

CALL TO STAKEHOLDER ORGANISATIONS FOR NOMINATING MEMBERS TO THE EFSA DISCUSSION GROUP ON FOOD CHEMICAL OCCURRENCE DATA

Integrated Data Unit (IDATA)



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CALL TO STAKEHOLDER ORGANISATIONS FOR NOMINATING EXPERTS TO THE EFSA DISCUSSION GROUP ON FOOD CHEMICAL OCCURRENCE DATA

Deadline for submission of nominations: 20 February 2023

Please apply by filling the Nomination Form [here](#)

1. Introduction

EFSA Strategy 2027 states the importance of listening to and engaging with stakeholders to deliver its objectives. In particular, stakeholders may engage with EFSA's risk assessment process and all the related activities in the field of chemical occurrence data collection.

The recently reviewed approach to stakeholder engagement (SEA)¹ enables EFSA to interact with a larger range of stakeholders through several permanent and targeted platforms². Therefore, through their participation at Thematic discussion groups, stakeholders can engage with EFSA at a technical level defined by the set of interests and the specific knowledge stakeholder communities bring to the various phases of EFSA's work. Thematic discussion groups act as "learning systems" to discuss and exchange information in specific areas, capitalising on stakeholder knowledge in those domains. These are primarily open to registered stakeholders, although EFSA may also invite non-registered organisations or individuals to participate, based on their competency, expertise and experience, as stipulated in Article 3 of the Decision on the criteria for establishing a list of registered stakeholders and the establishment of the Stakeholder Forum and Stakeholder Bureau³.

The Stakeholder Discussion Group on Food Chemical Occurrence Data (StaDG-ChemOccD) is one of the thematic discussion groups that have allowed EFSA to benefit from stakeholders' specialist knowledge and data in the field of chemical occurrence data collection.

The StaDG-ChemOccD (Previously referred as DG_FCOC) was created to improve the exchange of information on the practical aspects and challenges regarding the provision of data from stakeholders to EFSA with a particular focus on food additives, contaminants and food enzymes. Currently extended to the new domains of food flavourings and food contact materials.

A balanced composition of the group is essential for the representation of different views, to address the needs of linking chemical usage with food consumption data, to discuss on the practical aspects and challenges regarding the provision of data and to be aligned with the new EFSA Stakeholder Engagement Approach (SEA), the composition of the current StaDG-ChemOccD shall be revised and renewed for the period 2023-2026.

¹Stakeholder Engagement Approach

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/EFSA%20Stakeholder%20engagement%20approach_FINAL.pdf

²Engagement platforms

<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/stakeholders/engagement-platforms>

³ Decision of the Management Board of the European Food Safety Authority on the criteria for establishing a list of stakeholders and the establishment of the Stakeholder Forum and Stakeholder Bureau <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/Document18992.pdf>



2. Scope of the Stakeholder Discussion Group on Food Chemical Occurrence Data

The role of stakeholders is essential in providing information and data in the area of chemicals occurrence in food. These information and data are needed to support EFSA's scientific assessments and evaluations.

The StaDG-ChemOccD shall be composed of representatives from registered stakeholders in each of the following categories: consumers; environmental/health NGOs and/or advocacy groups; farmers and primary producers; business and food industry; distributors and HORECA (food service industry preparing and serving food and beverages), associations of practitioners working in fields relevant to EFSA's food safety and public health remit and academia. A given registered stakeholder may have more than one representative in the StaDG-ChemOccD. To benefit fully from this Discussion Group⁴, EFSA will select one member and one alternate member per registered organisation.

The topics of each meeting are determined by the priority areas identified by EFSA and the requests received by EFSA from registered stakeholders. The group will provide comments to EFSA on the issues discussed at the meetings as well as available data needed to support EFSA's scientific assessments and evaluations.

3. Stakeholders' involvement

The StaDG-ChemOccD should be a group of people who share interest and knowledge on concepts, methods and technologies related to the collection of data on food additives, chemical contaminants, food enzymes, food contact materials and their provision to EFSA. The members of the Discussion Group work together for their mutual benefit and in compliance with EFSA's interests.

The Discussion Group will be coordinated by the Integrated Data Unit (IDATA) with the support of EFSA's Engagement & External Relations (ENREL) Unit. The costs of taking part in the meetings organised by EFSA which foresee the participation of stakeholders, will be borne by each individual stakeholder organisation. Exceptionally, EFSA may contribute to financing the costs of those organisations that could not otherwise afford to participate. Financial contributions may only be awarded to stakeholder organisations which are non-governmental, non-profit making, independent of industry, commerce and business and have as their primary objectives and activities the promotion and protection of the health and safety of consumers and the environment. Requests for financial support shall be assessed on a case-by-case basis and will need to be properly documented by the requesting organisation. Representatives of the European Parliament and the European Commission may participate in meetings of this Discussion Group as observers.

4. Process for nomination of representatives of stakeholder organisations for membership in the Discussion Group on Food Chemical Occurrence Data

EFSA's stakeholders are representative organisations that have an interest in the Authority's work. EFSA divides stakeholders into seven major groups; all groups with an interest in the area are invited to nominate members for the Discussion Group. Additional information on EFSA's stakeholder engagement is available at this [web link](#).

⁴ Decision of the Management Board of the European Food Safety Authority on the criteria for establishing a list of stakeholders and the establishment of the Stakeholder Forum and Stakeholder Bureau
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/Document18992.pdf>



Organisations already registered as EFSA stakeholders⁵ can proceed directly with the nomination of the member(s) for the Discussion Group. Other organisations interested in nominating a member for this Discussion Group should send first a request to become registered as an EFSA stakeholder; information for submitting a request is available at and this [web link](#).

As stipulated in Article 3 of the Decision of the EFSA Management Board on the criteria for establishing a list of stakeholders and the establishment of the Stakeholder Forum and Stakeholder Bureau⁶, a non-registered stakeholder may be invited to the meetings of EFSA Discussion Groups based on the need for specific expertise or technical knowledge. Such engagement will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Any involvement of non-registered stakeholders will be made public in a transparent and timely manner. Nominations of members for the Discussion Group should be sent to IDATA@efsa.europa.eu together with a fulfilled Nomination form, please write "*StaDG-ChemOccD application*" in the subject

The deadline for submission of the nominations is **20 February 2023**. Organisations may submit nominations for up to three experts; A given registered stakeholder may have more than one representative in the StaDG-ChemOccD.

5. Criteria for the selection of EFSA stakeholder representatives in the EFSA Discussion Group on Food Chemical Occurrence Data

EFSA will select stakeholder representatives from the nominations received through this call.

The selection will follow the principles established in EFSA's Stakeholder Engagement Approach and the Decision of the Management Board of EFSA on the criteria for establishing a list of stakeholders and the establishment of the Stakeholder Forum and Stakeholder Bureau.

For the selection, EFSA will consider the following criteria:

- Interest in the field and expected benefits from the participation of the organisation as expressed in its application;
- Role and remit of the organisation at the EU level and internationally;
- Achieving a balanced representation of stakeholder interests;
- In addition, the nominated stakeholder member should demonstrate knowledge of data collection relevant to the remit of the Discussion Group.

EFSA will inform all the nominating organisations of the outcome of the selection process. The stakeholder experts are responsible for ensuring that their comments represent the views of the organisation, considering, as appropriate, the views of other non-selected organisations within the same main stakeholder groups. Non-selected organisations will be invited to contribute to the process via selected stakeholder organisations representing their stakeholder category. The names of the stakeholder experts and nominating organisations will be made publicly available.

⁵List of registered stakeholders <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/stakeholders-registered-list.pdf>

⁶<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/Document18992.pdf>