

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of KRIZ Nikolaus
Sent: Fri, 8 May 2026 15:49:49 +0000
To: Benoît Biteau (boîte publique)
Cc: KRIZ Nikolaus
Subject: RE: Omnibus X - EFSA needs

Distinguished Mr Biteau,

Thank you for your questions and for the opportunity to provide further context on this matter.

The main reason for the delays in completing renewal procedures is that Rapporteur Member States face significant capacity constraints due to lack of resources, which affect both the timeliness and the quality of draft assessment reports that they must submit to EFSA for peer-review. As a consequence, their ability to assess additional information (if requested during the peer-review) and update the draft assessment reports is impacted.

The figures mentioned in your questions for delayed renewal procedures refer to around 80 renewal applications. The related draft renewal assessment reports, prepared by the respective rapporteur Member States, have either already been peer-reviewed or are in the process of peer-review by EFSA and the other Member States.

A further 120 renewal applications are still under assessment by the respective rapporteur Member States, who still have to submit the draft renewal assessment reports.

With the existing resources, and assuming that all Rapporteur Member States are performing their tasks as diligently as possible, it is estimated that it would take approximately eight years to complete the assessment of the 200 applications.

With an additional 50 staff and €15 million, to finance this staff increase as well as improved automation and assessment tools for EFSA and Member States, the backlog could be cleared within three years.

With these new resources, EFSA could offer more scientific support to the rapporteur Member States during preparation and updating of draft assessment reports for the renewal procedures. Article 11(6) of Implementing Regulations 844/2012 and 2020/1740 govern the renewal procedure and foresee that the rapporteur Member State may consult EFSA for completing their tasks. This increases the upstream alignment to EFSA standards for the quality of draft assessment reports.

Once the current backlog has been absorbed, it is currently difficult to predict the level of resources that will be required to prevent a recurrence. This will also depend on the final provisions of the Food and Feed Simplification Package, as adopted by the legislator.

On the questions of rejection of incomplete dossiers, the responsibility for assessing the admissibility of application dossiers lies with the rapporteur Member State. A rejection of incomplete dossiers as inadmissible would reduce the workload for Member States and EFSA and could thus contribute to the prevention of future backlogs.

In summary, additional resources such as 50 experts and the associated budget could have a transformative impact to clear up the existing backlog in renewal assessments. The precise impact would depend on how much the rapporteur Member States would seek support by EFSA. A combination of increased capacity and improved dossier quality offers a credible way to both clear the current backlog and prevent future delays.

For your information, please note that we have received very similar questions from a Member of the European Parliament.

I trust that the above information replies to your questions.

With kind regards,

Nik Kriz



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From: ED.Directorates

Sent: 27 April 2026 08:51

To: 'Benoît Biteau (boîte publique)' <benoit.biteau@assemblee-nationale.fr>

Cc: KRIZ Nikolaus <Nikolaus.KRIZ@efsa.europa.eu>; ED.Directorates <ED.Directorates@efsa.europa.eu>

Subject: RE: Omnibus X - EFSA needs

Dear Mr. Biteau,

Thank you very much for your message addressed to EFSA Executive Director. We hereby acknowledge receipt of your inquiry and confirm that we are reviewing your questions with the relevant teams. We will provide a response to your queries by the 8th of May at the latest.

Should you require any additional information or clarification in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,



From: Benoît Biteau (boîte publique) <benoit.biteau@assemblee-nationale.fr>
Sent: 23 April 2026 12:13
To: KRIZ Nikolaus <Nikolaus.KRIZ@efsa.europa.eu>
Subject: Omnibus X - EFSA needs

Dear Executive Director Mr. Kriz,

As a French member of parliament and former Member of the European Parliament who is deeply committed to agricultural issues—and as a farmer myself—I am currently working on a resolution regarding the “Food Safety and Animal Feed” omnibus bill.

As you know, one of the main objectives of the Commission’s proposal to grant unlimited authorizations for the substances in question is to address this backlog. However, during your hearing before our committee on April 15, you indicated that increasing the resources Member States allocate to processing approval and re-approval applications would be one of the most direct solutions to this problem. I am therefore writing to ask you to provide details of your specific needs, in order to inform the democratic debate on this issue in my country and enable my government to make the best possible decisions.

I would like to focus on three specific topics, outlined below as precise questions:

1. Resource requirements and potential role expansion for EFSA

In 2023, Mr. de Sèze told the French Parliament that 50 additional experts and €15 million would be sufficient to resolve the backlog. One possible solution under the current reform would be to strengthen EFSA’s role in producing draft assessment reports—either by supporting rapporteur Member States or by allowing EFSA to act as rapporteur itself, as already proposed for biocontrol substances. This would enable centralized allocation of resources and a more efficient response to the backlog.

In this context:

- Do you confirm that these figures (50 experts and €15 million) would adequately meet EFSA’s needs to clear the current backlog? If not, what is your updated estimate?

- Based on that estimate, how long would it take EFSA to return to a normal processing pace?
- Once the backlog is resolved, what level of resources would be needed to prevent future delays?

2. Processing time for the 200 ongoing dossiers

You confirmed during your hearing that approximately 200 dossiers for approval or reapproval are currently under examination. The current version of the Omnibus proposal does not specifically address this group of files, which would therefore continue to be processed under existing conditions.

Accordingly:

- How long would it take to process these 200 dossiers if the “Food and feed” Omnibus is adopted in its current form?
- Conversely, how much time would be needed if EFSA were granted the resources outlined in your response to the first set of questions?

3. Impact of rejecting incomplete dossiers at submission

A significant cause of delays stems from the need to request additional information when petitioners submit incomplete dossiers. During this time, the evaluation process is paused. If the approval deadline is approached, extensions are systematically granted by the PAFF Committee. However, as clarified by EU courts, such extensions must remain exceptional and proportionate. Some stakeholders, including the European Commission, have suggested refusing to begin the evaluation of dossiers that are incomplete at the time of submission.

In this regard :

- How would your workload be affected by implementing such a measure?
- To what extent would this help prevent the creation of future backlogs?

Given that this matter is currently under discussion in the Council and will soon be debated in the Parliament, I would greatly appreciate your response at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

Amitiés paysannes

Benoît Biteau

Député de la deuxième circonscription de Charente-Maritime
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