


A man and a woman are shopping in a supermarket. The man, wearing a plaid shirt and glasses, is leaning over a display of packaged meats, looking at a package. The woman, wearing a yellow shirt, is standing next to him, also looking at the display. They are both holding shopping bags. The display is filled with various packaged meats, including what looks like salami and other cured meats. The background shows other shelves in the supermarket, with various products on display. The lighting is bright, typical of a supermarket.

# EU General Food Law - possible impact on the food industry

# Agenda

- 1 What is General Food Law (GFL)?
- 2 How it all began
- 3 What will change



A high-angle photograph of two bakery staff members, a woman and a man, both wearing dark grey aprons over white shirts. They are standing behind a wooden bakery counter. The woman is reaching into a wooden tray filled with long, golden-brown breadsticks. The man is holding a tablet computer and looking at it. The counter is filled with various baked goods: a tray of sandwiches with lettuce and tomato, a tray of breadsticks, a tray of croissants, and a large round cake with chocolate frosting. In the background, there are shelves filled with various types of bread, including baguettes and round loaves. A glass display case is visible on the right side of the counter.

# What is General Food Law (GFL)?



# Background

General Food Law Regulation (EU) No. 178/2002 as amended

Established the principle of **risk analysis** with three components:

1. Risk assessment
2. Risk management
3. Risk communication

Established the **European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)**, an independent body entrusted with risk assessment



# Key obligations of Food Business Operators (FBO)





# How it all began





# European Citizen's Initiative “Ban glyphosate”

[“Ban glyphosate and protect people and the environment from toxic pesticides”](#)

- Concerns raised:
  - Transparency of the EU risk assessment
  - Quality and independence of scientific studies
- [Commission's commitment \(Dec 2017\) to introduce a legislative proposal in spring 2018](#)

Registered  
25/01/2017



Submitted  
06/10/2017



Answered  
12/12/2017



# Fitness check of the General Food Regulation

## The system was found to work well

- No systematic failures
- EFSA improved the scientific basis of EU measures

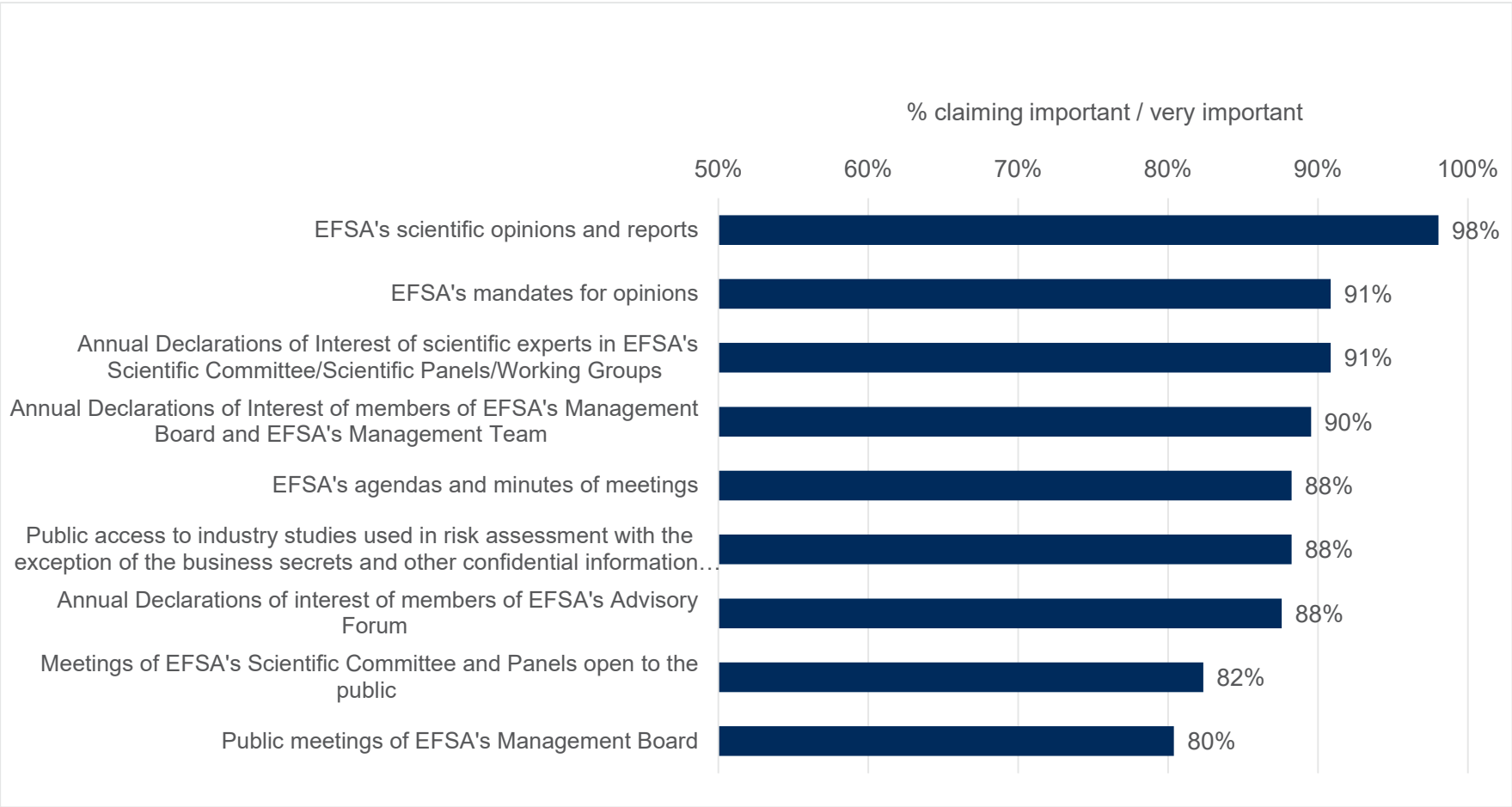
## Opportunities for improvements

- Civil society perceived a certain lack of transparency and independence
- Risk communication was not always effective enough





# Importance of public access to EFSA's sources to ensure trust in the EU food safety risk assessment



## Response options

Not at all important

Not very important

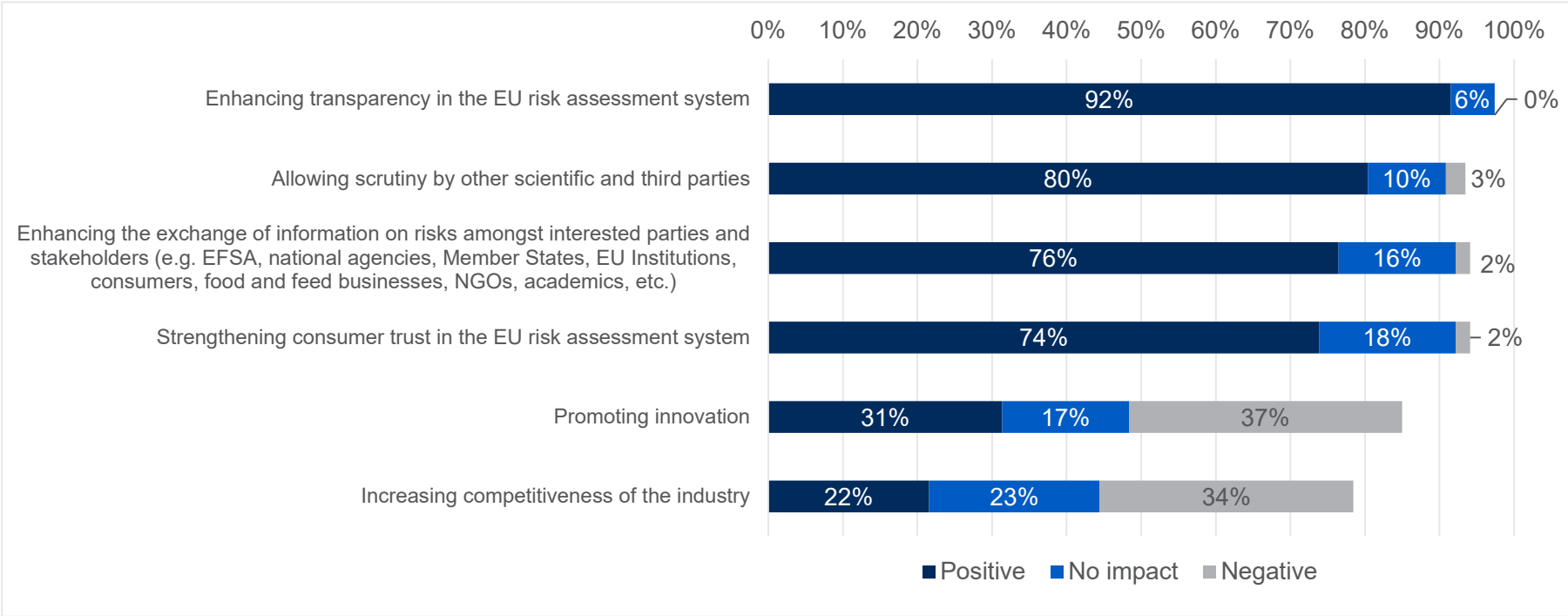
Important

Very important

No opinion/don't know

N=153

Impact on objectives of publication of industry studies (including raw/aggregated data) used in EU risk assessment, with the exception of business secrets or other confidential information (in particular information about undertakings, their business relations or their cost components)



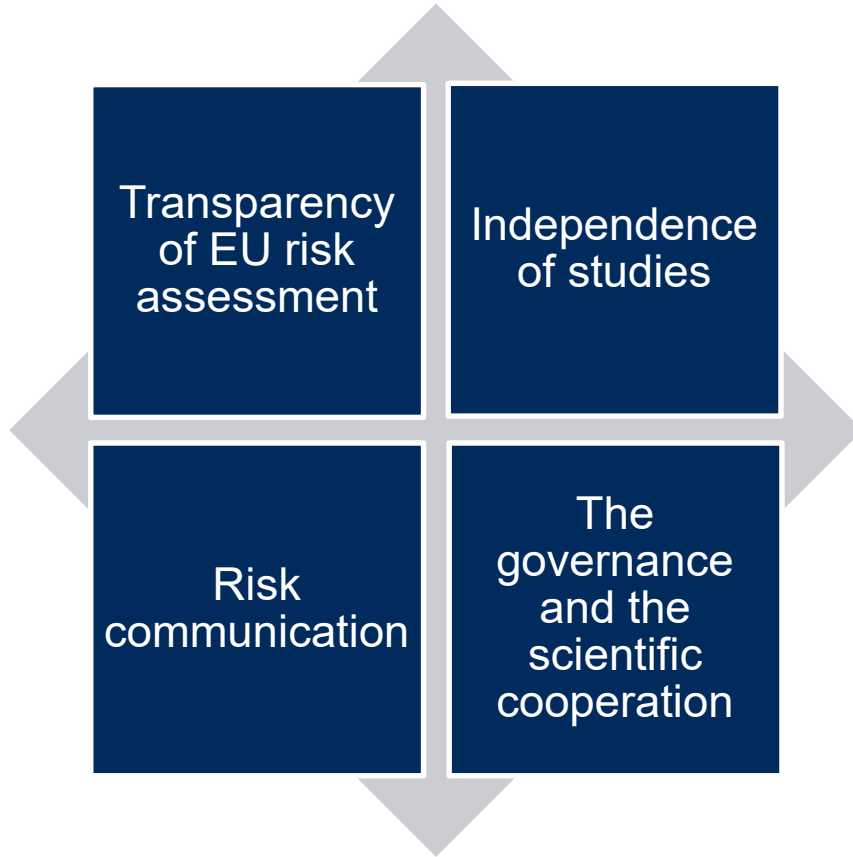
Response options

- Very negative
- Negative
- No impact
- Positive
- Very positive
- No opinion/Don't know

N=153



# Four pillars



# More transparency

## Better access to scientific studies

Scientific studies will be made public proactively and automatically

Confidential information will be respected

Interested parties will have easy access to the studies

Standard data formats for applications will be developed





# Independence of studies

EFSA will have more access to relevant scientific evidence in request for authorization

A register of all studies commissioned by the industry

Consultation of stakeholders and the public

For renewals, additional consultation on planned studies

Controls, including audits, will be carried out on the compliance of lab/studies with standards

Commission to ask EFSA to carry out own studies for verification purposes

# Better governance of EFSA

## The governance and the scientific cooperation

Board will include MS representative

Strict independence criteria will be maintained

Panels will be made from nominations by MS

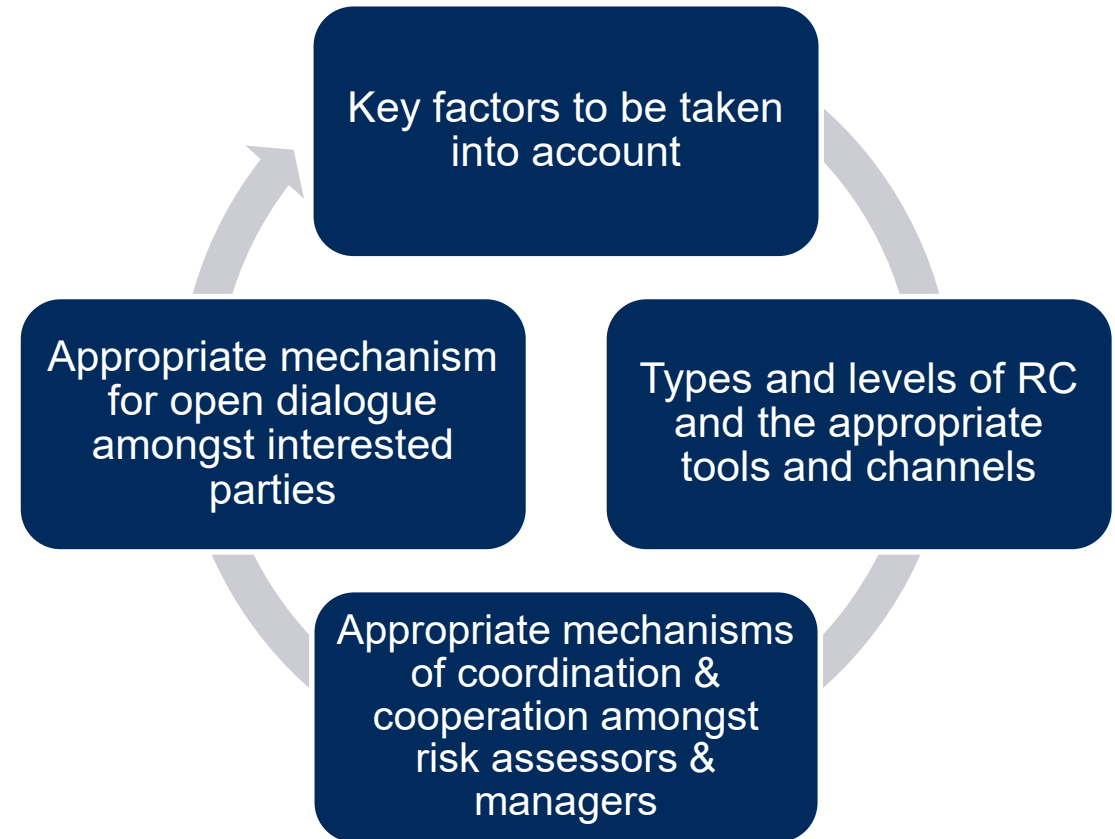
Panels work will be better organized





# Risk communication (RC)

Improve coordination between risk assessors and risk managers to ensure a better communication to stakeholders and the general public



# Other elements

## Transitional measures

The new rules will not apply to applications under Union law and requests for scientific output submitted to EFSA before it enters into application  
**March 2021**

The new management board (MB) will take over as of **1 July 2022**

## Review clause

- Regular review of GFL Regulation
- Every 5 years there is a Commission review of EFSA's performance





# What will change



# What's next?

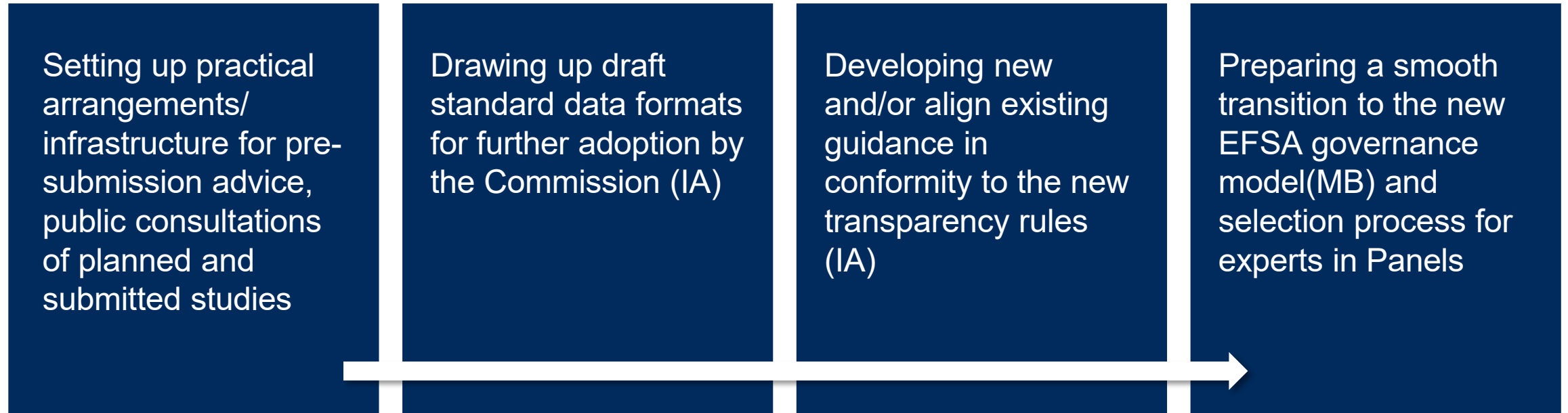




# What's next?

Preparatory work must be carried out both by EFSA and by the Commission

## By EFSA



# What's next?

Preparatory work must be carried out both by EFSA and by the Commission

By the Commission

Aligning existing guidance/IA in sectoral legislation to the new rules

Adopting the general plan on risk communication

Adopting standard data formats for applications (IA)

Adopting standard data formats for applications (IA)



# Summary

- 1 New General Food Law Regulation (EU) 2019/1381 was published 6 Sept 2019 and will be adopted in 18 month time
- 2 Main changes expected are:
  - Greater transparency in risk analysis
  - Improving the quality and reliability of scientific studies
  - Greater engagement of citizens in decision-making process, facilitated by digital innovation
  - Strengthens risk communication between the Commission, EFSA, the Member States, stakeholders and the general public

# Thanks for listening!

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# Questions

# leatherhead food research

innovate | access new markets | realise global opportunities