scanning activities, focusing on the screening methodology and results.

For your information, EFSA will publish a recording of the webinar.

For your information, the webinar is scheduled on **Tuesday 9th June 2020 from 13:30 to 14:30 (CET)** and the registration to attend is now open.

Should you have any questions or doubts, please contact EFSA at webinars@efsa.europa.eu Please note also that the participation is limited to a maximum of 500 participants on a first-come, first-served basis.

WEBINAR: [EFSA Activities on Horizon Scanning for Plant Health](#)

Publications

Vigil'Anses/veterinary pharmacovigilance, nutrivi- gillance, phytopharmacovigilance, toxicovigilance and vigilance of professional pathologies

ANSES, in charge of several health vigilance systems (**veterinary pharmacovigilance, nutrivi-
gillance, phytopharmacovigilance, toxicovigilance and vigilance of professional pathologies**), has created a
dedicated publication: **Vigil'Anses** in order to make its vigilance activities known.

This tri-annual Anses monitor presents, in short articles, the main results and opinions published by
Anses within the framework of its vigilance missions.

You will find enclosed the Vigil'Anses N°8, in English.

Please, let us know if you are interested in this Anses monitor and want to receive it automatically
by sending an email to : vigilanses@anses.fr

Availability of new FAO Publication on new publication "Climate change: Unpacking the burden on food safety"

We would like to inform you that the new publication "*Climate change: Unpacking the burden on food
safety*" is now available on the FAO website at:

<http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/ca8185en>

EFSA scientific opinion "The public health risk posed by Listeria monocytogenes in frozen fruit and vegetables including herbs, blanched during processing"

EFSA published the scientific opinion "**The public health risk posed by Listeria monocytogenes in
frozen fruit and vegetables including herbs, blanched during processing**".

EFSA has in fact assessed the risks to public health from Listeria contamination of vegetables that are
blanched – scalded in hot water or steam for a short time – before they are frozen.

The risks associated with the consumption of these products is lower than for ready-to-eat foods such
as smoked fish, cooked meat, sausages, pâté, soft cheese.

The scientific opinion is accompanied by a news story "**Listeria in frozen vegetables: how to reduce
risks**" which is available in English, French, German and Italian.

For any further questions on the scientific opinion, please contact biohaz@efsa.europa.eu.

NEWS: [Listeria in frozen vegetables: how to reduce risks](#)

SCIENTIFIC OPINION: [The public health risk posed by Listeria monocytogenes in frozen fruit and
vegetables including herbs, blanched during processing](#)

Plant health: pest survey cards go digital

EFSA is pleased to inform you that **the first batch of EFSA's plant pest survey cards are [now available in an easy-to-use digital format](#)**. Ten of the existing 28 cards – which are designed to help EU Member States plan their annual survey of quarantine pests – have been published as *“story maps”* on EFSA's website. They are smartphone-compatible.

The cards contain material that is essential for carrying out surveys that conform to current international standards, such as up-to-date information on the pest's distribution, its host range, its biology and risk factors, as well as available detection and identification methods.

They are part of a plant pest [surveillance toolkit](#) that consists of pest-specific documents, such as the survey cards, and documents that are relevant for all pests to be surveyed, including general survey guidelines and information on appropriate software.

The remaining 18 cards will be adapted to the new format later this year.

You can also find more information about EFSA's work on plant health and, specifically, on pests surveillance in our web on the International Year of Plant Health: <https://bit.ly/2vN3pMy>

Xylella fastidiosa: 37 new plant species added to host list

We are pleased to inform you that today EFSA is updating the database listing the plants that can host the *Xylella fastidiosa* pathogen.

Thirty-seven new plant species have been identified as hosts of the *Xylella fastidiosa* pathogen. Most were naturally (not artificially) infected and were found both in EU countries (France, Italy, Portugal and Spain) and non-EU countries (USA and Iran). The new hosts include common ornamental, wild and commercial plants such as fleabane (*Erigeron* sp.), *Helichrysum stoechas*, pistachio (*Pistacia vera*), and persimmon (*Diospyros kaki*).

Here you can find more information: <https://bit.ly/3bJnKSH>

The newly identified hosts are included in the latest update of EFSA's database of plants that act as hosts for *X. fastidiosa*. The list now comprises 595 plant species; for 343 of the species, infection has been identified by at least two detection methods under natural or experimental conditions.

You can also find more information about EFSA's work on plant health and, specifically, on pests surveillance in our web on the International Year of Plant Health: <https://bit.ly/2vN3pMy>

Pesticides: first cumulative risk reports published

We are pleased to inform you that EFSA has just published **two Scientific Reports: one on the cumulative dietary risk characterisation of pesticides that have acute effects on the nervous system and one on the cumulative dietary risk characterisation of pesticides that have chronic effects on the thyroid**.

The documents were finalised following a two-month consultation period during which EFSA received feedback from a variety of stakeholders, including national institutions, academia, non-governmental organisations and commercial associations.

The overall conclusion for both assessments is that consumer risk from dietary cumulative exposure is, with varying degrees of certainty, below the threshold that triggers regulatory action for all the population groups covered.

NEWS: [Pesticides: first cumulative risk reports published](#)

FAQs: [Cumulative risk assessment of pesticides: FAQ](#)

REPORTS:

[Cumulative dietary risk characterisation of pesticides that have acute effects on the nervous system](#)

[Cumulative dietary risk characterisation of pesticides that have chronic effects on the thyroid](#)

Campylobacter: updated scientific opinion

We would like to inform you that EFSA has just published the scientific opinion “**Update and review of control options for Campylobacter in broilers at primary production**”.

EFSA experts have in fact updated and reviewed on-farm control options for Campylobacter in broilers, identifying the most effective ones and assessing the advantages and disadvantages of each measure.

TOPIC : [Campylobacter](#)

SCIENTIFIC OPINION: [Update and review of control options for Campylobacter in broilers at primary production](#)

Scientific opinion: risk assessment of ochratoxin A in food

We would like to inform you that EFSA has just published a **scientific opinion on public health risks related to the presence of ochratoxin A (OTA) in food**.

New available data suggest that OTA can be genotoxic by directly damaging the DNA. Experts also confirmed that it can be carcinogenic to the kidney. Therefore a margin of exposure (MOE) was calculated, which is a tool used by risk assessors to consider possible safety concerns arising from the presence in food and feed of substances which are both genotoxic and carcinogenic.

For any further information on the scientific opinion, please contact contam@efsa.europa.eu

NEWS: [Ochratoxin A in food: public health risks assessed](#)

SCIENTIFIC OPINION : [Risk assessment of ochratoxin A in food](#)

EFSA Recruitment

New Job Opportunity in EFSA

We would like to inform you that **EFSA has published a new call for Junior Scientific Officer – Animal Health and Welfare / Animal Nutrition and Production**.

EFSA will grow considerably over the next few years and in view of this, a number of calls to establish reserve lists of suitable candidates to help carry EFSA forward, have been launched.

[Junior Scientific Officer – Animal Health & Welfare / Animal Nutrition and Production \(deadline for applications 20/05/2020\)](#)