

# Food Safety in the EU: Maintaining High Standards and Ensuring Transparency of Information



**Tuesday 29th January 2019**

Central Brussels



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## Overview

The food and drinks industry constitutes the largest manufacturing sector in the EU, leading in terms of turnover (15.6%), added value (13%) and employment (15.2%) (FoodDrink Europe 2016). Protecting the health of European citizens whilst enabling the food industry to operate in the best possible conditions is of paramount importance for the European institutions, which have introduced very strong policy frameworks that safeguard food from farm to fork.

On 8th June 2018, the European Commission published a notice on questions and answers related to the application of Regulations (EU) No 1169/2011 on the provision of the Food Information to Consumers (FIC entered into force in 2016), intended to assist food business operators and national authorities in the application. Clear information on the origin, content/labelling and use of food is a priority for the EU food safety policy and aims at guaranteeing high standards of animal health, welfare and plant protection. Moreover, the new Single Market Programme legislative proposal, made specific provisions aimed at enhancing Food Safety. The provisions are organised around maintaining and enhancing high EU standards for animal and plant health; raising funds to support the production of food; preventing and eradicating animal diseases and plant pests as well as preventing food fraud.

Despite these measures, further actions are needed to enhance public trust in food safety standards, which has been shaken in the last years. Issues like the “dual-food” scandal, the fipronil in eggs scandal in 2017 and discussions about the use of pesticides such as ‘glyphosate’ have been at the centre of a controversy which has greatly impacted public trust. Investigations conducted by governments of Central and Eastern European countries found that multinational food companies had been selling products of lower quality ingredients in the EU’s newer member states, while marketing them with the same packaging and branding used in Western Europe. In an effort to address this issue, in April 2018 the Commission announced it would prohibit dual quality food across the EU. It also presented a proposal aimed at restoring public trust in scientific studies on food safety, suggesting more transparency in decision-making and greater involvement of member states’ experts.

In light of these recent developments, this international symposium provides a timely and invaluable opportunity for food safety experts, government agencies, food industry representatives and other key stakeholders to discuss the latest European regulatory updates regarding food safety, agriculture policy, transparent information to consumers including allergen, animals and plants health. It will also allow delegates to assess the current and future perspectives of the EU’s food law system and of its action at the worldwide level.

## Why Attend?

- ✓ Review the Food Information to Consumers regulation and evaluate its amendments
- ✓ Gain insight into recent trends in labelling of food products
- ✓ Learn about comprehensive legislation on food and animal feed safety
- ✓ Share best practice on how to ensure worldwide imports meet EU food safety requirements
- ✓ Discussing the diverging assessments of glyphosate’s carcinogenicity
- ✓ Explore ways to reinstate public trust in food safety and review the proposed measures
- ✓ Address the issue of dual food standards and engage with the new Directive
- ✓ Explore ways to achieve effective rules enforcement and checks

## Who Should Attend?

- Health Professionals
- Public Health Authorities
- National Governmental Organisations
- Local Governmental Organisations
- Local Authority Officers and Councillors
- Pharmaceutical Industries
- Veterinary Services Providers
- Social Services
- Health Promotion Advisers
- Medical Associations
- Trade Unions
- Public Health Unions
- Health Research Institutes
- International Centres for Health Protection
- Health Networks
- Allergic Patient Associations
- Charitable Foundations
- Associations of Schools of Public Health
- Health Forums
- Legal Health Professionals
- Academics and Researchers
- Agriculture Producers
- Consumers Associations

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## Programme

- 09:15** Registration and Morning Refreshments
- 10:00** Chair's Welcome and Opening Remarks
- 10:10** **Evaluating the European Legislative Framework on Food Safety and Food Information to Consumers (FIC)**
- Monitoring the Implementation of the Food Information to Consumers (FIC) and its amendments
  - Applying Clear Information on the Origin, Content/Labeling and Use of Food
  - Informing Fairly on Substances or Products Causing Allergies or Intolerances
  - Tackling the Dual Food Scandal: Engaging with the Directive
- 10:40** **First Round of Discussions**
- 11:10** Morning Coffee Break
- 11:30** **Increasing Consumer Protection through the Single Market Programme**
- Financing Food Safety in the Future EU Budget (2021-2027)
  - Governing the Single Market and Supporting a Sustainable Food Production and Consumption
  - Achieving Food Safety Cooperation and Risk Management across Europe
  - Ensuring Worldwide Imports Meet EU Food Safety Requirements: Considering the Possible Impacts of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) of EU's Food Safety Standards
- 12:00** **Second Round of Discussions**
- 12:30** Networking Lunch
- 13:30** **Reinstating Public Trust in Food Safety and Addressing Emerging Challenges**
- Debating over the Glyphosate's Licence: Discussing the Pros and Cons
  - Ensuring Food Safety: Basing Decisions on Sound Scientific Advice
  - Improving the EU Food Law to Protect Consumers from Excessive Acrylamide Exposure
- 14:00** **Third Round of Discussions**
- 14:30** Afternoon Coffee Break
- 14:50** **Official Controls: Enforcement and Checks**
- The Independence of Food Safety Agencies: the New EFSA's Revised Policy
  - Reinforcing EU's Actions Against Food Fraud: the Administrative Assistance and Cooperation System (AAC) and the Official Controls Regulation (OFC)
  - Managing Emergencies and Crises: the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF)
  - Discussing the Potential for Better Multi-Level Cooperation and Risk Management at EU Level
- 15:20** **Fourth Round of Discussions**
- 15:50** Chair's Summary and Closing Comments
- 16:00** Networking Reception
- 16:30** Close

*\* Please note that the programme is subject to change without notice \**

## Event Details

**Date:** Tuesday 29th January 2019  
**Time:** 10:00am – 4:30pm  
**Venue:** Central Brussels



## Forthcoming Events

2nd Symposium on the Future of Sustainable Agriculture in the EU: Assessing the Role of Pesticides and Biocides  
9th October 2018

Reducing Drug Supply and Demand in the EU: Developing a Holistic and Coordinated Response Across Member States  
18th October 2018

Protecting Migrant Children and Unaccompanied Minors in the EU: Developing a Co-ordinated Approach to the Emerging Crisis  
24th October 2018

Tackling Childhood Obesity in the EU: Halting the Rise through Prevention and Closer Collaboration  
30th October 2018

Fostering Active & Healthy Ageing in Europe: Integrating the Elderly & Harnessing their Economic Potential  
8th November 2018

Reforming the European Asylum System: Moving Towards a Unified, Fair and Effective Framework  
15th November 2018

A New Era for Data Protection: Implementing the European Data Protection Reform  
20th November 2018

Clean Energy for All Europeans: Promoting Energy Efficiency in the EU  
21st November 2018

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