

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Ms Emily O'Reilly
European Ombudsman
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Subject: The adoption of a Transparency Policy

Dear Ms O'Reilly,

I am writing to you with regard to your letter of 3 September 2014 in which you kindly bring to my attention some initiatives undertaken by the European Ombudsman in the field of Openness, Transparency and good administrative principles.

In this respect, first I should thank you for your valuable contribution to the Open EFSA initiative. I am also pleased to inform you that in the context of the public consultation on the discussion paper "Transformation to an Open EFSA", the Authority received a high number of comments.

The material prepared by the Research Network on European Administrative Law has been thoroughly assessed by EFSA and will indeed represent, together with enterprises such as the Open Government Partnership, one of the yardsticks against which EFSA will develop its forthcoming enhanced approaches to increased engagement instrumental to the establishment of an Open EFSA.

In terms of milestones for this project, EFSA aims to draw up a report on the public consultation process to inform the discussion on the Open EFSA paper that will be held at its Management Board meeting in spring 2015. The resulting document will then be implemented in a structured manner over the next few years following the performance of comprehensive cost benefit analysis on each policy option identified by the Management Board. EFSA will keep interested parties updated of the progress made and will make available without delay on its website the discussions of the Board and the relevant documents resulting from the process.

I am confident that this process will improve even further EFSA's ability to respond to societal expectations and live up to the standards of good administrative practices that you foster in the EU. I am looking forward to continuing a constructive cooperation with you over the next few years.

Yours sincerely,



Bernhard Url