

EFSA PROGRESS REPORT

The present report refers to the period from the 15th of November 2015 to the 15th of February 2016.

SCIENCE

Outputs produced in the reporting period

In the risk assessment area, EFSA adopted one scientific opinion on scientific developments on Food contact materials and two guidance documents on 'Health claim applications for stakeholders' and 'Scientific requirements for health claims related to the immune system, the gastro-intestinal tract and defence against pathogenic microorganisms'. Two additional guidance documents ('Novel foods' and 'Notifications of traditional foods from third countries') were endorsed for public consultation. A total of 61 scientific opinions were adopted, 55 of which in the area of regulated products. The draft opinions on Dietary Reference Values for choline and vitamins D and B6 were published for written consultation. Two statements were issued by the Panels ('Food contact materials' and 'Update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed') and one by EFSA (carvone). EFSA issued 6 scientific reports, which include the EFSA and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) joint reports on 'European Union summary report on antimicrobial resistance in zoonotic and indicator bacteria from humans, animals and food in 2014' and 'European Union summary report on trends and sources of zoonoses, zoonotic agents and food-borne outbreaks in 2014'. In addition, EFSA issued 23 technical reports, 8 external reports, 20 reasoned opinions, 2 event reports and 6 peer-review conclusions, among which the first conclusion on a pesticide active substance included in the AIR III programme (third renewal group).

EFSA and ECDC joint report on EU summary report on antimicrobial resistance in zoonotic and indicator bacteria from humans, animals and food (2014)

The findings of this annual Europe-wide report by EFSA and ECDC underline again that antimicrobial resistance poses a serious risk to human and animal health. This risk was identified by the Commission as a major priority in its political agenda on food safety. Among others, the report also found evidence of resistance to the antimicrobial colistin in *Salmonella* and *E. coli* among poultry in the EU. In addition to the high levels of resistance shown throughout Europe, the report found that there are significant regional differences. The highest levels of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) are observed in eastern and southern Europe.

EFSA and ECDC joint report on EU summary report on trends and sources of zoonoses, zoonotic agents and food-borne outbreaks (2014)

Human cases of listeriosis and campylobacteriosis rose once again in 2014, continuing an upward trend that began in 2008. Salmonellosis cases increased slightly for the first time since 2008. The rise of reported listeriosis cases is of concern as the surveillance of these infections is focused on severe forms of the disease. However, *Listeria monocytogenes*, the bacterium that causes listeriosis, seldom exceeded the legal safety limits in ready-to-eat foods – the most common foodborne source of human infections. Campylobacteriosis remains the most commonly reported foodborne disease in the EU and has been so since 2005. The majority of EU Member States reported an increase in the number of campylobacteriosis cases in 2014, which could be partly explained by improvements in the surveillance system and/or improved diagnostics for campylobacteriosis.

Health Claim guidance documents

EFSA has updated its advice for applicants seeking approval of health claims. As well as revising the general scientific guidance, the Authority has updated its specific guidance for claims related to the immune system and the gastro-intestinal tract.

The updated guidance documents will give applicants a better understanding of the step-by-step approach followed by EFSA's nutrition experts and help them to decide what type of claim they wish to submit given the data available to them.

Cumulative risk assessment of pesticides

EFSA and its European partners have taken a major step forward in their work on assessing the cumulative risks from exposure to pesticides. A software tool has been developed for carrying out exposure assessments of multiple pesticides. In a pilot study, consumer exposure assessments are now being performed with the tool on groups of pesticides that may affect the thyroid and nervous systems. The results of these assessments will be published by the end of 2016, and will be considered by EFSA when it produces two scientific reports on cumulative risk assessments for the thyroid and the nervous systems in 2017. In the longer term, EFSA hopes to start progressively incorporating high-level cumulative risk assessments into its annual analysis of the chronic and acute risks that pesticides pose to consumers.

Food contact materials

EFSA's experts recommend refining the safety assessment of substances used in food contact materials, including the introduction of a more comprehensive approach to estimate consumer exposure, particularly for infants and toddlers. The scientific opinion presents recent scientific developments that impact on the estimation of consumer exposure to substances migrating from food contact materials, the tiered approach to their safety assessment, toxicological data requirements and consideration of the migration of non-intentionally added substances (NIAS). The next step in this process is for the European Commission to discuss with authorities in Member States the implications of these refinements for risk management.

Environmental risk assessment

EFSA has published two opinions on environmental risk assessment (ERA), with a third to follow shortly. EFSA performs ERA as part of its evaluations of regulated products – pesticides, genetically modified organisms, and additives in food and animal feed – and of invasive alien species that are harmful to plant health. As well as assessing the potential risks to human health from such products, EFSA also looks at the harm they may cause to the environment. These documents will help to harmonise assessment of potential "stressors" – such as feed additives, invasive species or pesticides – before they are allowed on to the market or spread into our environment. The opinions will enable EFSA to better address the direct and indirect effects that stressors can have on entities providing ecosystem services and on biodiversity.

New evaluation of neonicotinoids

Mandates for the new evaluation of clothianidin, thiamethoxam and imidacloprid were received from the European Commission, which placed restrictions on the use of the substances in 2013 following assessments carried out by EFSA. The updated assessments, which will look at the use of the substances as seed treatments and granules, will be completed by January 2017. They will take into account any new data from studies, research and monitoring that has come to light since the previous assessments were carried out, in particular information submitted to EFSA following a call for data in 2015.

Public access to data

EFSA is making available statistics for different countries on the reported frequency of contaminants in food and feed, and on food consumption for different age groups (such as means and percentiles). In February 2015, EFSA published the data warehouse's access rules, which were agreed with Member States. Over the course of 2015, data providers and EFSA scientific staff have been given access to EFSA data warehouse to pilot the system. Over the coming years, EFSA will make available as much as possible the data it collects and gathers from its networks of EU Member States and other data providers.

COMMUNICATIONS

In the reporting period, media coverage counted approx. 2250 articles (representing a -54% decrease compared to last quarter), 5 interviews and 82 media queries (representing a -30% decrease on last quarter). A major part of these queries were on glyphosate. The decrease is likely to be explained by (i) the festive season period included in the reporting period, and (ii) the fact that the peer review of the active substance glyphosate generated high media interest in the previous reporting period. On-going dispute in the scientific community over glyphosate's safety, the new software to carry out cumulative risk assessment of pesticides and the outcome of the 2014 EFSA-ECDC annual report on food-borne diseases were among the main issues discussed in media.

One press release, 26 news stories, 1 event story, 10 news-in-brief were published. Highlights included: Workshop on Xylella, Background documents on glyphosate conclusion, FAQ on NDA opinion on food for special medical purposes, EFSA/ECDC annual summary reports on antimicrobial resistance and zoonoses, small hive beetle, pesticides cumulative risk assessment, info-graphic on molecular typing. The two ERA opinions were published as the first typeset output of the EFSA Journal by the new publisher.

EFSA received the visit of a delegation from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) led by Dr Martine Dubuc, Vice-President of Science Branch, who visited EFSA to sign a new Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC). As well, EFSA welcomed a delegation from the Ministry of Environment of Japan led by Dr Kunihiko Yamazaki and Diane Wray-Clayton from USDA, and met with a delegation of the Food Safety Commission of Japan, led by Director General Takashi Himeda.

SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION

The 58th meeting of the Advisory Forum (AF) focussed, among others, on the outcomes of a Delphi study to identify priority risk assessment topics for the EU Risk Assessment Agenda, and discussed in breakout sessions around the implementation of joint risk assessment activities, consultation of third parties, ways of securing resources and thematic grants. Among others, the Focal Points (FP) focussed attention on the coordination and management of EFSA's Scientific Networks, the renewal of the 2015 FP Agreements for 2016, and the preparation for the launch of the Fellowship Programme. All FP Agreements were renewed for 2016.

Scientific cooperation activities with the Member States include the visits paid by the EFSA ED to the food national authorities in Portugal and Luxembourg. Portugal would support EFSA in possible future European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) programme with

Morocco, and Luxembourg prioritized to work on collection of food consumption data. Two workshops were organized as a follow-up of the ED visits to Member States in 2015: a workshop on African swine fever (with Baltic countries and Poland) and workshop on food chain laboratories (with Germany).

During the Workshop on "Cooperation in times of food and feed crisis", which took place in EFSA in November 2015, participants from 13 European neighbourhood countries exchanged experiences and best practices in risk assessment and risk communication and explored cooperation opportunities with colleagues from EFSA and the EU Member States.

A conference call of the International Food Chemical Safety Liaison Group (IFCSLG) was organised by EFSA and DG SANTE, where food safety agencies from Australia, Canada, France, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States provided updates on on-going risk assessment and risk management activities related to a broad range of subjects of mutual concern.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

EFSA's ED met with the Director-General of SANTE, Xavier Prats-Monné, and the Head of SANTE's Directorate D, Michael Scannel, and exchanged views on strategic planning, sourcing of expertise, international activities and glyphosate. As well, EFSA's ED met with the Head of Commissioner Andriukaitis' Cabinet, Arunas Vincianus, to discuss the dossier on glyphosate and prepare the planned meetings between EFSA and the Commissioner.

On the 1st of December, EFSA exchanged views with the European Parliament ENVI Committee on the glyphosate dossier. MEP Derek Vaughan, 2014 discharge rapporteur, recommended granting discharge to EFSA and positively acknowledged EFSA's performance. MEP Lara Comi paid a visit to EFSA and exchanged views on EFSA's role for the safety of the European food and feed system, current challenges and priorities, pesticides and GMOs. On 17 February, the ED held his annual hearing before the ENVI Committee.

In January, the Stakeholder Consultative Platform discussed, among others, the EFSA Strategy 2020, the Transparency and Engagement Risk Assessment project, and the new EFSA stakeholder engagement approach. The ED paid courtesy visits to various stakeholder organisations including: Foodwatch Germany (exchange on risk communication, glyphosate, risk assessment and risk management), the German federation of consumer organisations (exchange on communication in times of crisis, consumer information and unfair practices), the European Environmental Bureau (exchange on the separation of risk assessment and risk management roles, stakeholders engagement, open data and cumulative risk assessment) and Friends of the Earth Europe (exchange on stakeholders engagement, access to data, industry-sponsored studies and approach to new studies). EFSA welcomed a delegation of Greenpeace and exchanged views on bee health, neonicotinoids, access to data and MUST-B project.

SCIENCE

Scientific Committee and Emerging Risks	<p><u>SCER Unit</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ External report on EFSA’s food and feed crisis preparedness training: 2015 crisis training exercise. ○ Technical report of the EFSA scientific network of risk assessment of nanotechnologies in food and feed for 2015. ○ Event report on the EFSA workshop on increasing robustness, transparency and openness of scientific assessments.
Animal health and plant health	<p><u>Panel on Animal health and welfare</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Opinions on: “<i>E. multilocularis</i> infections in animals” and “Survival, spread and establishment of the small hive beetle”. <p><u>Panel on Plant health</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Opinion on <i>Vitis</i> sp. response to <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> strain CoDiRO. <p><u>ALPHA Unit</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Scientific reports on: “Update of a database of host plants of <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i>” and “Scientific and technical assistance on a pilot project for gathering information on pests and diseases of apple fruit (<i>Malus domestica</i>) in the EU territory”.
Biological hazards and contaminants	<p><u>Panel on Biological hazards</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Opinions on: “Evaluation of heat treatments, different from those currently established in the EU legislation, that could be applied to live bivalve molluscs - not submitted to purification or relaying - to eliminate pathogenic microorganisms” and “Public health risks associated with Enteroaggregative <i>Escherichia coli</i> (EAEC) as a food-borne pathogen”. ○ Statement on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed: Suitability of taxonomic units notified to EFSA until September 2015. <p><u>Panel on Contaminants in the food chain</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Opinion on Risks for human and animal health related to the presence of phorbol esters in <i>Jatropha</i> kernel meal. <p><u>BIOCONTAM Unit</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Joint scientific reports of EFSA and ECDC on “European Union summary report on antimicrobial resistance in zoonotic and indicator bacteria from humans, animals and food in 2014” and “European Union summary report on trends and sources of zoonoses, zoonotic agents and food-borne outbreaks in 2014”. ○ Scientific report on the Evaluation of the revision of the BSE monitoring regime in Croatia. ○ External reports on: “Relationship between seroprevalence in the main livestock species and presence of <i>Toxoplasma gondii</i> in meat” and “Experimental studies on <i>Toxoplasma gondii</i> in the main livestock species”.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Technical reports on: "Monitoring of veterinary medicinal product residues in food of animal origin in the Member States for 2014", "Annual report of the Scientific Network on BSE-TSE 2015" and "Annual report of the Scientific Network on Microbiological Risk Assessment 2015".
Additives and products or substances used in animal feed	<p><u>Panel on Additives and products or substances used in animal feed</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Opinions on feed additives: nutritional (10); zootechnical (7); sensory (4); technological (4).
Food ingredients and packaging	<p><u>Panel on Food additives and nutrient sources added to food</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Opinions on: re-evaluation of food additives (8) and new applications of food additives (3). <p><u>Panel on Food contact materials, enzymes, flavourings and processing aids</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Guidance on food contact materials. o Opinions on: flavourings (3); food contact materials (8). o Statement on food contact materials. <p><u>FIP Unit</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Technical report on the public consultation on food contact material Guidance.
Genetically modified organisms	<p><u>Panel on Genetically modified organisms</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Opinion on GM carnation SHD-27531-4. <p><u>GMO Unit</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Technical reports on: "Maize Bt11 x MIR162 x MIR604 x GA21 and all sub-combinations", "Explanatory note on DNA sequence of horizontal gene transfer" and "Mandate for the RA of GM microorganism Arsenic Biosensor".
Dietetic products, nutrition and allergies	<p><u>Panel on Dietetic products, nutrition and allergies</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Opinions on: Health Claims Art. 14 (1) and Art. 13.5 (4); Novel Foods (2) on pasteurised milk treated with UV-light, and on resveratrol. o Guidance documents on: "Health claim applications for stakeholders" and "Scientific requirements for health claims related to the immune system, the gastro-intestinal tract and defence against pathogenic microorganisms". o Draft opinions endorsed for public consultation: DRV for Vitamin D, DRV for vitamin B6, and DRV for choline. o Draft Guidance documents endorsed for public consultation: "Novel Foods" and "Notifications of traditional foods from third countries". <p><u>NUTRI Unit</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Technical reports on the outcomes of the public consultations on the "Draft general scientific guidance for

	<p>stakeholders on health claim applications”, “Draft guidance on the scientific requirements for health claims related to the gastro-intestinal tract, the immune system, and defence against pathogenic micro-organisms”, and “Draft guidance for the assessment of products notified as foods for special medical purposes”.</p>
<p>Pesticides and plant protection products and their residues</p>	<p><u>Panel on Plant protection products and their residues</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Endorsement of the draft guidance on the residue definition for dietary risk assessment, providing an approach to assess the toxicological relevance of pesticide metabolites. <p><u>PRAS Unit</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 5 Peer-review conclusions. ○ Approval of the first conclusion on a pesticide active substance included in the AIR III programme (third renewal group). ○ 20 Reasoned opinions. ○ Statement of EFSA on carvone. ○ 8 Technical reports and 1 Event report. ○ Communication activities on the EFSA conclusion on glyphosate. ○ Several general peer-review meetings for enhancing the cooperation with MS risk assessors.
<p>Assessment and methodological support</p>	<p><u>AMU Unit</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Scientific reports on: “Technical specifications for a European baseline survey of Norovirus in oysters” and “Collection and review of updated scientific epidemiological data on porcine epidemic diarrhoea”.
<p>Evidence management</p>	<p><u>DATA Unit</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Technical reports on: “Manual for reporting on zoonoses and zoonotic agents”, “Manual for reporting on food-borne outbreaks”, “Manual for reporting on antimicrobial resistance”, and “Summary of the 2014 data collection on contaminant occurrence data”. ○ External reports on: “Guidelines for reporting sample based data on prevalence”, “Guidelines for reporting data on antimicrobial resistance”, “Use of the EFSA Standard Sample Description (SSD2) for the reporting of data on the control of pesticide residues in food and feed” and “Revision of specific requirements for chemical contaminants and food additives for reporting data in SSD2”.
<p>Application Desk</p>	<p><u>APDESK Unit</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Receipt of 120 applications and 104 requests via web form. ○ Organisation of two info-sessions on applications: GMO technical meeting with applicants (with GMO Unit) and Food enzymes technical meeting with stakeholders (with FIP Unit).

Quality Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Quality Assurance System for science, including ex-ante quality checks throughout the risk assessment process, was approved by the EFSA Management and Scientific Committee. ○ Further driving harmonisation of the Quality Management System across EFSA, in particular in the RESU and COMMS units. As a next step customer satisfaction measures will be developed.
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COMMUNICATION

Media and social media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coverage in 2236 articles, representing a -54% decrease compared to last quarter. Number of interviews: 5, number of media queries: 82, representing a -30% decrease on last quarter. A major part of these queries were on glyphosate. Decrease likely to be explained by i) the festive season period included in the reporting period, and ii) the fact that the peer review of the active substance glyphosate generated high media interest in the previous reporting period. ○ Issues discussed in media: on-going dispute in the scientific community over glyphosate's safety, the software to carry out cumulative risk assessment of pesticides and the outcome of the 2013 EFSA-ECDC annual report on food-borne diseases. ○ On 18 November - European Antibiotic Awareness Day - EFSA took part in its third Twitter chat in cooperation with DG SANTE, ECDC, EMA and WHO. ○ On Twitter, there were 644 new followers (+28% compared to last quarter; average 8.7 new followers/day). ○ On LinkedIn, there were 1,177 new followers.
Risk communication	<p><u>Content overview</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1 press release, 26 news stories, 1 event story, 10 news-in-brief were published. Highlights included: Workshop on Xylella, Background documents on glyphosate conclusion, FAQ on NDA opinion on food for special medical purposes, EFSA/ECDC annual summary reports on antimicrobial resistance and zoonoses, small hive beetle, pesticides cumulative risk assessment, info-graphic on molecular typing. ○ Rationalisation and redrafting of content for the new EFSA website. <p><u>Website</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Launch of new website. ○ Launch of Soundcloud channel to stream audio files. ○ Agreement with DIGIT to host website on their infrastructure.

<p>Risk communication</p>	<p><u>EFSA Journal</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Successful transition of editorial processes to professional publishers. ○ New publishing workflows and timescales agreed with Units. ○ Migration of EFSA Journal backfile data to publisher begins along with significant clean-up of the data. ○ Design of new EFSA Journal page on Wiley Online Library agreed. <p><u>Publications and multimedia</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Videos: publication of EXPO conference highlights, AF video, new video on antimicrobial resistance and food safety (with ECDC and EMA). ○ Info-graphics: publication of restyled Prometheus, pesticides authorization, updated scientific processes, molecular typing, AMR, pesticides authorisation. ○ Publication of: 'Internal manual on practical guide to staff ethics and conduct', 'Internal manual on quality' and 'Annual report of the quality manager'.
<p>Advisory Forum and scientific cooperation</p>	<p><u>Advisory Forum</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 58th meeting in Luxembourg: outcome of a Delphi study to identify priority risk assessment topics for the EU Risk Assessment Agenda, breakout sessions discussing implementation of joint risk assessment activities, consultation of third parties, ways of securing resources and thematic grants. The report on the Review of the AF was tabled for discussion. ○ AF Communication Working Group project team developed the guidelines 'Best practices for crisis communicators: How to communicate during food or feed safety incidents'. The guidelines were test-driven during the crisis simulation exercise at EFSA. <p><u>Focal Point Network</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The 25th meeting focused on the coordination and management of EFSA's Scientific Networks, the renewal of the 2015 FP Agreements for 2016, and on a training session on grants & procurement. ○ The 26th meeting focused on the on-going preparation for the launch of the Fellowship Programme, in-depth discussions on setting a funding landscape at national & international scale, and feedback from the 2015 FP reporting. ○ FP Technical Reports were submitted and approved. All FP Agreements were renewed for 2016. <p><u>Scientific cooperation with the Member States</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ EFSA's ED visited Portugal and Luxembourg in November and December 2015. Portugal would support EFSA in possible future ENP Programme with Morocco; and Luxembourg prioritized to work on collection of food consumption data. ○ Two workshops were organized as a follow-up of the ED visits to MS: Workshop on African swine fever (Baltic countries and Poland); and Workshop on Food Chain Lab (Germany).

<p>Advisory Forum and scientific cooperation</p>	<p><u>Pre-accession Programme and European Neighbourhood Policy Programme</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Agreements on financing the Assistant Coordinators in Montenegro and Albania signed. ○ Visit of the Kosovo Food and Veterinary Agency. ○ Assistant Coordinators participated in the 26th meeting of the FP network. An info session was organized to discuss the New IPA Programme activities and tasks of the Assistant Coordinators. ○ First progress report on implementation of IPA Programme sent to DG NEAR. ○ ENP Workshop: Cooperation in times of food and feed crisis. ○ Info sessions for representatives from competent authorities of Palestine and Israel.
<p>Stakeholders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 29th Stakeholder Consultative Platform meeting: EFSA Strategy 2020, TERA, stakeholders engagement approach. ○ Meeting with Foodwatch Germany: risk communication, glyphosate, risk assessment and risk management. ○ Meeting with the German federation of consumer organisations (VZBV): communication in times of crisis, consumer information and unfair practices. ○ Meeting with European Environmental Bureau (EBB): separation of risk assessment and risk management roles, stakeholders engagement, open data and cumulative risk assessment. ○ Meeting with Friends of the Earth Europe (FoEE): stakeholders engagement, access to data, industry-sponsored studies and approach to new studies. ○ Visit of Greenpeace at EFSA: bee health, neonicotinoids, access to data and MUST-B project.
<p>Institutional and international relations</p>	<p><u>European Commission</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ EFSA's ED met with DG SANTE Director-General Xavier Prats-Monné and the Head of SANTE's Directorate D, Michael Scannel, and exchanged views on strategic planning, sourcing of expertise, international activities and the glyphosate dossier. ○ The ED met EC's Internal Audit Service and discussed around EFSA's way forward for IAC capability, upcoming audits and pending open recommendations. ○ The ED met with Commissioner Andriukaitis's Head of Cabinet, Arunas Vinciuonas, to discuss the dossier on glyphosate and prepare the planned meetings with the Commissioner. <p><u>European Parliament</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ENVI Hearing on glyphosate. ○ 2014 discharge rapporteur MEP Vaughan recommended granting discharge to EFSA and positively acknowledged EFSA's performance in draft report. ○ Visit of MEP Lara Comi and a delegation of stakeholder organisations (Coldiretti and entrepreneurs of the agri-sector): exchange on EFSA's role for the safety of the European food and feed system, current challenges and priorities, pesticides and GMOs. ○ Annual Hearing of ED before the ENVI Committee.

Member States

- Two-day table-top crisis simulation exercise participated by scientists and communicators from MSs, EFSA, EC and WHO. They were challenged to undertake rapid risk assessment and crisis communications under the technical and media pressures of a realistic, multiple-country food contamination scenario. Concluding the cycle of 4-year exercises, a final report was produced providing a summary of lessons learned and recommendations for future work.
- Italian Parliament adopted the 2016 Financial Law, which allows the use of funds pertaining to the Scuola per l'Europa to finalise the school building.
- ED participated at the Expert Panel discussion at the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA) 2016 during Green Week in Berlin.
- EFSA was invited by MEP Michele Rivasi to participate at a colloquium on phage therapy at the French National Assembly and exchanged views on antimicrobial resistance.

EU agencies

- Trilateral meeting ECHA-EFSA-DG SANTE on the harmonised classification of pesticides.
- EFSA met with JRC Director General, Vladimír Šucha, to take a step further in strengthening relations with the JRC by developing a multiannual strategic programme.
- Teleconference with EMA to exchange on public observers in open committee/ panel meetings. EFSA updated on Guidelines for Observers; EFSA experience with open plenary meetings; and EFSA's measures aimed at increasing transparency and engagement in the EFSA risk assessment process.
- The EU ANSA published a paper on 'peer review', which provides a reflection on the key principles applicable to the use of peer review approaches within the context of EU agencies providing scientific advice and technical support.
- EFSA became member of the coordination troika of the network of Agencies (1st of March). EFSA will take the network chairmanship over in March 2017.

International relations

- EFSA and DG SANTE organised a conference call of the International Food Chemical Safety Liaison Group (IFCSLG).
- EFSA participated in a meeting of WHO/Europe on "The Burden of Foodborne Diseases in the European Region".
- EFSA attended the EC-USFDA Public Meeting on the Food Safety Modernization Act.
- A delegation from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) led by Dr Martine Dubuc, Vice-President of Science Branch, visited EFSA to sign a new Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC).
- EFSA met with a delegation of the Food Safety Commission of Japan, led by Director General Takashi Himeda.
- EFSA participated in a teleconference of the WHO Chemical Risk Assessment Network Coordinating Group.
- EFSA welcomed a delegation from the Ministry of Environment of Japan led by Dr Kunihiro Yamazaki and Diane Wray-Clayton from USDA.

CORPORATE – RESOURCES AND SUPPORT

<p>Strategy based services</p>	<p><u>Independence</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ EFSA decided to centralize within its Legal and Regulatory Affairs Unit the implementation of the rules on DoI and the validation of the Annual Declarations of Interest of its experts and staff members. The centralization was enrolled in January 2016 and the plan foresees sequential onboarding of Panels over six months.
<p>Expertise based services Expertise based services</p>	<p><u>Data protection</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Specific data protection dimensions regarding cloud computing brokerage, on-line surveys, and phase out of the EFSA Experts Database. ○ First application of newly developed impact assessment approach regarding the EFSA Talent Management project and the introduction of an electronic medical file to be managed by the EFSA Medical Adviser. <p><u>Court cases</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ On 15 December 2015, EFSA was notified by the General Court of the European Union the application for interim measures in case <i>T-725/15 R Chemtura Netherlands BV v EFSA</i>. The applicant demands that the Court orders EFSA to take off its corporate website the conclusions it adopted with regard to the pesticides active substance Diflubenzuron. ○ On 24 December 2015, EFSA was notified by the General Court of the European Union the application for annulment in case <i>T-725/15 Chemtura Netherlands BV v EFSA</i>. In this application, the applicant challenges the legality of EFSA's decision to publish on its website its conclusions on pesticides active substance Diflubenzuron and to reject certain confidentiality claims submitted by the applicant. ○ On 1 February 2016, EFSA lodged its observations on the application for interim measures in the aforementioned case <i>T-725/15 R Chemtura Netherlands BV v EFSA</i>. EFSA defends the legality and soundness of the contested decision and of the process followed and contests the need to remove the conclusions from its website. <p><u>Outreach and support services</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Workshop on Xylella Fastidiosa. The event was attended by 130 stakeholders. Feedback was largely positive (overall satisfaction level: 97%). In addition, 32% of participants stated that their understanding of the issue has improved from average to excellent thanks to the session (source: post event evaluation survey). ○ Info Session on Applications - Food Enzymes - Technical meeting with stakeholders on refinement of exposure estimates. The number of participants was 67.

	<p><u>Assurance, Business engineering and Customer empowerment (PTT)</u> FINANCE-Procurement and PTT: Launched Joint Cloud Undertaking (first successful collaborative IT procurement involving 20+ agencies, in coordination with DG DIGIT) under the auspices of the ICT Agencies Coordination Network. Tender closing is planned for April 2016. Market volume is 60M €. EFSA is the lead agency.</p> <p><u>Talent Selection</u> On 15th February, 437 posts were occupied and 7 job offers sent to the selected candidates bringing the total to 444 posts filled-in out of the planned 470 posts (including seconded national experts). With regards to the statutory staff (officials, temporary agents and contract agents) the recruitment execution rate is at 94.3%, while that for seconded national experts is at 100%. This gives an overall recruitment execution rate of 94.5%.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Staff Categories</th> <th>Target 2016</th> <th>Total Contracted and Offered</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Temporary Agents and Officials (Establishment Plan)</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Executives, Managers & Officers (AD)</td> <td>230</td> <td>217</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Assistants functions (AST)</td> <td>100</td> <td>110</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>330</td> <td>327</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Contract Agents</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Officers functions (CA FG IV)</td> <td>75</td> <td>66</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Assistants functions (CA FG I, II, III)</td> <td>50</td> <td>36</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>125</td> <td>102</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Seconded National Experts</td> <td>15</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total all staff categories</td> <td>470</td> <td>444</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Staff Categories	Target 2016	Total Contracted and Offered	Temporary Agents and Officials (Establishment Plan)			Executives, Managers & Officers (AD)	230	217	Assistants functions (AST)	100	110	Total	330	327	Contract Agents			Officers functions (CA FG IV)	75	66	Assistants functions (CA FG I, II, III)	50	36	Total	125	102	Seconded National Experts	15	15	Total all staff categories	470	444
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<p>Transaction based services</p>	<p><u>Assurance, Business Engineering and Customer empowerment (PTT)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> End of year performance on target toward 2020 world class KPI was confirmed based on full year data (as presented at Audit Committee and MB December 2015). <p><u>Financial management</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 29th February 2016, € 20.45 million or 25.75% of the € 79.41 million budget was committed, and € 8.14 million or 10.27% of the € 79.24 million payment appropriations were paid. 																																	

Glossary

ADoI – Annual Declaration of Interest
AF – EFSA’s Advisory Forum
AFCWG – Advisory Forum Communications Working Group
AFSCO – EFSA Unit on Advisory Forum and Scientific Cooperation
ALPHA – EFSA Unit on Animal health and plant health
AHAW – EFSA Panel on Animal health and welfare
AMR – Antimicrobial resistance
AMU – EFSA Unit on Assessment and methodological support
ANS – EFSA Panel on Food additives and nutrient sources added to food
BIOCONTAM – EFSA Biological hazard and contaminants Unit
BIOHAZ – EFSA Panel on Biological hazards
BPA – bisphenol A
CEF – EFSA Panel on Food contact materials, enzymes, flavourings and processing aids
COMMS – EFSA Department of Communications
CONTAM – EFSA Panel on Contaminants
DATA – EFSA Unit on Evidence management
DG SANCO – Directorate General for Health and Consumers
DoI – Declaration of Interest
DPO – EFSA Data Protection Officer
EC – European Commission
ECA – European Court of Auditors
ECDC – European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
ED – EFSA Executive Director
EP – European Parliament
ERA – Environmental risk assessment
ERWG – EFSA’s External Review Working Group
EU – European Union
EXO – EFSA’s Executive Office Unit
FAQ – Frequently asked questions
FEED – EFSA Unit on Feeds
FEEDAP – EFSA Panel on Additives and products or substances used in animal feed
FIP – EFSA Unit on Food ingredients and packaging
FP – EFSA Focal Points
GMO – EFSA Panel/Unit on Genetically modified organism
HUCAP – EFSA Unit on Human capital and knowledge management
IEP – Information exchange platform
IFCSLG – International Food Chemical Safety Liaison Group
MAP – Multi-Annual Plan
MEP – Member of the European Parliament
MRL – Maximum residue levels
MS – EU Member States
PRAS – EFSA Unit on Pesticides
PPR – EFSA Panel on Plant protection products and their residues
QPS – Qualified Presumption of Safety
RASA – EFSA Department of Risk assessment and scientific assistance
RASFF – Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed
REPRO – EFSA Department of Scientific evaluation of regulated products
RESU – EFSA Department of Resources and Support
SC – EFSA Scientific Committee
SCER – EFSA Scientific Committee and Emerging Risk Unit
SCISTRAT – EFSA Department of Scientific strategy and coordination
SCP – Stakeholders Consultative Platform
SOP – EFSA’s Standard Operational Procedure
WG – Working group