

COMMITTEE ON TOXICITY OF CHEMICALS IN FOOD, CONSUMER PRODUCTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Peer review' by EU-ANSA Agencies – a reflection paper

1. The European Union agencies network of scientific advice (EU-ANSA) is a 'sub-network' of the EU Agencies that have in common the task of providing scientific and technical advice (including opinions, reports, assessments, guidelines, recommendations and/or other relevant outputs developed with a scientific method) to EU Institutions, Member States and other relevant audiences. The EU-ANSA has recently published a reflection paper on peer review of scientific publications. This explored the use and identified the challenges of utilising peer review within the specific context of the work of agencies. The paper provided key principles applicable to the use of peer review approaches within the context of these agencies which differs from the classical peer review in academic publishing in a number of ways.
2. COT statements have been, where appropriate, forwarded to the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) to inform its evaluations. As such it is possible that these statements may in future undergo such peer review. In addition the COT itself is asked to peer review unpublished research funded by FSA and other government departments.
3. This EU-ANSA paper provides an opportunity to consider the extent to which COT statements would meet the key principles outlined and whether COT should adopt similar principles when asked to peer review unpublished research.

Questions on which the views of the Committee are sought

4. Members are invited to consider the principles in the EU-ANSA paper and to raise any other matters that arise.

**Secretariat
March 2016**

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Annex 1. Peer review' by EU-ANSA Agencies – a reflection paper

This is available to download from <http://bookshop.europa.eu/en/-peer-review-by-eu-ansa-agencies-pbTE0215981/>

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