



Letter

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Notification on changes in organization

Formation of Finnish Food Authority (Ruokavirasto)

Finnish Food Authority (Ruokavirasto) was formed on 1 January 2019. The new Food Authority incorporated all functions of former Finnish Food Safety Authority (Evira) and Finnish Agency for Rural Affairs (Mavi). All responsibilities, facilities, staff and laboratories of Evira and Mavi have from that day been parts of Finnish Food Authority.

References to Evira and Mavi remain in legislation, formal documents and directions. All of these should be understood to refer to the new Food Authority (Ruokavirasto). All documents and certifications given out by Evira and Mavi are recognized by Finnish Food Authority. Accreditations obtained by Evira and Mavi laboratories are transferred to the new organization automatically. These laboratories maintained their authority to issue certificates independently until 31 December 2018.

Act of Formation

An act of Parliament, known as the Act on the Finnish Food Authority (371/2018) entered into force on 1 January 2019. Food Safety Authority and Agency for Rural Affairs ceased to exist on the same day as the Finnish Food Authority was formed.

All matters pending at and agreements concluded and commitments made by the Finnish Food Safety Authority and Finnish Agency for Rural Affairs and the rights and obligations arising from these are transferred to the Finnish Food Authority.

Duties and powers of Finnish Food Authority

According to the parliamentary act (371/2018), the duties and responsibilities of Finnish Food Authority comprise the promotion, control and research of the safety and quality of the production inputs of agriculture and forestry, animal health and welfare and plant health, and implementation tasks concerning measures under the common agricultural policy of the European Union, rural development measures funded by the Union and national complementary measures. The Authority operates within the administrative branch of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

The Finnish Food Authority is responsible for the use of the funds provided by the European Union's agricultural guarantee and rural development funds in Finland, operates as



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the EU's paying agency and monitors the implementation of EU and national grants - farming subsidies, project, entrepreneurship and structural subsidies as well as market subsidies.

Food Authority has a capacity to conclude agreements and represent common interests, and interests of the agency itself in a court of law. It can take up these legal actions independently without an approval by higher governmental authorities.

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