



Food risks, science and public opinion

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5th meeting of the World Congress for Freedom of Scientific Research

Brussels

12 April 2018



Root and branch reform of European Food Safety system (2002)

- Food crises:
 - ❖ BSE in late 1990s
 - ❖ Dioxin in early 2000s
- Collapse in consumer confidence
- Credibility of entire industry severely damaged
- Huge pressure for radical reform



15+ years of the General Food Law

- Robust foundation of EU science-based, independent, transparent food safety risk assessment system
- **European Food Safety Authority**: where science meets the risk assessment process
- The European Commission, EU Parliament, Council of the EU, Member States: where risk assessment meets decision makers
- European citizens: where EU decisions provide added value



Public sensitivity over food remains high

- Not just safety
- Growing citizen interest and awareness about nutrition, health, sustainability, ethical production

BUT

- Simultaneous increase in public risk aversion and suspicion of new technologies
- Incompatible with meeting future demands in relation to sustainability, climate change, circular economy, food waste...



Reply to the European Citizens' Initiative on glyphosate

Adding value to meet citizen's expectations:

- increase transparency of risk assessment while respecting confidential business information;
- strengthen the governance of studies underpinning risk assessment, in particular in the area of regulated products



New Commission proposal

Targeted objectives:

- Improving and clarifying the rules on transparency
- Increase the reliability and independence of studies used in the risk assessment, in particular for regulated products
- Address the limitations affecting the long term scientific capacity of EFSA and strengthen the cooperation with Member States
- More effective risk communication



A modernised General Food Law

A solid, trusted system:

- With principles - **science-based decisions**
- Solid methodologies - Risk Analysis Framework
- Openness - transparent processes
- Boost innovation – predictability
- Close to citizens - efficient risk communication
- International recognition - international standards



Thank you!

Contact me:



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