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**Embargoed until EFSA Scientific Opinion is published on EFSA website**

## **PROteINSECT's initial response to the EFSA Scientific Opinion published today on insects for food and feed**

### **“Risk profile related to production and consumption of insects as food and feed” EFSA Scientific Committee, Question number: EFSA-Q-2014-00578**

PROteINSECT welcomes the publication of the EFSA Scientific Opinion published today on the risk profile related to the production and consumption of insects as food and feed.

The EFSA risk profile document confirms the important role that the EC funded PROteINSECT research project is playing in generating knowledge and data on the quality and safety of the use of insect protein in animal feed. PROteINSECT's work in addition will help to fill the current 'uncertainties' and knowledge gaps identified in the Scientific Opinion.

PROteINSECT welcomes EFSA's primary summary conclusions that

- when currently allowed feed materials are used to feed insects, the possible occurrence of any microbiological hazards are expected to be comparable to other sources of protein of animal origin and should not pose any additional risk compared to other feed
- the use of other (currently forbidden) substrates to feed insects destined for animal feed such as organic wastes (food waste and manures) must be specifically evaluated.

The project's on-going research and publications in the scientific literature will further understanding of the safe use of insect protein in animal feed raised on a variety of substrates, including organic wastes such as manure. PROteINSECT's work will also contribute to the development of robust risk assessment work carried out at both European and national levels

“Addressing the European protein deficit through the use of novel feeds is key to ensuring our future food security, so this opinion is a positive development,” says **Dr Adrian Charlton**, a PROteINSECT partner and member of the EFSA scientific panel. “But as EFSA highlights, there is still work to be done to ensure robust safety and quality data is available for insect protein. This work is ongoing in PROteINSECT.”

PROteINSECT Project Co-ordinator Dr Elaine Fitches from Fera (UK), adds, “This opinion is an important stepping stone in furthering our understanding of the potential of insects as a protein source. It provides valuable insight against which PROteINSECT can continue to

communicate our research findings to key stakeholders across Europe and beyond, on production, processing, quality, safety and consumer acceptance around insect protein for animal feed.”

Ends/

#### Editor's Notes:

(1) PROteINSECT's primary research focus is identifying the potential of the use of protein as a novel and additional source of protein for inclusion in animal feed for pigs, chicken and fish.

(2) PROteINSECT's work in Europe, China and Africa is researching the potential use of different fly species, raised on a variety of substrates, primarily manures.

(3) PROteINSECT partner Adrian Charlton who leads on Safety & Quality for the project was a member of the EFSA Scientific Panel. Other project partners from Belgium and China provided data and evidence throughout the year long process.

(4) The EFSA Scientific Opinion is “Risk profile related to production and consumption of insects as food and feed” *EFSA Scientific Committee, Question number: EFSA-Q-2014-00578* <http://www.efsa.europa.eu>

(5) EFSA's mandate – as requested by the EC via DG SANTE (was SANCO) is to provide ‘an initial scientific opinion on the safety risks arising from the production and consumption of insects as food and feed.’ EFSA was asked to assess the microbiological, chemical and environmental risks arising from production and consumption of insects as food and feed. The assessment of those risks covered the main steps from production to consumption:

- Production (farming of insects): production process including substrates (feedstock) for the insects;
- Processing: manufacturing of insects to insect products;
- Consumption of the products by pets, food producing animals and humans considering the composition of the products and potential microbial and chemical contamination.

In addition, EFSA was requested to provide an overall conclusion based on the above assessments, on the risks posed by the use of insects in food and feed, **relative to such risks posed by the use of other proteins sources used in food or feed.**

(6) PROteINSECT's summary report on current European legislation concerning insect protein and animal feed is available to view and download [from the project website](#)



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[press@proteinsect.eu](mailto:press@proteinsect.eu) Interviews available with Elaine Fitches, PROteINSECT Co-ordinator, and Adrian Charlton, Safety & Quality lead for PROteINSECT. Photos available on request. **PR16**