



EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY

ANNUAL REPORT 2003



EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY (EFSA)

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Message from the Chairman of the Management Board

In 2003 EFSA got off to a flying start and succeeded in establishing itself as an independent European agency dedicated to improving consumer confidence by providing scientific advice, information and communication on all matters related to food safety.

The Executive Director, Geoffrey Podger, took up his appointment in February and the Director of Science and Deputy Executive Director, Herman Koëter, and the Director of Communications, Anne-Laure Gassin, took up their positions in October. There has been substantial recruitment during the year - the staff grew from a very small team to a total of 72 employees by the end of the year.

The Advisory Forum, EFSA's main channel for contact with the Member States, held its inaugural meeting in March and met six times during the year. In order to stimulate interest in EFSA and its work throughout Europe, the Forum has from its inception invited participants from the accession countries and also from Norway, Iceland and Switzerland and it has held most of its meetings in the Member States.

EFSA's core activity is the provision of independent scientific advice in an open and transparent manner as a basis for informed risk management decisions by Community Institutions and Member States, thus helping to restore and maintain consumer confidence in the safety of the food supply. The eight Scientific Panels and Scientific Committee were appointed in May and Professor Vittorio Silano was chosen as Chair of the Scientific Committee in July. The Committee and Panels began their work shortly afterwards and have already succeeded in providing valuable scientific opinions on a wide range of important subjects.

EFSA is strongly committed to a policy of openness and transparency in all its activities. During the year, much progress was made in the task of establishing contacts with other European institutions, notably the Commission and Parliament, corresponding organisations in the Member States and representatives of stakeholders, in particular consumer organisations and food industry associations. In addition, initial contacts were made with international organisations and organisations outside Europe working in the Authority's area of responsibility.

The European Council decided on 13 December 2003 that the permanent location of EFSA will be Parma in Italy. The Management Board and staff welcomed the decision, which means that the Authority has now a permanent seat where it can expand and develop its activities.

Under the leadership of Geoffrey Podger, EFSA has made an excellent start in 2003. However, 2004 will be a very challenging year for all concerned, since it involves preparing for the move to Parma, whilst at the same time rapidly expanding the number of staff and, most important, providing an uninterrupted supply of high quality scientific advice and information. I am confident that this can be achieved through the efforts of the dedicated EFSA staff, Scientific Committee and Scientific Panels and with the cooperation of the authorities in our future home in Parma.

Stuart Slorach



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It is a great pleasure to be able to write an introduction for EFSA's 2003 Annual Report.

As our Chairman's report indicates 2003 was essentially the year when EFSA "found its feet", and with the appointment of the Scientific Committee and Panels at the end of May 2003, acquired the capacity to begin to make an impact. I should like to pay tribute to the Chairman of the Scientific Committee, Professor Vittorio Silano, and to all the members of the Committee and Panels for their sterling work in support of EFSA and the principle of providing objective scientific work for the European Union.

EFSA's own staff, both scientific and administrative, deserves great praise for their dedication and commitment in setting up the new organisation. Had it not been for the hard work done by a small number of staff prior to my arrival in February 2003, EFSA would not now be the functioning entity it already is. Equally during the year we have been able to welcome new staff from all over the European Union who have shown the same high level of determination and commitment to make EFSA a reality. I must also thank colleagues in the National Food Authorities for their encouragement and support in our joint effort to set up a functioning network for risk assessment and communication across the EU.

None of us are however complacent. With the oversight of the EFSA Management Board, a good beginning has been made. But there is much more to do. Herman Koëter has in hand the strengthening of EFSA's scientific capabilities and Anne-Laure Gassin improvements to our ability to communicate food science in a way which meets the needs of the citizen. We are improving networking with National Authorities but there is still much to do. The very welcome move to our permanent site in Parma, the continued need to recruit and the likelihood of more significant new scientific tasks for EFSA create new challenges. We have a year of solid achievement on which to build and a real commitment to helping the European Union with high quality and well articulated advice. We intend to do so!

Geoffrey Podger



2003: A GOOD BEGINNING

THE AUTHORITY: 2003 OBJECTIVES

2003 objectives

EFSAs main challenge in 2003 was to establish itself as an independent European agency capable of effectively delivering its mandate in the areas of risk assessment and risk communications. Focus, determination and speed were required to ensure that the Authority could undertake its mission as quickly as possible and begin to assume the key tasks and responsibilities set out in Regulation no. 178/2002, ensuring a smooth transition in the delivery of scientific opinions from the former Scientific Committees of the European Commission.

Over the year, the Authority's staff needed to set up a foundation which would allow it to:

- Improve consumer confidence by acting as an independent scientific source of advice, information and risk communication;
- Contribute to the smooth functioning of the European Union's internal market by acting as an independent scientific point of reference in risk assessment;
- Contribute to a high level of protection of human life and health by providing a comprehensive scientific view of the safety and other aspects of the whole food and feed supply chain. In doing so, the Authority will also take into account animal health and welfare, plant health and the environment.

The Authority is tasked with providing independent scientific advice on all matters directly or indirectly affecting food safety throughout the food chain. By the end of 2003, the Authority had received 229 questions from its main 'customer', the European Commission, and had also initiated three risk assessments on its own behalf ('self-tasking') (see page 18).

It was already necessary in 2003 for the Authority to look beyond its most immediate tasks and to begin to identify how best to address all aspects of the wide brief laid down in its founding Regulation. For instance, the Authority needed to evaluate how to gather information from all parts of the globe, keeping an eye on new developments in science.

The Authority also needed to begin putting into place, as of 2003, appropriate mechanisms and processes for interaction with experts and decision makers and to work towards the development of a network of collaboration and exchange with Community institutions, national food safety authorities and scientific institutions inside and outside of the EU, international organisations, and other interested parties..

The Authority's long term goals are to improve food safety in Europe, through the quality of its scientific opinions as well as through effective, consistent, timely and accurate communications.

Openness and transparency are key principles which must guide the Authority's work if the overall objective of rebuilding consumer confidence in food safety is to be attained. Implementing these principles into its work programme and operating procedures was a clear priority for the Authority and its staff in 2003.

2003 ACTIVITIES KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

Key achievements and highlights

Under the leadership of its Executive Director, who joined EFSA in February 2003 the Authority quickly began to build up the capacity and resources required – both internally and externally – to fulfill the obligations laid down in its founding Regulation and to meet the expectations of the European and national institutions, stakeholders and the public at large.

The Authority enjoyed significant growth, expanding from a very small team to 72 employees. Based on the 2002 Management Plan, the different functions of the Authority were established through the recruitment of suitable personnel to address all aspects of the Authority's remit. The establishment and development of EFSA – in line with the requirements of its founding Regulation – were supported by the European Parliament, the Commission, Member States and key stakeholders.

By May 2003, the Authority's Scientific Committee and eight Scientific Panels were in place, to ensure that EFSA could deliver its core activity – risk assessments on all matters having a direct or indirect impact on food safety. The Authority's first expert scientific opinions were communicated from July 2003.

The three important areas of growth and development for EFSA in 2003 were:

- **Structure and organisational effectiveness**
- **Scientific activities**
- **Communications outreach**



EFSA structure and organisational effectiveness

In 2003, the Authority established itself as an independent European agency. It laid down the key building blocks required for an effective organisation capable of delivering its mandate and supporting the future development of its activities.

EFSA Management Board

The Management Board (photo) is responsible for ensuring that the Authority functions effectively and efficiently. Six Management Board Meetings were held in 2003 under the chairmanship of Stuart Slorach. They resulted in: the adoption of the Authority's draft budget and work programmes; monitoring of their implementation and agreement on key priorities; adoption of key operating principles for the Authority relating to openness, transparency and access to documents; and adoption of guidelines for opening up the risk assessment process to stakeholders. The Management Board appointed EFSA's Executive Director at the end of 2002 and the members of the Scientific Committee and Panels in early 2003, following open calls for expressions of interest.



Prof. Dr. Matthias Horst (DE)
Bund für Lebensmittelrecht und Lebensmittelkunde (BLL)



Peter Gaemelke (DK)
President, Danish Agricultural Council



Carlos Escibano Mora (ES)
Director General de Ganadería del Ministerio Agricultura, pesca y alimentación



Chair
Stuart Slorach (SE)
Deputy Director-General, Swedish National Food Administration



Prof. Dr. Giorgio Calabrese (IT)
Professore della Università Cattolica del S. Cuore



Angeliki Assimakopoulou (EL)
Retired Directorate-General at the General Chemical State Laboratory



Robert Coleman
Director General for Health and Consumer Protection, European Commission



Vice-Chair
Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle (FR)
Directrice Régionale et Interdépartementale de l'Agriculture et de la Forêt d'Ile-de-France



João Pedro Machado (PT)
Presidente da Direcção da Confederação dos Agricultores de Portugal



Ernst Bobek (AT)
Leiter der Sektion in Bundesministerium für soziale Sicherheit und Generationen

For 6 years

For 4 years

Representing the Commission



Vice-Chair
Deirdre Hutton (UK)
President, National Consumer Council



Dr. Patrick Wall (IE)
Chief Executive, Food Safety Authority of Ireland



Roland Vaxelaire (BE)
Quality and Sustainable Development Director for Carrefour Group and President of Carrefour Belgium



Pirkko Raunemaa (FI)
Director at the National Food Agency in Finland



Dr. Bart Sangster (NL)
Senior Vice-President, Safety and Environmental Assurance at Unilever N.V.

EFSA Executive Director

The Executive Director, Geoffrey Podger, was appointed by the Management Board on 2 December 2002. He took up the position on 1 February 2003.

Geoffrey Podger

Mr Podger was Chief Executive of the UK Food Standards Agency since its inception in 2000. Prior to this, he worked for the UK Department of Health for 18 years from 1982. Before taking up responsibilities in the food area, he was Under-Secretary for Health Promotion. He also headed the Combined Joint Food Safety and Standards Group of the Department of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food from its launch in 1997. He has considerable experience in the management of matters involving the interface of science and policy and has strongly promoted transparency and openness as key principles in effectively addressing difficult food safety issues.



The Executive Director is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Authority and is answerable to the Management Board. He is also responsible for the appointment of the Authority's technical, scientific, administrative and communi-

cations personnel. Since taking up the position of Executive Director, he has sought to establish openness and transparency as a natural part of the operations of EFSA, as well as initiating stakeholder involvement in the work of the Authority.





EFSA Management Team

The Executive Director is assisted by a Management team, including the functional directors of Science, Communications, Legal Affairs, Institutional and International Affairs, Information Technology, Finance, and Human Resources. The Deputy Executive Director and Director of Science, Herman Koëter, and Director of Communications, Anne-Laure Gassin were both appointed in July and took up their respective positions in October 2003.

Herman Koëter

Dr Koëter obtained his Doctorate in biological toxicology and experimental pathology from Utrecht State University. Since 1991, he has worked at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), as Director of the OECD Test Guidelines Programme, including endocrine disrupters and animal welfare policies and, for the last nine years, as Director of the OECD Programme on the Harmonisation of Classification and Labelling of chemical substances and preparations. Prior to working for the OECD, he worked for 24 years at the Toxicology and Nutrition Institute within the Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research (TNO) in a number of scientific and managerial roles.



Anne-Laure Gassin

Anne-Laure Gassin is a graduate of Harvard University, where she majored in biology and subsequently obtained a Master's degree in medical management and marketing from the Ecole Supérieure de Commerce de Paris. Her most recent post has been at the European Commission, where she contributed to the preparation of the future revision of Community legislation on the nutrition labelling of foodstuffs. Prior to that, she spent over 15 years with Kellogg Company, and her last appointment was as European Director where she had responsibility for nutrition communications and scientific and regulatory affairs.



EFSA staff

Current staffing levels

On 31 December 2003, the Authority had 56 staff members (27 temporary agents and 29 auxiliary agents). Total EFSA employees were 72, including part-time staff (7); national experts on secondment (4); EC officials (2) and consultants (3).

A breakdown of staff by geographical distribution is presented in the attached table. Thirteen nationalities out of the European Union's 15 were already represented. The male/female ratios were 29/71%, increasing to 40% men/60% women for the A-level posts.

Recruitment policy

Recruitment at EFSA has been rigorous and transparent. This policy will continue for future recruitment from new reserve lists. The first temporary agents were recruited through the call launched by the Commission in 2001. After the Executive Director entered into function in February 2003, the number of EFSA staff members grew gradually to 72. A total of 14 recruitment procedures were organised during the year via the Authority's website. The most important calls have been disseminated through the Permanent Representations and the members of the Advisory Forum.

In all, more than 5500 candidates have applied as detailed below:

- Scientific staff (A5-A4) (256 applicants)
- Scientific staff (A7-A6) (376 applicants)
- Secretaries (C) (659 applicants)

- Assistant system and network Administrator (B5-B4) (135 applicants)
- Legal Officer (A7-A6) (320 applicants)
- Librarian (B5-B4) (234 applicants)
- Head of Finance (A5-A4) (80 applicants)
- Office & Facilities Manager (B5-B4) (171 applicants)
- Accountants (A7- A6) (115 applicants)
- Head of IT (A5-A4) (72 applicants)
- Assistants (B5-B4 and B3-B2) (2,900 applicants).

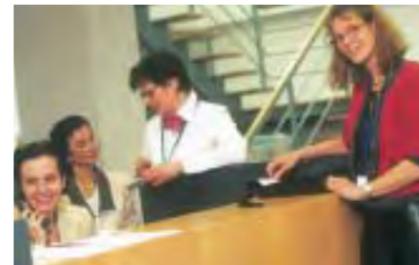
Key achievements and highlights

STAFFING AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2003																	
	BE	DK	DE	EL	ES	FR	IE	IT	LU	NL	AT	PT	FI	SE	UK	OTHER	TOTAL
A	9	1	3	-	3	4	1	-	-	2	1	-	1	1	3	1	30
B	4	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
C	11	1	-	-	2	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	20
D	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL TEMP/AUX	24	2	3	-	5	6	2	1	-	2	1	-	1	1	6	2	56
Com. Officials	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
National Experts	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Interims	6	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Consultants	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
TOTAL	31	2	4	1	7	10	2	1	-	2	1	-	1	1	6	3	72

CONTRACT TYPE AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2003			
	MEN	WOMEN	TOTAL
Temporary all grades	13	14	27
Auxiliary all grades	1	28	29
Com. Officials	2	-	2
Interim Staff	1	6	7
National Experts	2	2	4
Consultants	2	1	3
TOTAL	21	51	72



Human Resources Team
Nicole Poupart
Kathy Paessens
Laurence Costa

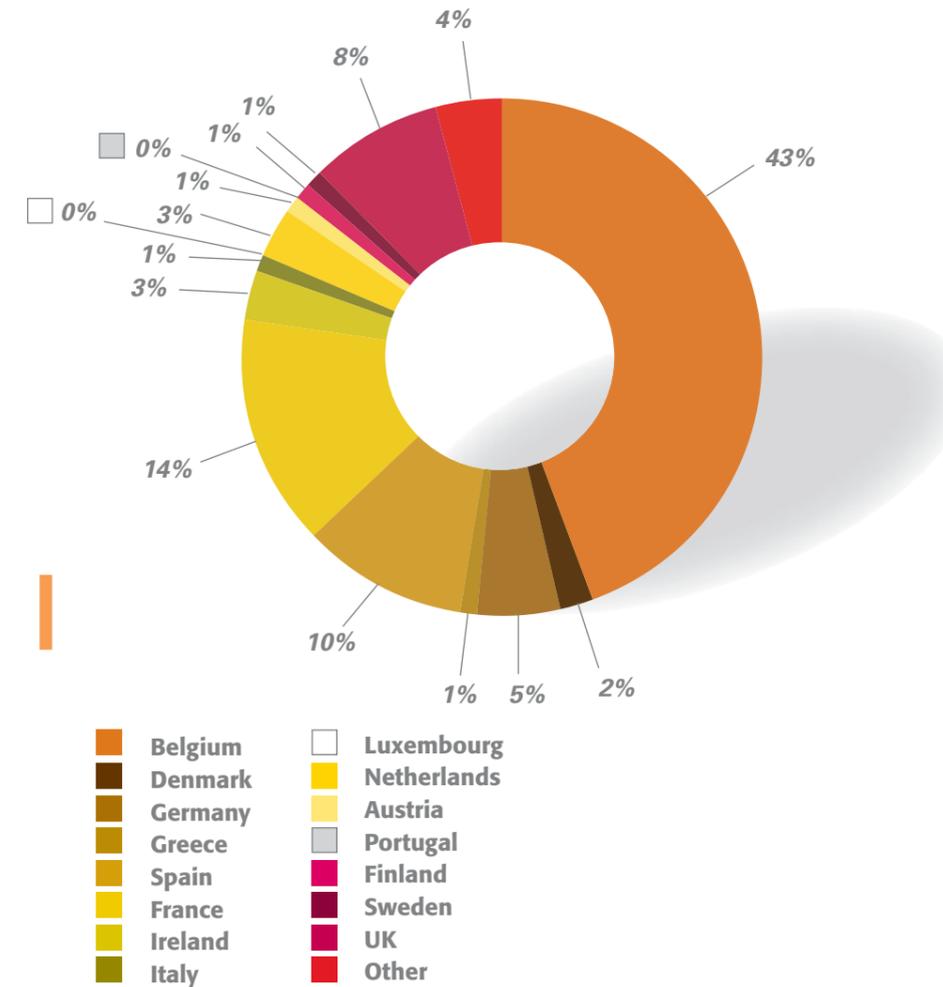


At the reception desk

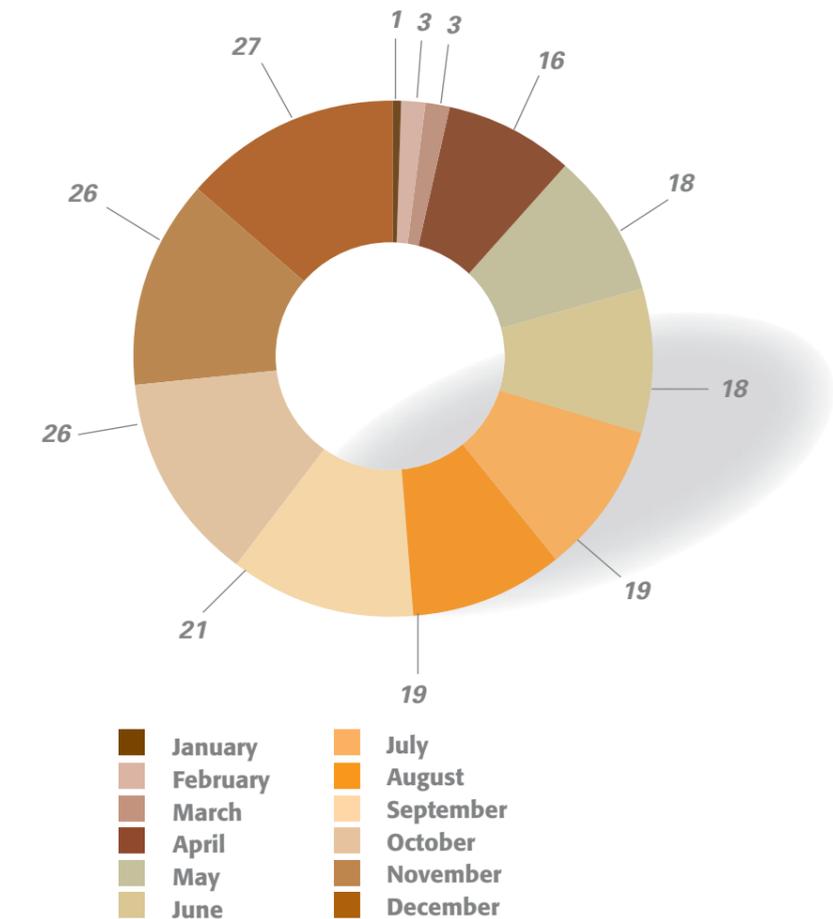
IT Team/Helpdesk
Pascal Casier
Geert Ruys
Raphaël Du Pré



Geographical Distribution at EFSA - 31 December 2003



EFSA - Recruitment of Temporary Agents during 2003



Advisory Forum

The Advisory Forum is EFSA's consultative body. Made up of representatives from each of the Member States' national food agencies or other national authorities with a remit similar to that of

The close involvement of all representatives is essential, for example, to ensure efficient networking with national scientific organisations as a mechanism for exchanging information on potential risks and for pooling knowledge.

In 2003, the Advisory Forum meetings were also open to the accession countries. Those who took part were Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia. The meetings were also attended by the EEA-EFTA countries Iceland and Norway, as well as by Switzerland.

Tasks of the Forum include advising EFSA in general and advising on scientific matters, priorities and the scientific work programme. The Forum also forges close links between EFSA and the Member States, including the EU's ten new accession countries. The goal is to build strong collaborative networking between EFSA and the national

food agencies and authorities working in the fields of risk assessment and communication. The Forum also facilitates the sharing of information and collaboration between the national authorities.

To drive forward its work programme, the Forum has established two working groups. The Communications group focuses on enhancing the coherence of food safety messages across the Community in all fields within EFSA's remit. Its job is to reinforce collaboration between all those involved in communications in the Member States' national food agencies and administrations. The Information Technology group is identifying ways of using IT tools to support information exchange and collaboration among the EU food safety network, created by EFSA and its Advisory Forum. Under consideration are links between websites, tools for document sharing and construction of a common repository for scientific and technical information.

In 2003 the Advisory Forum held six meetings, in different capitals around Europe. The inaugural meeting took place on 6-7 March in Brussels. Both during its meetings and in between, the members of the Advisory Forum have advised on various important scientific and practical issues. The benefits of engaging the national food agencies in such collaboration began to materialise in 2003 as the first networks started to function with exchanges of information, EFSA and national reports, studies and data on food safety matters. The Forum has discussed issues such as the handling of potential food safety risks, e.g. on semicarbazide, and acylamide, and has started to explore how communication on such risks can be enhanced across Europe and beyond. Looking forward from this early start in 2003, the development of practical means of identifying further partners for information exchanges and building on this growing collaboration will enable EFSA to increase its observatory and co-ordination activities.

EFSA, it is chaired by the Executive Director. To ensure independence, these representatives cannot also be members of the Authority's Management Board. A representative of the European Commission also participates in meetings of the Advisory Forum.



ADVISORY FORUM MEMBERS			ADVISORY FORUM MEMBERS		
COUNTRY	MEMBER	ALTERNATE	COUNTRY	MEMBER	ALTERNATE
Austria	Dr. Roland GROSSGUT <i>Österreichische Agentur für Gesundheit und Ernährungssicherheit GmbH</i>	Mag. Dieter Jenewein <i>Österreichische Agentur für Gesundheit und Ernährungssicherheit GmbH</i>	Ireland	Dr. Alan REILLY <i>Food Safety Authority of Ireland</i>	Raymond Ellard <i>Food Safety Authority of Ireland</i>
Belgium	Dr. Charles CREMER <i>Service Public Fédéral Santé Publique, Sécurité de la Chaîne Alimentaire et Environnement</i>	Gilbert Houins <i>Agence Fédérale pour la Sécurité de la Chaîne Alimentaire</i>	Italy	Prof. Enrico GARACI <i>Istituto Superiore di Sanità</i>	Prof. Paolo Aureli <i>Istituto Superiore di Sanità</i>
Denmark	Dr. Hans Peter JENSEN <i>Danmarks Fødevare- og Veterinærforskning (DFVF) Danish Institute for Food and Veterinary Research</i>	Henrik G. Jensen <i>The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration</i>	Luxembourg	Dr. Felix WILDSCHUTZ <i>Ministère de l'Agriculture</i>	Patrick Hau <i>Ministère de la Santé</i>
Finland	Dr. Jorma HIRN <i>Elintarvikevirasto (EVI) National Food Agency Finland</i>	Jouko Tuomisto <i>National Public Health Institute</i>	Netherlands	Dr. Willem DE WIT <i>Voedsel en Waren Autoriteit (VWA) Dutch Food Authority</i>	Jos Goebbels <i>Voedsel en Waren Autoriteit (VWA) Dutch Food Authority</i>
France	Dr. Martin HIRSCH <i>Agence Française de Sécurité Sanitaire des Aliments (AFSSA)</i>	Monique Eloit <i>Agence Française de Sécurité Sanitaire des Aliments (AFSSA)</i>	Portugal	Dra Isabel Maria MEIRELLES TEIXEIRA <i>Agência para a Qualidade e Segurança Alimentar</i>	Eng. Manuel Celestino Gomes Barreto Dias <i>Agência para a Qualidade e Segurança Alimentar</i>
Germany	Prof. Dr. Andreas HENSEL <i>Bundesinstitut für Risikobewertung</i>	Prof. Dr. Ekkehard Weise <i>Bundesinstitut für Risikobewertung</i>	Spain	Maria Purificación NEIRA GONZÁLEZ <i>Agencia Europea de Seguridad Alimentaria</i>	Pilar Farjas Abadía <i>Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo</i>
Greece	Dr. Christina PAPANIKOLAOU <i>Hellenic Food Authority (EFET)</i>	Mina Papathanasiou <i>Ministry of Finance General Chemical State Laboratory, Food Division</i>	Sweden	Dr. Leif BUSK <i>Livsmedelsverket National Food Administration</i>	Leif Dennerberg <i>National Agricultural Authority</i>
			UK	Dr. Andrew WADGE <i>Food Standards Agency</i>	Dr. Judith Hilton <i>Food Standards Agency</i>

Scientific Committee and Panels

By May 2003, the Authority had established its **Scientific Committee and eight Scientific Panels**, each competent in a specific area of risk assessment:

- Panel on food additives, flavourings, processing aids and materials in contact with food (AFC);
- Panel on additives and products or substances used in animal feed (FEEDAP);
- Panel on plant health, plant protection products and their residues (PPR);
- Panel on genetically modified organisms (GMO);
- Panel on dietetic products, nutrition and allergies (NDA);
- Panel on biological hazards (BIOHAZ)
- Panel on contaminants in the food chain (CONTAM);
- Panel on animal health and welfare (AHAW).

The members of the EFSA Scientific Committee and Panels were appointed following a worldwide call and rigorous evaluation process. These expert panels took over responsibility for the scientific assessment of food safety issues from the European Commission, beginning with their first meetings between 12-27 May 2003. The Scientific Committee (SC) and Panels are responsible for providing the Authority's scientific opinions within their individual areas of competence. If and when appropriate, they can also organise hearings in order to obtain broader input. The members of the SC and Panels have been appointed for a three-year term, which is renewable. On 1 July 2003 Professor Vittorio Silano was appointed as Chair of the European Food Safety Authority's Scientific Committee, at its first meeting.

Professor Vittorio Silano

Professor Silano is Head of the Department of Human Health Protection, Veterinary Public Health and International Relations at the Italian Ministry of Health. His main expertise is in food-related biochemistry, toxicology, chemistry and nutrition. He has extensive experience in international scientific committee work, having been Vice-Chairman of the European Commission's Scientific Steering Committee since 1997 and, prior to that, participated in numerous risk assessments carried out by the Scientific Committee on Food (SCF).



Institutional relationships

During 2003 the Authority built links with its institutional partners: the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Member States of the European Union. The Authority hosted a meeting for interested members of the European Parliament's Environment Committee and there have been regular meetings with individuals and groups of MEPs to keep them informed of EFSA's activities and work. The Commission, the key user of the Authority's scientific and technical advice, has been in constant dialogue with the management and staff of the Authority to build a secure and efficient risk assessment/risk management interface. This was important in ensuring the smooth transfer of scientific tasks from the Commission to the Authority, a process that took place in the summer of 2003. Since the first meetings of the Authority's scientific panels and committee, Commission personnel have attended all such meetings, to ensure a seamless interface between the scientific advisors and the decision makers. This attendance does not in any way affect the Authority's independence, since the objective is to provide information and clarification as required.

The new enlargement countries have been welcome to participate actively in the work of the Authority from the start. The Advisory Forum included all 10 accession countries in its activities. They took part in the six Forum meetings held in 2003 as observers and in the additional network-

ing of information that is now part of the Forum's way of working. The Authority forms the focal point for the sharing of reports, scientific information, data and other activities of national agencies and authorities. It is planned to develop this function further in 2004.

The Authority through its development of a document on in-house procedures for handling a crisis has been proactive in ensuring that it is prepared with its partners in case an emerging concern is identified. This document is a practical guideline for use within EFSA but identifies how the Authority would involve the key interlocutors in the Member States, the European institutions and internationally should an incident arise or be suspected. This complements the Commission's General Crisis Management Plan and aims to provide practical information for those who may be called upon in a food safety crisis to provide scientific data or advice, technical support or other support functions.

Permanent seat

On 13 December 2003, the European Council decided that the Authority's permanent location will be Parma in Italy. The Management Board as well as EFSA staff welcomed this decision, as having a permanent base will enable EFSA to pursue its expansion and develop its activities.





Scientific activities

Providing scientific opinions and advice on questions formally addressed to the Authority

In order to address questions and issues formally submitted to the Authority, eight Scientific Expert Panels and the Scientific Committee were established in May/June 2003. The Scientific Expert Panels are composed of independent scientific experts who were selected following an open call for expressions of interest. The Scientific Committee is composed of the chairpersons of the Scientific Panels and six additional experts who do not belong to any of the panels. Members of the Scientific Committee and Panels were appointed by the Management Board at its meeting in April 2003, for a three-year period of office, acting upon a proposal from the Executive Director.

The responsibility of the Scientific Committee and Scientific Panels is to address scientific questions and to provide independent opinions of scientific excellence on matters within their respective remits. Scientific excellence is defined by the Management Board as the awareness and knowledge of the latest scientific developments and the consideration of leading science in the development of risk assessments. Scientific excellence also requires the active contribution of the Authority's scientists to the advancement of generic, quantitative risk-assessment methodolo-

gies, aimed at reducing uncertainty levels and the understanding of the concept of risk. In order to effectively assist risk managers, the Authority must provide clear and understandable opinions. These opinions should be comprehensive in their characterisation of hazards, assessment of exposures and, where possible, provide quantitative assessment of risks. To that end, the

Authority is determined to meet the highest standards of science and communicate its scientific opinions in an appropriate manner to the European Commission, European Parliament, Member States, stakeholders and the public at large. A summary of the 2003 activities of EFSA's Science Division is given below.

NUMBER OF SCIENTIFIC EXPERT OPINIONS DELIVERED ON QUESTIONS RECEIVED FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION IN 2003			
Scientific expert panel	questions received	scientific opinions	plenary meetings
Panel on food additives, flavourings, processing aids and materials in contact with food (AFC)	119	6	4
Panel on additives and products or substances used in animal feed (FFEDAP)	32	6	6
Panel on plant health, plant protection products and their residues (PPR)	3	2	2
Panel on genetically modified organisms (GMO)	9	4	5
Panel on dietetic products, nutrition and allergies (NDA)	7	1	2
Panel on biological hazards (BIOHAZ)	22	4	3
Panel on contaminants in the food chain (CONTAM)	22	0	4
Panel on animal health and welfare (AHAW)	7	0	3
Scientific Committee (SC)	8	0	4
TOTAL	229	23	33

Note: The majority of questions received in 2003 were passed on to EFSA by DG SANCO in May from the work of the former scientific committees of the European Commission. Questions were frequently grouped, especially in the food additives area where single questions often addressed 30 or more substances, each of which being the subject of a separate opinion.

Work of the Scientific Committee and Expert Panels

Scientific Committee

The Scientific Committee provides scientific advice on multi-sectorial issues falling within the competence of more than one Panel, and on issues which do not fall within the competence of any of the Panels. It is also responsible for the general co-ordination necessary to ensure the consistency in the scientific opinions adopted by the different Panels. The Committee met four times in plenary session and devoted much of its meetings to the identification of issues to be considered for inclusion in the Work Programme of the Committee for 2003. These issues included:

- Introduction of harmonised approaches in the risk-assessment process:
 - General format for scientific opinions
 - Guidelines for preparation of requests
 - Advice on the Authority's crisis management plan
 - Development and implementation of the Authority's strategies and general guidance in the area of exposure assessment.
- Scientific co-ordination:
 - Strategies for building the Authority's capability for identifying and evaluating emerging risks.

- Challenges in the area of risk assessment:
 - Uniform approach for the risk assessment of genotoxic and carcinogenic substances.

- Specific subjects:
 - Qualified presumption of safety
 - 'Non-nutritional components' in the EU diet.

The Committee established Working Groups on (1) guidelines for the preparation of requests for scientific opinions, (2) crisis management, (3) exposure assessment, (4) genotoxic and carcinogenic substances and (5) emerging risks. The first meetings of these Working Groups were held in the second half of 2003, the main objective being to prepare advice from the Committee

to the EFSA on a work plan for each of the respective areas. The Committee's advice on EFSA's crisis management plan was discussed at the Advisory Forum meeting of 10 December 2003.



Scientific Panel on food additives, flavourings, processing aids and materials in contact with food (AFC)

The AFC Panel delivers opinions on scientific questions relating to the safety in the use of food additives, flavourings, processing aids and materials in contact with food. Associated subjects concern the safety of other substances deliberately added to food and questions related to the safety of processes (including irradiation, but excluding heating).

The Panel met four times in plenary session in 2003. It established permanent working groups on food additives, flavourings and food contact materials. In addition, one ad hoc working group meeting on nutrient sources was held in June and two ad hoc expert group meetings on semicarbazide in foods packed in glass jars and bottles including baby food, were held in July and October. In addition to the members of the Panel and the working group on food contact materials, members of other Panels and outside experts also participated in the meetings on semicarbazide, the goal being to meet the multidisciplinary challenges posed by this emerging crisis. Each meeting resulted in the publication of advice on the Authority's website and dissemination of a final press release. A press conference on this subject was held on 15 October 2003.

In addition to issuing a statement on semicarbazide, adopted at its third meeting, the Panel adopted six opinions at the request of the European Commission: four on nutrient sources and two on a total of nine substances intended for use in food contact materials. The Panel was also tasked to continue the work performed in SCOOP (scientific co-operation on questions relating to food) Task 1.1. This involves building up and maintaining the FLAVIS database, which compiles information for the scientific evaluation of chemically defined flavouring substances, according to Commission Regulation (EC) no. 1565/2000. The work has been assigned, under contract, to a specialised FLAVIS Group. The group also prepared data sheets summarising information, including a pre-evaluation of flavouring substances which were presented and are currently being considered by the AFC Panel.

AFC Team
Torben Hallas-Möller
Hanne Pedersen
Dimitrios Spyropoulos



Scientific Panel on additives and products or substances used in animal feed (FEEDAP)

This FEEDAP Panel is responsible for scientific and technical questions concerning safety for the animal, the user and/or worker, the consumer of products of animal origin, and the environment as well as the efficacy of biological and chemical products or substances, in particular additives intended for the deliberate addition/use in animal feed.

The FEEDAP Panel met six times in plenary session. Its work is largely related to scientific assessment of products under the authorisation process at the Community level. The working programme consists of questions from the Commission addressed to the Scientific Committee on Animal Nutrition (SCAN) and new questions from the Commission, mainly in connection with Council Directive 70/524/EEC concerning additives in feedingstuffs.

Two permanent working groups were established: one on micro-organisms and one on enzymes. They deal with the numerous assessments requested for products within the scope of these categories. Additional ad hoc working groups have been created, for the re-evaluation of certain additives, in accordance with article 9G of Directive 70/524/EEC (cocciostats), other provisional or permanent authorisations, or more general questions (such as on iodine and carotenoids). Many working group meetings related to these questions were organised (24 in total by the end of December).

Most of the meetings held in 2003 focused on the assessment of cocciostats requiring brand specific approval, either as a re-evaluation or evaluation of the safety and efficacy of these products. The assessments were based on data submitted by the notifiers. The Panel's first opinion was issued in September about the safety of enzyme preparation Avizyme 1300. In November, it issued

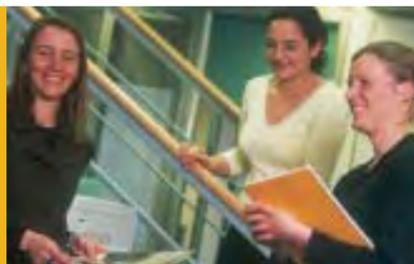
its first opinion on the re-evaluation of cocciostats (Stenorol/halofuginone) and adopted two opinions on feed additives in the category of micro-organisms. In December, the Panel issued two more opinions on cocciostats (Deccox/decoquinate and Koffogran/nicarbazin).

FEEDAP Panel





PPR Team



GMO Team



IT Team

Scientific Panel on plant health, plant protection products and their residues (PPR)

The PPR Panel delivers opinions on scientific questions relating to the safety of plant protection products for the user and/or worker, the consumer of treated products and the environment as well as plant health.

The PPR Panel was established in May 2003 and met three times in plenary session. It also established two Working Groups, one on toxicology and the other on ecotoxicology.

The Panel issued two opinions in response to a request from the Commission's Directorate-General for Health and Consumer Protection. The opinions concern the toxicological effect of the new fungicide mepanipyrim (i.e. its association with liver tumours in rats and mice) and the effects of existing insecticide azinphos-methyl on non-target arthropods and birds.

Scientific Panel on genetically modified organisms (GMO)

The GMO Panel delivers opinions on scientific questions relating to genetically modified micro-organisms, plants and animals. These questions relate to the deliberate release of GMOs into the environment and to genetically modified food and feed including derivative products. Questions may therefore range from environmental issues to human and animal health.

The GMO Panel delivers opinions on requests received from the Commission both on generic, horizontal issues (for example, the drafting or assessing of guidance documents for the risk assessment of GMOs) and also concerning specific applications for the placing on the market of GMOs and/or derived products introduced under Community legislation. Relevant legislation concerns the deliberate release into the environment of GMOs, novel foods and novel food ingredients

and genetically modified food and feed, also including additives for use in animal nutrition, food additives and enzymes used in food when produced from a GMO. (Directive 2001/18/EC on the deliberate release into the environment of genetically modified organisms, Regulation (EC) 258/97 on Novel Foods and Novel Food Ingredients, Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 on genetically modified food and feed).

The Panel met five times in plenary session and created three Working Groups for the evaluation of authorisation dossiers. These Groups focus on: (1) molecular characterisation; (2) food and feed safety; and (3) environmental risk assessment. In addition, the following four ad hoc Working Groups were established to deal with a specific question: (1) WG notification of legislation concerning Upper Austria (2) WG Markers; (3) WG Microbiology; and (4) WG GM food & feed guidance.

The Panel issued its first opinion on a specific topic related to the Austrian notification of national legislation regarding GMOs in July 2003. In November, the Panel released two more opinions relating to applications for the marketing of GM maize NK603 and an opinion on a guidance note (on the contained use of GM micro-organisms under Directive 90/219/EEC) was adopted in December.

Scientific Panel on dietetic products, nutrition and allergies (NDA)

The NDA Panel provides scientific opinions on questions relating to dietetic products (i.e. food-stuffs intended to satisfy particular nutritional requirements of specific groups of the population, as defined in Community legislation), human nutrition and food allergy, and other associated subjects such as non-GM novel foods.

The NDA Panel met twice in plenary session and established four Working Groups on: (1) food allergy; (2) infant formulae; (3) novel foods; and (4) upper levels for vitamins and minerals. The panel adopted its first opinion on 25 November 2003 following a request from the Commission related to a novel food application for the approval of plant sterol-containing milk-based beverages.

Scientific Panel on biological hazards (BIOHAZ)

The BIOHAZ Panel delivers opinions on scientific questions on biological hazards relating to food safety and food-borne diseases, including food-borne zoonoses and transmissible spongiform encephalopathies, microbiology, food hygiene and associated waste management.

This Panel met three times in plenary session and established 15 Working Groups on the following subjects:

- **BSE/TSE issues**
- **Food hygiene**
- **Animal by-products**

The BIOHAZ Panel adopted four opinions at its plenary meeting in November. These opinions were prepared and issued in response to a request from the Commission's DG Health and Consumer Protection. These opinions concerned: (1) Tuberculosis in bovine animals; (2) the interpretation of results of EU surveillance of transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs) in ovine and caprine animals, culling strategies for TSEs in small ruminants and the TSE-related safety of certain small ruminant products; (3) effects of nitrites/nitrates on the microbiological safety of meat products; and (4) the process of High

Pressure Hydrolysis Biogas (HPHB) as a method for safe disposal of category 1 Animal by-Products (ABP) not intended for human consumption.

Scientific Panel on contaminants in the food chain (CONTAM)

The CONTAM Panel is responsible for contaminants in food and feed, associated areas and undesirable substances such as natural toxicants, mycotoxins and residues of non-authorized substances not covered by other Panels.

It met four times in plenary session and established four Working Groups (WG) on the following subjects: (1) undesirable substances in animal feed - section heavy metals (WG USAF-HM); (2) undesirable substances in animal feed-section mycotoxins (WG USAF-MT); (3) organotin compounds (WG ORGTs); and (4) non-dioxin-like polychlorinated biphenyls (WG NDL-PCBs).

The Panel received 21 requests from the Commission in the period August to November 2003, twelve of which were allocated an urgent deadline. In addition, two requests on non dioxin-like PCBs in food and organotin compounds were transferred from the Commission to the Authority. In most cases, the requested work required an extensive evaluation of available information on exposure and potential health effects. The work is expected to be completed in 2004/2005.

Scientific Panel on animal health and animal welfare (AHAW)

The AHAW Panel provides scientific opinions on scientific questions related to animal health and animal welfare, with a focus on food producing animals including fish.

It met three times in plenary session and established four Working Groups on the following subjects: transport of animals, stunning methods,

castration methods for piglets, and microclimate conditions for transport.

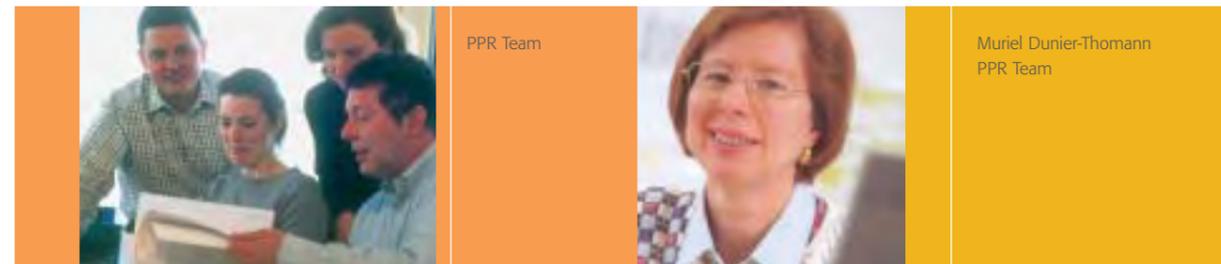
Most of its tasks stem from requests from the Commission's DG Health and Consumer Protection. Two requests were transferred from the previous Scientific Committee on Animal Health and Animal Welfare (SCAHAW) of the Commission (transport and stunning). Three requests for scientific opinions related to animal welfare were received in September (castration methods, microclimate conditions for transport, and welfare of laying hens) and one request concerning animal health was received in December (mycobacterium paratuberculosis transmission through bovine semen). After considering some mandates on Animal Welfare which have a clear impact on food safety (piglet castration and laying hens), the Panel agreed on taking into account an integrated approach of the food chain and therefore proposed to modify the mandates accordingly.



AHAW Team
Jordi Ferres
Sylvie Mateljan
Brigitte Arbelot



Henning Bruno
PRAPeR Team



PPR Team

Muriel Dunier-Thomann
PPR Team

Assessing the risks and maximum residue levels of existing and new pesticides and the monitoring of specific risk factors and diseases

Pesticide Risk Assessment Peer Review (PRAPeR)

According to Directive 91/414/EEC, the Commission must undertake, within a 12 years period, a work programme allowing the gradual examination of approximately 850 active substances which were already on the market in 1993. The work programme is separated in four stages to organise and structure the overall workload.

With Commission Regulations (EC) no 451/2000 and 1490/2002, the Authority was tasked with organising the peer review of the initial assessment of dossiers by the rapporteur Member States for the active substances included in the

second and third stages of the work programme. The Authority is also responsible for assessing the reports on the completeness of dossiers for 79 active substances (included in the third stage) provided by the respective rapporteur Member States and for reporting to the European Commission, as required by Art. 9(1) of Regulation (EC) no. 1490/2002. Furthermore, based on a bilateral agreement between the Authority and the European Commission, the Authority is responsible for peer reviewing the draft assessment reports provided by rapporteur Member States for new active substances, for which the completeness of dossiers was concluded after 1 July 2002. This bilateral agreement transfers risk assessment responsibilities to the Authority.

In 2003, to fulfill the legal requirements and deadlines for peer reviewing the draft assessment reports as provided in Community legislation, the Authority's PRAPeR section developed the

necessary procedures in consultation with the Scientific Panel PPR and the Member States. It also started the Member States consultation of draft assessment reports for some 14 existing and six new active substances.

Furthermore, through a restricted call for tender, the EPCO project (EFSA Plant Protection Products Peer Review Coordination) was initiated to provide administrative and scientific support to EFSA in relation to the peer review of active substances. The contract is jointly held by the German Bundesamt für Verbraucherschutz und Lebensmittelsicherheit (BVL) and the British Pesticide Safety Directorate (PSD).

Geographical BSE risk and BSE/TSE testing

The Geographical BSE-Risk (GBR) is a qualitative indicator of the likelihood of the presence of one or more cattle being infected with BSE (Bovine Spongiforme Encephalopathy), pre-clinically as





CONTAM Team
Juliane Kleiner
Tlaitmass Bounou



Katty Verhelst
Institutional and
International Affairs Team

well as clinically, at a given point in a time, in a country. Where its presence is confirmed, the GBR gives an indication of the level of infection.

The Commission has asked the Authority for advice on the risk assessment for the appearance of BSE in a number of countries specified below and in the following order of priority:

- Canada (review of the current GBR II classification after its first BSE case)
- GBR I countries with major exports to the EU: Botswana, Namibia, Swaziland, Australia and Norway;
- Other GBR I countries, with more limited exports to the EU: El Salvador, Nicaragua and Panama;
- Sweden;
- Major trading partners in GBR II: USA and Mexico

A working group was constituted to carry out the GBR assessments and work is ongoing.

For TSE (Transmissible Spongiforme Encephalopathy) testing, the Commission has requested that the Authority coordinate and manage the validation of diagnostic tests including live animal tests.

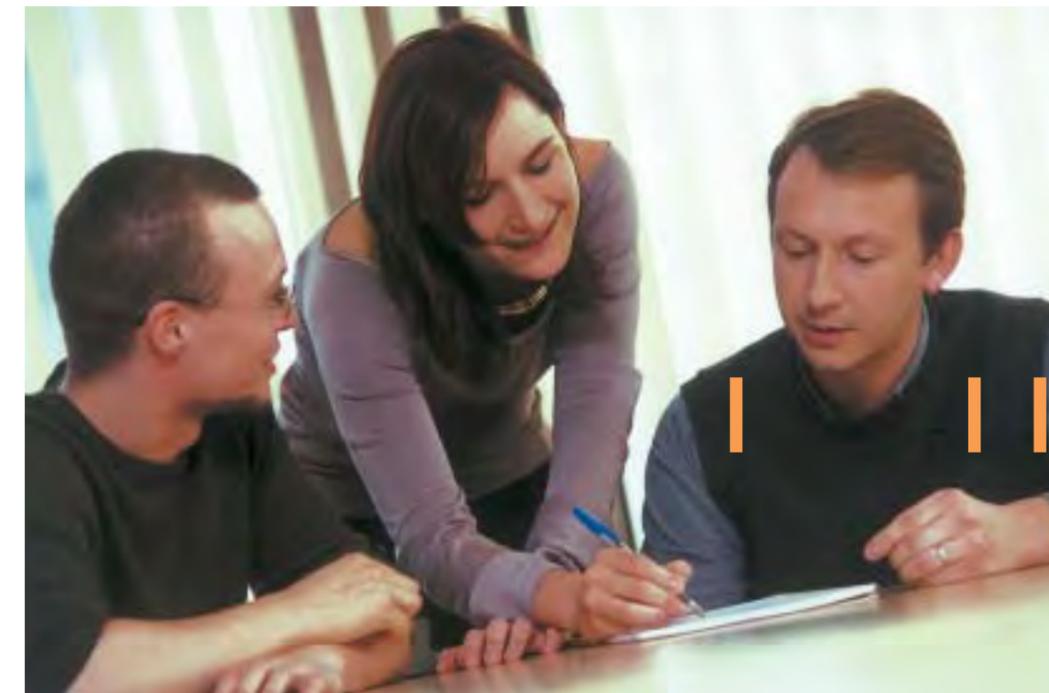
Following the publication (in the Official Journal 15 of 22 January 2003) of an open call for the expression of interest in participating in a programme for the evaluation of tests for the diagnosis of TSEs in ruminants, around 20 proposals for new tests were received. These include new post-mortem and live animal tests. The Commission has requested that the Authority organise the evaluation and validation process of these submitted tests for TSE diagnosis in ruminants, including live animal tests.

A group of experts and a work plan were established in May. In the period June-October, the expert group met three times. Since then, the following milestones have been achieved: (1) a first selection of tests was forwarded to the Institute for Reference Methods and Measurements (IRMM) of the Commission's Joint Research Centre for further organisation of the laboratory and field trial evaluations (BSE post mortem tests and scrapie tests); (2) the design of a live animal test field evaluation protocol was initiated, discussed and adopted by the expert group; (3) a Scientific Support Unit was created within EFSA; (4) a temporary agent was recruited to co-ordinate the work of this unit, and (5) a laboratory evaluation was started under the supervision of the IRMM.

Future developments: application and promotion of new and harmonised scientific approaches for hazard and risk-assessment methodologies

In 2003 the scientific activities of the Authority were focused fully on the development of opinions in response to formal questions and other scientific issues, as included in the work plans of the eight Expert Panels and the Scientific Committee. In addition, the Authority has undertaken preparatory work regarding the development and promotion of new and harmonised scientific approaches for hazard and risk assessment methodologies. Such work will in the future be facilitated and supported by specialised scientific expert services at EFSA. In 2003, initial

scoping discussions were initiated at the Authority regarding the organisational structure for such a specialised unit. In addition, the Authority began to establish informal expert networks. Future developments will include the establishment of a harmonised database of national experts, searchable by scientific discipline and affiliation.



IT Team
Dimitri Vanderheyde
Gwénaëlle Quivy
Eric Paquay

Communications outreach

Effective risk communications will play an important part in rebuilding the confidence of European consumers in food safety. The European Food Safety Authority intends to make a significant contribution by providing timely, appropriate, consistent and accurate communications on food safety issues based on the Authority's risk assessments and scientific expertise.

EFSA's responsibilities in the area of risk communications, as defined by its founding Regulation, are to:

- ensure that the public and interested parties receive rapid, reliable, objective and comprehensible information in the areas covered by its mission (Article 23)
- communicate on its own initiative in the fields within its mission area, without prejudice to the Commission's competence to communicate its risk management decisions (Article 40)
- act in close collaboration with the Commission and Member States to promote the necessary coherence in the risk communication process (Article 40).

EFSA risk communications provides a Europe-wide reference service largely via its website (www.efsa.eu.int). Accessible and relevant messages on food safety issues are published in the same way as timely and accurate public announcements on key EU-wide issues. In 2003, EFSA undertook the development of a new website to be launched at the beginning of 2004.

The semicarbazide (SEM) issue is an example of risk communications undertaken in 2003. An update on the issue was included in a press release of 15 October 2003, following preliminary advice published in July. The release focused on a scientific opinion related to the possible occurrence of SEM in certain foods packaged in glass jars and bottles. The website also provided background information to the media and the public (e.g. 'Additional advice on semicarbazide, in particular related to baby food', ad hoc expert group meeting, 9 October 2003, and a document with frequently asked questions). A media briefing was also organised, involving the Chair of the Scientific Panel that carried out the risk assessment. Later analysis of media coverage confirmed that open communications of this nature resulted in consistent messages proportionate to the risk, throughout the Community.

In order to achieve more consistent and culturally sensitive output, there is a need for close co-ordination of communications with Member States. The Advisory Forum therefore established a working group to consider communication and in particular risk communication on matters within the remit of the EFSA. The working group, composed of communications experts from Member States and the Commission, is chaired by the EFSA Communications Director, and met for the first time in November 2003.

Openness and transparency

Openness and transparency are fundamental aspects of EFSA's work and are enshrined as concepts in EFSA's regulatory framework and the overall Community policies on governance. At its June meeting, the Management Board decided to place openness at the top of the agenda.

In a paper on 'Openness, transparency and confidentiality', adopted by the Management Board in September, a number of key operating principles were identified:

- publication of the Authority's opinions and findings as quickly as possible and in as accessible a manner as possible;
- ensuring that information is made available by the most effective means to stakeholders and the public (e.g. through the website, publications, direct contact with stakeholders, press and other media as appropriate) and;
- dissemination of the work of the Management Board, Advisory Forum and Scientific Panels and Committee by publication of meeting agendas, minutes and, where appropriate, through public consultation.

Relations with stakeholders

The European Food Safety Authority held a Colloque on involving stakeholders in the risk assessment process. This symposium-like event was held in Ostend, Belgium on 24 and 25 October 2003. Stakeholders were invited from the Scientific Committee and Panels, from European consumer organisations as well as organisations representing the retail and food industries. Invitations were extended to stakeholders from both current and new Member States as well as to related sectoral organisations. The purpose of the event was to identify ways in which EFSA can work best with consumers and industry in fulfilling its overall mandate to contribute to improved EU food safety. Many different ideas arose from the discussions.

The opportunity of setting up an EFSA stakeholder forum was an important development arising from discussions at the Colloque and later confirmed by the Management Board. It will enable a formal means of information exchange. Scientific meetings are the core of the Authority's work and scientific independence is the most important underlying principle. Ways are being sought to improve openness by allowing stakeholders to provide input. However, it is of fundamental importance that this is done without negatively affecting the independence of the scientists' work or the meeting of deadlines for

opinions. In particular, the concept of holding public hearings on key scientific issues is being explored, together with the possibility of consulting on certain scientific opinions in draft.

All Board meetings to date have been made accessible through transmission on the Authority's website. The Board has also agreed, in principle, to allow individuals to attend these meetings, starting in March 2004.

Participants at the Ostend gathering also gave strong support to the Board's policy of ensuring balance in the work programme. This will ensure the consideration of wider scientific issues, as well as answering specific scientific questions. All stakeholders expressed the need for EFSA to help the public situate any individual risk in a broader context. In addition, participants agreed with EFSA that consideration should be given to widening involvement of stakeholders in risk communication.



Stakeholder meeting Ostend

EFSA outreach

In 2003, Stuart Slorach, the Chairman of the Board, Geoffrey Podger, the EFSA Executive Director, Herman Koëter, the Deputy Executive Director and the Director of Science, as well as other staff members took on a number of speaking engagements, underlining the Authority's commitment to openness and transparency. The Authority intends to continue this trend of sending high level management and staff as speakers or participants in conferences or meetings covering food-related issues, risk assessment and risk communications.

EFSA OUTREACH

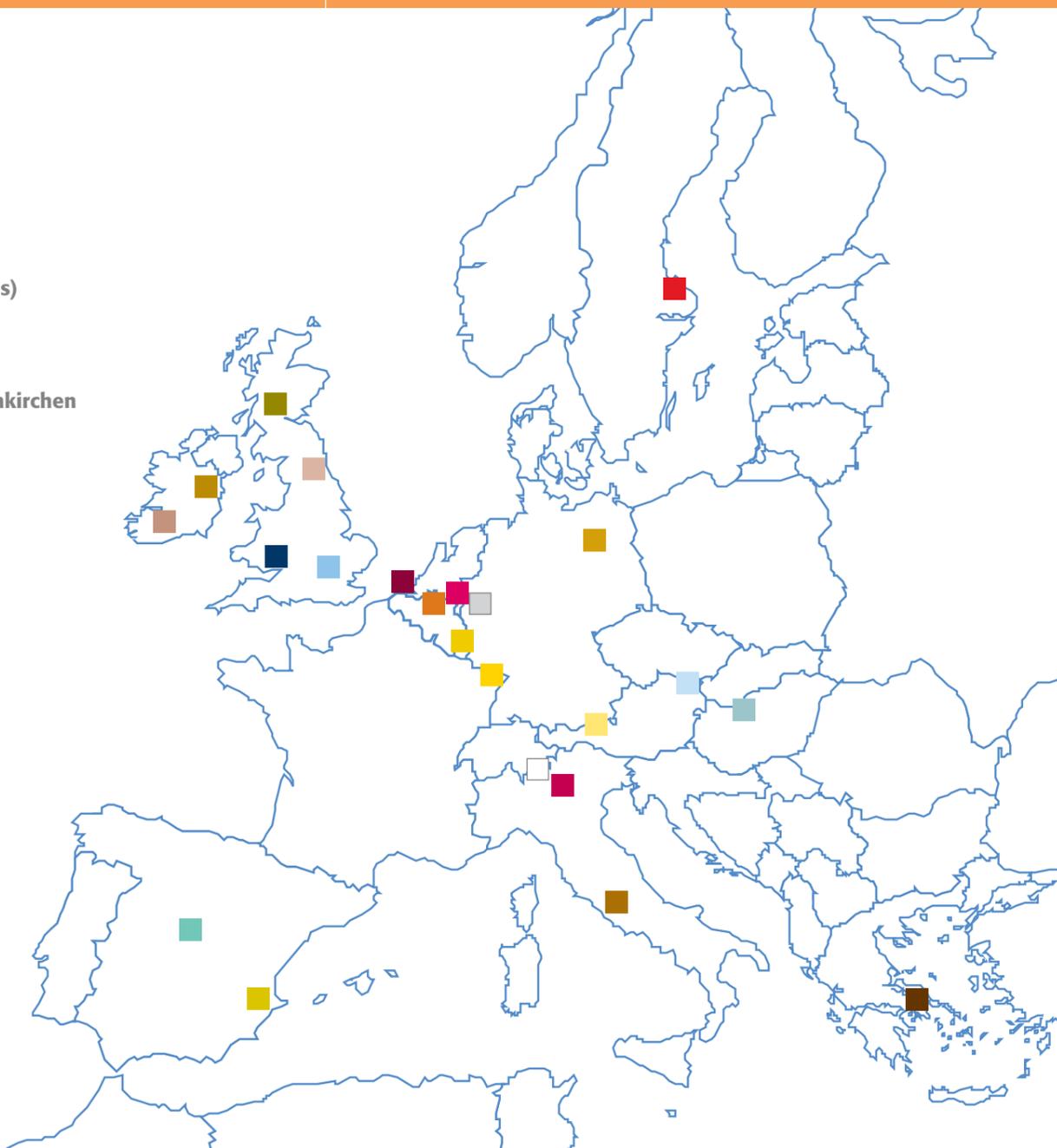
Institutional and International
Affairs Team



Communication
Team



- 1 Alicante
- 1 Athens
- 3 Berlin
- 18 Brussels
- 1 Budapest
- 1 Chepstow (Wales)
- 1 Cologne
- 1 Cork
- 3 Dublin
- 1 Garmisch-Partenkirchen
- 1 Gleneagles
- 2 London
- 2 Luxembourg
- 1 Maastricht
- 1 Madrid
- 1 Milan
- 1 Ostend
- 4 Rome
- 1 Stockholm
- 1 Strasbourg
- 1 Stresa
- 1 Vienna
- 1 York
- 2 Washinton DC



EFSA's 2003 SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Alicante

- National Spanish Congress on Food Science and Technology

Athens

- Greek Ministry of Health :
Conference on Nutrition in the European Union

Berlin

- BLL Annual Conference
- Alternatives Congress Trust: 5th World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences
- Community Reference Laboratory (CRL) for zoonoses: EU annual workshop on zoonoses

Brussels

- CIAA Conference
- European Parliament Working Group on the role of the EFSA
- The EU Committee Agriculture and Food Subcommittee
- Food Processing Machinery Europe (FPME): Bi-annual board dinner
- European Policy Centre
- EP-ELDR Environment Network Meeting
- Ernst & Young: EuroConference on the Current EU Agenda and Business Associations
- European Policy Forum
- European Council: Chief Veterinary Officers Meeting
- European Modern Restaurant Association (EMRA)
- Friends of Europe: Dinner Debate on the EU's approach to food, health and nutrition policy issues
- ECPA Annual 2003 Conference
- ECOPA: Animal welfare considerations in risk assessment
- EC - DG Sanco: Risk Perception: science, public debate and policy making
- Belgian Society for Toxicology and Ecotoxicology: Annual meeting
- European Soft Drinks Association (UNESDA)
- Consortium meeting EU RTD-project GMOCARE
- Food & Biotechnology, TAIEX Office, DG Enlargement

Budapest

- COST Action on Zoonoses

Chepstow (Wales)

- Association of Independent Meat Suppliers (AINS): Aims 2003 Conference

Cologne

- ANUGA Fair - CIAA

Cork

- EDA Conference

Dublin

- Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI): Food safety seminar - Semicarbazide
- Food Safety Promotion: Excellence in Safefood Conference
- Inauguration of University College Centre for Food Safety

Garmisch-Partenkirchen

- Bundesinstitut für Risikobewertung
German Veterinary Society

Gleneagles (Scotland)

- Annual Conference of poultry industry (A.V.E.C.)

London

- Society of Food Hygiene Technology: Annual Luncheon
- UK Food and Drink Federation

Luxembourg

- FEDIAF AGM
- EFFAT Executive Committee

Maastricht

- European Institute of Public Administration: Seminar on EFSA: Towards Efficient Risk Analysis

Madrid

- Congreso Nacional de la Carne

Milan

- Fondazione Italiana Buon Ricordo: Sicily Mediterranean Mother

Ostend

- EFSA Colloque: Involving our Stakeholders

Rome

- Assocami Conference
- MENTOR Group: Forum for EU-US legal economic affairs
- Pro Nature: Award ceremony
- ENTRANSFOOD: The EU funded Thematic Network on the Safety Assessment of Genetically Modified Foods

Stockholm

- Royal Swedish Academy: Conference on Healthy Food or Deadly Diet

Strasbourg

- BEUC/EP: Consumer Intergroup Meeting

Stresa

- University of Milan/JRC : ISEA 2003 Conference

Vienna

- International Quality Assurance Retail (IQAR)

York

- ECCO 140, Pesticides Safety Directorate

Washington DC

- European Institute Conference
- Meeting of the ILSI HESI Technical Committee on Agricultural Chemical Safety Assessment



The 2003 financial statements of the Authority are in euro, according to the:

- EFSA base regulation (CE n° 178/2002 modified by 1642/2002),
- Financial Regulation (adopted by the Management Board, 13 October 2003),
- Regulation on inventories (CE n° 2909/2000),
- Financial Implementing Rules (CE no 2342/2002).

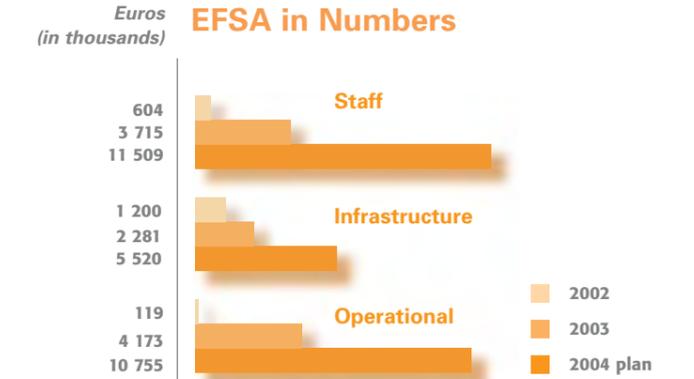
Budgetary management in 2003 was centralised under the Authorising Officer, with the Heads of Human Resources and Finance acting as sub-delegated Authorising officers. The budget management allows simultaneous analytical budget follow-up of the different work programmes and activities.

However, preparations for a decentralised budget management system with central financial verification, under which the powers of the authorising

officer are delegated to line managers, started during the second half of the financial year. This system will become fully operational during the first quarter of 2004.

Analysis of the budget outcome for the financial year in question shows commitments that are below estimates. This is because of the continued uncertainty on building expenditure and the aim of keeping actual costs below the plan, due to active cost controls.

EFSA continued to implement and develop its management tools and methods (systems, rules, decentralised management) during the year.



Finance Team

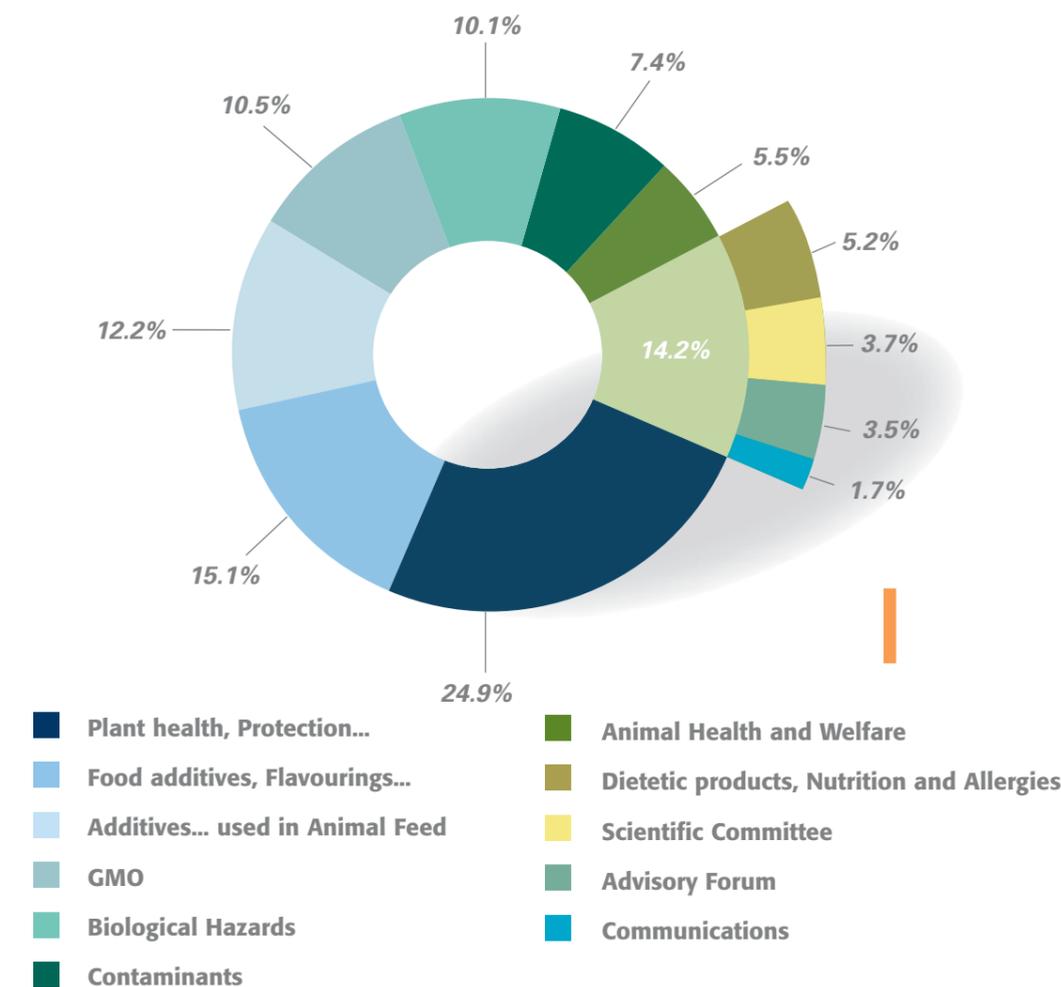
Accountants
Maité Fernandez Garcia
Lionel Rigaux

BALANCE SHEET 31 DECEMBER 2003			(EUR)		
ASSETS	2003	2002	LIABILITIES	2003	2002
Fixed assets			Fixed capital		
Intangible assets	362,222.00	-	Own capital	769,089.39	-
Ground	0.00	-	Reserve	0.00	-
Buildings	0.00	-	Balance for the financial year	145,640.34	-
Equipment and furniture	106,348.87	-	Subtotal	914,729.73	-
Transport equipment	0.00	-	Current liabilities		
Computer equipment	701,158.35	-	Commission	0.00	-
Tangible in course	0.00	-	Other contributors	0.00	-
Depreciation	-400,639.83	-	Non-automatic carryover	0.00	-
Subtotal	769,089.39	-	Automatic carryover	4,233,288.13	-
Stocks			Sundry accounts payable	0.00	-
Office supplies	0.00	-	Deductions from salaries	7,832.26	-
Current assets			VAT/Other taxes	0.00	-
Commission subsidy	0.00	-	Advances from clients	0.00	-
Other subsidies receivable	0.00	-	Subtotal	4,241,120.39	-
Advances to Community agencies	0.00	-	Transitional accounts		
Other advances	0.00	-	Reused	5,553.11	-
Recoverable VAT	0.00	-	Deferred revenue	0.00	-
Recovery orders	792.35	-	Subtotal	5,553.11	-
Sundry accounts receivable	2,248.13	-	Liquid assets		
Subtotal	3,040.48	-	Bank account	4,341,784.97	-
Liquid assets			Cash	0.00	-
Bank account	4,341,784.97	-	Imprest account	15,000.00	-
Cash	0.00	-	Subtotal	4,356,784.97	-
Imprest account	15,000.00	-	Transitional accounts		
Subtotal	4,356,784.97	-		32,488.39	-
Transitional accounts					
			Total	5,161,403.23	-
Total	5,161,403.23	-	Total	5,161,403.23	-

THE BUDGET OUTTURN ACCOUNTS 2003			(EUR)		
	2003	2002		2003	2002
Revenue			Expenditure		
Own revenue	0.00	-	Staff – Title I of the budget		
Commission subsidies	10,284,000.00	-	Payments	3,566,745.61	-
Miscellaneous revenue	0.00	-	Appropriations carried over automatically	149,043.56	-
Financial revenue	32,488.39	-	Administration / Infrastructure – Title II of the budget		
Total revenue (a)	10,316,488.39	-	Payments	1,092,262.69	-
Expenditure			Appropriations carried over automatically	1,189,370.95	-
Staff – Title I of the budget			Operating activities – Title III of the budget		
Administration / Infrastructure – Title II of the budget			Payments	1,278,443.15	-
Operating activities – Title III of the budget			Appropriations carried over automatically	2,894,873.62	-
Staff – Title I of the budget			Total expenditure (b)	10,170,739.58	-
Administration / Infrastructure – Title II of the budget			Outturn for the financial year (a-b)	145,748.81	-
Operating activities – Title III of the budget			Balance carried over from the previous financial year		
Staff – Title I of the budget				0.00	-
Administration / Infrastructure – Title II of the budget			<i>Appropriations carried over and cancelled</i> 268 626.51		
Operating activities – Title III of the budget			Sums for reuse from the previous financial year not used		
Staff – Title I of the budget				0.00	-
Administration / Infrastructure – Title II of the budget			Amounts refunded to the Commission		
Operating activities – Title III of the budget				0.00	-
Staff – Title I of the budget			Exchange-rate differences		
Administration / Infrastructure – Title II of the budget				108.47	-
Operating activities – Title III of the budget			Balance for the financial year		
Staff – Title I of the budget				145,640.34	-

CASH-FLOW		(EUR)
Situation as of 31 December 2002		
Bank balance		0.00
Cash balance		0.00
Imprest account balance		0.00
(a) Total		0.00
Actual revenue for 2003		
Budget revenue	10,284,000.00	
Non-budget revenue	4,760.76	
(b) Total	10,288,760.76	
Actual expenditure for 2003		
Budget expenditure	5,931,867.32	
Non-budget expenditure	108.47	
(c) Total	5,931,975.79	
Situation as of 31 December 2003		
Bank balance	4,341,784.97	
Cash balance	0.00	
Imprest account balance	15,000.00	
(d) = (a+b-c) Total	4,356,784.97	

Activities : Science, Communications, Advisory forum
Direct Expenditure in % 2003





In 2003 EFSA undertook the relaunch of its website in order to improve the navigation as well as its look and feel. Today the Authority's website is consulted by a broad range of interested parties including scientists, journalists, consumer organisations, industry, food safety and regulatory authorities as well as the public at large. It was therefore important to ensure that those interested could have quick and easy access to EFSA scientific opinions and advice.

Once the Scientific Committee and Panels began to generate Opinions and advisory documents, the race was on to get a new website up and running to house the rapidly increasing pool of information. Publication continued on the old site throughout 2003, keeping up with production as the new website neared completion.

On 1st March 2004, the new website was launched. It provides information about EFSA's mandate, organisation including the Authority's Management Board and Advisory Forum, and importantly provides in the "Science" section, a Register of Requested Opinions. This makes it possible to follow each scientific opinion as it develops right from the date it was received.

Discussion documents for Management Board and Advisory Forum meetings, as well as EFSA policies adopted by the Board, are to be found on



Helen Kinghan
Communication Team

line as well as decisions taken during these meetings. Management Board meetings are held in public through a live webstream that was a feature of both the old and new website and that continues to be available as a recording until the next meeting.



IT Team

All calls for expressions of interest, be they for recruitment or procurement, are published on the Authority's website. Candidates and interested parties can submit applications directly on line.

A specific section dedicated to the press includes all press releases and related background documents issued by EFSA. Other new features include the ability to post notifications and consultation processes on the site. It is also possible to subscribe to EFSA mailings such as "Highlights" indicating new items published on the site and the EFSA Newsletter.

Done at Brussels, April 2004

Stuart A. Slorach

Dr. Stuart Slorach
Chair of the Management Board

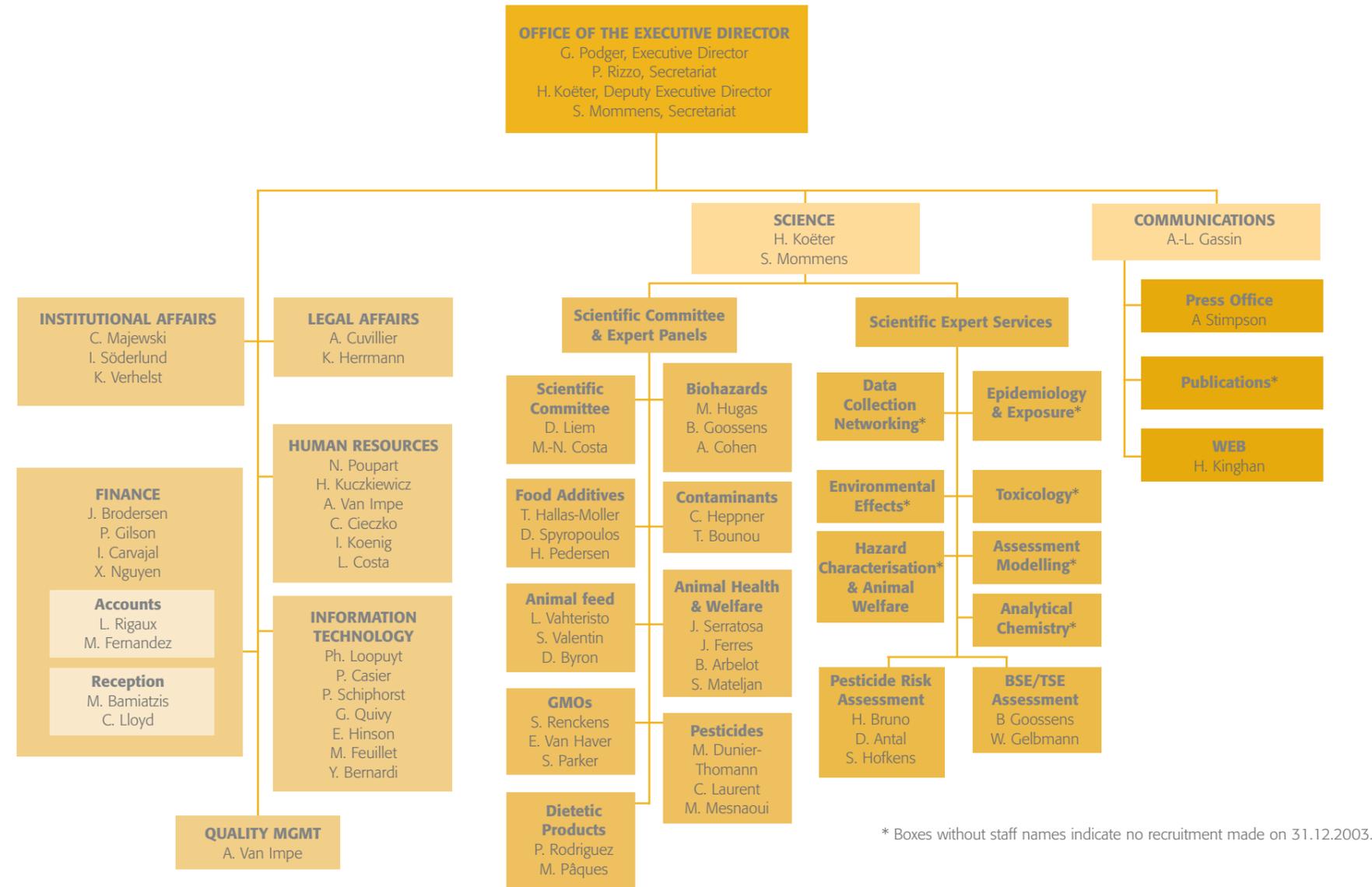


Radika Potier
BIOHAZ Team



Facilities Management Team
Jose Fernandez Bayo
Zubeda Merali
Philippe Schiphorst





* Boxes without staff names indicate no recruitment made on 31.12.2003.

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EFSA structure and organisational effectiveness

- *Management Board*
- *Executive Director*
- *EFSA management team*
- *EFSA staff and recruitment policy*
- *Advisory Forum*
- *Scientific Committee and Panels*
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