

Q&A on a Common Financial Framework for the Food Chain 2014-2020

Why has the Commission proposed a new common financial framework for the food chain (CFF)?

Contributing to a high level of health for humans, animals and plants, while protecting consumers and the environment represent the primary objectives of the European Commission in the food safety area.

The scope of the new CFF is to continue addressing these objectives through the use of a single, clear and modern financial framework for animal health, animal welfare, plant health and official controls, which replaces the previous financial legislation in this specific area.

What are the priority objectives of the CFF?

This common financial framework aims to support and complement EU Member States' efforts to achieve five priority objectives:

Objective 1: To contribute to a high level of food safety by reducing the number of cases of zoonotic diseases in humans and improving the sustainability of food production.

Objective 2: To achieve a higher animal health status and improved animal welfare by increasing the number of EU Member States or regions free from animal diseases and reducing the disease parameters (such as incidence of the disease, prevalence or the number of outbreaks).

Objective 3: To contribute to the timely detection and eradication of animal diseases and pests by covering the conducting surveys for pests in the EU and evaluating the timeframe and the success rate of the pest eradication programmes.

Objective 4: To improve the effectiveness, efficiency and reliability of official controls with the view to optimizing the results of controls.

Objective 5: To increase awareness of EU specific legislation in the food chain sector by **developing training programmes** in line with the priorities identified as risks for public health, animal health, animal welfare and plant health.

How much will be allocated to for the 7 year period?

The maximum ceiling available is € 1 891,936 (in current prices) for 2014-2020, which will be funded through grant programmes.

What measures are eligible for financing?

The measures eligible for financing are:

For animal health:

- Emergency measures
- Eradication and control programmes

For plant health:

- Emergency measures
- Survey programmes
- Actions in outermost regions

For official controls:

- EU Reference Laboratories (EUR-L)
- Training (Better Training for Safer Food)
- Coordinated control plans

Other measures:

- Information systems, studies etc.

How will the budget be allocated?

The budget will be allocated according to the priorities which are agreed with the EU Member States in the annual or multi-annual work programmes which will be adopted by implementing act (Article 36 of the CFF). The budget allocation is co-financed at different rates and depending on whether the financing request relates to survey programmes or emergency measures. Three rates exist: the most common rate is 50% and then there are two exceptional rates of 75% and 100% which are coupled with specific conditions.

Who are the main beneficiaries?

Potential candidates for funding are **the competent national authorities** in the EU Member States' in the field of animal health, animal welfare, plant health and official controls, as well as **international organisations** active in the areas covered by the CFF (namely OIE - World Organisation for Animal Health, FAO - Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, UPOV - International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants, EPPO - European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization).

Ultimately, all EU citizens are expected to benefit, indirectly, from a higher level of health for humans, animals and plants along the food chain and in related areas, as well as from a high level of protection for consumers' interests and for the environment.

For more information:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/index_en.htm