

Cyprus and Germany: Working together for safe food

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Germany and Cyprus want to deepen their cooperation in consumer health protection. This is the aim of a Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) between the Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) and its Cypriot sister authority, the State General Laboratory (SGL). The SGL is responsible for food safety, among other things. The new JDI has been signed this morning (8 June 2023), in Nicosia by Dr Rebecca Kokkinofa, Head of the SGL, and by Professor Dr Dr Andreas Hensel, President of the BfR. The agreement focuses on food safety, including chemical and biological risk assessment, as well as authenticity testing (proof of origin) of food.

The two countries have been cooperating since 2010. The new agreement prioritises the exchange of knowledge and of new technological developments. Key topics include health risk assessment, coordinated risk communication on food safety and quality and joint research projects. In addition, there will be mutual scientific exchange, training programmes and joint events.

The Republic of Cyprus with its approx. 750,000 inhabitants has a central government authority for food control, which is also responsible for risk assessment. As a typical Mediterranean agricultural state with extensive food and wine exports and an economic infrastructure strongly influenced by tourism, Cyprus is particularly interested in improving food safety and consumer protection. This has resulted in many years of intensive cooperation between the two institutions, for example in the field of wine authenticity testing.

About the BfR

The Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) is a scientifically independent institution within the portfolio of the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL). It advises the Federal Government and the Federal States ("Laender") on questions of food, chemical and product safety. The BfR conducts independent research on topics that are closely related to its assessment tasks.

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