



Brussels, 20 October 2023

**CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR THE POSITION OF A MEMBER AND AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE MANAGEMENT BOARD OF THE EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY AS REPRESENTATIVES OF ENVIRONMENTAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS**

### **Subject of the call**

This European Commission call for expressions of interest relates to the appointment of a member and an alternate member to the Management Board of the European Food Safety Authority ('Management Board'), as representatives of environmental non-governmental organisations.

The present call aims at establishing the European Commission's list. Once established, the European Commission's list will be forwarded to the Council, who will appoint the members after a consultation with the European Parliament.

### **The European Food Safety Authority**

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) is the keystone of the European Union system of risk assessment for food and feed safety<sup>1</sup>. EFSA was established to provide scientific advice and support for Union legislation and policies in all fields that may have a direct or indirect impact on food and feed safety, as well as closely associated questions in the field of animal health and welfare and plant health. It provides independent information on these matters and communicates on risks. Its mission also includes provision of scientific advice in many areas of food and feed law and whenever Union legislation so requires, including new food technologies such as GMOs. EFSA is widely recognised as the point of reference by virtue of its independence, the scientific quality of its opinions and public information, the transparency of its procedures and its diligence in performing its tasks. In addition to having its own specialist personnel, EFSA is supported by networks of competent organisations in the EU. EFSA is located in Parma, Italy.

### **Legal background and composition of the EFSA Management Board**

The EFSA Management Board is composed of 27 Member State representatives (with alternates), 4 representatives of civil society and of interests in the food chain (with alternates), 2 representatives of the European Commission (with alternates), 2 representatives

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<sup>1</sup> The European Food Safety Authority was established by 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, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety, (OJ L 31, 1.2.2002, p. 1).

of the European Parliament (without alternates)<sup>2</sup>, 2 representatives of the EFTA/EEA countries and 1 representative of the EFTA Surveillance Authority (with alternates).<sup>3</sup>

The *Council Decision of 2 June 2022 appointing members and alternate members of the Management Board of the European Food Safety Authority representing civil society and food chain interests (2022/C 225/02)*<sup>4</sup>, appointed:

1. one member and one alternate member from consumer organisations;
2. one member and one alternate member from environmental non-governmental organisations;
3. one member and one alternate member from farmers' organisations; and,
4. one member and one alternate member from industry organisations.

The resignation of the representatives of environmental non-governmental organisations (i.e. of the alternate member on 10/01/2023 and of the member on 12/07/2023) created two vacancies: one for a member and for an alternate member representing environmental non-governmental organisations for the remaining period of the current EFSA Management Board mandate, i.e. until 30 June 2026.

Current membership of the Management Board can be viewed on EFSA's website <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/people/mbmembers>.

Further legal provisions relevant for the appointment of the EFSA Management Board members include the following:

- In accordance with new Article 25(1b) Regulation (EC) No 178/2002, *“The members and the alternate members of the Management Board shall be nominated and appointed on the basis of their relevant experience and expertise in the field of food chain law and policy, including risk assessment, whilst ensuring that there is relevant expertise in the fields of managerial, administrative, financial and legal matters within the Management Board.”*
- Recital 15 of the Regulation (EU) 2019/1381, amending Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 stipulates that: *“The members of the Management Board should be selected and appointed in such a way as to secure the highest standards of competence and the broadest range of relevant experience available.”*

## **Role and operation of the Management Board**

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<sup>2</sup> See Article 25 of 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, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety, (OJ L 31, 1.2.2002, p. 1) as amended by Regulation (EU) 2019/1381 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on the transparency and sustainability of the EU risk assessment in the food chain and amending Regulations (EC) No 178/2002, (EC) No 1829/2003, (EC) No 1831/2003, (EC) No 2065/2003, (EC) No 1935/2004, (EC) No 1331/2008, (EC) No 1107/2009, (EU) 2015/2283 and Directive 2001/18/EC, (OJ L 231, 6.9.2019, p.1).

<sup>3</sup> Decision of the EEA Joint Committee No 234/2021 of 24 September 2021, which incorporated Regulation (EU) 2019/1381 into the EEA Agreement.

<sup>4</sup> OJ C 225, 9.6.2022, p. 2.

The responsibilities of the Management Board include, in particular:

- general monitoring of the work of EFSA to ensure that it carries out its mission and performs the tasks assigned to it in accordance with its mandate and within a culture of independence and transparency;
- the appointment of the Executive Director on the basis of a list of candidates drawn up by the Commission, and, if necessary, his or her dismissal;
- the appointment of the members of the Scientific Committee and Panels, which are responsible for providing the scientific opinions of EFSA;
- the adoption of annual and multi-annual programmes of work of EFSA and the general report of annual activities;
- the adoption of the budget of EFSA for the coming year and of the annual accounts for the previous year;
- the adoption of EFSA’s internal and financial rules.

### **Participation in the Management Board meetings / Reimbursement and indemnities**

Members will need to make a high level of commitment to participate in the meetings of the Management Board. Applicants need to confirm in the application form their availability to actively participate in the Management Board. The Board meets three to four times per year, mainly in Parma.

The Management Board operates by public meetings, private sessions, and correspondence (in English). A very good command of English is therefore essential and is a requirement of this call.

The members of the Management Board are not remunerated. Their expenses may be reimbursed in accordance with the [EFSA experts’ compensation guide](#)<sup>5</sup>. The rules may be summarised as follows:

- Coverage of travel expenses. This includes the transfer from some Italian airports to EFSA and return (*See point 2.1.5 of the guide*).
- Payment of an accommodation allowance to cover the accommodation costs.
- Payment of a daily allowance to cover subsistence costs during the meeting period (the allowance is reduced in proportion with the offered meals)
- No expert allowance is paid to members of the Management Board.

### **Independence**

The members of the Management Board members must act independently in the public interest, with integrity and discretion. Moreover, the specific category of members representing the civil society and food chain interests must act with the aim of representing the general interest of the category of stakeholders, they are appointed to represent. They must

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<sup>5</sup> [Experts compensation guide.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)

act impartially, avoiding any situation liable to give rise to conflicts of interest. Taking into account the public character of their function they must conduct themselves in a way that maintains and promotes the public's trust in EFSA.<sup>6</sup>

They are expected to observe the highest standard of ethical conduct, act honestly and impartially and without regard to self-interest.

In order to demonstrate their commitment to act independently, candidates are required to complete and submit a declaration of interest form that include specific commitments and declarations made on their honour. Any detected interests that are not compatible with the position of the Management Board could lead to the rejection of the application. Candidates could also be requested to confirm their commitment to resign from certain identified interests incompatible with the function of the board member, should they be appointed.

The members of the Management Board must make an annual written declaration of interests and to declare at each meeting of the Management Board any interest which might be considered as prejudicial to their independence in relation to the items on the agenda. They must refrain from involvement in any activity that could result in a conflict of interest or is likely to provoke the perception of a conflict of interest in the general public.

### **Qualifications for the position and selection criteria**

The members of the Management Board must meet the highest standards of competence, encompassing a broad range of relevant expertise and a commitment to act independently.

To qualify for the position, candidates must:

- be nationals of an EU Member State;
- demonstrate the commitment to act independently as indicated above under 'Independence';
- demonstrate that at the time of application they represent environmental non-governmental organisations.

The following criteria will further apply for the evaluation of candidates:

1. Ability and experience in representing environmental non-governmental organisations preferably at a European level. The characteristics of the organisations represented will be also assessed (representativeness, scope, relevance).
2. Candidates must demonstrate that they possess competencies and experience relevant to the tasks of the Management Board; pertinent in that assessment will be competence and experience in one or more of the following fields:
  - a. relevant experience and expertise in the field of food chain law and policy, including risk assessment;

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<sup>6</sup> [Code of Conduct of the EFSA Management Board](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/values/independence.htm). The appointees will be subject to that Code and to EFSA's internal rules on independence (<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/values/independence.htm>).

- b. expertise in the fields of managerial, administrative, financial and legal matters;
  - c. contribution to and/or development of policies ensuring integrity, independence, transparency, ethical practices and high scientific quality advice while maintaining reliability for the stakeholders.
3. Candidates must demonstrate their ability to operate in a multilingual, multicultural and multidisciplinary environment.

The assessment will be carried out on the basis of comparative merits and taking into account that the members of the Management Board are to be selected in such a way to secure the highest standard of competence and the broadest range of relevant experience available.

### **Equal opportunities**

In drawing up the list of candidates, the European Commission will ensure that any form of discrimination is avoided while give due consideration to gender balance.

### **Application procedure and closing date**

Applications must comply with the procedural application requirements set out below; otherwise, applications will be considered inadmissible.

Interested persons are encouraged to apply via an online system by going to the website: [https://food.ec.europa.eu/horizontal-topics/call-expressions-interest/efsa-management-board-2023\\_en](https://food.ec.europa.eu/horizontal-topics/call-expressions-interest/efsa-management-board-2023_en) .

### **The online application must include three attachments:**

- a) the declaration of interest form with a handwritten signature; the form may be found at the following address: [https://food.ec.europa.eu/horizontal-topics/call-expressions-interest/efsa-management-board-2023\\_en](https://food.ec.europa.eu/horizontal-topics/call-expressions-interest/efsa-management-board-2023_en) ,
- b) a detailed CV,
- c) a reference letter from the organisation(s) represented.

Notes:

- (1) Upon successful submission of the online application, the online system will generate a registration number. If no registration number is generated, the application has not been registered.

In the event of any technical problems, please send an e-mail to [SANTE-CALL-AGENCIES@ec.europa.eu](mailto:SANTE-CALL-AGENCIES@ec.europa.eu). It is not possible to monitor the progress of the application online.

- (2) The application form, the declaration of interest form, the CV, and any supporting documents have to be written in an official language of the European Union. It would, however, be appreciated, without it being a requirement, if a summary of experience and other pertinent information is provided in English in order to facilitate the selection procedure. Supporting documents must be submitted at a later stage, if requested.

- (3) If you wish to submit your application in an official language of the European Union other than English, you may fill in the application in that language or contact the call secretariat by e-mail to [SANTE-CALL-AGENCIES@ec.europa.eu](mailto:SANTE-CALL-AGENCIES@ec.europa.eu) and request an application form in given language. You will receive a word application form.
- (4) All expressions of interest will be treated confidentially.
- (5) The **final deadline** for submission of applications is **12:00 noon, Brussels time, 04/12/2023**.
- (6) The application has to be completed by the deadline. The Commission strongly advise candidates not to wait until the last few days before applying, since any fault of internet connection could result in a missed opportunity to submit the application before the deadline. Once the deadline for submission of application has passed, applications will not be accepted.
- (7) Applications sent by e-mail to [SANTE-CALL-AGENCIES@ec.europa.eu](mailto:SANTE-CALL-AGENCIES@ec.europa.eu) and complying with the requirements set under point (3) will be accepted. Applications sent by post, fax or hand-delivered will not be accepted, neither applications sent directly to the European Food Safety Authority.
- (8) By submitting an application, candidates accept the procedures and conditions as described in this call and in the documents to which it refers. In compiling their application, candidates may under no circumstances refer to any documents submitted in prior applications (example: photocopies of previous applications will not be accepted). Any misrepresentation in supplying the required information may lead to exclusion from the present call.
- (9) All candidates applying to this call for expressions of interest will be informed about the outcome of the selection process.

#### **PROTECTION OF PERSONAL DATA**

Candidates should note that the Commission's list will be made public and that they have the right to object to publication of their names by contacting the Commission at the address indicated in the specific privacy statement for this call. The exercise of this right will not prejudice the candidate's application

The Commission will ensure that candidates' personal data are processed as required by Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC (OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 39). This applies in particular to the confidentiality and security of such data. For more detailed information on the scope, purposes and means of the processing of their personal data in the context of this call, candidates are invited to consult the specific privacy statement published on the webpage concerning this call at the following address [https://food.ec.europa.eu/horizontal-topics/call-expressions-interest/efsa-management-board-2023\\_en](https://food.ec.europa.eu/horizontal-topics/call-expressions-interest/efsa-management-board-2023_en).