

Final Minutes

26th MEETING OF THE FOCAL POINT NETWORK PARMA (MTG SEAT 00/M08-09), 10TH-11TH FEBRUARY 2016

Chair: Jeff Moon

Members

Austria	<i>Melanie Kuffner</i>
Belgium	<i>Laurence Ballieux</i>
Bulgaria	<i>Snezhana Todorova</i>
Croatia	<i>Sanja Milos</i>
Cyprus	<i>Georgios Stavroulakis</i>
Czech Republic	<i>Petr Beneš</i>
Denmark	<i>Birgitte Helwich</i>
Estonia	<i>Piret Priisalu</i>
Finland	<i>Kirsi-Maarit Siekkinen</i>
France	<i>Coralie Bultel</i>
Germany	<i>Nicole Gollnick</i>
Greece	<i>Gorgias Garofalakis</i>
Hungary	<i>Renata Prisztoka</i>
Iceland	<i>Ástfríður Sigurðardóttir</i>
Ireland	<i>Edel Smith</i>
Italy	<i>Luca Busani</i>
Latvia	<i>Elina Ciekure</i>
Lithuania	<i>Snieguole Sceponaviciene</i>
Luxembourg	<i>Elisa Barillozzi</i>
Netherlands	<i>Jacqueline Castenmiller</i>
Norway	<i>Astrid Bjerkas</i>
Poland	<i>Iwona Wisniewska</i>
Portugal	<i>Filipa Vasconcelos</i>
Romania	<i>Dida Cozachievi</i>
Slovak Republic	<i>Petra Gerekova</i>
Slovenia	<i>Blaža Nahtigal</i>
Spain	<i>Cristina Alonso-Andicoberry</i>
Sweden	<i>Karin Nyberg</i>
United Kingdom	<i>Tom Hollands</i>

Observers

Albania	<i>Shpresa Ohri</i>
FYR of Macedonia	<i>Dushica Santa</i>
Montenegro	<i>Drago Marojevic</i>
Switzerland	<i>Barbara Engeli</i>
Turkey	<i>Nurseren Budak</i>

EFSA Staff

<i>Stef Bronzwaer</i>	<i>Djien Liem</i>
<i>Jeff Moon</i>	<i>Goran Kumric</i>
<i>Sérgio Potier Rodeia</i>	<i>Sosanna Tasiou</i>
<i>Julia Finger</i>	<i>Baptiste Alfano-Giacometti</i>
<i>Pierre-Alexandre Beloeil</i>	<i>Jacopo Alabiso</i>
<i>Nicoline Le Gourierec</i>	

Apologies: Malta, Serbia.

1. OPENING OF MEETING

Jeff Moon from EFSA's Advisory Forum and Scientific Cooperation Unit (AFSCO) and Chair of the meeting opened the 26th meeting of the Focal Point (FP) network.

The Chair welcomed new FP representatives to the meeting, namely Nicole Gollnick (Germany) and the FP observers from the Pre-Accession countries. Under the new EFSA Pre-Accession Programme 2015-2017 the Assistant Coordinators of the programme participate in FP meetings as Observers. Albania joined for the first time owing to its new status as a Candidate Country. The representatives, namely Shpresa Ohri from Albania, Dusica Santa from the FYR of Macedonia, Drago Marojevic from Montenegro and Muzaffer Nurseren Budak from Turkey were invited to briefly introduce themselves.

The Chair informed that the minutes of the 25th FP meeting, which took place on 18-19 November in Parma were published on EFSA's website at the beginning of January.

The Chair informed participants that AFSCO is currently harmonising the procedures of the AF, FP and AFCWG meetings. The organisation of FP plenary meetings has been centralised in EFSA and colleagues from CORSER Unit are now dealing with logistics, while the AFSCO Secretariat will continue to provide support on the content of meetings, network membership and issues concerning Declarations of Interest.

The agenda for the current meeting was adopted by the participants without further issues being raised.

Finally ODoIs were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

2. GUEST LECTURE – ANTIMICROBIOLOGICAL RESISTANCE

The Chair introduced Pierre-Alexandre Beloeil, Senior Scientific Officer from the BIOCONTAM Unit, who presented to FPs the main findings of the 2014 Summary Report on AMR. The related report was published the following day. AMR is a priority area for EFSA in 2016 and FPs had several questions related to the topic. Pierre-Alexandre

explained that the comparison of data from MS became easier after the implementation of new EC legislation and with the help of EFSA providing practical guidance. The purpose of the data analysis is to explain the correlation of AMR and antibiotic use and further analysis is meant to measure the impact on co-resistance. A particular session will be dedicated to AMR on the AF meeting in June.

3. STRATEGIC ISSUES

3.1 Feedback from the last Advisory Forum meeting

The Chair gave the floor to Stef Bronzwaer to give feedback from the 58th Advisory Forum (AF) meeting, which took place on 8-9 December 2015 in Luxembourg, on the occasion of the Luxembourg EU Presidency. The Forum discussed in detail the strategic objectives to implement the EFSA Strategy 2020, as presented at the joint AF/FP meeting in November 2015 and the review of the AF. The EU Risk Assessment Agenda and in particular, the Delphi report, which was also shared with FPs as a background document before the meeting, were widely discussed. The AF expressed its appreciation on the sharing of the summary on forthcoming RA activities (and FP related work) and chose antimicrobial resistance as the main topic for the EU Insight Project being led by the AFCWG to measure risk perception. Further topics were a Customer Feedback Survey with the EC, an EFSA opinion on Glyphosate and the Lumpy Skin Disease outbreak. Stef also gave an outlook on the upcoming AF meeting on 8-9 March 2016.

In this context the Finnish FP informed that the Finnish Food Safety Authority EVIRA planned to organise a seminar on Lumpy Skin Disease with other Nordic countries (open to international participation).

Action Point 1: Finnish FP to circulate information on seminar on Lumpy Skin Disease.

3.2 Review of the operation of the Advisory Forum

The Chair informed FPs about the Review of the operation of the AF. The related report, published in the following month, concluded a year-long exercise building on two session reports provided by the external facilitator, Malcolm Parker. The review was presented and agreed on the last AF meeting. Amongst other issues, the review recommends closer ties between AF, FPs and AFCWG as well as further implementation of the concept of partnership between EFSA and MS as a cooperation tool.

4. EU RISK ASSESSMENT AGENDA

4.1. Current state-of-play

The Chair gave the floor to Stef Bronzwaer to debrief on discussions taken place at the last AF meeting on the EU Risk Assessment Agenda (EU RAA). Stef informed FPs about the objective of the EU RAA to agree on prioritised RAs and RA support activities carried out jointly with other members of the EU RA community. The EU RAA shall be a planning instrument to agree common priorities in food safety, to identify resources needed and to agree who-does-what on joint projects. As mentioned in the Scientific Cooperation Roadmap, establishing the common EU RAA should help to define common priorities, clarify who is involved in which activities avoid duplication of efforts and provide justification to obtain needed funds and resources.

4.2. Update on the Delphi Study

The Chair provided an overview on the results of the Delphi study presented at the last AF meeting by the external consultants. The study, conducted to identify priorities for the EU RAA, identified 28 common food safety priority topics for cooperation. The report on the Delphi study was shared with FPs as a background document. Next steps are to identify the proper processes and resources to actually implement activities and projects under the priorities identified. There are four pillars that will steer such implementation: (1) Process - aiming to agree who takes the lead on which priority and with whom (which partners); (2) Topics - aiming to translate identified priority topics into concrete

activities and/or joint projects; (3) Consultation – on identified priorities and aiming to identify possible actions with third parties (e.g. EU Agencies, International Organisations); (4) Funding Opportunities – aiming to secure resources/funding at national, European and international level.

4.3. Identifying resources and funding opportunities

The Chair introduced Julia Finger, who focused on the 4th pillar of the EU RAA-concerning how to best secure resources/funding opportunities at national, European and international level, and how FPs can provide support to this activity. The aim is to draw a portfolio of possible funders for each MS at European/European/international level. FPs are asked to carry out an analysis of the funding landscape in their countries, so to map what is currently available at national, European and international level, which might ultimately allow to set up a global landscape analysis across the EU. The various national portfolios, in addition to a European portfolio, will be the base of a “whole life-cycle” funding model, allowing for a more sustainable, transparent and long-term budget for RA activities in the EU. To create such a portfolio, FPs were asked to compile a list of national funding opportunities for RA activities in their country and add any known funding opportunities on RA to the relevant list. To this end, FPs were provided with an example for a prefilled national table along with an empty template for national use, and as well with a pre-filled table on international funding to be completed. Further, a list of all national European Research Council contact points was shared as background document, for possible contact and provision of information on international funding opportunities.

Action Point 2: FPs to compile a list of national funding opportunities for RA activities in their country following the given example of Portugal by using the template provided.

Action Point 3: FPs to contact national European Research Council contact points for information on international funding.

Action Point 4: FPs to add their input to the list of international funding opportunities for RA activities using the pre-filled template provided.

Action Points 2-3-4 should be provided until the end of April 2016.

4.4. Discussion

The topics concerning the EU RAA were followed by a lively discussion. The Chair confirmed that the 28 priorities identified will be updated regularly, though the procedure is yet to be defined. Probably there will be an annual update, in alignment with DG Research & Innovation. However, EFSA is also in contact with other EU General Directorates, namely DG Agri, DG Connect, DG Digit and DG Devco to look into a wider range of possible funding opportunities. Horizon 2020 will serve as a framework with priorities defined and linked to practicalities. On international projects, the World Bank could be considered among many others. The Italian FP added that, in the past, ERA-NET was used as a framework for joint projects, but has ceded. The Greek FP informed the group that they have communicated the priorities identified by EFSA’s Delphi study to the National General Secretariat for Research and Technology, which is the main national research funding body, for consideration – and potential adoption or adaptation – of select relevant priorities within their future calls. The Greek FP added that effort should also be put on the identification and exploitation of RA-relevant research outputs, which, in some cases, may be challenging. The Finnish FP raised concern on cut backs on national research funding, suggesting it would be best to focus on international funding. The Chair pointed out the importance of having an overview of possible national funding opportunities. Even if some of these cannot be taken into consideration, the exercise will give an idea on who is doing what, which generates an important networking effect, triggering cross-border cooperation. FPs agreed that the AF should be made aware of the funding portfolio, as they might be in the position to commit resources and agree on joint projects.

5. NEW PROGRAMME UNDER THE INSTRUMENT FOR PRE-ACCESSION ASSISTANCE (IPA)

The Chair introduced Goran Kumric, who joined the AFSCO Unit at the beginning of the year as Coordinator of the EFSA IPA and European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) Programmes. Goran presented to FPs the new EFSA Pre-Accession programme that started in October 2015 and will run until November 2017 with the objective to build up RA capacity in candidate and potential candidate countries under the EU membership negotiation. Goran also provided an outlook in the cooperation with the neighbouring countries to the south and east of the EU under the ENP Programme. As visits of the EFSA Executive Director can not only strengthen cooperation between MS but also with ENP countries, FPs are invited to brainstorm on already existing or possible cooperation activities with ENP countries.

Action Point 5: FPs to identify existing or possible cooperation activities with ENP countries in preparation of ED visits.

6. EFSA FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

The Chair introduced Nicoline Le Gouierec, who presented the EFSA Fellowship Programme. The European Risk Assessment Fellowship Exchange Programme is a milestone in building the EU RA capacity and knowledge community, aiming to attract early and mid-career scientists to become risk assessors through learning by doing via a 12 months fellow hosting placement. The 2 year pilot programme focuses on microbiological and chemical food safety. The Fellowship Programme Committee governing the entire programme includes FPs and AF members from several countries. Nicoline invited FPs to appoint one contact point per MS for the programme and to express interest for hosting fellows as well as to communicate and promote the programme through their national networks. FPs showed great interest in the programme and raised several questions. Nicoline explained that several training hosting sites are already agreed upon. Concerning the fellow hosting sites, these have to be organisations on the Article 36 List in order to receive the grant for providing each fellow with a fixed monthly subvention throughout the 12 month fellowship placement. Expressions of interest to host one or more fellows are welcome in order to set up a list of hosting fellow institutions. A call for tender will be opened soon to select and award by October 2016 a contractor in charge of the training organisation and deliver the training modules. EFSA will be involved as hosting site for the 3 week introductory training, while the single modules will take place on the volunteering training hosting sites. The Fellowship Programme Committee will convene for the first physical meeting just after the FP meeting to define precisely the training modules content. The next step will be to agree on the fellow selection criteria and prepare the call for expression of interests for the fellows, to be launched by October this year.

Action Point 6: FPs to express interest to host fellows (via the Advisory Forum member).

Action Point 7: FPs to appoint one national contact point for the Fellowship Programme (via the AF).

Action Point 8: FPs to promote the EFSA Fellowship Programme.

7. UPDATE ON EFSA RA TRAINING COURSES

The Chair gave the floor to Sérgio Potier Rodeia who updated FPs on the EFSA RA training courses opened during the second half of 2016 to the participation of MS representatives in EFSA's Scientific Networks. There are two groups of EFSA courses: the specialized courses on advanced aspects of RA - open only for some Scientific Networks; and a second group of courses - opened to all Scientific Networks. Sérgio made particular reference to questions FPs raised in this context on the last FP meeting: FPs had requested to get an overview on the representatives from their country that have

applied for or attended a training course. Sérgio explained that names and contacts are available inside EFSA but that personal data can only be shared with third parties on a request basis and following consultation with EFSA's Data Protection Officer. For a better overview of courses being opened, the possibility of placing FPs in copy of invitations sent out to training courses was raised; however, this possible action needs to be further discussed with EFSA Scientific Units that are sending these e-mail invitations. Training material generated during RA training courses can be shared under certain pre-defined conditions, via the "intranet" of FP organisations. EFSA is currently considering the possibility of opening the RA courses not only to the designated network representatives and alternates but also to other experts coming from the network member organisation, and, at a later stage maybe even to experts from Article 36 organisations. Improvement is also foreseen regarding the information flow on who is invited to which training for each network.

In this context, the Danish FP raised the question if it would be possible to get a list of national representatives in Working Groups, which is technically possible but again subject to the final decision of the EFSA Data Protection Officer.

8. FOCAL POINT REPORTING 2015 - MAIN FINDINGS

The Chair gave the floor to Sérgio Potier Rodeia who presented the main findings of the 2015 FP reporting. Sérgio concluded his presentation with a list of recommendations on certain FP tasks and how they should be reported in 2016.

9. SCIENTIFIC NETWORKS

9.1. EFSA update & graphical depiction of EFSA partners in MS, Iceland and Norway

The Chair gave the floor to Julia Finger, who provided an update on the state-of-play on scientific network coordination and national networking, in particular on the recently concluded yearly update of the network member list done by the AF. A new list of network members and representatives has been created and is available in DMS. It includes the new network on Veterinary Medicinal Product Residues, which will have its first meeting on 23-24 February. Networks in the area of Pesticides are following a separate nomination procedure and the actual list of members and representatives in the two networks was circulated among FPs for national follow-up. A calendar with an overview on network meetings in 2016 has also been uploaded on DMS. Julia presented the new guidelines for network representatives that have been developed by a Discussion Group made up by FPs and EFSA colleagues. A printed version will be available soon.

The graphical depiction of EFSA partners, network members and Article 36 organisations that has been created in 2015 for the first time will be renewed for 2016 and included as an Annex of the Scientific Cooperation Annual Report 2015. A first draft of the graphical depiction has been issued by EFSA according to the network list after the yearly update and the latest version of the Article 36 List. Focal Points will receive this draft in the upcoming days and are requested to give their comments until 25 February.

Action Point 9: FPs to comment on the graphical depiction of their country until 25 February 2016.

9.2. Management of Networks / survey results

The Chair gave the floor to Cristina Alonso-Andicoberry, FP from Spain, to present activities of the Spanish FP related to the national coordination of Scientific Networks. Inter alia, the Spanish FP held its 2nd meeting of national representatives in EFSA's Scientific Networks and conducted a survey amongst network representatives and alternates. A summary report of this survey will be shared with FPs. In this context, the Polish FP reported having organised a similar meeting of all national representatives in EFSA's Scientific Networks and a survey among them. The main

findings will be presented at the next FP meeting. In the concluding discussion, FPs expressed that the abovementioned Guidelines for Network representatives are helpful in supporting their effort, but there are still remaining problems, for example the gap between the scientific and the political point of view in each country.

Action Point 10: Spanish FP to share summary report of survey made among network representatives.

Action Point 11: Polish FP to share summary report of survey made among network representatives.

Action Point 12: EFSA to include an agenda item/presentation on the main findings of the Polish survey among network representatives on the next FP meeting.

9.3. National Coordination of EFSA Scientific Networks in Belgium

The Chair gave the floor to Laurence Ballieux, FP from Belgium to give another example on the national coordination of EFSA's Scientific Networks. The Belgium FP held its first meeting with all national representatives as well as a detailed survey among them. Laurence presented the results of the survey, including a set of recommendations for the AF and FP representatives, as well as for EFSA in order to improve further the information flow.

Action Point 13: FPs interested on the outcome of the Belgium survey on national coordination of scientific networks to consult the respective presentation shared on DMS.

Action Point 14: EFSA to discuss recommendations from Belgium with Units managing the Scientific Networks.

10. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

10.1. Update on communication activities

The Chair introduced Baptiste Alfano-Giacometti, international communications Trainee in AFSCO, to give an update on the activities of the AFCWG and on the state-of-play of the EU Insights project. In February, the tender to execute a Pan-European risk perception survey on the topic of AMR as chosen for the EU Insights project will be launched and the results will be presented at the AF meeting in June. The start of the implementation of the EU-Wide Communications PLAN on AMR based on the survey results is foreseen for December. Baptiste also introduced the EFSA Communications Calendar, a new tool for cooperation in the area of communications.

With regards to improving communications, the Chair summarized possible future communication tools to be used: Yammer and similar platforms, Microsoft 365 and virtual meetings are some of the tools that will be looked into. Further suggestions of similar tools are welcome.

The Chair also explained that for the Global Platform for Risk Communications, set up at EFSA's Scientific Conference during EXPO, the Terms of Reference are going to be drafted now by the respective Working Group.

10.2. EFSA weekly media monitoring

The Chair asked FPs on their feedback on and the practical usefulness of the EFSA weekly media monitoring overviews sent out to FPs over the past four weeks. This Weekly Media Round-Up is prepared for EFSA's internal use, but is already being shared with AF and AFCWG members, who cannot publish it but may circulate it within their national networks. Since only positive feedback from the FPs was recorded, EFSA will continue to circulate the document weekly, by email, to the FPs, whereas to AF and AFCWG members it will continue to be shared via Yammer.

Action Point 15: EFSA to circulate weekly media monitoring to FPs via e-mail.

10.3. New EFSA website

The Chair introduced Jacopo Alabiso from the Risk Communications Unit, who gave FPs an overview on the new EFSA website. Jacopo explained the wider context and the main drivers for the changes implemented. The new concept for the website based on user-centred design, as well as the most relevant webpages for FPs, were shown to FPs via a live demo. On question, Jacopo explained that the website is maintained up-to-date by giving different life-cycles for each section, thus links to earlier published opinions should work with past links. FPs were asked to check the EFSA links included on their national webpages so to ensure they continue to be redirected to the correct webpages. Also, e-mail alerts have been re-installed, but FPs are invited to re-check the configuration settings. The Spanish FP suggested replacing the e-mail addresses of FPs on the website with an icon in order to prevent spamming.

Action Point 16: EFSA to check if FP email addresses can be replaced by an icon to prevent spamming.

Action Point 17: FPs to send problems or questions related to the EFSA website to the functional mailbox scientific.cooperation@efsa.europa.eu.

*

The Chair then closed the meeting for the first day.

*

11. EFSA INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

11.1. Update on EFSA International Programme

The Chair introduced Djien Liem, AFSCO's Lead Expert in International Scientific Cooperation, who provided an update on EFSA's International Programme and the cooperation approach with third countries. Djien invited FPs to focus their FP tasks and reporting on their cooperation activities with non-EU countries and international organisations and related events. He emphasised that many of the food safety issues we are dealing with in Europe are also relevant at international level and that challenges we have in the EU are quite often of global concern. There is a clear need to join forces with EU MS and International Organisations such as FAO, WHO and OIE to work together to develop risk assessment capacity in and outside of the EU, not only to avoid misunderstandings at CODEX or WTO level from a scientific point of view, but also to create a better understanding of the EU food safety system to third countries outside the EU.

11.2. FP tasks on international activities

The Chair gave the floor to Sérgio Potier Rodeia, who picked up on the introduction of Djien to provide details on how FPs should report on their international activities. FPs have to report on the mandatory activity of disseminating information on planned international scientific cooperation activities related to RA, e.g. workshops, summer academies. Other possible activities to carry out and report are the sharing of key documents and the promotion of international cooperation within EFSA's remit. As a quality step for 2016 Sérgio introduced the sharing of information on international activities not only in the technical report but constantly throughout the year.

11.3. Case-study: international activities reported by France in 2015

The Chair gave the floor to Coralie Bultel, FP from France, who gave an example on international activities carried out and reported by the French FP during 2015.

11.4. Discussion

The session on international activities was concluded by an active discussion of the plenary. Discussion centred on the quantity and type of information to be shared, in line with FP Agreements. An orientation can be taken from the example presented by France and as well from the last slide of Djien's presentation, referring to examples of

international activities reported in 2015. Emphasis should be given to international events, training courses, summer schools and workshops in RA, while information such as international delegations visiting FPs institution can be shared in the yearly reporting. FPs were invited to share documents concerning international activities via DMS. A dedicated folder will be created after the meeting. The Italian FP suggested linking EFSA's international activities with other instruments of cooperation, such as TAIEX and the EU Reference Laboratories, where also FPs may participate.

Action Point 18: EFSA to create folder for sharing information on international activities on DMS and send link to FPs.

Action Point 19: FPs to share information on international activities.

Action Point 20: EFSA to investigate links to other international cooperation tools and instruments.

12. ISSUES RAISED BY EFSA & FOCAL POINTS

12.1. Update on upcoming Grants & Procurement

The Chair reminded FPs of the background document shared in advance for this agenda item on upcoming Grants & Procurement (G&P) calls, a standing item on the FP agenda. A new format was introduced for the first time for this plenary meeting with an overview of upcoming G&P being shared with FPs along with a short description for each call, instead of a plenary presentation. With the new format, time is then allocated at the meeting for questions raised by FPs on the information provided.

The Chair then introduced Sosanna Tasiou, from EFSA's Finance Unit, to answer questions on the specific calls on the list that was shared ahead of the meeting. Sosanna explained that a former call on wildlife surveillance had been withdrawn from the list for the moment. The new Thematic Grant on the development on RA methodologies is planned to be launched in March. The grant covers one overall area and will be broken down in 4 lots, information that will be made available just after the FP meeting. The Thematic Grant is following a 2-step approach, the first one to identify consortium partners, the second to receive proposals. The consortium must consist of partners from more than one MS and partners must be on the Article 36 List in order to be eligible. Having partners from more MS is granting extra points for a consortium under the award criteria. However, all details will be available in the call specifications when published. Sosanna confirmed that the list of upcoming calls has been published on EFSA's website and can be circulated by FPs at national level.

Finally the Chair replied to FPs on an open action point from the last FP meeting: "EFSA to check if re-opening competitions (in framework grants) can be included in list of open calls". On this issue, EFSA has investigated and, in fact, information can be shared each time the competition re-opens, however only among the framework participants, which has been recently done.

12.2. Table on forthcoming RA activities – reminder for AF meeting

The Chair gave the floor to Sérgio Potier Rodeia for reminding FPs to update the table on forthcoming RA activities by Thursday 25th February 2016, in preparation of the upcoming AF meeting. Sérgio informed FPs that EFSA is currently working together with its IT services on running a pilot for setting up a new working environment for the updating of this table, keeping in mind that in the mid-long term the aim is to evolve into a database to better share this information.

Action Point 21: FPs to update the table on forthcoming RA activities until 25th February 2016.

12.3. ANSES work programme for 2016

The Chair gave the floor to Coralie Bultel, FP from France, who presented the work programme of ANSES for 2016. The work programme will soon be published on the

ANSES website and links for further information can be found on the last slide of the presentation, available on DMS.

The Chair invited all FPs to share links to their works programmes for 2016.

Action Point 22: French FP to share link to ANSES work programme once published on the ANSES website.

Action Point 23: FPs to share links to their work programmes published on their institutional websites.

12.4. Update on the EU Food Safety Almanac

The Chair gave the floor to Nicole Gollnick, FP from Germany, to give an update on the EU Food Safety Almanac. MS were asked to send their updates to the German FP for the next edition using the relevant template. The deadline to send updates has been extended until 01.03.2016. Finally, Nicole informed that a Portuguese version of the Food Safety Almanac being planned, with the aim to be disseminated to Portuguese-speaking countries.

Action Point 24: FPs to send national updates on the EU Food Safety Almanac to the German FP until 1st March 2016.

12.5. Update on visits of EFSA's Executive Director to Member States

The Chair gave the floor to Sérgio Potier Rodeia, who gave an update on the visits of EFSA's Executive Director (ED) to the MS. A detailed overview on the ED visits and the corresponding joint projects already initiated was given on the last FP meeting in November. The visits confirmed for 2016 are Denmark (17 March), Norway (7 April), Greece (14 April), Sweden and Finland (23-26 May), Netherlands (7 June), Belgium (28 June), Slovakia (27 September), Austria (20 October), Hungary (in the week of 7-11 November).

In relation to the joint project agreed on the ED visit to the UK on the organisation of an international Workshop on Foodborne Viruses on 23-25 February 2016, the Finnish FP informed on having held a seminar for participants that will take part in this workshop.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

13.1. Minutes of Focal Point meetings on EFSA website

The Chair informed FPs that AFSCO is proceeding with the harmonisation and aligning of procedures for FP, AF and AFCWG meetings and that, in addition to the final minutes, also presentations and documents shared for FP meetings will be published on EFSA's website in the same way as for AF meetings. Therefore, FPs need to give their permission to EFSA for such publication to occur, which shall occur at each plenary meeting. Some FPs informed that they would need to consult first at national level before giving their permission. It was then agreed to consider the publication on a case-by-case basis for each meeting, whenever such consultation is deemed necessary. For the next meeting a general question on agreement on public access to documents will be asked beforehand to those who deliver presentations.

13.2. V Annual Scientific Congress on zoonoses, foodborne and waterborne diseases

The Chair gave the floor to Petra Gerekova, FP from Slovakia, to brief FPs on the V Annual Scientific Congress on Zoonoses, Foodborne and Waterborne diseases that will take place on 18-20 October 2016 in Bratislava. Petra presented the objectives and main topics of the congress, inviting FPs to participate.

Action Point 25: Slovak FP to share link to the V Annual Scientific Congress on zoonoses, foodborne and waterborne diseases.

13.3. Briefing on the upcoming training on the IMPRORISK model

The Chair gave the floor to Georgios Stavroulakis, FP from Cyprus, to give an update on the upcoming training on the IMPRORISK model. The training is going to take place on 17-18 May 2016 in Larnaca, Cyprus. Participation is limited to one expert per MS and their expenses (travelling + accommodation + catering costs) will be covered by EFSA.

Action Point 26: Cyprus FP to confirm date of IMPRORISK workshop.

Action Point 27: Cyprus FP to send official invitation to FPs for nomination of experts to participate on the IMPRORISK workshop.

13.4. Calendar of Focal Point and other national events

The Chair gave the floor to Sérgio Potier Rodeia who presented to FPs the calendar of FP and other national events. FPs were asked their opinion on the inclusion of information on national events by FPs. Sérgio explained the vision of creating an interactive calendar once new IT tools are identified. The plenary agreed to include information on national events and proposed to send the information to AFSCO to be included or to update the overview table directly on DMS. Sérgio further explained that the overview should stay targeted to FP events and to other national events relevant to EFSA, meaning events organised by use of the FP budget or attended by FPs, AF members and/or EFSA staff.

The FP from the Czech Republic informed in this context about the organisation of an event on Pesticides in May for which also EFSA participation will be asked.

Action Point 28: Czech FP to share information on the national event on Pesticides.

Action Point 29: FPs to send information on national events to scientific.cooperation@efsa.europa.eu or to update the respective overview table on DMS.

13.5. Collection of feedback from Focal Point meetings in 2016

The Chair informed FPs that from this meeting on, EFSA will initiate a procedure to collect online feedback from FPs after each meeting, with the aim to improve its format and content. In the same line, at the end of each year, a more broad survey will be launched. Therefore, FPs will receive shortly after the meeting an e-mail containing a link to the EC survey tool. The link will be open until the 25th February and FPs are asked to give feedback.

Action Point 30: FPs to provide feedback via online survey by the 25th February 2016.

The Chair also informed about an online survey regarding the EFSA Journal. The invitation to participate on the survey will be sent out on the 17th February and will be open for 3 weeks. FPs are invited to participate. EFSA will send the link to FPs once the survey is launched and ask for further dissemination at national level.

Action Point 31: EFSA to send link to the survey on the EFSA Journal once available.

Action Point 32: FPs to further disseminate the link on the online survey of the EFSA Journal and participate in it.

13.6. Upcoming Focal Point events in 2016

The Chair gave the floor to Sérgio Potier Rodeia to present the dates and places of upcoming FP meetings in 2016: the 27th meeting will take place on 11-12 May in Zagreb/Croatia; the 28th meeting will take place on 14-15 September in Uppsala/Sweden; and the 29th meeting on 8-9 November in Parma/Italy.

CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The Chair closed the meeting, thanking participants for their attendance and active contribution.

SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

Reference	Who	What
Action 1	Finnish FP	to circulate information on seminar on Lumpy Skin Disease.
Action 2	FPs	to compile a list of national funding opportunities for RA activities in their country following the given example of Portugal by using the template provided.
Action 3	FPs	to contact national European Research Council contact points for information on international funding.
Action 4	FPs	to add their input to the list of international funding opportunities for RA activities using the pre-filled template provided.
Action 5	FPs	to identify existing or possible cooperation activities with ENP countries in preparation of ED visits.
Action 6	FPs	FPs to express interest to host fellows (via the Advisory Forum member).
Action 7	FPs	to appoint one national contact point for the Fellowship Programme (via the AF).
Action 8	FPs	to promote the EFSA Fellowship Programme.
Action 9	FPs	to comment on the graphical depiction of their country until 25 February 2016.
Action 10	Spanish FP	to share summary report of survey made among network representatives.
Action 11	Polish FP	to share summary report of survey made among network representatives.
Action 12	EFSA	to include an agenda item/presentation on the main findings of the Polish survey made among network representatives on the next FP meeting.
Action 13	FPs	interested on the outcome of the Belgium survey on national coordination of scientific networks to consult the respective presentation shared on DMS
Action 14	EFSA	to discuss recommendations from Belgium with Units managing the Scientific Networks.
Action 15	EFSA	to circulate weekly media monitoring to FPs via e-mail.
Action 16	EFSA	to check if FP email addresses can be replaced by an icon to prevent spamming.
Action 17	FPs	to send problems or questions related to the EFSA website to the functional mailbox scientific.cooperation@efsa.europa.eu .
Action 18	EFSA	to create folder for sharing information on international activities on DMS and send link to FPs.
Action 19	FPs	to share information on international activities.

Action 20	EFSA	to investigate links to other international cooperation tools and instruments.
Action 21	FPs	to update the table on forthcoming RA activities until 25 th February 2016.
Action 22	French FP	to share link to ANSES work programme once published on the ANSES website.
Action 23	FPs	to share links to their work programmes published on their institutional websites.
Action 24	FPs	to send national updates on the EU Food Safety Almanac to the German FP until 1 st March 2016.
Action 25	Slovak FP	to share link to the V Annual Scientific Congress on zoonoses, foodborne and waterborne diseases.
Action 26	Cyprus FP	to confirm date of IMPRORISK workshop.
Action 27	Cyprus FP	to send official invitation to FPs for nomination of experts to participate on the IMPRORISK workshop.
Action 28	Czech FP	to share information on the national event on Pesticides.
Action 29	FPs	to send information on national events to scientific.cooperation@efsa.europa.eu or to update the respective overview table on DMS.
Action 30	FPs	to provide feedback via online survey by the 25 th February 2016.
Action 31	EFSA	to send link to the survey on EFSA Journal once available.
Action 32	EFSA	to further disseminate the link on the online survey of the EFSA Journal and participate in it.

Document history

Document reference	FP160210-m	Version 1.3
Prepared by		Julia Finger
Reviewed by		Sérgio Potier Rodeia Jeff Moon
Last date modified		23 March 2016