

Summary of Annual Report **2004**



→ **Our Remit**

In close collaboration with national authorities and in open consultation with its stakeholders, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) provides objective scientific advice on all matters with a direct or indirect impact on food and feed safety, including animal health and welfare and plant protection. EFSA is also consulted on nutrition in relation to Community legislation.

EFSA's remit falls into two areas: risk assessment and risk communication. In particular, EFSA's risk assessments provide risk managers (European Commission, European Parliament and Council) with a sound scientific basis for defining policy-driven legislation or regulatory measures. EFSA's work contributes to ensuring a high level of consumer protection with regard to food and feed safety, and to building and maintaining consumer confidence in the risk assessment process.

→ **Building for the future: highlights from 2004**

After a 2 year start-up phase, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) is now well on target in meeting its operational objectives, providing an increasing number of scientific opinions on a growing list of food and feed safety issues.

In 2004, EFSA continued to improve its good working relationship with Member States, the European Union (EU) institutions, stakeholders and the general public, enabling it to communicate effectively within its remit in an open and transparent manner. EFSA has pursued the communication of its scientific work through the publication of opinions on its website and dissemination of public announcements. This has been further augmented by the organisation of ad hoc events and colloquia to enhance dialogue with scientists and other stakeholders.

Throughout the year, EFSA also continued to build relationships with the new Member States, contributing to their rapid and effective integration within the EU, and has also moved to forge strong links with countries beyond Europe's borders.

To balance its growing workload, the Authority ran a focused recruitment drive across all departments. 127 highly qualified staff were in place at the end of 2004, amongst which 65 were recruited to the scientific department.

→ **Looking Ahead**

In 2005, EFSA will further develop its reputation as an organisation dedicated to scientific excellence, independence, openness and transparency. In particular, this will be achieved by continuing to build the Authority's in-house scientific expertise, developing guidance documents on assessment approaches and setting up scientific meetings with interested parties.

In doing this, EFSA will further establish its role as the keystone of European risk assessment regarding food and feed safety, becoming a true reference point for the EU institutions, stakeholders and the public at large.

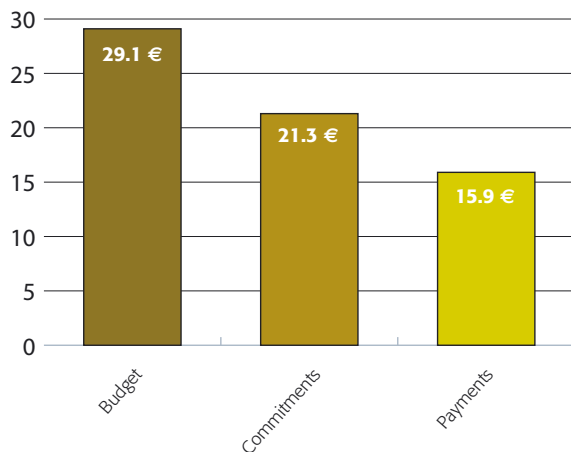
EFSA is expected to increase its activities in most of the fields within its remit. This need will be reflected in a growing number of staff which will be recruited to take up this challenge.

Highlights from EFSA's activities in 2004:

<p>January Number of scientific opinions, statements and reports: 9</p> <p>February Number of scientific opinions, statements and reports: 9</p> <p>March Number of scientific opinions, statements and reports: 7</p> <p>April Number of scientific opinions, statements and reports: 14</p> <p>May Number of scientific opinions, statements and reports: 14</p> <p>June Number of scientific opinions, statements and reports: 11</p> <p>July - August Number of scientific opinions, statements and reports: 17</p> <p>September Number of scientific opinions, statements and reports: 11</p> <p>October Number of scientific opinions, statements and reports: 40</p> <p>November Number of scientific opinions, statements and reports: 2</p> <p>December Number of scientific opinions, statements and reports: 37</p>	<p>CONTAM Panel Opinion regarding possible risks to human health associated with the consumption of foods (notably fish) contaminated with mercury.</p> <p>NDA Panel Opinion relating to the evaluation of allergenic foods for labelling purposes.</p> <p>GMO Panel Opinion relating to the utilisation of antibiotic resistance genes as marker genes in genetically modified plants. This evaluation has been carried out in order to provide guidance to applicants, Member States and the European Commission regarding the safe use of antibiotic resistance marker genes (ARMGs) in the selection of transgenic events in plants.</p> <p>AFC Panel Publication of an opinion on the safety of using parabens (additives E 214-219) in foods.</p> <p>AHAW Panel Opinion on the welfare of animals during transport: transport can greatly affect animal health and welfare and optimal conditions for transport vary according to species.</p> <p>1st Scientific Colloquium EFSA holds its first Scientific Colloquium on "Methodologies and principles for setting tolerable intake levels for dioxins, furans and dioxin-like PCBs".</p> <p>Scientific Committee EFSA's Scientific Committee publishes its <i>Discussion Paper on Botanicals and Botanical Preparations widely used as food supplements and related products</i>. This Paper expresses the Scientific Committee's concerns about quality and safety issues of botanicals and botanical preparations and proposes coherent and comprehensive risk assessment and consumer information approaches.</p> <p>NDA Panel Opinion relating to the presence of trans fatty acids (TFAs) in foods and the effect on human health of the consumption of trans fatty acids.</p> <p>BIOHAZ Panel Statement on the safety of goat milk and milk products with regard to possible BSE/TSE risks.</p> <p>GMO Panel The <i>Guidance Document for the Risk Assessment of GM plants and derived food and feed</i> is published after open consultation. The draft document was first put on EFSA's website for a month for open consultation before publication, which allowed the Authority to include stakeholders' remarks in the final edition of the document.</p> <p>2nd Scientific Colloquium EFSA holds its 2nd Scientific Colloquium on "The Qualified Presumption of Safety (QPS) approach in micro-organisms in food and feed".</p>	<p>Establishment of the Task Force on Zoonoses Data Collection EFSA expands its specific scientific expertise by appointing new external Expert Working Groups. The 1st meeting of the Task Force on Zoonoses Data Collection takes place in December.</p>
<p>The ongoing recruitment drive takes off On January 1st, EFSA counts 62 staff members. This number will double by the end of the year.</p> <p>EFSA launches its new website Moving from a static to a dynamic form of online publication, EFSA launches its new website. During the first month, the site attracted 43,858 visitors. This number will significantly increase during the year.</p> <p>1st EFSA Management Board meeting in Parma, Italy For the first time, the EFSA Management Board holds one of its meetings in the future home of the Authority.</p> <p>Open consultations begin Draft scientific documents are published on the Authority's website for public consultation. The general public is able to submit written comments for a determined period of time before the adoption of the final document.</p> <p>EFSA's Advisory Forum welcomes 10 new EU Member States EFSA's Advisory Forum meets in Hungary, the first new Member State to host one of its meetings. The number of members of the Forum increases from 15 to 25.</p> <p>100th Staff Member EFSA welcomes its 100th staff member, proving its resolve to steadily increase human resources.</p> <p>First staff members start in Parma EFSA's first employees start work in Parma, where the official seat is located. All staff are expected to move to Parma by Autumn 2005.</p> <p>1st Advisory Forum public event in Berlin "Creating a European network to enhance risk assessments regarding the food chain": EFSA Advisory Forum's first public event attracts over 350 participants.</p> <p>2nd Stakeholder Colloquium Organisation of EFSA's 2nd Stakeholder Colloquium in Berlin, building on the results of the 1st Colloquium held in Ostend the year before. Over 80 participants contribute to the further consolidation of the ongoing dialogue with civil society.</p>	<p>31 December: key figures - 2004</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 127 staff members selected for their know-how and excellence 159 scientific opinions adopted in response to 180 questions formally addressed to the Authority or as a result of self-tasking 536,837 web visitors 27 press releases 	

EFSA finances at a glance

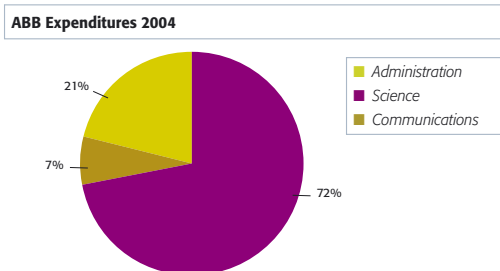
2004 can be considered as EFSA's first full operational year, although its establishment is still in progress. EFSA enjoyed a satisfactory level of activity despite not being able to fully utilise the allocated financial resources.



The total budget allocated for 2004 was € 29.1 million. Commitments and payments reached € 21.3 million and € 15.9 million respectively. Total payments reached € 19.1 million in 2004, including carryover from 2003 (ie commitments registered at the end of 2003 for which the related activities were delivered in 2004 and/or services delivered late in 2003 and paid for in 2004).



From an Activity Based Budgeting (ABB)* perspective the total expenditures for 2004 can be split as follows:



Administration includes Human Resources, Legal, Finance, Facilities, Accounting and IT departments. The expenditures of the Directorate and the International and Institutional Affairs department are proportionally spread over the 3 reported activities.

** Since 2004 the EU Institutions adopted ABB, a method of budgeting in which activities that incur costs in each function of an organisation are established and relationships are defined between activities. This information is then used to decide how much resource should be allocated to each activity.*



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