



## 87<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the EFSA's Management Board Minutes of the Public Session

**Parma, 24 June 2021 – 9:30-15:20**

Members of the Management Board Present	
Raymond O'Rourke (Chair)	Georgi Georgiev
Aivars Bērziņš (Vice-Chair)	Ulrich Herzog
Michael Winter (Vice-Chair)	Didier Houssin
Geronimo Brănescu	Eleni Ioannou-Kakouri
Claire Bury	Giuseppe Ruocco
Herman Diricks	András Székács
Libor Dupal	Annette Toft
Iñaki Eguileor	

**Apologies:** N/A

Staff of the European Food Safety Authority	
Bernhard Url (Executive Director)	Marta Hugas
Gian Luca Bonduri	Juliane Kleiner
Peter De Pauw	Claudia Paoletti (for item no. 7)
Guilhem de Seze	Pedro Pinhal (for item no. 9)
Dirk Detken	Alberto Spagnolli
Barbara Gallani	Selomey Yamadjako

**Also attending:**

Simon More, Chair of the EFSA's Scientific Committee



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## SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

The 87<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Management Board was the last one chaired by Mr Raymond O'Rourke, whose term of office as a Board member will expire at the end of June 2021, after 8 years of valuable contribution to the work of EFSA. On EFSA's behalf, the Executive Director thanked Mr O'Rourke very much for his commitment and dedication to EFSA. The Management Board assigned to Mr Aivars Bērziņš, Vice-Chair of the Management Board, the role of acting Chair until the election of a new Chair at the following Management Board meeting scheduled on the 14<sup>th</sup> of October 2021.

### The Board adopted:

- The EFSA Strategy 2022-2027, which will guide the organisation in implementing its mandate in the years to come.
- The Opinion on EFSA's accounts for the financial year 2020.
- The amendments on the decision on the establishment and operation of the EFSA Networks.
- The amendments on the decision on the establishment and operation of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and of their Working Groups, which introduces minor changes to reflect current practices.
- The decision on the appointment of a member of the Panel on Nutrition, Novel Food and Food Allergens.
- The amendment to the Art. 36 list of competent organisations designated by Member States which may assist EFSA within its mission, with the inclusion of a new Romanian organisation.

### In addition, the Board noted:

- EFSA's Performance Report, which provided information on the implementation of the Single Programming Document 2021-2023.
- The update from the Scientific Committee, provided by its Chair Prof. Simon More.
- The presentation on the organisation of the conference "ONE – Health, Environment, Society", which is planned from the 21<sup>st</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> of June, 2022.
- The update on the implementation of the Transparency Regulation.
- The report on the external review of the Competing Interest Management rules.
- The feedback from the Chair of the Audit Committee.
- The presentation on the EU-Fora programme.
- The presentation of EFSA's information campaigns.



#### Item 1: Welcome by the Chair

1. The Chair opened the 87<sup>th</sup> Management Board meeting by welcoming the Board members, Executive Director, Chair of the Scientific Committee, external observers and the EFSA staff members.

#### Item 2: Adoption of the agenda

2. The Board adopted the agenda of the meeting as it was proposed by the Chair, with the addition of the following items under Any Other Business: (1) EFSA communication campaigns and (2) EFSA's new Management Board. The audio-file on this item is available online at the following [link](#).

#### Item 3: Board members' Annual and Oral Declarations of Interests

3. Pursuant to Article 13 of the Management Board Rules of Procedure adopted on 27 June 2013, the Board took note of the Executive Director's assessment of the Declarations of Interests submitted by three of its members and confirmed it.
4. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at the following [link](#).

#### Item 4: EFSA performance Report

5. Bernhard Url (Executive Director) introduced to the Board the performance report covering the period from the 1<sup>st</sup> of January to the 30<sup>th</sup> of April 2021. The document included information on all aspects of the EFSA performance measured during the reporting period against the annual and multiannual work programmes as presented in the Single Programming Document 2021-2023. Selomey Yamadjako (Business Services Department) brought to the Board's attention data on the management and consumption of resources. The Management Board congratulated EFSA's scientific experts and staff for the quantity and quality of the work carried out an expressed appreciation for the conciseness of the revised format of the report. A [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed description. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at the following [link](#).
6. **Action:** EFSA to review the graphic representation of the overall performance level for each strategic objective with a view to consider the insertion of possible weighting factors.

#### Item 5: Update from the Scientific Committee

7. The Board noted the update from the Scientific Committee, provided by its Chair, Prof. Simon More, who presented the Scientific Committee's activities performed since the last update to the Board. In particular, he highlighted the work of the Scientific Committee in the areas of bee health, joint assessment of chemicals, health-based guidance values for copper and ciguatera toxin. A [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed description. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at this [link](#).
8. **Action:** Provide Aivars Bērziņš with information on the assessment of soil copper and Eleni Ioannou-Kakouri with information on the ciguatera toxin surveillance by the Member States.

#### Item 6: ONE – Health, Environment, Society – Conference 2022

9. The Management Board noted the presentation from Marta Hugas (Chief Scientist) on the preparation of the "[One – Health, Environment, Society](#)" Conference, which will be held on 21-24 June 2022 in partnership with the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

(ECDC), the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), the European Environment Agency (EEA), the European Medicines Agency (EMA), and the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC). In particular, Marta Hugas outlined the overall programme of the conference, the event governance and the several communication activities around it. A [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed description. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at this [link](#).

#### Item 7: Implementation of the Transparency Regulation

10. The Board noted the update on the work that was and is being carried out to implement the Regulation (EU) 2019/1381 of the European Parliament and of the Council (Transparency Regulation). Among others, the presentation highlighted the activities that are being carried out since the application of the Regulation on the 27<sup>th</sup> of March this year, the related activities in the areas of communication and training, as well as the work in the area of engagement and partnership with the Member States and EFSA main stakeholders. A [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed description. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at this [link](#).

#### Item 8: EFSA Strategy 2022-2027

11. The Executive Director introduced the EFSA Strategy 2022-2027 by describing EFSA's foundations (mission, vision and values), highlighting the main features of the environmental context within which the Authority is expected to operate in the coming future, and outlining the content of the strategic objectives that the organisation will pursue in the mid-term: (1) Deliver trustworthy scientific assessment and communication of the risks from farm to fork, (2) Ensure preparedness for future risk analysis needs, and (3) Empower people and ensure organisational agility. He highlighted that the Strategy document was drawn up with the fundamental contribution of the Management Board, as well as in consultation with EFSA's partners and stakeholders. A [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed description.
12. By expressing strong support for EFSA's current and future work, the Management Board adopted the EFSA Strategy 2022-2027, which will guide the organisation in implementing its mandate in the years to come.
13. In addition, the Management Board noted the preliminary information shared by the Executive Director on EFSA's Performance Framework, which will be further elaborated at the following Board meeting. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at this [link](#).
14. **Action:** EFSA to make the adopted document available on its website.

#### Item 9: Accounts 2020 financial year

15. Based on the presentation introduced by Pedro Pinhal (EFSA's Accounting Officer) and the feedback provided by the Chair of the Audit Committee from the discussion held by the Committee on the previous day, the Board gave a positive opinion on EFSA's 2020 financial accounts, having obtained reasonable assurance that they represent a true and fair view of the Authority's financial position as of the end of 2020. A [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed description. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at the following [link](#).
16. **Action:** EFSA to notify the Board's opinion to the EU competent authorities.



Mr Ulrich Herzog left the meeting at 12.45 P.M. He gave his proxy to the Chair of the Management Board, Mr Raymond O'Rourke.

#### Item 10: Competing interest management: review of the DoI rules

17. The management Board noted the presentation of Dirk Detken on the first external review of EFSA's competing interest management rules. The external conclusion reported that EFSA's rules on competing interest management are in line with the principles and guidelines of the independence policy; the accuracy of the declarations of interest has improved over time; the application of the rules on competing interest management has contributed to the increase of EFSA's reputation as an independent organisation; the process resulting in the management of competing interests in EFSA was considered appropriate and effective; the novelties introduced by the Transparency Regulation may at times suggest evolutions in the area of EFSA's independence governance. No immediate action was considered needed to address the low risk procedural and regulatory improvements opportunities at times identified by the external reviewers. With a view to pursue a continuous review and improvement of EFSA's independence system the planned activities in the independence area in the months to come were highlighted: the presentation to the Management Board of an implementing decision on EFSA staff's independence, a thorough review of the external reviewers' improvement finding with a view to improve the competing interest management process, and the review of the EFSA policy on independence in 2023. A [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed description. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at the following [link](#).

#### Item 11: Establishment and operation of the EFSA Networks

18. Subject to the inclusion of the clarification in Art. 4(4) that before taking any decision on the continuation or discontinuation of a Network the Management Board shall receive non-binding recommendations from the Advisory Forum, the Management Board adopted the revised document on the "Establishment and operation of the European Networks of scientific organisations operating in the field within the Authority's mission". Upon the inclusion of some amendments suggested by the Board itself in March, the document had been subject to a second round of consultations with the Advisory Forum in June 2021. A [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed description. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at this [link](#).

19. **Action:** EFSA to make the adopted document available on its website.

#### Item 12: Establishment and operation of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and of their Working Groups

20. The Management Board adopted amendments on the decision on the "Establishment and operation of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and of their Working Groups", which introduces minor changes to reflect current practices that EFSA established following leaning of some administrative steps aimed to increase the efficiency of setting up and managing Working Groups. A [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed description. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at this [link](#).

21. **Action:** EFSA to make the adopted document available on its website.

#### Item 13: Appointment and withdrawal of Panel members

22. The Board adopted the decision on the appointment of a new member of the Panel on Nutrition, Novel Food and Food Allergens (NDA) and on the withdrawal of some members from the Panels



on Nutrition, Novel Food and Food Allergens (NDA), Plant Health (PLH) and Animal Health and Welfare (AHAW). The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at this [link](#).

#### Item 14: Amendments to the Art.36 list

23. The Management Board adopted the amended list of Art. 36 competent organisations designated by the Member States with the inclusion of one new organisation designated by Romania. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at the following [link](#).

#### Item 15: Feedback from the Audit Committee

24. The Chair of the Audit Committee updated the Management Board on the outcome of the meeting held on 23 June 2021, in particular highlighting the work carried out on the IAS audit report on EFSA's grants and procurement, IAS audit plan 2021, EFSA's accounts 2020 and EFSA's discharge procedure for the year 2019. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at this [link](#).

#### Item 16: EU-Fora and EFSA's activities in support of EU capacity building in the food/feed risk assessment area

25. The Management Board noted the presentation from Barbara Gallani (Communication and Engagement) on the outcome of the evaluation exercise carried out on the EU-Fora fellowship programme (2017-2020) and on the improvements EFSA plans to implement in organising the next programme cycle. Underlying that the Transparency Regulation had highlighted, among others, strong needs for a well-prepared risk assessment community in Europe, she detailed how the EU-Fora fellowship programme contributes to the EU risk assessment capacity building by offering training paths aimed to prepare the EU scientists in addressing current and future scientific challenges and complexities, and in establishing long lasting collaboration relationships among risk assessors in Europe. A [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed description. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at this [link](#).

#### Item 17: Any other business

26. EFSA communication campaigns: The Management Board noted the presentation of Barbara Gallani on EFSA's communication campaigns. The Management Board commended EFSA for the receipt of the European Ombudsman's award for communication for the African Swine Fever campaign. A [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed description. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at this [link](#).

27. EFSA Management Board: Claire Bury (European Commission) informed the audience of the publication online, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June, of the call for expression of interest for the selection of the representatives of the civil society and of the food chain interests in the new Management Board of EFSA, which will take office on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2022 in line with the provisions of the Transparency Regulation. Stressing that the deadline for the submission of candidatures was set on the 16<sup>th</sup> of August, she invited the Management Board members to disseminate the information as widely as possible.



## Summary of actions

Action reference	Action	Deadline	Status
June 24, 2021 - 1	In the performance report, EFSA to review the graphic representation of the overall performance level for each strategic objective with a view to consider the inclusion of possible weighting factors.	Oct. 2021	ONGOING
June 24, 2021 - 2	EFSA to provide Aivars Bērziņš with information on the assessment of soil copper and Eleni Ioannou-Kakouri with information on the ciguatera toxin surveillance by the Member States.	ASAP	DONE
June 24, 2021 - 3	EFSA to make the adopted document on "EFSA Strategy 2022-2027" available on its website.	ASAP	DONE
June 24, 2021 - 4	EFSA to notify the Board's opinion on EFSA's accounts 2020 to the EU competent authorities.	1 <sup>st</sup> of July 2021	DONE
June 24, 2021 - 5	EFSA to make the adopted document on the "Establishment and operation of the European Networks of scientific organisations operating in the field within the Authority's mission" available on its website.	ASAP	DONE
June 24, 2021 - 6	EFSA to make the adopted document on the "Establishment and operation of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and of their Working Groups" available on its website.	ASAP	DONE