

102nd meeting of the EFSA Management Board – public session

Location: EFSA (Parma) and online

Management Board participants	
Aivars BĒRZIŅŠ - Chair (Latvia)	Sebastian HIELM (Finland)
Gergana BALIEVA (Bulgaria)	Hrönn Ólína JÖRUNSDÓTTIR (Iceland)
Ana BATALHA (Portugal)	Janne Britt KRAKHELLEN (EFTA S.A.)
Claire BURY* (Commission)	Sanja MUSIĆ MILANOVIĆ* (European Parliament)
Martin CHUDÝ (Slovakia)	Christina NORDIN* (Sweden)
Floriana CIMMARUSTI* (Consumer Org.s)	Szabolcs PÁSZTOR* (Hungary)
Janusz CIOK (Poland)	Egidijus PUMPUTIS (Lithuania)
Laszlo CSUTAK-NAGY* (Romania)	Christine ROMEYNS* (Belgium)
Ugo DELLA MARTA (Italy)	Gijsbertus SCHILTHUIS* (Commission)
Greg DEMPSEY (Ireland)	Josefine SINKOVITS (Austria)
Martin DERMINE (Environmental NGOs)	Darja SOKOLIĆ (Croatia)
Pascalie DE RUYTER (Netherlands)	Cecilie SOLSTAD (Denmark)
Jernej DROFENIK* (Slovenia)	Pille TAMMEMÄGI* (Estonia)
Loïc EVAÏN (France)	Astrid THORS* (European Parliament)
Ingunn Midttun GODAL (Norway)	Annette TOFT (Farmers Org.)
Pedro GULLÓN* (Spain)	Marie-Luise TREBES* (Germany)
Patrick HAU (Luxemburg)	Stelios YIANNOPOULOS (Cyprus)

Apologies: Czech Republic (with a proxy assigned to Latvia); Greece (with a proxy assigned to Cyprus); Malta (with a proxy assigned to Luxembourg); Industry Organisations.

Staff of the European Food Safety Authority	
Nikolaus Kriz (Executive Director)	Dirk DETKEN
Lucia BILARDI	Barbara GALLANI
Gian Luca BONDURI	Bénédicte VAGENENDE
Carlos DAS NEVES	Luisa VENIER
Peter DE PAUW	

Also attending:

Susanne HOUGAARD BENNEKOU, Chair of the EFSA Scientific Committee, and Tamara COJA*, Chair of the EFSA Scientific Panel on Plant Protection Products and their Residues.



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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

The Management Board adopted:

- The Programming Documents covering the period 2026-2029, which include the "Final Programming Document 2026-2028", the "Statement of Revenues and Expenditures 2026", and the "Draft Programming Document 2027-2029".
- The updated EFSA Anti-Fraud Strategy.
- The Commission's Mission Guide, which applies to EFSA by analogy and will enter into force on 14 February 2026.
- The updated list of Article 36 competent organisations designated by Member States, which now includes three new organisations designated by Austria, the Czech Republic, and Hungary.

In addition, the Management Board noted:

- The EFSA Performance Report, which provided information on the implementation of the Single Programming Document 2025-2027, reporting on activities and outcomes achieved until October 2025.
- The presentation on the Focal Points health check, which emphasised the importance of Focal Points as an instrument of collaboration supporting EFSA's strategic objectives.
- The presentation on Coordinated Communications at EFSA, which highlighted the activities carried out by the network of Member States' Communication Coordinators and the communication campaigns aiming to raise awareness and trust in the EU food safety system.
- The feedback from the Audit Committee, where the Chairman of the Audit Committee, Patrick Hau, shared the outcomes of the meeting held on the previous day.
- The update from the Chair of the Panel on Plant Protection Products and their Residues, Dr. Tamara Coja, who presented the activities performed by the Panel and its work plan.



Item 1: Welcome by the Chair.

1. Aivars Bērziņš, Chair of the Management Board, opened the 102nd 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. Since they participated in a Management Board meeting for the first time, in particular he welcomed Christine Romeyns (Belgium), Cecilie Solstad (Denmark), Pascal de Ruyter (Netherlands) and Christina Nordin (Sweden).
2. The Board was informed that Bénédicte Vagenende has been serving as the ad interim Head of the Risk Assessment Services Department since 1 September 2025. It was also noted that Dirk Detken has been acting as the Head of the Management Services Department since the same date. Furthermore, the Chair congratulated Mr. Detken who will assume the permanent position of Head of the EFSA Management Services Department as of 1 January 2026.
3. The Chair informed that apologies had been received from the following members: the Czech Republic (with a proxy assigned to Latvia), Greece (with a proxy assigned to Cyprus), Malta (with a proxy assigned to Luxembourg), and the representative of the Industry Organisations.
4. The audio file of this agenda item is available online at this [link](#).

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda.

5. The Management Board adopted the agenda of the meeting by consensus. Two items were added under "Any Other Business" for information: (i) feedback from the Chair on the Stakeholder Forum meeting held on 24 November 2025, and (ii) an update on the procedures for the renewal of the Management Board. The audio file for this agenda item is available online at this [link](#).

Item 3: Board members' Oral Declarations of Interests.

6. The Chair invited the Management Board members to declare any potential interests related to the agenda items or any interests in addition to those already disclosed in their Annual Declarations of Interest. No additional declarations of interest were made. The audio file for this agenda item is available online at the provided [link](#).

Item 4: EFSA Performance Report.

7. Nikolaus Kriz (Executive Director) introduced to the Management Board the Performance Report covering the period from 1 January to 30 October 2025. The document includes information on all aspects of the EFSA performance against the Programming Document 2025-2027. Dirk Detken (acting Head of Management Services Department) brought to the Management Board attention the data on the budget execution and transfers. A [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed description.
8. The Management Board noted the presentation of the Performance Report. Members noted delays caused by the "stop the clock" procedure and stressed the need to provide better support to applicants. They also highlighted the persistent challenges in pesticide assessments, noting systemic issues involving both EFSA and the Member States, as well as the need for improved presubmission advice and additional resources. France suggested to share with the Management Board detailed information on the EFSA grants and procurement budget awarded to each Member State. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at the following [link](#).

Item 5: Programming Documents 2026-2029 and EFSA budget 2026.

9. Following presentations from Nikolaus Kriz (Executive Director) and Dirk Detken (acting Head of Management Services Department), and additional information from Patrick Hau (Chair of the Audit Committee), who reported that the Audit Committee had endorsed the draft Programming Document 2026-2028 and the EFSA budget 2026, the Management Board



adopted by consensus: (a) the EFSA Programming Document 2026-2028 and (b) the Statement of Revenues and Expenditures 2026. In addition, the Management Board endorsed the Draft Programming Document 2027-2029. A [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed description.

10. The members of the Management Board welcomed the shortening of the Programming Documents. It also welcomed EFSA's plan to streamline and improve the speed of risk assessment and data management, as well as to strengthen cooperation with other EU agencies in pursuing the One Health approach. They took note of the information shared by the Commission on the legislative package "One Substance, One Assessment" and suggested holding a discussion on this topic at one of the upcoming Management Board meetings. EFSA also noted the information provided by Germany on the ongoing development of a nationwide IT platform for data collection and data interoperability, and invited Germany to share its experience with EFSA. The audio file of the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at the following [link](#).

11. Actions:

- In January 2026, EFSA will notify the competent EU institutions of the budget and programming documents and make them available online.
- EFSA will plan a discussion on "One Substance, One Assessment" at one of the upcoming Management Board meetings.

Item 6: Amendments to the Article 36 list of organisations.

12. The Management Board adopted the updated list of Art. 36 competent organisations designated by the Member States by consensus. The list now includes three new organisations designated by Austria, the Czech Republic, and Hungary, bringing the total number of organisations designated by the Member States to assist EFSA in implementing its mandate to 349.

13. The audio file of the presentation of this agenda item is available online at the following [link](#).

Item 7: Implementing rules of the Staff Regulations.

14. The Management Board adopted the Commission's Mission Guide by consensus. The Guide applies to EFSA by analogy and will enter into force on 14 February 2026. A [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed description. The audio file of the presentation of this agenda item is available online at the following [link](#).

Item 8: EFSA Anti-Fraud Strategy.

15. Noting the report from Patrick Hau, Chair of the Audit Committee, the Management Board adopted the updated EFSA Anti-Fraud Strategy by consensus. The document was developed following an ex-post evaluation of the previous strategy and takes into account the priorities set out in the Commission's latest Anti-Fraud Strategy and Action Plan, OLAF guidance, and the results of the 2024 fraud risk assessment. A [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed description. The audio file of the presentation of this agenda item is available online at the following [link](#).

Item 9: Appointment of a member of the Scientific Panel on Food Contact Materials.

16. The adoption of the decision appointing a new member of the Panel on Food Contact Materials was postponed until January 2026. The audio file of the presentation of this agenda item is available online at the following [link](#).

Item 10: Feedback from the Audit Committee.

17. Patrick Hau, Chair of the Audit Committee, updated the Management Board on the outcome of the Audit Committee meeting held the previous day. He presented the discussion on the



Internal Audit Service (IAS) report “End to end risk assessment process for applications”, the IAS strategic internal audit plan for EFSA for the period 2026–2028, and the outstanding audit recommendations. The audio file of the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at this [link](#).

Item 11: Focal Point health check review.

18. The Management Board noted the presentation from Barbara Gallani (Head of Communication and Partnership Department), who provided an overview of the activities planned in the coming months to review the operations of the Focal Points in collaboration with the Member States. The reviewed Focal Point operational framework is expected to be presented to the Management Board at the end of 2026. A [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed description. The audio file of the presentation of this agenda item is available online at the following [link](#).

Item 12: Coordinated Communications.

19. The Management Board noted the presentation from Barbara Gallani (Head of Communication and Partnership Department), who highlighted the activities carried out by the network of Member States’ Communication Coordinators and the communication campaigns aiming to raise awareness and trust in the EU food safety system and promote engagement on food safety and plant health. A [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed description.
20. The Management Board commented on the challenges faced by smaller Member States in contributing to all activities of the network of Communication Coordinators, the need to engage trusted sources, the potential role of consumer organisations in disseminating messages, and the possible collaboration between the network of Communication Coordinators and risk managers. The audio file of the presentation of this agenda item is available online at the following [link](#).

Item 13: Update from the Panel on Plant Protection Products and their Residues.

21. The Management Board noted the presentation of Dr. Tamara Coja, Chair of the Panel on Plant Protection Products and their Residues (PPR), who presented the Panel’s work highlighting its responsibilities, organisation and recent achievements. The Management Board commented on the limited resources available to the PPR Panel, the Panel’s role and capacity to issue self-mandates, the need for stronger scientific guidance on biocontrol agents, and the integration of environmental and human-health assessments. France shared information on the phytopharmacovigilance (or PPV) scheme in France coordinated by ANSES, which is marking its 10th anniversary. In several occasions, PPV findings have led to restrictions or withdrawals of marketing authorisations. France expressed the wish to extend the PPV scheme at EU level, which could enhance data availability across different climates, soils and uses, and further strengthen the existing system for the assessment and authorisation of plant protection products. 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 14: Any Other Business

22. The Chair reported to the Management Board on his participation in the EFSA Stakeholder Forum meeting held on 24 November 2025. Among other topics, the Stakeholder Forum focused on innovation in food and feed safety, food safety in support of EU competitiveness, stakeholder engagement and methodological innovation, and the timely sharing of knowledge on innovative products.



23. Claire Bury, representing the Commission, updated the Management Board on the implementation of the procedure for selecting the representatives of consumer and food chain interests to the EFSA Management Board, whose term of office will begin on 1 July 2026.
24. The Chair conveyed the information received from the Council regarding the process for appointing the Member States' representatives to the EFSA Management Board, whose term of office will begin on 1 July 2026.
25. The audio file of the presentation of this agenda item is available online at this [link](#).

Summary of actions

Action reference	Action	Deadline	Status
December 11, 2025 - 1	EFSA to provide the Management Board with information on the grants and procurement budget awarded to each Member State.	March 2026	Open
December 11, 2025 - 2	EFSA will notify the competent EU institutions of the budget 2026 and programming documents 2026-2029 and make them available online.	January 2026	Done
December 11, 2025 - 3	EFSA to plan a discussion on "One Substance, One Assessment" at one of the upcoming Management Board meetings.	2026	Done