European Food Safety Authority

MANAGEMENT PLAN OF THE
EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY FOR 2006

Document outlining the work of the Authority during 2006 both in relation to its annual and multi- annual work programmes

Establishment Plan 2006

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I. General overview of the Authority during 2006 in relation to its Annual and Multi-annual Work Programme activities

1. In 2006 the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) will be in its 4th year of operation although still in its build up phase. 2006 will mark its first full year in Parma the Authority having transferred all its activities there by the end of October 2005. Therefore 2006 should offer the organisation and its staff stability and a firmer basis for further development than in previous years. The competences and capabilities established by the Authority since the start of its operations will continue to be built and consolidated. However it is still true to say that as a growing Authority in a changing legislative environment the Work Programmes of the Authority have to remain flexible so as to absorb both changing priorities during the year while taking into account any particular feed or food safety concerns that may arise in the course of the year.

2. During 2006 the significant development of both the Authority's scientific and communications functions since 2003 will continue into 2006 enabled by appropriate operational and administrative support.

3. During 2005, and in line with the Founding Regulation EFSA was subjected to an independent external evaluation of its achievements on the basis of the terms of reference issued by the Management Board. The evaluation was directed by a Steering Committee composed of a subset of Management Board members. The final report was delivered by the evaluators in December 2005 and placed on EFSA's website for a public consultation. Upon analysis of the conclusions of the evaluation report, and the comments received as a result of the consultation the Management Board will issue such recommendations as it may see fit. The evaluation report together with the recommendations of the Board will be communicated in the first half of 2006 pursuant to the provisions of Art.61 of the Regulation (EC) 178/2002.

4. EFSA will be able to take benefit from the outcome of the evaluation and the ensuing recommendations from the Management Board arising from it during 2006. It will indeed provide guidance and matters for reflection by all parts of the management structure of EFSA during 2006. It will in particular give EFSA the opportunity to work more precisely on its short, medium and long term goals and objectives.

5. Provisions in Community legislation which require scientific work to be carried out by EFSA continue to expand and these have to be managed within the overall programmes of the Authority. In 2006 the emphasis will be on consolidation and strengthening the Authority's reputation as an organisation dedicated to scientific excellence, independence, openness and transparency. The work of the Authority's Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and Scientific Expert Services, their meetings and the management of their work will continue to be the major element of the Authority's work during 2006.

6. The work load of EFSA is particularly affected by a high number of legislative proposals. Therefore in planning terms the Authority has to ensure that it considers

priority setting and recruitment in anticipation of the new legislation expected to come into force in 2006 (e.g. Health Claims and fortification of foods, novel foods other than GMOs, the new framework Regulation on food additives).

7. One of the challenges of 2006 will be to ensure that the recruitment of staff is undertaken at a rate and at appropriate levels of seniority to enable the Authority to develop and meet its growing work load. In particular scientific staff will need to be recruited to support the work of the Authority's Scientific Committee and 9 Scientific Panels, to manage projects, studies and tasks allocated to outside bodies and to provide an in-house source of scientific expertise in a range of scientific areas.

8. The Authority will continue to work in an open and transparent manner ensuring that its work is extensively published. In this respect it will publish its scientific findings immediately, share documents publicly, make the results of its risk assessments accessible and understandable to a broad audience; ensure that the activities of the Scientific Panels and Committee are well publicised; make certain that the papers of the Management Board and Advisory Forum are openly available and the meetings of the Management Board are publicly accessible both in terms of webstreaming and to those wishing to attend in person. EFSA will assess during 2006 how the transparency of its scientific and other activities can be improved further to stakeholders and the public at large.

9. During 2006 the Authority will continue through the work of the Advisory Forum to foster close collaborative relations with the national agencies and authorities in the enlarged Europe. The Forum which brings together the heads or scientific directors of the national agencies provides the Authority with advice on emerging concerns and facilitates the exchange of scientific data and information. In 2006 the Advisory Forum will focus more than before on scientific issues with in-depth discussion on national and international approaches and priorities. The EFSA information technology system linking EFSA with the Advisory Forum and national experts, Extranet, and the videoconferencing facility which also links EFSA with the members of the Forum will be fully functional in 2006. This increasing practice of exchanging information on EFSA and national activities, information and data, both at and in-between meetings will be further developed in 2006. Therefore EFSA will place emphasis on the development of further exchange mechanisms and work-sharing between EFSA and the Members States guided by the outcome of the activities of the Working Group of the Advisory Forum on the Input of National Authorities to EFSA's scientific activities. Through the Communications Working Group of the Advisory Forum the development of growing collaboration between the Communications Departments of all national agencies will continue to be fostered.

10. In addition to EFSA's close cooperation with national food safety agencies, EFSA will also enhance its collaboration with other competent national organisations designated by the Member States under Article 36 of EFSA's founding Regulation following the list's approval by the Management Board also due in 2006. It is foreseen that where appropriate and desirable a number of specific projects will be outsourced in 2006 to such competent organisations. This will further strengthen the collaboration between EFSA and organisations in the Member States enabling EFSA to network more fully with scientific institutes and organisation.

11. EFSA has already commissioned scientific work including preparatory work for opinions and studies with outside contractors. In 2006 it will consider how best this work can be undertaken. Outsourcing will play an increasingly important role in enabling EFSA to deliver its overall remit, tasks and obligations. EFSA will also engage fully with the members of the Advisory Forum to consider which work can be undertaken by national Authorities. The Scientific Committee and Panels however will remain responsible for the full content of their opinions also when (part of) the preparatory work was outsourced. EFSA will of course through its in house review procedures continue to monitor contractors engaged to undertake scientific work to ensure that the quality and legitimacy of the work appropriately meet EFSA's high standards.

12. Since its early days EFSA has fostered the development of dialogue and appropriate relations with Stakeholders as part of its overall policy on governance, openness and transparency. EFSA recognises that any dialogue is a two-way process and will continue to ensure that its activities are not just open to scrutiny but that stakeholders are given the opportunity to comment on these and provide input for consideration. Through such initiatives as the Stakeholder Consultative Platform, its annual Stakeholder Colloque and regular meetings with stakeholder organisations on specific scientific subjects EFSA will continue to listen to stakeholders' concerns, ideas and criticisms so as to enable a fruitful two-way dialogue. EFSA will also continue to develop its practice of consulting stakeholders on key scientific matters which are suitable for in-depth dialogue and will also continue its practice of holding bi-lateral meetings with stakeholder organisations to identify specific matters of concern and interest.

13. EFSA will continue to forge links with its institutional partners to ensure that it is available to inform risk managers on scientific matters and to also enter into dialogue concerning the future development and work of the Authority as proposals on these aspects are developed. In this respect ESFA will seek regular contact and exchanges with the European Commission, European Parliament and Member States. Relationships already forged with the newly established European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control will be enhanced to identify joint initiatives and matters for collaboration. EFSA will also continue to work with EMEA, EEA, ECDC and other European Agencies on issues of common interest to ensure appropriate collaboration and exchanges.

14. As EFSA's work becomes more widely known it has started to gain a world wide reputation for its scientific work and high quality standards. Already EFSA works in regular contact with international and third country food and feed safety organisations. During 2006 EFSA will seek to further consolidate the already useful exchanges and collaboration. EFSA will also continue to develop integration activities with candidate countries through its PHARE and other activities notably with Romania, Bulgaria, Croatia and Turkey.

II. Overall Management Activities

15. 2006 presents the Authority with significant management challenges. In May the mandate of the Scientific Committee and Panels will come to an end and the Scientific Committee and Panels will all be reconstituted, half of the places on the Management Board will be available for reselection and EFSA will also seek to appoint a new Executive Director. Although EFSA has already in place a strong management structure which will enable its activities to continue and grow during this period, attention will be paid to further develop the internal structure of EFSA and tools will be developed to assist in the management of staff and EFSA's activities (e.g. time management system)

16. The Management Board will continue to play its key governing role in guiding the Authority through 2006, in particular by ensuring that the necessary resources are available to fulfil and carry out the Authority's missions and tasks within the budget available to it and that the Authority develops into an efficient, effective organisation with well qualified and motivated staff. In line with the Authority's founding Regulation, the Commission launched in 2005 a call for expression of interests for 7 places on the Board from across Europe, with the ultimate selection of the successful candidates being undertaken by the Council following consultation with the European Parliament. It is expected that the partial renewal of the Board will be completed towards late summer 2006.

17. In 2006, members of the Management Board will advise and inform the executive management of the Authority on issues of concern to them. The Board will consider how members' expertise can be utilised to the full in supporting key management activities. One initiative will be to set up an Audit Committee in order to closely follow-up implementation of audit recommendations from EFSA's Internal Auditor, the European Court of Auditors (ECA) and the Commission's Internal Audit Service (IAS), as appropriate, and to assess internal audit quality and thus gain a more profound insight of the control systems of EFSA.

18. The Management Team of the Authority led by the (Acting) Executive Director will seek to develop further and implement internal management systems and procedures to ensure that the activities of the Authority are well co-ordinated, prioritised and managed with the resources available. It is anticipated that an Executive Director will be appointed during the first half of 2006.

19. In 2006 EFSA will consider its actions in relation to the report of the Article 61 Review carried out by the independent external evaluation of its achievements commissioned by the Authority in 2005. EFSA and in particular the Management Board will assess the responses from the open consultation launched in late 2005 on the Report produced by the external consultants. On the basis of the Report and public consultation the Board will produce recommendations which will be formally forwarded to the Commission, Parliament and Council .

20. The Authority will participate in any discussions with the Commission concerning changes to the Authority's mandate and remit where these are suggested in the recommendations arising from the Review report. The outcome of these discussions will enable EFSA to carry out long term planning and defining of objectives, priorities and strategies. It will be crucial during 2006 therefore to initiate discussions with the Management Board in respect of EFSA longer term development and objectives.

21. In 2006 EFSA will improve and enhance the Progress Indicators developed so far by EFSA in 2005 and make adjustments to ensure that these reflect and allow judgment of the management of key resources and efficiency of activities. During 2006 EFSA will continue to work towards putting in place not only quantitative indicators but also qualitative and where possible impact indicators. Furthermore, the Authority will ensure compliance with horizontal legal requirements applicable to it as an independent legal entity (e.g. access to documents legislation) and will in particular develop internal rules and guidance for the full implementation of Regulation (EC) 45/2001 on data protection, in close liaison with the European Data protection Supervisor and the network of EU Institutions and Agencies data protection officers.

22. Critical to achieving the Authority's goals in 2006 will be the continued recruitment drive. The objective for recruitment has been and will continue to be in 2006 to select staff on the basis of their excellence and competence. Recruitment will continue at a high level as the Authority has still to make up for the delay that occurred in the past two years and there will be an on-going focus on meeting the recruitment objectives in the EFSA Establishment Plan. Increased consideration will be given to the appointment of staff from the new Member States. In particular in 2006 EFSA will need to be able to recruit appropriate senior and experienced staff who are able to assist in management, people development and the implementation of EFSA's strategies and plans in relation to science, communications and indeed many other areas.

23. As a priority, staff will be engaged with the status of temporary agents. Other support solutions to the work of the Authority will also be utilised through the input of Detached National Experts, Auxiliary, Contract and Interim staff. Although the recruitment of EFSA is not yet completed, the Human Resources Department will focus also on stabilising the organisation through the application of a career development strategy, performance appraisal system and training management.

24. During 2006 the tenure of the existing Scientific Panels and Committee will come to an end and therefore the Authority had put in place in October a call for expression of interests to re-establish these bodies. As with the existing membership scientists will be chosen on the basis of their scientific excellence and experience in carrying out risk assessments. Current members may apply for re-election. In addition EFSA is encouraging new Member States to enhance the number of proposals for candidature from scientists from these countries. As with the previous call in 2003, the members of the Advisory Forum will be consulted for their views on the short list drawn up by the Executive Director. The Management Board will in accordance with the founding Regulation decide upon the final list of members, as proposed by the Executive Director.

25. EFSA continuously during its existence assessed and reviewed its procedures in case of a potential crisis in the food or feed area. A major revision of the in-house procedure for the operation of the Authority in a crisis will be issued in 2006. Work started on this in 2005, will be taken further in 2006 and kept under review. EFSA will run its own in-house simulated crisis exercise in 2006 and will collaborate with the European Commission and the Member States on a Joint EFSA/Commission crisis simulation exercise to identify and address and potential problems and make recommendations for improvements.

26. EFSA will continue to foster the development of good relations with the national, regional, provincial and commune authorities in Italy and Parma to ensure that the impact on the area remains positive and of mutual interest and benefit. In this respect EFSA will put in place a number of initiatives to engage these authorities and members of civil society in its activities including meetings of the EFSA Liaison Committee established in 2005 and through a series of presentations on EFSA work to those local and regional citizens with an interest in EFSA's work.

27. EFSA is committed to sound and timely budgetary planning forecasting and implementation. Close contacts and cooperation with the Budgetary Authority will be reinforced within the annual budgetary cycle. The execution of the budget during the year, the streamlining of the financial workflows initiated in 2005 together with improved reporting towards management and the operational units will provide better management and follow up. The verification and processing of the financial operations i.e. commitments, payments and recovery orders will be further strengthened. A task force will be set up to evaluate the new ABAC (accrual based accounting) system adopted by the Commission with a view to possibly adopt it in EFSA starting 2007.

28. EFSA will continue the implementation of the 24 internal control standards as adopted by the Executive Director on July 27th 2005 and endorsed by the Management Board in September 2005. These standards cover (i) the procedures put in place to ensure economic, efficient and effective achievement of the objectives, (ii) the adherence to management policies and regulations, (iii) the safeguarding of assets and information, (iv) the prevention and detection of fraud and error, (v) the quality of accounting records and (vi) the timely production of reliable financial and management information.

29. At the end of 2005, EFSA appointed an Internal Auditor to contribute to the further development of an effective and efficient management of all activities of the Authority. Her main function will be to give assurance to the Management Board and the Executive Director as to the adequacy and effectiveness of EFSA internal control systems notably through the follow-up of the implementation of the 24 control standards. In early 2006, a forward audit plan (2006-2008) including the annual internal audit plan for 2006 (based on the Agency's activities risk assessment), agreed by the Executive Director, will be submitted to the Board for endorsement In early January, the Board will also be requested to establish EFSA's Audit Committee whose main task will be to follow-up the implementation of major audits recommendations. The Internal Auditor will provide the Executive Director and the Management Board with specific audit reports as specified in the audit plan and will contribute to the Annual Activity Report of the Agency based on

the audit work performed. The internal auditor will co-operate with EFSA Audit Committee and liaise with the Internal Audit Service (IAS) of the EU Commission.

30. Following approval by the Budgetary Authority of the recommendation of the Management Board pertaining to the permanent seat of EFSA in Viale Piacenza, Parma, 2006 will mainly be devoted to (i) the launch of the calls for tender to select the architect and the contractors and (ii) the administrative procedures required for the change of destination of the grounds where the permanent seat will be located. These procedures managed by the Comune of Parma will be carried out in close contact with EFSA. The monumental part of the Palazzo Ducale, the representation seat of EFSA, and adjacent offices will be equipped to accommodate more frequent meetings. At the same time additional surfaces in the DUS building, the provisional seat of EFSA already secured in 2005 will be adapted and equipped during the first quarter of 2006.

31. The core mission of the Legal Department remains to ensure that all activities of EFSA comply with Community law and applicable national legislation. Highlights for 2006 embrace:
    a. Foster coherence in regulatory procedures in the science area, streamlining such procedures through continuous support in interpreting and facilitating smooth and secure implementation of the legislation determining EFSA's missions and tasks. This task will extend to new legislation expected to enter into force in 2006.
    b. Implementing various horizontal legal frameworks, e.g. on data protection, intellectual property rights, access to documents, transparency/confidentiality and personal data.
    c. Continuous support to EFSA comments to the development of scientific and regulatory implementing tools by the Commission.
    d. Further streamlining of public procurement procedures and contractual and financial arrangements for networks of competent organisations.
    e. Legal issues pertaining to EFSA installation in Parma, in particular on legal and contractual aspects relating to the definitive accommodation.
    f. The Department will also closely examine potential changes arising from the Review report and Management Board recommendations under Article 61 of Regulation 178/2002 in view of possible future legislative changes to the Regulation and other legislation impacting on EFSA.

32. Throughout the spectrum of its activities, the Legal Department will maintain and enhance common understanding of the legal framework with the European Commission and other key partners

33. The objectives in 2006 will be to consolidate and rationalize the Authority's IT infrastructure to further enhance the Authority's capabilities to work efficiently within the organisation; to develop and improve the website functionality; and to ensure extensive links with the national food authorities across Europe. Details on its main initiatives are:
    a. Secure electronic systems for submission and processing of scientific data

b. EFSA's "Extranet" developments linking the national authorities with EFSA
c. Video conference facilities between EFSA, the national authorities and the Commission.
d. Continuing development of the EFSA website functionality.
e. Facilitate the drafting of a corporate Business Continuity Plan and start its implementation
f. Reengineer key internal work processes
g. Further automate the management of content within EFSA, including refinement of internal systems for document and correspondence handling

III. Scientific Activities

INTRODUCTION

34. To a considerable extent the programme of scientific activities for 2006 will be a consolidation of the thematic work plan started in 2005. More clearly than was the case for 2005, the scientific activities for 2006 are the closest possible estimate of what is considered achievable in the year. Issues of a general nature will include:

    - Publishing selected opinions as scientific articles in peer reviewed journals;
    - Developing, updating and maintenance of data bases on European food consumption patterns, exposure data of defined population subgroups (eg infants and elderly people) and on chemical formation and occurrence data.
    - Expanding the Register of Questions to include data used for all opinions other than those related to authorisations;
    - Expanding progress indicators of scientific work by adding information by Panel/SC/Expert Group and by scientific work theme;
    - Re-establishing the Scientific Committee and Panels following a call for experts published in November 2005.

35. The Scientific Panels and Scientific Committee all have established extensive work programmes to address the questions posed to them. It is expected that the work projects will be derived from regulatory requirements for assessments, requests from the European Commission, European Parliament, Member States and from 'self-tasks' by the Executive Director on matters of concern brought to his attention as warranting serious consideration. Such self tasking activities although limited in number will continue to be an important element of EFSA's work in 2006 particularly in areas where new public health matters are brought to EFSA's attention, where harmonising work is required and where important horizontal matters need to be addressed. EFSA is also likely to receive an increasing number of questions from Member States and from the European Parliament.

36. EFSA scientific work will continue to be focused around four major themes as follows:
    - **GENERAL QUESTIONS**: These include providing scientific opinions, guidelines/guidance and advice in response to questions from the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Member States or by the Authority itself.
    - **AUTHORISATIONS**: Assessing the risk of specific groups of regulated substances and developing proposals for risk-related factors, following legally defined notification procedures and time schedules.
    - **MONITORING AND ASSESSING SPECIFIC ANIMAL HEALTH RISK FACTORS AND DISEASES**: Providing scientific opinions on tests and other tools to assess and control these risk factors and diseases (e.g., validation of BSE/TSE diagnostic tests), the monitoring of zoonoses and other food-borne zoonotic agents, and the scientific review of new tools for the eradication of specific animal diseases;

- **INVESTING IN FOOD SCIENCE**: Development, promotion and application of new and harmonised scientific approaches and methodologies for hazard and risk assessment of food and feed.

37. During 2006 these themes will continue to provide the driving force for the Authority's scientific work taking into account: i) the growing experience in EFSA dealing with the work of the Scientific Committee and Panels since their establishment in 2003, ii) the development of new or revised legislation that may enter into force in 2006, and iii) the need to invest in scientific developments in the area of food safety assessment. A close link between EFSA and DG Research services will be maintained to ensure that the needs of EFSA will be taken into account in the future calls for research. A text of the Scientific Committee on priorities in food research highlights some of the research issues which should be important for the work of EFSA in the future (EFSA/SC/132 Rev.3).

38. All requests for opinions will be assessed in terms of their priority and also in terms of ensuring that the best and most appropriate means are applied to address the request. This would normally involve any of the Panels, Expert Groups or Scientific Committee but could also be EFSA's scientific staff, especially in cases where scientific advice is requested which does not warrant full consideration of the Scientific Committee or Panels. The Chair of the relevant Scientific Committee/Panel will be involved in the decision whether the advice should be produced by EFSA's scientific staff.

39. The work involved in the risk assessment of regulated substances (second theme), and the monitoring of specific animal health risk factors, zoonoses and animal diseases (third theme) will most likely further expand in 2006 and exceed those already recognised in 2005.

40. In the following four sections, a summary is given of the work programme for 2006 within each of the four main themes. This will include activities already started in 2005 and expected to continue in 2006, as well as the activities expected to be taken on board in 2006. An overview of the (mainly self-tasking) activities of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and Scientific Expert Services has been presented under the theme "Investing in Food Science".

SCIENTIFIC WORK THEME I: GENERAL QUESTIONS

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

41. In the light of coming Regulations on the recycling of plastics and on substances for use in active and intelligent food contact materials, preparation for guidelines have been started already in 2005 and are expected to be adopted at the same time as the Regulations will come into force. After that, the submission is expected of dossiers for evaluation of recycling processes and of active and intelligent systems (components) (see: Authorisations).

42. In the light of the recent proposal for a Regulation on food enzymes it is expected that the Panel will be requested to issue guidelines on submission of dossiers for risk assessment. The preliminary work creating such guidelines was initiated in 2005 and will continue. It is expected that a draft will be sent into public hearing during 2006 and that the guidelines will be adopted not later than the date of the Regulation coming into force. It is not expected that any enzyme preparation for evaluation will actually be received in 2006.

AHAW (Panel on animal health and animal welfare)

43. The Panel will continue addressing questions according to their mandate on animal health and welfare, which come mainly from the European Commission. The activities are devoted about 50% each on welfare and on health. It is relevant that the Panel, with the agreement of the Executive Director, has promoted an integrated approach to most of the mandates which could have implications directly or indirectly on food safety. This approach has been addressed independently in questions which focus on health or welfare, and efforts have been made to find synergies with the BIOHAZ Panel (e.g. Rift Valley Fever, pig welfare). In 2006 work will continue on the welfare aspects of Stunning, Calves and Captive birds. The lack of standardised methodology in carrying out risk assessment related to animal welfare has been shown to be an issue and was the subject of the 4th Science colloquium in December 2005.

44. In spite of the fact that a scientific opinion on Avian Influenza was adopted on 20 September 2005, activities on that subject will continue in 2006 in two phases, initially on the specific risks posed by migratory birds, with a subsequent update on the latest scientific developments. In addition, an evaluation of different diagnostic methods of Brucellosis in bovines, sheep and goats has started and is expected to be finalized in 2006.

45. The development of two guidelines has been identified as a priority for 2006, firstly the establishment of a methodology to carry out risk assessment in animal welfare and secondly establishing requirements for the conduct of field surveys concerning pathogenic organisms. Those guidelines would ensure the careful allocation of resources in carrying out risk assessment tasks. In addition, it would require the securing of access to outside risk assessment groups if needed (framework contract) and development of the capacity to carry out some of this modelling in-house. The next step would be to develop EFSA's capability to support working groups dealing with risk assessment of transmissible diseases and animal welfare, to carry out qualitative or quantitative risk assessments,

BIOHAZ (Panel on biological hazards)

46. The Panel will continue addressing the general issues related to its mandate. These include ongoing mandates in terms of TSE i.e. Quantitative Risk Assessments of residual risks in Bovine derived products such as gelatine and di-Calcium Phosphate (DCP). New mandates are likely to emerge from the TSE roadmap classified under: (i) specified risk materials (SRM), (ii) feed-ban, (iii) surveillance, culling and breeding (Opinion on the breeding programme for TSE resistance in small ruminants, QRA on sheep and sheep meat products) and (iv)

categorisation of countries. Questions are also expected on food borne zoonoses, food microbiology, meat inspection, public health and waste management.

47. EFSA is expecting a number of applications for new alternative methods of disposal of use of animal by-products under Regulation (EC) no 1774/2002 for evaluation and some have already been received. However adoption of new guidelines from the Commission (with input from EFSA) is awaited.

48. In the context of Article 3(2) of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the BIOHAZ Panel has received in 2005 several requests for the assessment of the efficacy of antimicrobial substances for the decontamination of poultry. Due to a range of factors to be considered during the assessment of the efficacy, the Panel has agreed to self-task the preparation of guidelines for assessing the efficacy of such substances. (see: document AF 06.04.2004 – 8 Investing in Food Science).

CONTAM (Panel on contaminants in the food chain)

49. For 2006 it is foreseen that most requests from the European Commission posed to the CONTAM Panel will require an in-depth evaluation of all available information on exposure and potential health effects for animals and/or humans. The Panel will complete the assessments requested earlier. In particular, it has been asked to evaluate the risks for animal and public health of the consequence of cross-contamination of non target feeding stuffs by coccidiostats authorised for use as feed additive. Eleven different coccidiostats have to be considered and although expertise and involvement of experts from the FEEDAP Panel will facilitate the work this request will be a major task for the CONTAM Panel.

50. The CONTAM Panel will finalise the assessment of Ochratoxin A for human health, taking into account the latest toxicological aspects as well as recent analytical results on the occurrence of Ochratoxin A in food.

51. Recently, the European Commission asked EFSA related to Art. 31 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002, to provide advice on the determination of chemical compounds -within the group of brominated flame retardants which are present in feed and food- to be included into a European monitoring programme. EFSA is also expected to perform a risk benefit analysis from a public health point of view on the presence of nitrate in foodstuffs in general and vegetables in particular.

52. As already initiated in 2005, the Panel will continue to provide opinions related to the Directive 2002/32/EC on undesirable substances and products in animal nutrition such as botanical impurities, persistent organic pollutants, mercury as well as nitrites to assess the impact on animal and human health.

53. The 2006 work programme will also include a review of all scientific data on potential risk to human health from hormone residues in bovine meat and meat products following a call for scientific data and literature available in the public domain. This report will indicate whether an amendment of the previous scientific

opinions and Annex III of the Directive 96/22/EC as amended by Directive 2003/74/EC is needed.

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54. Further efforts will be made to obtain further occurrence data on furan in foodstuffs in order to carry out a risk assessment for human health. It will continue to update the acrylamide information base which provides information on acrylamide research projects within Europe.

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

55. In the context of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003, the Commission (DG SANCO) asked EFSA to provide comments to a consultation document regarding the implementing rules including the preparation and presentation of application for authorisations (guidelines). The main outcome of this consultation was forwarded to the Commission in November 2005 but further work remains for 2006 in the field of development of specific guidelines for several categories or groups of additives, and possible further development of guidelines and guidance.

56. It is expected that a number of general requests will be posed to the FEEDAP Panel requiring evaluation of all available information on safety and potential health effects for animals and/or humans from use of particular substances in animal feed.

GMO (Panel on genetically modified organisms)

57. The GMO Panel will envisage providing scientific support to the European Commission on activities agreed within the Codex Task Force on Biotechnology: (1) guidance on GM animals used as food such as GM fish and (2) guidance for the risk assessment of nutritionally enhanced GM crops.

58. EFSA will respond to a broad ranging question from the Commission relating to safeguard clauses launched by Member States to temporarily prohibit the placing on the market of authorised GMOs, which were evaluated by the former scientific Committees.

NDA (Panel on dietetic products, nutrition and allergies)

59. The NDA Panel has been requested by the European Commission to advise on recommended nutrient intakes as a basis of Community action in the field of nutrition. In particular, EFSA has been asked to review the existing advice of the Scientific Committee on Food on Population Reference Intakes (PRI) for energy, macronutrients and dietary fibre, as well as to advice on PRI for micronutrients. In addition, EFSA is asked to provide guidance on the translation of nutrient-based

recommendations into food-based dietary guidelines for the European population as a whole. This task is a resource and time intensive project. The first part of the task (i.e. PRI for macronutrients) was already initiated in 2005 and it is expected that the bulk of it will be performed in 2006 and part of 2007. The remaining part of the task (i.e. PRI for micronutrients) will be continued for several years.

60. A second major new work item for 2006 will be addressing the scientific questions related to the Proposal for a Regulation on nutrition and health claims made on foods [COM(2003) 424 Final], as adopted by the Commission in July 2003 and expected to be adopted by the European Parliament and the Council, modified as appropriate, in the course of 2006.

61. This Regulation is expected to include a number of substantial tasks for EFSA. Bearing in mind possible modifications, the following questions are likely to be requested to EFSA:

- Providing guidance/advice with respect to nutrient profiles for foods bearing claims (currently Article 4);
- Providing guidance/advice on permitted claims (currently Article 12);
- Developing guidelines for the implementation of the Article (currently Article 14) on preparation and presentation of information necessary to support health claims;
- Evaluations of individual dossiers for pre-market authorisation of health claims (currently Article 15);

62. EFSA will take steps to ensure that it is prepared for these tasks when the regulation comes into force while maintaining dialogue with the legislative institutions on the feasibility of any new tasks.

PPR Panel (Panel on plant protection products and their residues)

63. The activities of the PPR Panel in 2006 will be mostly linked to the procedure of the placing of active substances (pesticides) on the market under Council Directive 91/414/EEC and its related Regulations (EC) No 451/2000 and 1490/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council, concerning the second and third list of active substances; but also in a smaller amount linked to the new residues regulation (EC) 396/2005. Unresolved scientific issues remaining after the peer review by the PRAPeR team and the 25 Member States of the risk assessment of individual active substances of the second and third list, in the areas of toxicology, ecotoxicology, fate and behaviour in environment and residues are routinely forwarded to the PPR Panel for its opinion.

64. Guidance/advice will be requested from the PPR Panel in the framework of existing and new regulation on residues of pesticides, for example in relation to the preparation of the EU position in the Codex Alimentarius. EFSA is charged with the task of assessing proposals for the European temporary maximum residue level (MRL) in food and feed of plant and animal origin and questions likely to be asked to the Panel will be linked to the potential risk to consumer health with respect to the setting of these temporary MRLs. In addition, it is expected that there will be requests for scientific advice on how to carry out exposure assessment and on the dietary risks associated with the proposed MLRs.

65. The Commission is currently revising the data requirements for authorization of active substances and plant protection products in the framework of Directive 91/414/EEC. After consultation with Member States and industry, the revised text of the three sections Physical and Chemical Properties; Analytical Methods and Residues has been submitted to EFSA. The text of the sections Toxicology, Fate and Behaviour in the environment and Ecotoxicology will follow in 2006. Evaluations should be done in close collaboration with the experts of EFSA's PRAPeR team.

66. The Commission is likely to continue asking for opinions on the draft European guidance documents (GD), produced by Member States experts in EU Working Groups under the Commission co-ordination and funding, as several GDs are close to finalization. The Commission has indicated that it will discontinue to manage the co-ordination of the GD early in 2006 and requested EFSA to take over the responsibility of regularly updating the existing GDs (most of them were produced since 2000) as well as initiating/developing new guidance in scientific areas not yet covered.

PLH (Panel on plant health)

67. Simultaneously with the renewal of the current Scientific Panels and Scientific Committee, it is proposed that a new Scientific Panel on Plant Health should be established which will be charged with the plant health related tasks currently covered by the Scientific Panel on Plant Health, Plant Protection Products and their residues. Once established the Panel on Plant Health will address a new challenge in relation to plant health and pest risk assessment. It will deal with questions on organisms harmful to plants or plant products posing a threat to the Community crop production and/or biodiversity as defined in Directive 2000/29/EC and laid down in the EFSA Management Plan for 2005. It will also carry out peer-review of pest risk assessment at the European level.

SCIENTIFIC WORK THEME II: AUTHORISATIONS: ASSESSING THE RISK OF SPECIFIC GROUPS OF REGULATED SUBSTANCES AND DEVELOPING PROPOSALS FOR RISK-RELATED FACTORS, FOLLOWING LEGALLY DEFINED NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES AND TIME SCHEDULES.

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

68. Re-evaluation of all food additives: The Commission initiated this work in late 2005 starting with food colourings and by the request for an opinion on the use of nisin as a food preservative. The bulk of the re-evaluation of food colourings will be performed in 2006 and it is expected that work will start for the group of food additives other than colours and sweeteners, where the evaluation of natamycin (pimaricin) has highest priority. In addition, following reports of a new laboratory animal study on the sweetener aspartame, the Panel will give high priority to

assessing the findings as included in the reports that were provided to EFSA on the 19th of December 2005.

69. Substances for use in food supplements: Starting in the summer of 2005 EFSA has received through the Commission approximately 400 dossiers on substances for use in food supplements according to Regulation 2002/46/EC for evaluation. Although the actual number of evaluations is likely to be reduced by grouping dossiers, the total number of requested evaluations will vastly exceed the number foreseen by the Commission in its comments to the 2005 Plan. The general deadline for these substances has been set for one year (i.e. around summer 2006), but it is likely that for most of them an extension of at least half a year or more will be inevitable.

70. Smoke flavourings: By June 2005 EFSA received 16 dossiers on smoke flavouring primary products according to Regulation 2065/2003. The initial evaluation of the validity of the dossiers was performed already in 2005 and the main evaluation will take place in 2006, although for several of the dossiers further data has been requested and the final evaluation must await the arrival of those data.

71. Food contact materials: The Panel will continue evaluating the list of substances intended for food contact materials. Dossiers are now received through Member States according to the new Regulation. The review of dossiers and preparation of working papers for the Panel has been outsourced.

72. Chemically defined flavouring substances. After an initial delay in the evaluations the Panel has now evaluated 12 flavouring groups comprising almost 300 substances. For meeting the new timeframe of July 2007 the Panel should adopt in average one and a half flavouring group opinion per meeting.

BIOHAZ (Panel on biological hazards)

73. Evaluation of antimicrobial substances: Work is foreseen with respect to the evaluation of antimicrobial substances on the light of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004.

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

74. Assessment of feed additives: A major part of the activities of the FEEDAP Panel in 2006 will be linked to the procedure of the placing on the market of feed additives as given in the Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council. According to this Regulation each application is forwarded to EFSA and requires an opinion within six months. New applications, and thus evaluations by EFSA, are required for all substances listed in the Register of feed additives (about 2500, including new groups such as silage agents and amino acids) within less than five years, and part of this workload is foreseen for 2006. During 2006 several questions from the European Commission to evaluate various feed additives, particularly enzymes, micro-organisms, some colorants, coccidiostats, amino acids and trace elements are to be completed. Work also

includes the tasks on safety evaluation of all authorised carotenoids used in animal nutrition and the re-evaluation of the use of iodine in feeding stuffs for dairy cows.

GMO (Panel on genetically modified organisms)

75. EFSA is requested to evaluate applications for the placing on the market of GMOs according to Directive 2001/18/EC[1] on deliberate release into the environment of GMOs and to Regulation (EC) No.1829/2003[2] on genetically modified (GM) food and feed. Under Directive 2001/18/EC, EFSA is consulted by the Commission in cases of diverging scientific opinions between Member States, or in case a Member State applied the safeguard clause of that Directive.

76. Regulation No.1829/2003 on GM food and feed requires EFSA to carry out scientific peer review and risk assessment of all new GMO market applications and to take charge of the administrative management of the GM food and feed applications. Several applications submitted under Regulation No.1829/2003 during the second half of 2005 concern the *cultivation* of GMOs. In such a case EFSA has to delegate the *environmental risk assessment* to a Competent Authority of a Member State and work in close collaboration with that Member State before issuing a final opinion of the GMO Panel. With the increasing number of GMO submissions, EFSA will explore the outsourcing of (parts of) the GMO risk assessment in accordance with Art. 36 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002. As the first GMO authorisations (limited to 10 years) within the EU will expire in the near future, the GMO Panel will provide guidance for the preparation and presentation of 'renewal' applications for existing products.

77. The GMO Panel also contributes to the scientific assessment of products such as additives and enzymes (which are within the remit of other EFSA Panels, e.g. FEEDAP) where such products have been produced by a GM microorganism.

NDA (Panel on dietetic products, nutrition and allergies)

78. Permanent labelling exemptions: Within the framework of the labelling Directive 2000/13/EC, as amended by Directive 2003/89/EC, EFSA has been requested to assess data submitted by manufacturers, pursuant to Article 6, paragraph 11, applying for permanent labelling exemptions for derived ingredients listed in Annex IIIa (list of food allergens). In view of the number of dossiers expected to be submitted and the legal deadline for the European Commission to adopt the permanent exemptions list by 25 November 2007, EFSA has indicated a deadline for submission of dossiers to the Commission of June 2006 at the latest. Therefore, if dossiers are submitted within this deadline, the NDA Panel will start evaluating them in the second half of 2006.

[1] Directive 2001/18/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 March 2001 on the deliberate release into the environment of genetically modified organisms and repealing Council Directive 90/220/EEC

[2] Regulation (EC) 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 September 2003 on genetically modified food and feed. .

79. Assessment of novel foods and dietary products: The NDA Panel will continue performing the risk assessment of novel foods pursuant to the Novel Foods Regulation (EC) Nº 258/97. The Panel will also continue carrying on, at the request of the European Commission, the evaluation of infant formula products with regard to their nutritional safety and suitability for the particular nutritional requirements of infants and young children.

PRAPeR (Pesticides Risk Assessment Peer Review Expert Group)

80. Peer review of the risk assessment of individual active substances: Because of the Commission's deadline, extended by Regulation (EC) 1335/2005 to September 2007 for the second list of active substances and to December 2008 for the third list of active substances, EFSA was given one year to deliver its "Conclusions" on the 52 active substances of the second list constraining the PPR panel for a delivery of its opinions within a short timeframe.

81. For 2006, the peer review of the active substances used in plant protection products will be continued by finalising the EFSA conclusions of the remaining 22 active substances of the second stage of the review program. In parallel, the peer review of the 64 active substances of the third stage, part A, will continue in organising the consultation of the Member States, the respective notifier and the public on the initial evaluation reports (draft assessment reports) provided by a designated Member State. In the course of this work, it is expected to organise about 4 rounds of 5 expert meetings each to discuss outstanding issues in the 5 areas of physical/chemical properties (including analytical methods), mammalian toxicology, residues, fate and behaviour in the environment as well as ecotoxicology. Following these consultations, the EFSA conclusions are to be prepared for each substance and to be submitted to the EU-Commission following discussion with Member States. For new active substances, i.e. substances not included in the review program, it is expected to finalise or launch the peer review of initial Member State's assessments of approximately 12 substances following the same procedure as for existing substances.

82. Proposals for MRLs: With respect to the tasks regarding setting maximum residue levels (MRLs) of pesticides in compliance with Regulation (EC) No. 396/2005 EFSA will take up the evaluation and assessment of the proposed provisional MRLs provided by the EU Commission. Following the adoption of several annexes to the Regulation in 2006, EFSA will start to evaluate the MRL proposals to be forwarded by Member States in the framework of the setting of a harmonised EU-MRL.

SCIENTIFIC WORK THEME III: MONITORING AND ASSESSING SPECIFIC ANIMAL HEALTH RISK FACTORS AND ANIMAL DISEASES

83. Monitoring of zoonoses, antimicrobial resistance and food-borne outbreaks: The annual data collection and reporting on zoonoses, antimicrobial resistance and food-borne outbreaks will be conducted in a close collaboration with the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) as the information on zoonoses cases in humans will be acquired from their surveillance networks. In 2006

information on food-borne outbreaks will be collected for the first time from the Member States on a mandatory basis, and EFSA will present for this purpose an improved multidisciplinary reporting system prepared in collaboration with all the sectors involved. Harmonisation of the monitoring and reporting schemes for zoonotic agents in animals and foodstuffs will continue, focusing on Salmonella and Campylobacter in broiler meat and antimicrobial resistance. To assist the Commission in implementing the Community policy for control of Salmonella and in setting down Salmonella reduction targets EFSA will analyse and report the Community wide baseline studies carried out in laying hens and broilers.

84. Geographical BSE Risk Assessment and evaluation of diagnostic BSE/TSE tests: As part of the call for expression of interest on TSE tests (EC, April 2003), EFSA is currently finalising the evaluation of live animal tests after which the mandate is fulfilled. Also the EC mandate on GBR assessments is finalised, however it is unclear if the EC will ask EFSA to assist the OIE in future classification of countries as is mentioned in the EC TSE road map.

85. Methodology for the containment and eradication of animal diseases: In the area of animal health, the focus of the AHAW Panel will remain on exotic diseases that have been identified as having highest priority. Substantial resources were devoted to Foot and Mouth Disease and Avian Influenza in 2005. Whereas they remain important, others such as Blue tongue, Newcastle disease, African swine fever, and African horse fever which have not been addressed thus far will now gradually be included in the work plan. Priority will be set following consultation with the Commission (DG SANCO).

86. In animal disease modelling the focus during the last year has been on securing access to and use of relevant data at Community level. These include databases such as TRACES and Eurostat and projects such as the one with OLAF on illegal imports. These established activities will be consolidated in 2006 in order for these data to become routinely and efficiently available, as the needs arise.

SCIENTIFIC WORK THEME IV: INVESTING IN FOOD SCIENCE

87. The Scientific Committee considers the following list of (mainly self-tasking) subjects as important for the near future. This list discriminates between the tasks which have already been started and the ones that are suggested for 2006.

Activities already started:

- The use of the benchmark dose approach in risk assessment.
- Contribution to building-up EFSA's capability to identify and evaluate emerging risks.
- Preparation of a guidance document on uncertainties in exposure assessment.
- Preparation of a guidance document on transparency in risk assessment.
- Preparation of a guidance document for the safety assessment of botanicals and botanical preparations, establishment of lists of main categories of botanicals and botanical preparations and prioritisation of products to be considered for a safety assessment.

- Discussion paper on post market surveillance.
- Implementation of a pro-active policy on the welfare of experimental animals in the context of EFSA's mission and tasks as stated in Regulation 178/2002.
- Implementation of the concept of qualified presumption of safety in the safety assessment of specific microorganisms.
- Assessment of herbs, essential oils and other plant products as "additives" for use in animal nutrition.

Activities suggested to be taken on board in 2006:

- Strategies for identifying and collecting data and information needed by the different Scientific Panels and Scientific Committee.
- Introduction of probabilistic (exposure and effect) modelling in risk assessment.
- The use of the Toxicological Threshold of Concern.
- Establishment of a framework for risk benefit assessments.

88. The BIOHAZ Panel has agreed to self-task the preparation of guidelines for assessing the efficacy of antimicrobial substances for the decontamination of poultry. Other self-tasks which will continue in 2006 include: (i) Microbiological criteria and other objectives for food safety concepts. Until now these concepts (FSO, PO, PC) and microbiological criteria (guidelines, standards and process and product criteria) have not been used consistently in legislation, the scientific literature, and scientific (EFSA/BIOHAZ) opinions and reports, creating confusion among risk assessors and managers. The Panel will further develop in 2006 the clarification of the links between the above concepts in relation to biological hazards opinions; (ii) Antimicrobial resistance; (iii) Update of the GBR methodology - A document for public consultation to be published on the web by spring 2006; and (iv) Progress on Avian Influenza and Food Safety.

89. Another self-task suggested to be conducted by the BIOHAZ Panel in 2006 includes investing in identifying approaches for quantitative microbiological risk assessment at European level with a pilot case to be defined.

90. The CONTAM Panel will publish its work on a self-task on perfluorooctane sulphonates. This opinion will be of great interest as recent data shows increasing levels of these compounds in the environment and in the food chain.

91. The FEEDAP Panel will continue to work on one of its self tasks on assessment of plants/herbs and their extracts for use in animal nutrition. For another self-task on environmental risk assessment for feed additives EFSA aims to publish its working document during 2006 for public consultation.

92. The GMO Panel will proceed with self-task activities which aim at further updating and complementing the guidance on GMO risk assessment: (1) guidance on post-market environmental monitoring of GMOs; (2) limitations and strengths of animal feeding trials for the safety evaluation of whole GM food/feed; (3) assessment of new approaches to improve the allergenicity assessment of GM food; (4) guidance on GM microorganisms; (5) guidance on GM plants used as production platforms for non-food products (molecular pharming).

93. The PPR Panel has requested a self-task to bring together into two guidance documents on toxicology and environmental assessment, respectively, a number of their opinions adopted during the last 3 years. The aim would be to provide a comprehensive overview of guidance useful for risk assessors and competent authorities.

94. The Scientific Expert Services Division (SES) will continue to be built up in 2006. This group of experts from various fields are key to EFSA work and will expand and consolidate further the in-house support to the work of the Scientific Committee, Panels and other Expert Groups. Their main priorities will be the preparatory work of the highest standard to facilitate the work of all EFSA Expert Groups ensuring that the available time of members of these bodies can be used in the most efficient way by focusing on the fundamental issues and the resulting development of scientific opinions.

95. In 2005 a monitoring database for polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in food was set up and the systematic data collection the field of contaminants in food and feed will be continued and further developed in 2006 and beyond. In addition EFSA will start to establish a data warehouse to improve the accessibility to existing occurrence data. For food consumption data, EFSA is currently developing a concise European food consumption database mainly for screening purposes and will start in 2006 the process for developing a more comprehensive and harmonised food consumption database at European level.

96. EFSA experts will participate in scientific cooperation networks whose aim is the coordination of activities, the exchange of information, the development and implementation of joint projects, and the exchange of expertise and best practices in the fields within the Authority's mission. EFSA will also continue its close co-operation with the ECDC in 2006 and seek opportunities for collaborative activities and joint initiatives. This will be particularly relevant for the zoonoses.

97. The further enhancement of the Authority’s ability to be proactive with regard to the identification of emerging risks and other emerging possible food safety matters will be pursued. The overall competence of EFSA in this respect will require its continued effort to exchange information on food safety matters with the national agencies and authorities and the Commission via the Advisory Forum and the EFSA Extranet. The decision to launch such an action with the means to conduct it will be considered.

98. In 2006, the Authority will again organize 3-4 Science Colloquia, addressing fundamental science issues in the area of food safety. Possible topics include methodologies for food based dietary guidelines, transparency in risk assessment, exploring the scientific basis for nutrient profiles of food and proactive animal welfare policy In addition, some Panels will arrange for public consultation meetings and hearings on a variety of subjects.

99. Considering the overall workload, the need to maintain an appropriate balance between the 4 themes above, and taking into consideration the logic for priority setting established in the Authority’s Management Plan for 2004 and 2005, the criteria for priority setting remain as defined in the 2005 Work Programme:

- The anticipated public health impact,
- Legal obligations and deadlines,
- Level of urgency as indicated by the originator of the question.

Also to be taken into consideration but in no particular order:

- Possible connections between the project and other activities already being addressed,
- The level of public interest taking into account the feedback and input from stakeholders the media,
- Economic importance of the subject/issue,

IV Advisory Forum

100. Since early 2003 the Advisory Forum has developed significantly in its abilities to provide co-ordination and exchanges on food and feed safety matters between EFSA and the national food and feed agencies. The Advisory Forum will have four regular meetings in 2006, Prague (March), in Vienna (May) and Bern (September) and the last meeting of 2006 will take place in Helsinki at the end of November. During 2006 the Forum itself will continue to look at matters of topical interest at its meetings and to provide a strong network for exchanges on issues within the remit of EFSA. The success of the Forum thus far will be built on by placing a greater emphasis in 2006 on exchanges on predetermined scientific matters enabling more in-depth exchanges between the members of the Forum and EFSA. EFSA with the Forum will assess how such pre-notified themed meetings add to the scientific exchanges and tailor the format of meetings appropriately to ensure the optimum results.

101. Not only has EFSA found exchanges during meetings to be particularly beneficial it has also found that the regular exchanges between meetings have yielded useful data and information on topical matters particularly when these have been requested in relation to an emerging issue. Such exchanges via the Advisory Forum members will continue to be particularly beneficial in co-ordinating at European level, information that exists at national level on specific topical issues. Such specific exchanges – via questionnaires, requests for specific data, or calls for other information will be used in 2006 particularly where EFSA's Scientific Panels or Committee have identified a need for background data and information. The assimilated data will then be made available to all those participating.

102. EFSA, with the Advisory Forum, and in partnership with the European Commission, will hold a joint crisis exercise in 2006. It was clear from the Forum's crisis scenario exercise held in Rome in September 2004 that in times of crisis the network of national authorities that form the Advisory Forum, along with EFSA will be pivotal in exchanging information, co-ordinating communications and, with risk managers finding the correct solutions. EFSA will also invite ECDC to participate in its crisis scenario activities.

103. The Extranet and videoconferencing system developed by EFSA in conjunction with the IT Working Group will be further advanced and become fully functional in 2006. Although the technical aspects of the EFSA Extranet were developed during 2005, with some limited content EFSA and the Advisory Forum will expand and refine further the content aspects of the system so that it can reach its full potential with regard to networking and information exchanges between national authorities and EFSA on scientific and communications matters. This infrastructure will be useful not only in periods of normal activity but will be particularly important during emerging issues.

104. Greater emphasis will also be placed in 2006 on collaborative initiatives between EFSA and the national authorities to utilise to the full the expertise at national level particularly in science and communications and to mutually exchange information and data in a structured fashion. In order to achieve this goal the AF Working

Group on Input from National Authorities into the work of EFSA's Scientific Committee, Panels and other Expert Groups (WG INA) was established by the Forum at its meeting in February 2005. The WG INA is expected to submit its proposal for formalised cooperation to the Advisory Forum in early spring 2006. Following adoption of the proposal, EFSA, with the Advisory Forum, will identify the most suitable projects to start implementing agreed collaboration. In addition EFSA will hold a public meeting with the Advisory Forum to gain further insight into this matter.

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105. The various Working Groups of the Advisory Forum have served to provide a practical basis for the exchange of information through an IT infrastructure and platform and are now well established in disseminating scientific and communications information. In particular the IT working Group has been instrumental in putting in place the necessary tools, systems and hardware for enhanced networking with the videoconferencing and EXTRANET systems.

106. The Communications Working Group which provides a forum for exchange of communications and a basis for co-ordination of communications activities between the national authorities and EFSA will also continue its activities in 2006. The objective will remain that of fostering a collaborative and co-ordinated risk communications approach between EFSA and its key partners. The group also strives to develop best practices in risk communications and share learnings for the evaluation of communications initiatives and campaigns. Risk communications training, initiated in 2005, will be pursued in 2006. Building on work commenced in 2005, the group will further identify crisis communications requirements and define more effective strategies for collaboration in times of emerging communications issues and/or crises. The group will also pursue its work in piloting the development of the extranet and other communications tools, for instance use of video web conferencing. .

V Communication Activities

107. The Authority will continue to develop and refine its risk communication strategy and progress its communications outreach, reaching a broader audience with clear and targeted messages, adapted to the needs of key target groups. In doing so, EFSA will take into account recommendations arising from the EFSA review relative to the Authority's role and performance in risk communications as well as learning from a variety of sources including: insights gained from the Eurobarometer on risk perception; media monitoring and analysis; advice of risk communications experts; input provided by Advisory Forum members; and more generally, dialogue and feedback from all of the Authority's customers and stakeholders. EFSA will ensure that the Authority's goals, priorities and outputs are clearly communicated and in line with expectations and will further develop tools required to monitor the effectiveness of its communications programmes.

108. EFSA will pursue its evaluation of consumer risk perception in order to further inform the development of its communications strategy, and notably the development of messages that are appropriately crafted, timely and targeted. Commissioned by EFSA and European Commission Health and Consumer Protection Directorate General (DG SANCO), the Eurobarometer on risk perception, carried out in the 25 Member States in the autumn of 2005, will provide invaluable input to both organisations regarding consumer attitudes to risk, perceptions and concerns regarding food safety as well as the role of public authorities in addressing concerns and ensuring safety of the food chain. In early 2006 EFSA will jointly communicate with DG SANCO the key findings from the Eurobarometer on risk perception. It is intended that this survey provide a benchmark and be repeated in future in order to evaluate trends in public perception over time as well as help monitor the effectiveness of public policies and programmes. In addition to this quantitative research, EFSA will aim to secure appropriate consumer research services in 2006 in order to be able to carry out qualitative research on certain themes, for instance in the context of an emerging risk. Focus group research could also be utilised to test the effectiveness of communications messages on target audiences, taking into account the special needs of vulnerable groups.

109. The expert Advisory Group on Risk Communications established in 2005 is foreseen to continue is activities into 2006. This multi-disciplinary group of experts in risk perception and risk communications will assist EFSA in the implementation of its mission with regards to risk communications by providing advice, on an informal basis, regarding the development and implementation of its risk communications strategies and plans. It is expected that this group will provide EFSA in 2006 with an annual review on key themes addressed in risk communications by the Authority (and other risk assessment bodies) based on the analysis of resulting media coverage. Topics could include issues such as: the safety and nutritional contribution of fish; genetically modified organisms; BSE risk in goats; a harmonised risk assessment methodology for compounds which are both genotoxic and carcinogenic. . The outputs will be shared with members of the Advisory Forum Working Group on Communication in order to review learning and

establish lessons learned in an ongoing effort to develop and promote best practices in risk communications within the Community.

110. EFSA's communications on the risk assessments of its Scientific Committee and Panels will only be effective if: the scientific findings are understood by both the professional target groups, and the public at large; national food safety authorities and stakeholders have been able to contribute to the process; and key concerns of audiences are addressed. Clarity of communications, a point already identified as critical in the EFSA Review, will further be addressed by the Authority in 2006. In order to address the information requirements of the non-technical reader, EFSA's Scientific Committee agreed in October 2005 that EFSA would provide, where appropriate and in addition to the technical summary included in EFSA's Scientific Opinions, an additional explanatory note. Such a note will provide further background explaining the rationale for carrying out a risk assessment and the methodology and results (in terms accessible to an informed layperson). Piloted in 2005, EFSA will fully implement and integrate this approach in its overall communications strategy in 2006, ensuring appropriate articulation with different communications components and channels.

111. In collaboration with EFSA scientists, work will be undertaken to develop appropriate tools for further dissemination of EFSA's scientific advice. In addition to the publication series for EFSA Scientific Colloquia, new publications on specific themes will be developed for instance: the annual Zoonoses report (starting with the 2004 report, issued in December 2005); and a collation of all opinions on upper levels for vitamins and minerals adopted by EFSA's NDA Panel. EFSA will seek to publish selected opinions of the Scientific Committee and Panels in scientific journals, formatted and condensed to fit the lay-out of scientific papers and is evaluating opportunities of collaboration with external editors in order to make EFSA's scientific work more widely known in the international scientific community.

112. In 2006, EFSA will continue to develop and fine-tune its media relations strategy in order to more effectively disseminate its scientific advice and corporate messages to European and international media. The EFSA press office will continue to establish and implement appropriate tools, processes and systems to better serve the media and optimise communications efforts. As of January 2006, EFSA will have access to media monitoring services from an external supplier. Such services will provide the Authority with a more complete overview of the media environment as well as more immediate, structured and comprehensive feedback of media results achieved, including both quantitative and qualitative analysis of coverage. EFSA will also further expand its media tool kit building on the fact sheets, background documents and visual elements established to date. EFSA will ensure that appropriate systems are in place to allow the Authority to continue to communicate effectively with European and global media from its new seat in Parma. Specific programmes and initiatives for Italian media will also continue to be implemented, notably with respect to corporate issues. Finally, media training programmes will be reinstituted to strengthen effectiveness of EFSA spokespeople in relaying key messages, taking into account changes in staff and panel membership as required.

113. EFSA will seek to further expand its publications programme. In addition to the Annual Report and bimonthly newsletter, the Authority will aim to identify new initiatives to better meet the needs of key audiences (for instance MEPs) and publish new documents on selected themes, be they related to Science or Corporate issues. EFSA will build on its collaboration with the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities (OPOCE), the publishing house of the institutions and other bodies of the EU. This will allow EFSA to develop synergies with other EU bodies and offer opportunity for reducing financial and administrative burdens associated with the development and distribution of publications. EFSA has recently subcontracted to OPOCE the classification, storage and distribution of its publications, thereby providing a more efficient and cost-effective means of dissemination to key audiences in the Community and beyond. In addition, EFSA intends to work with the OPOCE in the further enhancement of its logo and corporate identity. More generally, EFSA will focus on developing greater and more effective integration between its on- and off-line communications and publications.

114. EFSA aims to establish itself as a European reference with respect to food and feed safety, principally through the availability of information and advice provided to the public on its website. In 2006, EFSA will continue to adapt and update its website in order to facilitate public access to its work and documents, meet information requirements and ensure a more user-friendly interface. EFSA will conduct a web survey In order to better identify user needs and help guide future developments. The implementation of a new web content management system will not only provide EFSA with a more secure and efficient IT platform for its website but will also allow the Authority to develop more precise analysis of internet traffic (both quantitative and qualitative), including interest in specific subjects, themes and documents. Such information could be integrated in future in the performance indicators regularly reviewed by the EFSA Management Board.

115. As EFSA grows and establishes its reputation in risk communications, its advice and involvement in training programmes is being sought both in and outside the EU. EFSA Communications staff are requested to participate regularly in conferences and training initiatives in order to share knowledge and experience in this area. EFSA organised in 2005 risk communications training for members of the Advisory Forum working group on Communications as well as its own staff; further initiatives will be considered for 2006.

116. In addition to pursuing its programme of risk communications through media relations, publications and the web, EFSA will introduce new initiatives and tools in order to more actively engage the Authority in public dialogue and debate on topics related to risk assessment and communications, in collaboration with the both the Science and the International and Institutional Relations departments. Such initiatives could include the organisation of:

- Information seminars with media and other interested parties on subjects relative to EFSA's work programme;
- EFSA presence at key European conferences and exhibits relative to food/food safety;

- Public information events and conferences, notably on risk communications. EFSA will seek to involve national authorities in the development of such initiatives.

VI Collaboration with EFSA's Institutional, International and Stakeholder partners

Relations with EFSA's Institutional Partners

117. In 2006 EFSA will continue to execute its policy of engaging in early dialogue with its institutional partners to maintain an appropriate interface between the risk assessment/risk management and risk communications activities. With the establishment of EFSA in Parma EFSA staff will need to ensure a continuing presence in the various relevant committees within EU institutions. Although these are mainly dealing with risk management matters it is important to the quality and relevance of both the risk management and assessment functions that close links are maintained. It is also important to maintain links with the institutions to ensure that there are no differences in consumer protection between the different domains.

118. As legislation goes through the European Institutions EFSA staff may need to be available to advise on certain aspects of proposals particularly those with resource implications for the Authority. Not only will this enable the Authority to gauge its own workload at an early stage, but amongst other matters, it will help inform those considering proposals of any relevant practical and scientific issues relating to the Authority's work. EFSA approach will be to develop links and foster good relations proactively with the EU institutions and it will make itself available to explain its views whenever the appropriate opportunity arises.

119. In 2006 EFSA will continue to arrange for its presence in the discussions in the relevant committees of the European Parliament. A "liaison officer" will ensure attendance of EFSA in the relevant committees of the European Parliament and will serve as a contact point between the European Parliament and EFSA. The European Parliament will be regularly informed on issues that are being considered by EFSA within its mandate and that are relevant for the discussions in the European Parliament. EFSA will continue to offer its expertise to the European Parliament and will continue to attach great importance to the questions addressed to it by the European Parliament. EFSA will monitor the development of the new Food Safety Expert Panel recently established in the European Parliament and seek to collaborate with it when and if this is appropriate.

120. The Authority's technical experts will continue to participate in the meetings of the European Commission's standing committees on relevant food safety topics. Close contacts with representatives from the Commission will continue. The authority will also continue to offer assistance to the European Commission's services in the international arena when required and fitting with EFSA's mission and tasks. Equally, the relations with the Council of Ministers and with the Presidency of the Council will be consolidated.

121. EFSA has already developed close working links with the EMEA on animal feed additives and veterinary drugs assessment as well as with the newly established European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control in particular, in relation to zoonoses including Avian Influenza. This collaboration will be enhanced to identify

joint initiatives and matters for collaboration and the more practical aspects of exchanging data and information. ECDC will be asked for example to participate in the further development of EFSA's crisis procedures as it may be a key partner if a crisis arises. EFSA will also continue to work with other EU Agencies through the Heads of EU Agencies meetings and in particular with EMEA and EEA on issues of common interest to ensure appropriate collaboration and exchanges

Stakeholder Relations

122. The Authority will continue to involve stakeholders in all appropriate aspects of the work and in line with the Authority's overall policy on governance, openness and transparency and to meet its key objective of playing its part in the development of consumer confidence in the safety of the food supply. The Authority will continue to engage in dialogue and seek feedback from its stakeholders in order to ensure that its goals, priorities and outputs are in line with expectations. This will include in 2006 open consultation on scientific issues either via the web, scientific colloquia or public meetings, and the ability for stakeholders to access and review the register of questions and submit information on a scientific topics. In addition to information that may be submitted in association with a question on the EFSA register of questions EFSA will also explore with stakeholders the possibility and feasibility of utilising other stakeholders data and information.

123. The Stakeholder Consultative Platform will consolidate its activities under the direction of the Chair who has been elected for the members of the Platform and among the members of the Platform. During its first year of operation, the work programme of the Platform will consider crucial issues for the development of EFSA's policy towards stakeholders, and in particular will be advising on criteria for public consultation, on emerging issues, and on EFSA's work programme for 2007. The Platform will serve as a basis for exchange of information among its members and with EFSA and will be looking at improving exchange of information tools on new and emerging risks. The minutes and papers of the Platform will be published on EFSA's website and will be brought to the attention of EFSA's Management Board.

124. During 2006 the work of the Stakeholder Consultative Platform will be subject to an evaluation by EFSA's Management Board that will mainly focus on the achievements of the Platform during the first year of operation and the membership of the Platform. This will include an assessment of the operation the membership, functioning and remit of the platform and will also make sure that the platform is correctly balanced and does not duplicate or overlap with other similar organizations.

125. As part of EFSA's policy to involve stakeholders in the work of the Authority, public consultations will be organized in 2006 in order to get the views of the interested parties on specific topics. In the course of 2006 EFSA will aim at establishing a common approach across Scientific Committee and Panels to involve stakeholders in the work of the Authority recognizing that the nature of work varies considerable from panel to panel and consequently a considerable level of flexibility need to be observed. The choice of the topics for consultation based on existing criteria for priority setting and on criteria dealing with stakeholders

interested in various issues will be further developed by EFSA. This will be done with the involvement of the different bodies of EFSA, such as the Scientific Committee, EFSA staff, the Stakeholder Consultative Platform.

126. Interested parties will also have the opportunity to submit scientific contributions on scientific questions via the Register of Questions that is already available on EFSA's website. The criteria for inclusion and exclusion of scientific contributions were developed in 2005 and will be applied against any submission by third parties. All submissions will be published on the Register of Questions. In addition to this function, the register will also be reviewed in order to indicate the state of play in the process of a given dossier.

127. EFSA will continue bilateral meetings with stakeholder organizations that have legitimate interests in the work of the Authority. Furthermore, EFSA will continue to co-operate with private initiatives, such as the European Food Safety Platform, in order to explain the work of the Authority and contribute to the discussions in this forums. As part of kits overall objectives to restore consumer confidence in the food chain EFSA will continue its practice of pre-notice and exchange of information with key interested parties on issues on which they have a legitimate interest and to allow concerned parties to prepare themselves and their constituencies. Conditions for these pre-notifications will continue to be considered on a case by case basis and based on mutual trust.

EFSA's Phare Projects

128. EFSA will progress its activities to enhance the further integration of Accession States into the work of the EU and in particular for the development of scientific work related to food safety as part of the Phare multi-beneficiary programmes. An important feature of the Phare programme at EFSA is the exchange of expertise. EFSA invites national experts from Bulgaria and Romania to participate in a variety of activities held throughout Europe where knowledge on food safety and related issues can be discussed.

129. The Phare programme is one of the three pre-accession instruments financed by the European Union to assist applicant countries of Central and Eastern Europe in their preparations for joining the European Union. Through the Phare programme relating the agencies, EFSA will continue to work with the governments of Bulgaria and Romania - acceding countries that are expected to join the EU in 2007 - on food and feed safety issues within EFSA's remit. Within EFSA, the International and Institutional Relations Department is coordinating the implementation of the programme. The programme promotes and facilitates an understanding of the mandate and role of EFSA and in particular aims at: a) an exchange of scientific and technical expertise and legal regulatory affairs information, b) preparation of the relevant bodies in Romania and Bulgaria, active in the fields related to the work of EFSA, c) inclusion of Romania and Bulgaria in crisis co-ordination exercises with EFSA and the development of appropriate crisis information exchange infrastructure, d) the creation of communication and information exchange systems to support Bulgaria and Romania in their communication activities, e) transfer of knowledge on methodologies, in particular on risk assessment and data collection. In this respect a number of workshops ands seminars are planned between EFSA and the acceding countries on *inter alia*: risk assessment, BSE/TSE, data collection, zoonoses, communication in a crisis, the involvement of stakeholders. It

is anticipated that EFSA will liaise also with Croatia and Turkey during 2006 to establish a similar project.

International Collaboration

130. EFSA will increase its activities in relation to the collaboration and co-operation with International bodies operating in the same areas as EFSA through working jointly on projects of mutual relevance and benefit. In particular projects relating to data collection and assessment of global scientific issues in the areas covered by EFSA will be further enhanced. (eg GEMS/SCOOP data assessment). International Organisations (WHO, FAO, Codex Alimentarius, OIE, OECD etc) operating in the areas covered by ESFA will be actively nurtured in 2006.

131. EFSA started in 2005 a series of horizontal meetings with international and third country authorities to explore where exchanges would be appropriate. Meetings will be arranged during 2006 between EFSA and third country and international bodies operating in EFSA's field to seek to explore the possibility of joint activities in particular the further development of exchanges of data and information. EFSA will continue to explore the possibilities of further utilising the outcomes of work already undertaken by JECFA, JMPR, JEMRA and other international scientific committees while ensuring that the quality of EFSA's opinions and its scientific independence are fully upheld. EFSA will also continue to consider its input to calls for data for these committees and how in other ways mutual assistance can be developed.

132. The Authority will also increase its visibility in the international arena in relation to third countries. It will pursue further development of the strong links forged with partner organisations in third countries e.g. US-FDA, Health Canada, FSANZ, Japanese Food Authority, the Chinese Food Authorities etc. A series of meetings will be held at the highest level with FDA, USDA Health Canada, and other third country authorities to reach agreement on the basic principles underpinning mutual work exchanges and collaboration.

133. EFSA will continue its practice of pre-notifying international and key third country authorities of its findings. This has proven mutually beneficial in dealing with sensitive matters and has thus promoted trust between EFSA and its international partners. This will be build on in 2006 and EFSA will seek practical ways to improve such exchanges through meetings and discussions.

Relations with the Italian Authorities

134. EFSA will continue to strive to build good collaborative relations with the Authorities in Italy and at local level. The Liaison Committee established in 2005 will have regular meetings in 2006. This committee which is composed of representatives of the municipality, province, region, ministry of health from Rome, prefect, police and other local institutions will continue to build on its work of 2005 by enhancing the already close working relations between all parties with the overall objective of integrating EFSA into Parma in the most positive manner and with mutual benefit for all.

135. EFSA will continue to liaise closely with the newly inaugurated Europass office which includes members from the region, provinces of Emilia Romagna, the

Chamber of Commerce, the Regional Union of Chamber of Commerce in Emilia Romagna and the University of Parma and which will assist EFSA in developing close appropriate liaison within the territory.

136. In order to forge close links between EFSA and local entities as well as the public, various activities were initiated in 2005 and will continue in 2006. These include where appropriate activities such as conferences and support to local schools and universities on the work of EFSA and EU activities. EFSA will also arrange as in 2005 for open house days on its premises for interested local civil society.

Annex I - Establishment Plan 2006

The Authority is still in growing phase and this requires adequate resources to cope with the additional workload. Recruitment of staff of all grades is foreseen in all areas to ensure the proper functioning. In particular, the scientific staff will increase in line with the increasing work load of the Authority. Further staffing (+ 30 %) is needed to support the work of the Authority's Committee and 8 Scientific Panels, to manage projects studies and tasks allocated to outside bodies, to provide technical assistance and an in-house source of scientific expertise in a range of scientific areas.

Category and grade	2004 Posts actually filled-in		2005 Authorised		2006 Requested	
	Permanent posts	Temporary posts	Permanent posts	Temporary posts	Permanent posts	Temporary posts
A*16	-	-				
A*15	-	1		1		1
A*14	-	1		2		2
A*13	-	-				
A*12	-	7		8		8
A*11	-	18		19		19
A*10	-	-				
A*9	-	2	1	7	1	14
A*8	-	16		23		29
A*7	1	5	1	20	1	28
A*6	-	-		10		21
A*5	-	-		11		17
Total A	**1**	**50**	**2**	**101**	**2**	**139**
B*11	-	-				
B*10	-	-				
B*9	-	-				
B*8	-	-				
B*7	-	3		4		4
B*6	-	-				
B*5	-	9		9		16
B*4	-	2	1	3	1	4
B*3	-	3		11		12
Total B	**0**	**17**	**1**	**27**	**1**	**36**
C*7	-	-				
C*6	-	-				
C*5	-	-				
C*4	-	15	1	10	1	20
C*3	-	-				2
C*2	-	8		16		18
C*1	1	10		36		31
Total C	**1**	**33**	**1**	**62**	**1**	**71**
Total	**2**	**100**	**4**	**190**	**4**	**246**
Grand Total	**102**		**194**		**250**	

Key: Professionals are A Grades with 16 the highest, A* 5 the lowest, B grades are assistants, C are secretarial staff

Legal acts relevant to EFSA and legislation in preparation likely to impact on EFSA in 2006

I - Legislation in force

EFSA Founding Regulation

Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety (OJ L 31, 1.2.2002, p.1) as amended.

Implementing measures of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002

Commission Regulation (EC) No 1304/2003 of 11 July 2003 on the procedure applied by the European Food Safety Authority to requests for scientific opinions referred to it (OJ L 185, 24.07.2003, p. 6).

Commission Regulation (EC) No 2230/2004 of 23 December 2004 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of article 36 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 with regard to the network of organisations operating in the fields within the European Food Safety Authority's mission (OJ L 379, 24.12.2004, p. 64).

Genetically Modified Organisms

Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 September 2003 on genetically modified food and feed (OJ L 268, 18.10.2003, p.1)

Directive 2001/18/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 March 2001 on the deliberate release into the environment of genetically modified organisms and repealing Council Directive 90/220/EEC. OJ L106, 17.04.2001, p.1-39.

Commission Regulation (EC) 641/2004 of 6 April 2004 on detailed rules for the implementation of Regulation (EC) 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the application for the authorisation of new genetically modified food and feed, the notification of existing products and adventitious or technically unavoidable presence of genetically modified material which has benefited from a favourable risk evaluation.

Pesticides

Council Directive 91/414/EEC of 15 July 1991 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market (OJ L 230, 19.08.1991, p. 1-32) as amended

Commission Regulation (EC) No 451/2000 of 28 February 2000 laying down further detailed rules for the implementation of the second and third stage of the programme of

work referred to in article 8(2) of Council Directive 91/414/EEC (OJ L 55, 29.02.2000, p. 25)
Commission Regulation (EC) No 1490/2002 of 14 August 2002 laying down further detailed rules for the implementation of the third stage of the programme of work referred to in article 8(2) of Council Directive 91/414/EEC and amending Regulation (EC) No 451/2000 (OJ L 224, 21.08.2002, p. 23)

Commission Regulation (EC) No 2229/2004 of 3 December 2004 laying down further work further detailed rules for the implementation of the fourth stage of the programme of work referred to in article 8(2) of Council Directive 91/414/EEC (OJ L 379, 24.12.2004, p. 13)

Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 February 2005 on maximum residue levels of pesticides in or on food and feed of plant and animal origin and amending Council Directive 91/414/EEC (OJ L 70, 16.3.2005, p.1)

Plant Health

Council Directive 2000/29/EC of 8 may 2000 on protective measures against introduction into the Community of organisms harmful to plant or plant products and their spread within the Community (OJ L 169, 10.07.2000 p. 1) amended by Council Directives 2003/116/EC (OJ L 321, 6.12.2003) and 2004/31/EC (OJ L 85, 17.03.2004)

Animal nutrition

Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council on additives for use in animal nutrition (OJ L 268, 18.10.2003, p. 29)

Animal Health

Directive 2003/65/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 July 2003 amending Council Directive 86/609/EEC on the approximation of laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States regarding the protection of animals used for experimental and other scientific purposes (OJ L 230, 16/09/2003, p. 32)

Council Directive 2003/85/EC of 29 September 2003 on Community measures for the control of foot-and-mouth disease repealing Directive 85/511/EEC and Decisions 89/531/EEC and 91/665/EEC and amending Directive 92/46/EEC (OJ L 306 , 22/11/2003, p. 1)

Council Directive 91/629/EEC of 19 November 1991 laying down minimum standards for the protection of calves (OJ L 340, 11.12. 1991, p. 28). Article 6 requires not later than by 1 January 2006 a Commission report to the Council drawn up on the basis of an scientific opinion on the intensive farming system (s) which comply with the requirements of the well-being.

Flavourings

Regulation (EC) No 2065/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 November 2003 on smoke flavourings used or intended for use in or on foods (OJ L 309 of 26.11.2003).

Council Directive 88/388/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to flavourings for use in foodstuffs and to source materials for their production (OJ L 184, 15.7.1988, p. 61), as amended.

Food Additives

Council Directive 89/107/EEC of 21 December 1988 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning food additives authorised for use in foodstuffs intended for human consumption, (OJ L 40, 11.2.1989, p. 27), as amended.

Directive 94/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council 30 June 1994 on colours for use in foodstuffs; (OJ L 237, 10/09/1994 P. 0013), as amended.

Directive 94/35/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 June 1994 on sweeteners for use in foodstuffs (OJ L 237, 10.9.1994, p. 3), as amended.

Directive 95/2/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 February 1995, on food additives other than colours and sweeteners, (OJ L 61, 18.3.1995, p. 1), as amended.

Food supplements

Directive 2002/46/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of the 10 June 2002 on the approximation of the laws of the Members States relating to food supplements (OJ L 183, 12.7.2003, p. 51)

Food contact materials

Regulation (EC) No 1935/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 October 2004 on materials and articles intended to come into contact with food and repealing Directive 80/590/EEC and 89/109/EEC (OJ L 338, 13.11. 2004, p. 4)

Food labelling

Directive 2000/13/EC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the labelling, presentation and advertising of foodstuffs (OJ L 109, 6.5.2000, p.29), as amended by Directive 2003/89/EC of 10 November 2003 amending Directive 2000/13/EC as regards indication of the ingredients present in foodstuffs (OJ L 308, 25.11.2005, p. 15).

Zoonoses

Directive 2003/99/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 November 2003 on the monitoring of zoonoses and zoonotic agents, amending Council Decision 90/424/EEC and repealing Council Directive 92/117/EEC (OJ L 235, 12.12.2003, p. 31)

Regulation (EC) no 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the control of salmonella and other specified food-borne zoonotic agents (OJ L 325, 12.12.2003, p. 1)

Novel Foods

Regulation (EC) No 258/97 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 January1997 concerning novel foods and novel food ingredients (Official Journal L 43 , 14.02.1997 p.1)

Infant formulae

Commission Directive 91/321/EEC of 14 May 1991 on infant formulae and follow-on formulae (Official Journal L175, 04/07/1991 p. 35)

Food hygiene

Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 of the European and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on hygiene of foodstuff (OJ L 139, 30.04.2004, p. 1)

Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European and of the Council of 29 April 2004 laying down specific hygiene rules for the hygiene of foodstuff (OJ L 139, 30.04.2004, p. 55)

II - Legislation in preparation likely to impact on EFSA in 2006

Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on nutrition and health claims made on foods (COM (2003) 424 final, COD 2003/0165, adopted by the Commission on 16 July 2003.

Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the addition of vitamins and minerals and of certain other substances to foods (COM (2003) 671 final, COD 2003/0262, adopted by the Commission on 10 November 2003.

Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and the Council amending Directive 95/2/EC on food additives other than colours and sweeteners and Directive 94/35/EC on sweeteners for use in foodstuffs (COM (2204) 650 final, COD 2004/0237, adopted by the Commission on 11 October 2004.

Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), establishing a European Chemicals Agency and amending Directive 1999/45/EC and Regulation (EC) on Persistant Organic Pollutants (COM (2003) 644 final, COD 2003/0256, adopted by the Commission on 29 October 2003.

Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the application of the provisions of the Århus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in the Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters to EC institutions and bodies (COM (2003) 622 final, COD 2003/0242), adopted by the Commission on 24.10.2003.

MB 2006

Annex III Glossary of Terms

AFC Panel - Panel on food additives, flavourings, processing aids and materials in contact with food
AHAW Panel - Panel on animal health and welfare
AI – Avian Influenza
BIOHAZ Panel - Panel on biological hazards
BSE – Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy
CONTAM Panel - Panel on contaminants in the food chain
CWD – Chronic Wasting Disease
DG ENV – Directorate General Environment
DG RDT - Directorate General Research and Technical Development
DG SANCO – Directorate General on Health and Consumer Protection
ECDC - European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
EEA - European Environment Agency
EFSA – European Food Safety Authority
EMEA – European Medicines Agency
ENVI – The European Parliament Committee for Environment, Public Health and Food Safety
EU – European Union
FAO - Food and Agriculture Organization
FEEDAP Panel - Panel on additives and products or substances used in animal feed
FELASA - Federation of European Laboratory Animal Science Associations
FSANZ - Food Standards Australia New Zealand
GBR – Geographical BSE-Risk
GMO Panel - Panel on genetically modified organisms
ILSI - The International Life Sciences Institute
JRC – Joint Research Centre
MRL's – Maximum Residue Levels
NDA Panel - Panel on dietetic products, nutrition and allergies
NGO – Non-Governmental Organisation
OIE - Office International des Epizooties
OECD - Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OJ – Official Journal
PPR Panel - Panel on plant protection products and their residues
PRAPeR - Pesticides Risk Assessment Peer Review Expert Group
QMRA - Quantitative Microbiological Risk Assessment
REACH - Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals
SC – Scientific Committee (EFSA)
SSC – Scientific Steering Committee
TSE - Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy
US – FDA – United States Food and Drug Administration
WHO – World Health Organization