

# 101st meeting of the EFSA Management Board – public session

**Location:** EFSA (Parma) and online

Management Board participants	
Aivars BĒRZIŅŠ - Chair (Latvia)	Hrönn Ólína JÖRUNSDÓTTIR (Iceland)
Gergana BALIEVA (Bulgaria)	Janne Britt KRAKHELLEN (EFTA S.A.)
Ana BATALHA (Portugal)	Dimitrios LADIKOS* (Industry Org.)
Ingrid BORG (Malta)	Henrik Dammand NIELSEN (Denmark)
Claire BURY (Commission)	Szabolcs PÁSZTOR (Hungary)
Martin CHUDÝ (Slovakia)	Egidijus PUMPUTIS (Lithuania)
Floriana CIMMARUSTI (Consumer Org.s)	Marjatta RAHKIO (Finland)
Janusz CIOK (Poland)	Gijsbertus SCHILTHUIS (Commission)
Ugo DELLA MARTA (Italy)	Darja SOKOLIĆ (Croatia)
Greg DEMPSEY (Ireland)	Pille TAMMEMÄGI (Estonia)
Martin DERMINE (Environmental NGOs)	Astrid THORS (European Parliament)
Herman DIRICKS (Belgium)	Annette TOFT (Farmers Org.)
Jernej DROFENIK* (Slovenia)	Marie-Luise TREBES (Germany)
Kristina GRANELLI (Sweden)	Benoît VALLET (France)
Patrick HAU (Luxemburg)	Stelios YIANNOPOULOS (Cyprus)
Ulrich HERZOG (Austria)	Antonis ZAMPELAS (Greece)

**Apologies:** Czech Republic (proxy to Latvia); The Netherlands (proxy to Belgium); Romania (proxy to Hungary); Spain (proxy to Portugal); The European Parliament (Prof. Sanja Musić Milanović - proxy to Ms Astrid Thors, also nominated by the European Parliament); Norway.

Staff of the European Food Safety Authority	
Bernhard URL (acting Executive Director)	Barbara GALLANI
Lucia BILARDI	Nikolaus Georg KRIZ
Gian Luca BONDURI	Pedro PINHAL
Carlos DAS NEVES	Tobin ROBINSON
Peter DE PAUW	Selomey YAMADJAKO
Dirk DETKEN	

## Also attending:

Susanne HOUGAARD BENNEKOU\*, Chair of the EFSA Scientific Committee, and Antonio VICENT CIVERA\*, Chair of the EFSA Scientific Panel on Plant Health.



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## Notice

These minutes have been drafted with the support of AI-assisted transcriptions of the meeting discussions, ensuring full human oversight. The transcriptions were reviewed and used as additional reference by the Management Board Secretariat to prepare the draft minutes of the meeting, which were subsequently adopted by the Management Board of EFSA in accordance with the procedure outlined in Article 11 of its [Rules of Procedure](#).



## SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

Aivars Bērziņš, Chair of the Management Board, announced that on 25 June 2025, the Management Board had nominated Dr. Nikolaus Georg Kriz as the designated Executive Director of EFSA.

The Management Board adopted:

- The opinion on EFSA's accounts for the financial year 2024.
- The updated list of Art. 36 competent organisations designated by Member States.

In addition, the Board noted:

- The Performance Report, which provided an update on the implementation of the Single Programming Document 2025-2027, covering the activities undertaken and the outcomes achieved up to April 2025.
- The presentation from Tobin Robinson on the 'Speed of risk assessment', where he presented the measures aimed to increase the efficiency of EFSA's scientific assessment processes.
- The update from Barbara Gallani on EFSA's activities carried out in collaboration with the Member States, IPA countries and international organisations focussed on the promotion of risk assessment.
- The feedback from Patrick Hau, Chair of the Audit Committee, on the outcomes of the Audit Committee meeting held earlier on that day.
- The presentation of Prof. Antonio Vicent Civera, Chair of the Panel on Plant Health, who described the PLH Panel's work.



Item 1: Welcome by the Chair.

1. Aivars Bērziņš, Chair of the Management Board, opened the 101st Management Board meeting by welcoming the Board members, acting Executive Director, Chair of the Scientific Committee, EFSA's Management Team, EFSA staff present and external observers. Since they participated in a Management Board meeting for the first time, in particular he welcomed Mr. Greg Dempsey (member representing Ireland), Mr. Martin Dermine (member representing the Environmental NGOs) and Ms. Kristina Granelli (alternate member representing Sweden).
2. The Chair reminded the meeting participants that the session would be recorded to facilitate the use of artificial intelligence in drafting the meeting minutes. He then asked if anyone objected to the recording of the meeting, and no objections were raised. Consequently, the MB Secretariat initiated the recording of the meeting, and the transcript functionality was activated.
3. The Chair informed that apologies had been received from the following members: Czech Republic (proxy to Latvia); The Netherlands (proxy to Belgium); Romania (proxy to Hungary); Spain (proxy to Portugal); the European Parliament (Prof. Sanja Musić Milanović, proxy to Ms. Astrid Thors, also nominated by the European Parliament); Norway.
4. The Chair announced that on the previous day the Management Board had nominated Dr. Nikolaus Georg Kriz as the designated Executive Director of EFSA. In accordance with Article 26(1) of EFSA's Founding Regulation, Dr. Kriz will appear before the European Parliament to make a statement prior to his formal appointment as EFSA's Executive Director. This statement is scheduled to take place on Monday, 14 July 2025. Dr. Kriz's term as EFSA's Executive Director is expected to begin on 1 September 2025.
5. The audio file of this agenda item is available online at this [link](#).

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda.

6. The Management Board adopted the agenda of the meeting by consensus. The audio file of this agenda item is available online at this [link](#).

Item 3: Board members' Oral Declarations of Interests.

7. The Chair invited the Management Board members to declare possible interests related to the agenda items or in addition to those already declared in their Annual Declaration of Interests. No declarations of interest were made. The audio file of the presentation of this agenda item is available online at this [link](#).

Item 4: EFSA accounts 2024 financial year.

8. Based on the presentation introduced by Pedro Pinhal, EFSA's accountant, and noting the feedback provided by Patrick Hau, Chair of the Audit Committee, the Management Board gave a positive opinion on EFSA's financial accounts for the previous year by consensus. The Management Board was pleased to note that the European Court of Auditors had no observations regarding the accounts of the 2024 financial year. A [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed description. The audio file of the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at this [link](#).
9. **Action:** EFSA to notify the Management Board's opinion to the EU competent Institutions by 1 July 2025.

Item 5: Amendments to the Article 36 list of organisations.

10. The Management Board adopted the updated list of Art. 36 competent organisations designated by the Member States by consensus, which now includes 6 new organisations designated by Belgium, Croatia, Estonia, Germany, Malta and Poland bringing to 344 the



number of organisations designated by the Member States to assist EFSA in implementing its mandate.

11. Barbara Gallani (Head of Communication and Partnership Department) informed the Management Board that an update of the list of organisations may be needed before the next meeting of the Management Board in December 2025, which would be proposed by EFSA through a written procedure. The Management Board took note of the information.
12. The audio file of the presentation of this agenda item is available online at the following [link](#).

Item 6: EFSA performance report.

13. Bernhard Url, acting Executive Director, and Selomey Yamadjako, Head of Management Services Department, introduced the EFSA performance report to the Management Board, covering the period from 1 January to 30 April 2025. The document provides an overview of EFSA's performance against the Programming Document 2025-2027. A [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed description.
14. Noting the first performance report of the year, some Management Board members made the following proposals. The French representative asked EFSA if it would be possible, or if it was too early, to know if there has been an impact on EFSA's performance from the work carried out by the consortium in the framework partnership agreement for support to EFSA in the assessment of food enzymes, food flavourings and food and feed additives. Additionally, the Belgian representative suggested sharing information on the awarding of grants and procurements by Member States. Furthermore, the representative of the Farmers Organisations underlined the need for EFSA to prioritise investments in the assessment of regulated products in order to support innovation in the EU food sector. The audio file of the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at the following [link](#).
15. **Actions:**
  - EFSA to report on the outcomes of the framework partnership agreement for the assessment of food enzymes, food flavourings and food and feed additives.
  - As of the next Management Board meeting, EFSA to break down the information on the awarding of grants and procurements by Member State.

Item 7: Speed of risk assessment: increasing process efficiency and internal capacity.

16. EFSA is working to enhance the speed and efficiency of its risk assessment activities and committed to update the Management Board on this area during two different sessions: one in March and one in June 2025. Tobin Robinson, acting Head of the Risk Assessment Production Department, presented initiatives aimed at accelerating the risk assessment processes. In particular, he emphasized two key areas during his presentation: the efficiency of EFSA's risk assessment processes and the efficiency of the processes that support and enable the risk assessment processes. To improve the efficiency of the risk assessment processes, EFSA is implementing measures including actions such as taking a stricter approach to the issuance of additional data requests leading to clock-stops, implementing efficient ways of working with experts, and fostering tool automations for the different parts of the risk assessment process. To increase the efficiency of the processes that support and enable the risk assessment processes, EFSA is implementing measures aimed to foster the automation of risk assessment planning and monitoring in APPIAN, streamline project management, and set up knowledge repositories and tools enabling the re-use of presentations and other engagement material. A [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed description.
17. The discussion touched on the potentials for automation of the risk assessment processes and the use of artificial intelligence for systematic literature review and critical appraisal; the best way to work with experts, including outsourcing scientific work; the need for partnerships and collaboration with other organizations to improve efficiency and capacity; the potential need



to revisit the General Food Law to ensure it remains fit for purpose, with a recognition that any changes would need to be carefully considered to avoid disrupting the existing framework; and the need for ongoing review and adaptation to ensure the agency remains effective and efficient in its mission to protect public health. The audio file of the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at the following [link](#).

Item 8: Feedback from the Audit Committee.

18. Patrick Hau, Chair of the Audit Committee, updated the Management Board on the outcome of the meeting held previously on that day. In particular, he presented the exchange around the European Ombudsman complaints into EFSA's activities, the outstanding audit recommendations and the EFSA discharge 2023. The audio file of the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at this [link](#).

Item 9: Global Cooperation: methodology development and engagement.

19. The Management Board noted the presentation of Barbara Gallani (Head of Communication and Partnership Department) providing an overview of EFSA's cooperation activities in the global context. The presentation focused on EFSA's engagement with the Commission to secure guidance and alignment on global interaction, how this fits into EFSA's own strategy, and provided an overview of which organisations EFSA focuses on, and the tools it uses to cooperate with them. EFSA's strategy for global cooperation has the following objectives: to provide scientific and technical support to the Commission; to widen and align on scientific approaches and methodologies; to increase international scientific assessment capacity; to contribute to international efforts aimed at developing and harmonising methodologies and tools; and to increase EFSA's visibility and reputation as a regulatory risk assessment agency. A [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed description.
20. The discussion on EFSA's cooperation activities touched on the importance of providing the EU neighboring countries with support in building their risk assessment capabilities and preparedness to align with the EU standards. The activities aimed to provide support to Ukraine and other European countries in the Neighbourhood Policy area were also discussed. Additionally, the Management Board focused its attention on EFSA's relationship with the United States of America, including the impact of the current US administration on EFSA's interactions with agencies such as the Food and Drug Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency. The audio-file of the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at this [link](#).
21. **Action:** EFSA to provide the Management Board with regular updates on its international activities.

Item 10: Update from the Panel on Plant Health.

22. The Management Board noted the presentation of Prof. Antonio Vicent Civera, Chair of the Panel on Plant Health (PLH), who presented the Panel's work highlighting its responsibilities, organization and recent achievements. A [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed description. The audio file of the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at this [link](#).

Item 11: Any Other Business

23. The Chair reported to the Management Board on his participation in the meetings of the EFSA Stakeholder Bureau (held on 30 April 2025) and of the EFSA Advisory Forum (held on 4 and 5 June 2025). Among others, the Stakeholder Bureau focused on: the organisation of the 8<sup>th</sup> EFSA Stakeholder Forum meeting, to be held on 24 November; health check of the EFSA stakeholder engagement approach; integration of new approach methodologies; and One Health approach. At the Advisory Forum meeting, the Chair shared information on the Management Board activities for the recruitment of the EFSA Executive Director, the review



of EFSA's independence regulatory framework and the ongoing reflections on partnership and speed of EFSA risk assessment. On 4 June, the Advisory Forum members underlined the importance of maintaining close communication and cooperation relationships with the Management Board and acknowledged that in the area of partnership in risk assessment there is need for political support from the Member States. The German representative suggested that the Advisory Forum should focus on the identification of partnership priority areas, whilst the Management Board should invest in the design of the partnership with the Member States from a political and administrative perspective. The acting Executive Director highlighted a pilot project, supported by the Advisory Forum, which aims to achieve the joint programming of risk assessment activities in the area of vector-borne diseases.

24. Claire Bury, Commission representative, informed the meeting participants that the Commission had launched the call for the selection of the representatives of the consumers and food chain interests to the EFSA Management Board, whose term of office will start on 1 July 2026, until 30 June 2030. The call is available online at the link [https://food.ec.europa.eu/horizontal-topics/calls-expression-interest/efsa-management-board-2025\\_en](https://food.ec.europa.eu/horizontal-topics/calls-expression-interest/efsa-management-board-2025_en) and the deadline for the submission of applications is 1 September 2025, at 12:00 (noon), Brussels time. Interested persons were encouraged to apply and the Management Board members were invited to support the Commission in widely disseminating information on the call among their contacts and networks.
25. The Chair concluded the meeting reminding the audience that it was the last Management Board meeting attended by Bernhard Url, who will leave EFSA at the end of August, after having served as EFSA's Executive Director since June 2014. He acknowledged the numerous successes achieved by EFSA under the leadership of Dr. Url and expressed gratitude of the Management Board for the years of fruitful cooperation in managing the Authority and their sincere appreciation for his dedication, expertise and commitment to EFSA. Bernhard Url thanked the Management Board for the support given to him and to EFSA during his tenure as the Authority's Executive Director and said to be honoured and privileged for having had the opportunity to contribute to EFSA's operations and the safeguard of the EU consumers' health.
26. Additionally, the Chair acknowledged the work of Selomey Yamadjako, Head of the Management Services Department, who will also leave the Authority at the end of August to take on the role of Director of Administration at the European Public Prosecutor's Office. He thanked Ms Yamadjako for the years she dedicated to EFSA and wished her all the best for her future engagements. Bernhard Url informed the Management Board that Dirk Detken, Head of Legal Affairs Services, will cover the position of acting Head of the Management Services Department from 1 September 2025 and until the completion of the selection procedure for the recruitment of a new Head of Department.
27. Finally, the Chair said farewell to Herman Diricks, Belgian representative, whose term as Management Board member will terminate at the end of June. The Chair thanked Mr Diricks for his substantial contribution to the work of the Management Board over the past seven years, during which he served as the Chair of the Audit Committee between October 2020 and December 2024, and Vice-Chair of that Committee between October 2018 and September 2020. On behalf of the Management Board, the Chair wished to Mr Diricks all the best for his future endeavours.
28. The audio file of the presentation of this agenda item is available online at this [link](#).





### Summary of actions

Action reference	Action	Deadline	Status
June 26, 2025 - 1	EFSA to notify the Management Board's opinion on EFSA's accounts 2024 to the EU competent Institutions.	1 July 2025	Done
June 26, 2025 - 2	EFSA to report on the outcomes of the framework partnership agreement for the assessment of food enzymes, food flavourings and food and feed additives.	ASAP	Open
June 26, 2025 - 3	EFSA to break down the information on the awarding of grants and procurements by Member State.	As of December 2025	Open
June 26, 2025 - 4	EFSA to provide the Management Board with regular updates on its international activities.	As of 2026	Ongoing