



Federal Agency for  
the safety of the  
food chain

# **Summary Workshop Sci Com 2007 “Scientific exploitation of databases in food safety risk assessment”**

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**Director of the Scientific Secretariat of the Scientific Committee**



# Businessplan FASFC

*... Om de werking van het Wetenschappelijk Comité te versterken moet het wetenschappelijk secretariaat zelf een aantal risico-evaluaties kunnen uitvoeren. Een betere aanwending van de beschikbare databanken is eveneens wenselijk.*

*... Afin de renforcer l'action du Comité scientifique, le secrétariat scientifique doit pouvoir effectuer lui-même un certain nombre d'évaluations de risques. Une meilleure utilisation des banques de données disponibles est également souhaitable. »*



# Themes Workshop 2007

- **1. Databases:**
  - EFSA view on european databases
  - Data exploitation for risk evaluation
- **2. Available databases for risk evaluation:**
  - FASFC databases
  - Belgian food consumption database (IPH)
  - Professional sector databases
- **3. Case studies:**



# **EFSA view** **on European databases**

- **Importance of data collection, harmonisation and valorisation of existing databases**
- **Collaboration with member states and creation of database networks**



# **Database exploitation for risk evaluation**

- **The “art” of database management system design**
- **From one database to multiple databases**
- **From data collection to data analysis**



# **Belgian databases for food chain risk evaluation**

- **FASFC database**
- **Food consumption survey database**
- **Professional sector databases**



# **Scientific exploitation of FASFC data: case studies**

- **Listeria monocytogenes in smoked salmon**
- **Exposure assessment of Belgian population to pesticide residues**
- **Microbiological surveillance of carcasses and meat**
- **Estimation of the dietary exposure to cadmium**



# Conclusions

- **Data are crucial**
- **Quantitative data are even more crucial in the context of risk evaluation**
- **Beware of pitfalls in data analysis!**
- **Importance of harmonised risk assessment approaches**
- **Data → Information: teamwork by “high tech” experts in risk evaluation**
- **Collaboration were possible**





**Pre-announcement**  
**Symposium October 17th, 2008**

**“How to deal with  
emerging animal diseases?”**

**Directorate of Animal Health and Safety of Animal Products  
&  
Scientific Committee**

