



## **THE ROLE OF EFSA IN THE RAPID ALERT SYSTEM FOR FOOD AND FEED (RASFF)**

Dirk Detken,  
Head of Legal and Regulatory Affairs

ACA Seminar – 22<sup>nd</sup> of April, Parma

- Litigation risk/non compliance/damages
- Reputational risk
- Political risk

## EFSA's tasks

1. Provide scientific advice, opinions, information, and technical support for Community legislation and policies;
2. Collect and analyse data to allow characterisation and monitoring of risks;
3. Promote and coordinate development of uniform risk assessment methodologies;
4. Communicate risks related to all aspects of EFSA's mandate.

EFSA aims to deliver the **best science**  
at the **right time** in the most appropriate manner

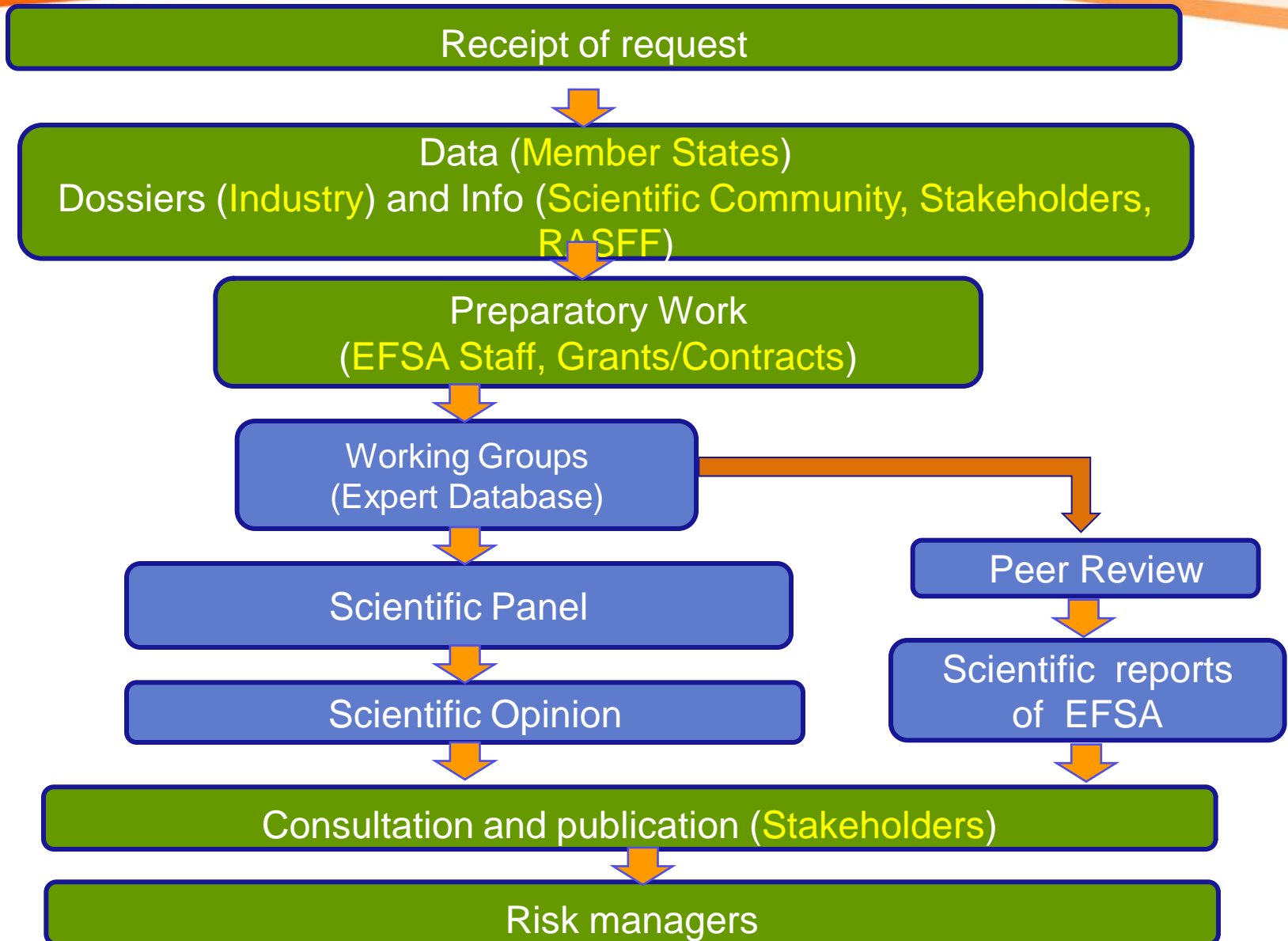


Effective **pooling of scientific excellence**  
available in EU Member States is required

## Scientific Committee and Panels

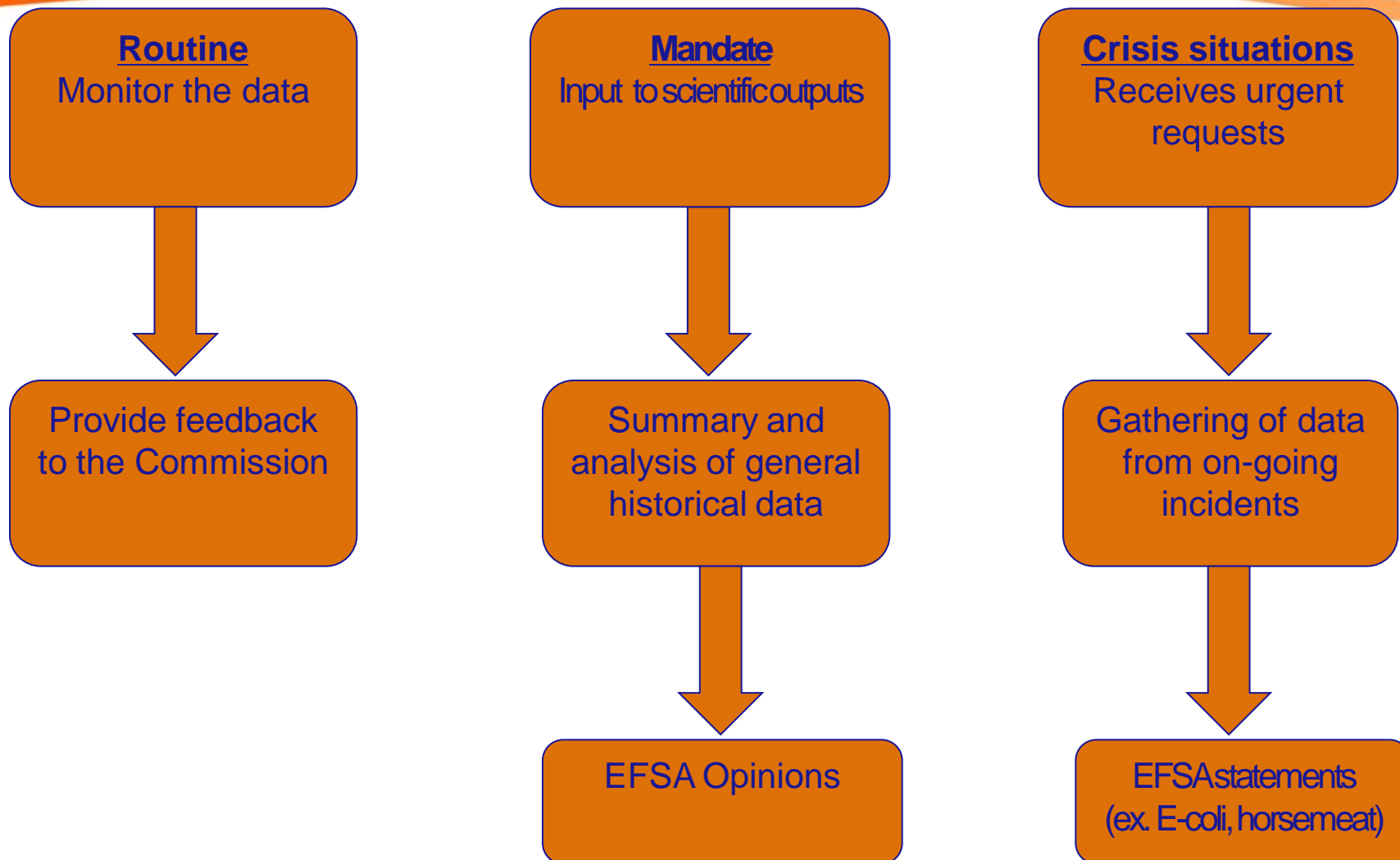
- 10 Scientific Panels + 1 Scientific Committee
- Independent scientists selected based on their proven scientific excellence (external review)
- Worldwide Call
- Personal capacity
- No salary by EFSA, not employed by EFSA
- Strict independency rules
- Renewed every three years

# Scientific workflow



- Provides data collection, data management and data analysis support to the Member States and/or Commission, with regards the information received through the RASFF or other data sources;
- Analyses and provides feedback on specific information within the RASFF, only on specific mandates received from the Commission / Scientific Panels;
- Developed a system for the routine monitoring of data from the Rapid Alert System on Food and Feed (RASFF), with the main objective of describing potentially relevant patterns of notifications for the detection of potential emerging risks and a timely reporting.

# EFSA receives information through the RASFF





- Most court cases dealing with information/data from the RASFF are focused on the disclosure of information/data received through these channels: the RASFF, other sources (the members of the network). Applicants claimed that disclosure of certain information/data would be prejudicial to their image and therefore bring them damages.

- Article 38 of Regulation No.178/2002, EFSA “shall ensure that it carries out its activities with a high level of transparency”.

*(Agendas and minutes of the Scientific Committee/Scientific Panels; Opinions of the Scientific Committee/Scientific Panels, minority opinions; Information on which its opinions are based; Dols; overriding public interest)*

- EFSA is pro-active when it comes to giving effect to its core value transparency

*(Drafts, internal notes)*

1. Use of the correct, up-to-date
2. Proportionality of the scientific advice/way forward given on the issues raised
3. Compliance with internal governance