The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the U.S. Food and Drug
Administration (FDA) are today signing the first U.S./European agreement in
the area of assessing food safety risk. This is
the first formal international cooperation agreement EFSA has signed and the
first formal step in cooperation between the two bodies.

“I am delighted to be signing this agreement today with the FDA. Food safety
knows no national boundaries and the food chain is today truly a global one,”
said Catherine
Geslain-Lanéelle, EFSA’s Executive Director. “We need to work with the best
scientific minds from across the world and extend scientific co-operation to
assess food safety risks and
protect consumers even more. Sharing data and knowledge across our two
organisations is an important first step in achieving this goal. ”

“As a science-based and science-led agency, FDA recognizes that scientific
cooperation is vital for the success of its mission, which is to provide the best
possible health protection for the
public,” said Andrew C. von Eschenbach, M.D., Commissioner, Food and
Drugs. “I welcome this opportunity for scientific exchanges with our European
colleagues – exchanges that will be focused on
ensuring the safety and wholesomeness of food, a major area of responsibility
of our agency.”

Today’s agreement is designed to facilitate the sharing of confidential
scientific and other information between EFSA and the FDA, such as
methodologies to ensure that food is safe. A formal
agreement ensures appropriate protection of such confidential information
under the applicable legal frameworks in both the United States and the
European Union. Informal cooperation and
dialogue have already been established between the two bodies; this
agreement will enable these to be formalized and extended. The Authority will
be looking to develop similar working
arrangements with other authorities world wide in the coming years.

EFSA-FDA agreement

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