

Advice 14-2009 of the Scientific Committee of the FASFC on the evaluation of the 2009 FASFC analysis program partim chemical parameters.

This advice concerns the evaluation of the 2009 FASFC analysis program with respect to the chemical parameters in food, feed, raw materials and plants. The Scientific Committee is asked to evaluate : (i) the relevance of the chosen combinations of matrix and hazard (parameter) and the programmed number of analyses, (ii) the relevance of the sampling places, (iii) the relative intensity of the controls for the programmed analyses in the food chain, and (iv) the approach that was applied by the experts of DG Control Policy for taken the existing sectoral sampling plans into account.

The Scientific Committee appreciates the structured approach that is applied for the development of the control program. However, the risk-based methodology for programming the number of analyses has some limitations, such as the lack of uniformity in the application of the general methodology, the influence of the number of analyses by other (more subjective) factors, and the difficulty to apply the methodology to certain hazards or parameters.

In general, the Committee agrees with the choice of selected parameter-matrix combinations and the choice of sampling places, but provided a number of specific comments. It is e.g. noted that certain parameter-matrix combinations require further specification of the matrix (e.g. food supplements, spices).

The Scientific Committee is of the opinion that certain parameters or hazards need a more fundamental approach. Likewise, it is noted that the analysis program could be more proactive. The Committee proposes that next to the "punctual" analyses, attention is also paid to a more exploratory approach enabling, during a limited timeframe, to perform analyses of specific parameter-matrix combinations (amongst others to screen or to estimate the risk for public health by means of an exposure assessment). The Scientific Committee has no pertinent remarks regarding the approach applied to take the sectoral sampling plans into account.

The full text is available on this website in dutch and in french, respectively under the section "Wetenschappelijk Comité/Adviezen" and "Comité scientifique/Avis".