

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002517/24
to the Commission
Dennis Radtke (PPE)
(13 November 2024)**

Subject: Data

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), in its 2027 strategy document, stated that the volume of data produced in the world is growing rapidly, from 33 zettabytes in 2018 to an expected 175 zettabytes in 2025. While EFSA is already exploring approaches to the management and exploitation of big data sets, it states that new tools and approaches are urgently needed, owing to the speed and complexity with which data relevant to its risk assessments is growing.

1. While artificial intelligence and other technologies will have their roles to play in analysing ever larger data sets, what is the Commission's view on managing the increasing amount of data and how will the Commission ensure a focus on relevant data for risk evaluation and management, for example in EFSA risk assessments?
2. In the context of its ambition to speed up and simplify legislative and regulatory processes, will the Commission review current risk assessment requirements, for example at EFSA, with a view to streamlining them further?
3. To maintain high standards in the area of food safety while seeking to simplify processes, is the Commission considering a more risk-based and evidence-based approach?

Submitted: 13.11.2024

**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(20 January 2025)**

1. The Commission supports the European Food Safety Authority's (EFSA) efforts in developing its knowledge organisation and scientific processes through innovative integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) solutions, in alignment with the latest regulatory standards, first and foremost the Artificial Intelligence Act ⁽¹⁾ and the General Data Protection Regulation ⁽²⁾. The Commission acknowledges the importance of increasing the accessibility and breadth of evidence and of enhancing the trustworthiness of the risk assessment process by applying human-centric AI technologies in close co-existence with human expertise.
2. The evaluation of EFSA's performance, carried out for the first time by the Commission and due by March 2026, will assess EFSA's operational framework and procedures, including in terms of timeliness of the risk assessment process. The findings will be used to decide on the potential need to improve the functioning and organisation of EFSA, including opportunities for simplification.
3. Evidence and risk-based approach are already at the core of EFSA's risk assessment processes. The current legal framework ⁽³⁾ requires that risk assessment is based on the available scientific evidence and is undertaken in an independent, objective and transparent manner.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 laying down harmonised rules on artificial intelligence and amending Regulations (EC) No 300/2008, (EU) No 167/2013, (EU) No 168/2013, (EU) 2018/858, (EU) 2018/1139 and (EU) 2019/2144 and Directives 2014/90/EU, (EU) 2016/797 and (EU) 2020/1828 (Artificial Intelligence Act), OJ L, 2024/1689, 12.7.2024.

⁽²⁾ Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation) OJ L 119, 4.5.2016, p. 1-88.

⁽³⁾ Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety, OJ L 031 1.2.2002, p. 1.