



mb210325 - Minutes

LEGAL & ASSURANCE SERVICES

86th Meeting of the EFSA's Management Board

Minutes of the Public Session

Parma, 25 March 2021 – 9:30-14:10

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

Apologies: Giuseppe Ruocco

Staff of the European Food Safety Authority	
Bernhard Url (Executive Director)	Juliane Kleiner
Gian Luca Bonduri	Nik Kriz (for item no. 13 and 14)
Peter De Pauw	Claudia Paoletti (for item no. 6)
Guilhem de Seze	Tobin Robinson (for item no. 8)
Dirk Detken	Alberto Spagnolli
Barbara Gallani	Selomey Yamadjako
Marta Hugas	

Also attending:

Simon More, Chair of the EFSA's Scientific Committee



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SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

The Board endorsed the draft document on EFSA's Strategy 2022-2027, which will be published for public consultation.

The Board adopted:

- The Consolidated Annual Activity Report 2020 describing the outcome achieved in implementing the 2020's workplan.
- The Implementing Rules of the Staff Regulations concerning the 'Transfer of pension rights'.
- The amendment of the EFSA's budget 2021.
- The amendment to the Art. 36 list of competent organisations designated by Member States which may assist EFSA within its mission.

In addition, **the Board noted:**

- The update from the Scientific Committee, provided by its Chair Prof. Simon More.
- The update on the work that was and is being carried out to implement the Transparency Regulation.
- The draft document on the "Establishment and operation of the European Networks of scientific organisations operating in the field within the Authority's mission". The document will be shared with the Advisory Forum for consultation.
- The presentation on the effects of BREXIT and of the UK/Northern Ireland protocol on EFSA's operations.
- The presentation of EFSA's scientific work on SARS-CoV-2 on mink and on the animal welfare area overall.
- The presentation on the outcome of the communication campaign conducted in 2020 on African Swine Fever.
- The feedback from the Chair of the Audit Committee, who reported on the session held on the previous day.
- The information on the organisation in 2022 of the conference "One – Health, Environment, Society".



Item 1: Welcome by the Chair

1. The Chair opened the 86th 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. The following items were added under Any Other Business: (a) participation of the Chair in the Stakeholder Bureau meeting held on 16 March 2021, (b) document noted by the Management Board in written procedure and (c) organisation of the “One – Health, Environment, Society” Conference 2022. 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 two of its members and confirmed it.
4. András Székács informed the meeting that on the 1st of February 2021 his employing organisation merged with the Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences. He will update his Declaration of Interests.
5. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at the following [link](#).
6. **Action:** Mr Székács to update his Declaration of Interest.

Item 4: EFSA Annual Report 2020

7. The Executive Director (ED), Bernhard Url, and Selomey Yamadjako (Business Service Department) introduced to the Board the “EFSA consolidated annual activity report 2020”, which describes the results achieved in implementing the EFSA 2020's work plan and the progress made in pursuing the Strategy 2020 objectives. Among others, the report highlights the progresses with the implementation of the Transparency Regulation, the performance of projects and programmes, the scientific work carried out in all areas pertaining to EFSA's mandate that resulted in the closure of almost 700 questions, as well as the results achieved in the area of budget management. A [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed description.
8. The Board adopted the EFSA consolidated annual activity report 2020 and asked the ED to convey their gratitude to EFSA's scientific experts and staff for the results achieved in 2020 and congratulated them for their capability to deliver high quality outputs while addressing the challenges represented by the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the overall positive assessment of EFSA's performance, however, the Management Board invited the Authority to keep the attention high on the reduction of the MRL backlog.
9. As well, based on the presentation of the Chair of the Audit Committee (a [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online), the Board reviewed and adopted the Management Board assessment of the EFSA annual report 2020, which draft was prepared by the Audit Committee. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at the following [link](#).



Item 5: Update from the Scientific Committee

10. 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, health-based guidance values, expert knowledge elicitation and risk assessment of chemicals in food. 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 6: Implementation of the Transparency Regulation

11. 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 adoption of new procedural documents and the revision of guidance documents, the implementation of the required new IT tools and the information campaign on the implementation of the new processes. Although additional work is needed in the coming weeks and months, EFSA is ready for the application of the Transparency Regulation as of the 27th of March 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](#).

Item 7: EFSA Strategy 2022-2027

12. The Executive Director introduced the draft document describing the EFSA strategy 2022-2027 highlighting, in particular, EFSA's strategic foundations (mission, vision and values) EFSA's environment (i.e. the critical opportunities and challenges that EFSA will face in its future and how they can be addressed) and the strategic objectives: (1) Deliver trustworthy scientific assessment and communication of risks from farm to fork, (2) Ensure preparedness for future risk analysis needs, and (3) Empower people and ensure organisational agility. A [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed description.
13. Following up on the exchange held on the previous day in private session, the Management Board endorsed the draft EFSA Strategy 2022-2027, which will be published in the coming days for public consultation. The document is planned to be adopted by the Management Board in June 2021. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at this [link](#).
14. **Action:** EFSA to publish online the draft EFSA Strategy 2022-2027 for public consultation.

Item 8: Establishment and operation of the EFSA Networks

15. The Management Board reviewed the draft revised document on the "Establishment and operation of the European Networks of scientific organisations operating in the field within the Authority's mission". The document will be further revised and shared with the Advisory Forum for consultation with the aim to adopt it at the following meeting of the Management Board. 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](#).
16. **Action:** EFSA to share the draft document on the "Establishment and operation of the European Networks of scientific organisations operating in the field within the Authority's mission" with the Advisory Forum for consultation.



Item 9: Implementing Rules of the Staff Regulations

17. The Management Board adopted the Implementing Rules of the Staff Regulations concerning the 'Transfer of pension rights', which will take effect as of the following day. 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 10: Revision of the EFSA budget 2021

18. The Management Board adopted the amendment to the EFSA budget 2021, which related to the incorporation of the bank interests accrued in 2020. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at the following [link](#).

Item 11: BREXIT impact on EFSA

19. The Management Board noted presentation on the effects of BREXIT and of the UK/Northern Ireland protocol on EFSA's operations, which was introduced by Dirk Detken (Legal and Assurance Services). The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at the following [link](#).

Item 12: Amendments to the Art.36 list

20. The Management Board adopted the amended list of Art. 36 competent organisations designated by the Member States with the inclusion of 4 new organisations designated by Italy (2) and Hungary (2). As an effect of BREXIT (see previous agenda item), the organisations designated by the UK were withdrawn from the list. 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 13: SARS-CoV-2 in mink and EFSA work on animal welfare

21. The Management Board noted the presentation introduced by Nikolaus Kriz (Animal and Plant Health) on EFSA's scientific work on SARS-CoV-2 in mink that contributed to the [rapid assessment](#) of the risks on human health of new virus variants related to mink: an assessment that was carried out in close collaboration with the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). As well, the presentation provided an overview on the work that EFSA carries out in the area of animal welfare. 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 14: African Swine Fever campaign

22. The Management Board noted the presentation on EFSA's African Swine Fever campaign, which was introduced by Barbara Gallani (Communication and Cooperation) and Nikolaus Kriz (Animal and Plant Health). In particular, the presentation focussed on the outcome of the communication campaign conducted in 2020 and on the follow up plans for 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 the following [link](#).

Item 15: Feedback from the Audit Committee

23. The Chair of the Audit Committee updated the Management Board on the outcome of the meeting held on 24 March 2021, in particular highlighting the work carried out on the assessment of the EFSA Consolidated Annual Activity Report 2020 and the review of the EFSA assurance report 2020. While reinforcing the overall positive assessment voiced earlier by the



Management Board on EFSA's performance in 2020, the Audit Committee expressed concerns for the backlog in the REPRO area and asked for the adoption of measures to address it. As well, the Audit Committee noted that the next external evaluation of the Authority will be carried out in 2026 in accordance with the provisions of the Transparency Regulation. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at this [link](#).

Item 16: Any other business

24. The Chair updated the fellow Board members on his participation in the Stakeholder Bureau meeting that was held in virtual mode on 16 March 2021.
25. Marta Hugas shared information 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. A [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed description.
26. The Chair informed the audience that the Board had also addressed an item (for information from EFSA to the Board) via written procedure: "Budget transfers 2021". The document supporting the exchange of information was published on [EFSA's website](#). The audio-file on the presentation and discussion around the items above is available online at this [link](#).

Summary of actions

Action reference	Action	Deadline	Status
March 25, 2021 - 1	Mr András Székács to update his Declaration of Interest.	ASAP	OPEN
March 25, 2021 - 2	EFSA to publish online the draft EFSA Strategy 2022-2027 for public consultation.	April 2021	DONE
March 25, 2021 - 3	EFSA to share the draft document on the "Establishment and operation of the European Networks of scientific organisations operating in the field within the Authority's mission" with the Advisory Forum for consultation.	1 st half 2021	OPEN