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## “Transparency Regulation in the food chain”

celebratory virtual event

30 março, 09:00

**Ms Stella Kyriakides**, European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety

**Bernhard Url** Executive Director da European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)

- I am very pleased to be here today to mark the entry into application of the new Regulation on the transparency and sustainability of the European Union's system of risk assessment in food supply chains.
- Firstly, I would like to recall the genesis of this regulation, which is a response to a European citizens' initiative on the banning of glyphosate and the protection of people and the environment from toxic pesticides. The new Regulation addresses the citizens' concerns about transparency which were expressed in that initiative.
- Following the submission of the proposal by the Commission, the European Parliament and the European Council worked together and, in record time, adopted the legislative proposal which now becomes applicable.
- The Transparency Regulation is an investment by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), an investment by the Member States and an investment by citizens.
- This Regulation is an opportunity not only to strengthen citizens' trust, but also to corroborate the positioning of the European institutions under the banner of independence and permanent openness.
- EFSA has the important task of providing scientific advice to European Union policy makers, giving a firm foundation for policy making. The increased transparency provided by the new Regulation will further contribute to an environment of trust within the society and the business sector.
- The increased confidence in the European Union food safety system will contribute to maintaining the strong reputation and quality of the products, ensuring export leadership. It will also facilitate the effective implementation of Farm to Fork strategy, an integral part of the European Green Deal.



- Let me also note that this regulation is not only about ensuring transparency, but also about seeking sustainability in the European Union's risk assessment of the food chain.
- It also reinforces the basis for building partnerships between Member States and EFSA for a stronger, more durable, and structured collaboration for the benefit of European Union consumers.
- Member States will also have a more active role in ensuring the availability of enough experts to respond to the needs of risk assessment in terms of high-level scientific expertise, independence, and multidisciplinary competences.
- Thus, as of 2022, representatives from all the 27 Member States will be present in EFSA's Management Board, along with representatives of the European Commission, the European Parliament and stakeholders from the food chain sector. A change that will allow Member States to have a greater say in the EFSA's strategic decisions.
- This regulation also provides actions on risk communication. The plan will lead to more coherence and alignment in communication between Member State authorities, the European Commission and EFSA.
- The general plan on risk communication, which is introduced by the Regulation, will consider citizens' perceptions to achieve a better understanding of risk assessment and risk management. Communication must be transparent, relevant, and inclusive through the entire analysis process, with the involvement of evaluators and risk managers from the Member States and the European Union.
- Transparency is an indispensable element in increasing consumer confidence. It is also an imperative contribution to a Europe that, in addition to producing safe and high-quality food, aims to be more sustainable. More transparency is clearly will help to build more sustainability, proximity, and inclusion. And this is the future we want.
- As this is an unequivocal contribution to achieving the priorities established by the Portuguese Presidency, I can only conclude by expressing my satisfaction with this initiative which, I am sure, will have a very positive impact in our societies.