

PRESS RELEASE

Maisons-Alfort, 19th December 2023

Marta Hugas appointed Chair of ANSES's Scientific Board

On 7 December 2023, by order of the French Ministers for Health, Agriculture, the Environment, Consumer Affairs, and Labour, Marta Hugas was appointed Chair of ANSES's Scientific Board, which was set up in April 2023 and is now open to Europe and the rest of the world. Her term will run for a period of three years.

Marta Hugas holds a Bachelor's degree in biological sciences, a Master's degree in genetics and microbial biotechnology, and a PhD in food microbiology. As an independent international expert, she provides policy makers as well as various scientific and research planning organisations with advice in the areas of food safety, food systems, and sustainability.

During her career, she has held a number of scientific and management positions at the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). In 2023, she was appointed to the Scientific Advisory Committee that works with the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub to help it achieve the Millennium Development Goals. She has also published several articles in peer-reviewed journals, professional publications, and reviews and abstracts of scientific studies.

Marta Hugas's experience at EFSA and the IRTA research institute in Spain has given her a clear understanding of the challenges facing ANSES in terms of scientific expertise and a comprehensive approach to risks. Her skills will be an asset in her role as Chair of **ANSES's Scientific Board, which was recently renewed to include international researchers and experts.**

ANSES's Scientific Board functions as an independent body, to guarantee the excellence of the Agency's expert appraisals and the consistency of its scientific work. Human food and nutrition,

environmental health, occupational health, animal health and welfare, animal nutrition, veterinary medicinal products, plant health and protection: the Scientific Board's work covers all of the Agency's missions, while respecting the pluralism and independence of its expert appraisals.

During the previous mandate of ANSES's Scientific Board, **Professor Isabella Momas** served as its Chair.

Following her appointment, Marta Hugas affirmed that: *"I feel very honoured for the confidence of my colleagues in electing me as chair of the Anses scientific board as the board is composed of excellent scientists from France and from all the EU. I commit to serve the board with the great support of ANSES management."*

Background

Dr. Marta Hugas served as Chief Scientist at the European Food Safety Authority until 1st March 2022. The position addressed the development of EFSA's scientific strategic direction. In 2020 Marta was appointed to the scientific group preparing for the UN Food Systems Summit held in 2021. She was co-coordinator of Action Track 2: Shifting to sustainable consumption habits. Marta held several positions at EFSA (2003-2022): Head of Biological Hazards Unit, Head of the Risk Assessment and Scientific Assistance Department, Head of the Biological Hazards and Contaminants Unit (BIOCONTAM) and Chief Scientist. Prior to joining EFSA, she worked for the Institute for Food and Agricultural Research and Technology (IRTA) in Spain, as Head of the Food Microbiology and Biotechnology Unit. From 1992 to 2004 she was an Associate Professor at the University of Barcelona. Marta holds a BSc in biological sciences, an MSc in genetics and microbial biotechnology and a PhD in food microbiology. She has extensively published papers and book chapters on food safety, risk assessment and governance.

Read the [press release on the renewal of the Scientific Board](#)

View the appointment decree published in the Official Journal of the French Republic

Find out more about **ANSES's Scientific Board**

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The French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES) provides public decision-makers with the scientific benchmarks needed to protect humans and the environment against health risks. It studies, assesses and monitors all the chemical, microbiological and physical risks to which humans, animals and plants are exposed, thereby helping the public authorities take the necessary measures, including in the event of a health crisis. A national agency working in the public interest, ANSES comes under the responsibility of the French Ministries of Health, the Environment, Agriculture, Labour and Consumer Affairs.