

96th meeting of the EFSA Management Board – public session

Location: Parma and hybrid

Management Board participants	
Aivars BĒRZIŅŠ - Chair (Latvia)	Sebastian HIELM (Finland)
Pamela BYRNE - Vice-Chair (Ireland)	Hrönn Ólína JÖRUNSDÓTTIR (Iceland)
Gergana BALIEVA (Bulgaria)	Janne Britt KRAKHELLEN (EFTA S.A.)
Ana BATALHA (Portugal)	Sanja MUSIĆ MILANOVIĆ* (European Parliament)
Margaret BATESON-MISSEN* (Commission)	Szabolcs PÁSZTOR* (Hungary)
Tejs BINDERUP (Denmark)	Isabel PEÑA-REY (Spain)
Ingrid BORG (Malta)	Martin POLOVKA* (Slovakia)
Claire BURY* (Commission)	Egidijus PUMPUTIS (Lithuania)
Floriana CIMMARUSTI (Consumer Org.s)	Darja SOKOLIĆ (Croatia)
Laszlo Csutak-Nagy* (Romania)	Annica SOLHSTRÖM* (Sweden)
Ugo DELLA MARTA (Italy)	Katarzyna STOŚ* (Poland)
Herman DIRICKS (Belgium)	Astrid THORS* (European Parliament)
Jernej DROFENIK* (Slovenia)	Annette TOFT (Farmers Org.)
Rebeca FERNANDEZ (Industry Org.)	Marie-Luise TREBES* (Germany)
Jindrich FIALKA (Czech Republic)	Benoît VALLET (France)
Ingunn Midttun GODAL (Norway)	Ana VILORIA (The Netherlands)
Patrick HAU (Luxemburg)	Stelios YIANNOPOULOS (Cyprus)
Ulrich HERZOG (Austria)	Antonis ZAMPELAS (Greece)

Apologies: Estonia, Environmental NGOs.

Staff of the European Food Safety Authority	
Bernhard URL (Executive Director)	Carlos das NEVES
Lucia BILARDI	Peter DE PAUW
Gian Luca BONDURI	Guilhem de SEZE
Dirk DETKEN	Alberto SPAGNOLLI
Barbara GALLANI	Selomey YAMADJAKO
Nikolaus Georg KRIZ	

Also attending:

Søren Saxmose Nielsen, Chair of the Scientific Panel on Animal Health and Welfare*

Simon MORE, Chair of the EFSA Scientific Committee

*Participation online



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SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

The Management Board **adopted**:

- The programming documents covering the period 2024-2027. These include the “Final programming document 2024-2026”, the “Statement of Revenues and Expenditures 2024” and the “Draft programming document 2025-2027”.
- The updated list of Art. 36 competent organisations designated by the Member States.
- Based on the outcome of the ex-post [external evaluation report on EFSA’s Independence Policy](#) and the advice of its sub-group on independence, the Board decided to open EFSA’s Independence Policy for targeted revisions.

In addition, the Board **noted**:

- The EFSA performance report.
- The presentation on ‘One Health’ a year and a half after the Conference held in June 2022.
- The update on the ongoing procedure for the renewal of the Scientific Committee and Scientific Panels.
- The feedback from the Chair of the Audit Committee.
- The presentation on the work of the Scientific Panel on Animal Health and Welfare.



Item 1: Welcome by the Chair

1. Aivars Bērziņš, Management Board Chair, opened the 96th Management Board meeting by welcoming the Board members, Executive Director, Chair of the Scientific Committee, EFSA's Management Team, EFSA staff present and external observers.
2. The Chair informed the fellow members of the apologies received from Estonia. The Environmental NGOs were not represented at the meeting since the procedure for their selection and appointment had not been finalised yet (see also point 22 below).
3. The audio-file on this agenda item is available online at this [link](#).

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda

4. The Management Board adopted by consensus the agenda of the meeting. The agenda was adopted with the addition of the following items under Any Other Business: (1) Feedback from the Chair of the Management Board on his participation in the Stakeholder Bureau meeting held on 10 October 2023 and in the Stakeholder Forum meeting held on 9-10 November 2023; (2) Update from the Commission on the procedure for the appointment of the Management Board representatives of the Environmental NGOs; (3) Feedback from the Advisory Forum meeting held on 30 November and 1 December 2023.
5. The audio-file on this agenda item is available online at this [link](#).

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

6. Pursuant to Article 13 of the [Management Board Rules of Procedure](#), the Management Board took note of the Executive Director's assessment of the Declaration of Interest submitted by 26 of its members and confirmed it.
7. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at this [link](#).

Item 4: EFSA performance report

8. The Executive Director introduced to the Management Board the performance report covering the period from 1 January to 31 October 2023. The document included information on all dimensions of the EFSA performance measured during the reporting period against the annual and multiannual work programme as described in the Programming Document 2023-2025. Selomey Yamadjako (Head of the Management Services Department) presented the budget execution in the reporting period.
9. The Management Board noted the performance report. While congratulating EFSA's scientific experts and staff for the quantity and quality of the work carried out in 2023, the Management Board invited EFSA to further invest in the reduction of the backlog in some regulated product areas. In the coming future the Management Board may wish to analyse in more detail the role of EFSA in the Pesticides risk assessment system. 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 5: Programming Documents 2024-2027 & EFSA budget 2024

10. Based on the presentation provided by the EFSA Management Team and the feedback from Mr Diricks, Chair of the Audit Committee, on the endorsement by the Audit Committee of specific elements of the EFSA programming documents and budget, the Management Board adopted by consensus: (a) the EFSA Programming Document 2024-2026; (b) the Statement of Revenues and Expenditures 2024 (budget 2024); and (c) the Draft Programming Document 2025-2027. In January 2024, the budget and programming documents will be notified to the competent EU institutions and made available online. A [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed description.



11. The Management Board held an exchange around the elements characterizing the annual and multiannual work plan of EFSA. Among others, attention was put on the need to apply effective strategies to address the stock of questions and to prioritise the risk assessment activities on regulated products. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at this [link](#).

Item 6: Amendments to the Article 36 list of organisations

12. The Management Board adopted by consensus the updated list of Art. 36 competent organisations designated by the Member States, which now includes 2 new organisations designated by Germany (1) and Poland (1).
13. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at this [link](#).

Item 7: One Health: where are we one year and a half after the One Conference

14. The Management Board noted the presentation provided by Carlos Das Neves (EFSA Chief Scientist) on 'One Health'. The presentation provided an overview of different initiatives taken since the 2022's Conference within EFSA, across EU Agencies, with the EU Commission, and with Member States to bring the One Health concept into practical solutions. 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: Evaluation of the EFSA Independence Policy

15. Pamela Byrne, Chair of the Management Board sub-group on independence, introduced the work carried out by the sub-group in reviewing the [report on the ex-post evaluation of EFSA's Independence Policy](#), which EFSA commissioned to an external consultant. The sub-group clustered the recommendations in the evaluation report in three groups: (1) Recommendations that the sub-group suggests to be part of the reflections on the Independence Policy review, since they provide an improvement to the current independence framework; (2) Recommendations that the sub-group suggests to be part of the Independence Policy review subject to additional analysis before their possible implementation; and (3) Recommendations that the sub-group suggests not to pursue since their benefit and positive impact is unclear and unlikely to deliver greater independence. A [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed description.
16. Based on the outcome of the ex-post external evaluation report on EFSA's Independence Policy and the advice of its sub-group on independence, the Management Board decided by consensus to open EFSA's Independence Policy for targeted revisions. The adoption by the Management Board of the revised Policy is scheduled for June 2024. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at the following [link](#).
17. **Action:** The Management Board sub-group on independence to proceed as agreed with the Management Board on the revision of the EFSA Independence Policy.

Item 9: Feedback from the Audit Committee

18. Herman Diricks, Chair of the Audit Committee, updated the Management Board on the outcome of the meeting held on the previous day. Among others, the Audit Committee discussed and endorsed specific elements of the Single Programming Document 2024-2026 and EFSA's budget 2024, noted the report on the outstanding audit observations and noted the update on the implementation of EFSA's digital roadmap. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at this [link](#).



Item 10: Update on the procedure for the renewal of EFSA’s Scientific Committee and Scientific Panels

19. The Management Board noted the presentation of Nik Kriz (Head of Risk Assessment Services Department), who presented the state of implementation of the procedure for the renewal of EFSA’s Scientific Committee and Scientific Panels. In particular, he shared information on the number of applications received and on the timeline for the implementation of the selection and appointment process. 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: Update from the Panel on Animal Health and Welfare

20. Following the introduction by Prof. Simon More, Chair of the Scientific Committee, Prof. Søren Saxmose Nielsen provided the Management Board with an overview of the work carried out by the scientific Panel on Animal Health and 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 this [link](#).

Item 12: Any Other Business

21. The Chair gave a feedback to the Management Board on his participation in the EFSA Stakeholder Bureau meeting (10 Oct. 2023) and in the EFSA Stakeholder Forum meeting (9-10 Nov. 2023). The Chair underlined the fruitfulness of the meetings and stressed the importance of the role played by the Stakeholder Bureau and Forum as channels for EFSA to communicate and collaborate with representatives of the civil society and of the food chain.

22. The Chair invited the Commission to update the Management Board on the state of implementation of the procedure aimed at appointing new members of the Management Board as representatives of the Environmental NGOs. The Commission reminded that the Management Board members representing the civil society and the food chain interests are appointed by the Council following consultation with the European Parliament, and on the basis of a list of candidates drawn by the Commission. The call for expression of interest was published on the Official Journal of the EU on 23 October 2023 and widely promoted among the networks of the Commission and EFSA. By the initial deadline (i.e.: 4 December 2023), the Commission received no application. The deadline for the submission of applications, therefore, was extended until 24 January 2024. The Commission invited the Management Board members to spread information on the call widely among their networks.

23. Barbara Gallani (Head of Communication and Partnership Department) updated the Management Board on the latest exchanges carried out in the framework the Advisory Forum meetings. In particular, she highlighted the activities of the Focal Points and the redistribution of grant budget, the thematic discussion on Artificial Intelligence and the pre-accession countries’ report.

24. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at this [link](#).

Summary of actions

Action reference	Action	Deadline	Status
December 14, 2023 - 1	The Management Board sub-group on independence to proceed as agreed with the Management Board on the revision of the EFSA Independence Policy.	June 2024	OPEN