

EFSA PROGRESS REPORT

The present report refers to the period from the 15th of February to the 31st of May 2016.

SCIENCE

Call to renew two Scientific Panels

On 18 May, EFSA has published the call for expression of interest to become members of the Panel on Food Additives and Nutrient Sources Added to Food (ANS) or the Panel on Food Contact Materials, Enzymes, Flavourings and Processing Aids (CEF) from the 1st of July, 2017. The deadline for applications is 30 June 2016. The call and templates for submitting application are available on EFSA's website.

Overview of the outputs produced in the reporting period

In the risk assessment area, EFSA adopted the guidance document on 'Biodiversity and ecosystem services to define protection goals for environmental risk assessment' and the 'Draft guidance on uncertainty in scientific assessment'. The draft guidance on applications for novel foods and traditional foods from third countries was published for public consultation and was the object of discussion at a meeting with stakeholders. A total of 53 scientific opinions were adopted, 46 of which in the area of regulated products. The FEEDAP Panel issued a statement on the 'Analysis of the need for an update of the guidance documents' and EFSA issued a rapid assessment with the ECDC on Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) infection associated with haemolytic uraemic syndrome, as well as the scientific report on 'Data structures for tracing back & forward of products in multinational food or feed safety incidents'. In addition, EFSA issued 2 scientific statements, 20 technical reports, 7 external reports, 25 reasoned opinions, 2 event reports and 17 peer-review conclusions.

Uncertainty in scientific assessment

The EFSA Scientific Committee endorsed the draft Guidance document on 'Uncertainty in scientific assessment'. The document proposes a structured approach and present methods for the analysis of the uncertainties associated with the development of EFSA's scientific opinions. The methodology proposed in the draft Guidance document will be trialled for one year by the different EFSA Panels. The feedback of the EFSA Panels at the end of the trial phase will provide information for the revision and finalisation of the document in 2017.

Xylella

EFSA carried out an assessment of the treatments being tested on olive trees in Apulia and concluded that they reduce the symptoms of disease caused by *Xylella fastidiosa* but do not eliminate the pathogen from infected plants. The findings confirm experience from other parts of the world, where *X. fastidiosa* is also causing enormous damage and no treatment has been found to eliminate the pathogen from plants grown outdoors. EFSA's plant health experts evaluated research being carried out in Apulia by two groups – one from the University of Foggia, the other from the Research Council for Agriculture and the Analysis of Agricultural Economy in Caserta – and also examined treatments used elsewhere to control bacterial infections in plants including olive, citrus, apple, pear and grapevine.

Joint ECDC/EFSA rapid outbreak assessment

An outbreak of Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) infection associated with haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS) and affecting mostly young children has been reported in February and March in Romania. Italy reported one HUS case with an epidemiological link to Romania on 21 March 2016. Overall, 25 cases have been identified as associated with this multi-country outbreak, of which 19 developed HUS and three of these died. The recall of suspected food products has been undertaken by food safety authorities in Romania, Italy and other countries who have imported the suspected food items. However, potentially contaminated items could still be present in households. Since the precise source of contamination has not yet been identified, cases possibly linked to this outbreak may occur in Romania and in those EU countries to which the implicated food products have been distributed.

Apricot kernels

EFSA found that eating more than three small raw apricot kernels, or less than half of one large kernel, in a serving can exceed safe levels. Toddlers consuming even one small apricot kernel risk being over the safe level. A naturally-occurring compound called amygdalin is present in apricot kernels and converts to cyanide after eating. Cyanide poisoning can cause nausea, fever, headaches, insomnia, thirst, lethargy, nervousness, joint and muscle various aches and pains, and falling blood pressure. In extreme cases it is fatal.

Process contaminants in vegetable oils and foods

Glycerol-based process contaminants found in palm oil, but also in other vegetable oils, margarines and some processed foods, raise potential health concerns for average consumers of these foods in all young age groups, and for high consumers in all age groups. EFSA assessed the risks for public health of the substances: glycidyl fatty acid esters (GE), 3-monochloropropanediol (3-MCPD), and 2-monochloropropanediol (2-MCPD) and their fatty acid esters. The substances form during food processing, in particular, when refining vegetable oils at high temperatures (approx. 200°C). The highest levels of GE, as well as 3-MCPD and 2-MCPD (including esters) were found in palm oils and palm fats, followed by other oils and fats. For consumers aged three and above, margarines and 'pastries and cakes' were the main sources of exposure to all substances.

VectorNet

VectorNet is an online tool for collecting and sharing data on the geographical distribution of vectors. A new version has been launched that allows experts to submit data on vectors – such as ticks, mosquitoes, sand flies and biting midges – directly online. It has been developed by EFSA and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control as part of their joint activities on vector-borne diseases. Data are visualised through distribution maps that are updated on a quarterly basis.

Non-monotonic dose response (NMDR)

The Scientific Committee discussed an EFSA external scientific report, published on EFSA's website, that provides a review of the evidence of datasets suggesting NMDR (excluding essential nutrients). The report details how some 10,000 studies were retrieved from a systematic review of the literature. After applying screening procedures and on the basis of relevance and reliability criteria, the authors obtained a short-list that they consider could provide some scientific evidence to support non-monotonicity. The report was commissioned by EFSA and carried out by four Member State organisations: the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES), the Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES), the Institute of Environmental Medicine, Karolinska Institute (KI), Sweden, and the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM), The Netherlands.

COMMUNICATIONS

Overview of the outputs produced in the reporting period

In the reporting period, media coverage counted 6128 articles, representing a 170% increase compared to last quarter. The increase is likely to be explained by a series of high-profile topics including glyphosate, contaminants in vegetable oils, pesticide residues in food, *Xylella fastidiosa* and apricot kernels. These topics resulted in a total of 26 interviews and 131 media queries (representing a +60% increase on last quarter). A major part of these queries were on glyphosate. Joint communications with ECDC were issued on the rapid assessment of outbreak of STEC and on VectorNet. The Advisory Forum discussed on, among others, data quality assurance issues, the revision of its own operating procedures, and a new declaration of commitment to be signed by Member States in relation to their efforts in support of EFSA. In the framework of the pre-accession programme, EFSA and DG SANTE organised a workshop on strengthening the regional cooperation in the South East Europe and the Middle East for prevention and control of Lumpy Skin Disease.

#Efsa4Bees

New website dedicated to EFSA's work on bee health (<http://efsa4bees.efsa.europa.eu/>). It contains essential information about EFSA's project on the risk assessment of multiple stressors in bees (MUST-B) as well as other relevant work in areas such as pesticides, animal health and environmental risk. #Efsa4Bees aims to be a must-visit site for scientists, researchers and anyone else who has an interest in this vitally important subject. The microsite was launched with the first news blog where EFSA will give up-to-the-minute progress reports and share links to the latest research and other useful information.

EFSA Journal

The EFSA Journal has moved to Wiley Online Library, a leading international scientific publishing platform. This milestone development is part of an overall revamp of EFSA's publishing activities and will provide it with an integrated publishing solution for its scientific work. At the same time, it will support the Authority's strategic drive for more openness and engagement. The entire Journal backfile to 2003 is available on Wiley Online Library. The move brings many advantages. The editorial quality of EFSA's scientific outputs will benefit from the increased consistency in the application of editorial standards and conventions. Digital workflows will improve organisational efficiency and increase the interoperability of EFSA's data. The visibility and impact of EFSA's work will increase thanks to Wiley's reach within the food science and life science communities. Moreover, the introduction of a professional publishing service will enable EFSA staff to focus more of its time on the core scientific mandate.

Video news from open meetings

EFSA is constantly looking at ways to make its scientific work more open and transparent. The first video report on the CONTAM Panel open plenary was published on EFSA website closely after the meeting. EFSA plans to provide video reports like this one at the close of all the open Panel meetings from now. EFSA invited the stakeholders to express their view on the usefulness of such reports by sending comments at #OpenEFSA.

Communication during food crisis

Together with EU Member States, EFSA created guidelines on how to communicate during food crisis based on best practices gained from previous food-related crises. Developed in cooperation with members of EFSA's Advisory Forum Communications Working Group, this document will help ensure consistency and coherence when communicating in a crisis.

Innovation prize: EFSA hackathon

This is the first of a series of prizes that EFSA plans to launch to encourage innovation – one of its core values. EFSA looks for developers and designers with innovative ideas for developing a mobile app that will give access to EFSA’s recent and ongoing work in a quick, user-friendly way. The deadline for submission of proposals is 30 June 2016.

SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION

Guidance for conducting pesticide terrestrial field dissipation studies

New pesticides guidance has been finalised that harmonises the way terrestrial field dissipation studies (TFDs) are conducted in different regions of the world. The guidance was developed for the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) by a working group led by EFSA, the US Environmental Protection Agency and Health Canada.

Threshold of Toxicological Concern approach

EFSA and the World Health Organization (WHO) have published a report on the joint workshop they held to review the Threshold of Toxicological Concern (TTC) approach to chemical risk assessment. The experts who attended the meeting agreed that the TTC approach is fit for purpose as a screening tool to assess low-dose exposure to chemical substances and identify chemicals for which further data are necessary to assess risks to human health.

Ciguatoxin

A cooperation project on ciguatoxin food poisoning involving 13 organisations from six Member States and EFSA is taking shape. Representatives of Spain and EFSA signed a Framework Partnership Agreement on 19 April 2016 to carry out a four-year project on risk characterisation of ciguatera food poisoning in Europe. Ciguatoxin is found in fish that feed on a microorganism that produces the toxic substance. Consumers eating affected fish can suffer from a range of symptoms including gastrointestinal and neurological effects.

2015 EFSA report on scientific cooperation

The 2015 EFSA report on scientific cooperation shows how collaboration between EU agencies, their networks and institutions contributed to building the European Union’s scientific risk assessment capacity and knowledge community along the year. EFSA’s Advisory Forum took a central role in shaping this cooperation, reviewing its operations with a view to boosting scientific risk assessment in Europe. EFSA played an active role in the EU Agencies Network on Scientific Advice (EU-ANSA), which addresses topics of shared interest to all EU agencies that provide scientific advice. Among others, in 2015 these issues included horizon-scanning, open data, peer review, uncertainty and research needs.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Visit of Vytenis Andriukaitis, the EU Commissioner for Health and Food Safety

The Commissioner paid his first visit to EFSA’s premises in Parma, Italy, to learn about the Authority’s work, its achievements and future challenges. “Food safety standards in Europe are the highest in the world”, he said while addressing EFSA staff in a short speech. “EFSA’s science-based assessments on food safety are not only a crucial

contribution to public health in the EU. They are appreciated around the world in many countries and international organisations,” he added. Transparency and engagement in the scientific risk assessment process was one of the key points of the Commissioner’s exchange with EFSA. Topics included the selection of experts, latest improvements to EFSA’s independence policy, the need to attract young talent to the pool of scientific experts, the collection of and open access to data, and the importance of public engagement in the development of EFSA’s scientific opinions.

SCIENCE

<p>Scientific Committee and Emerging Risks</p>	<p><u>Scientific Committee (SC)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Guidance on 'Biodiversity and ecosystem services to define protection goals for environmental risk assessment.' ○ Endorsement of the draft Guidance on 'Uncertainty in scientific assessment'. ○ Opinion on 'Priority topics for the development of RA guidance by EFSA SC in 2016-2018'. <p><u>SCER Unit</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ External reports on: 'Review of non-monotonic dose-responses of substances for human risk assessment', 'Variables related to honeybee colony mortality in EU during a 2 year survey' and 'Review and analysis of occurrence, exposure and toxicity of cyanobacteria toxins in food'. ○ Technical reports on: 'Public consultation on the draft Guidance document on Uncertainty in scientific assessment', 'Conclusions and recommendations of the EFSA-WHO workshop on the Threshold of Toxicological Concern approach' and '2015 report of the activities of Stakeholders Consultative Group of emerging risks'. ○ Event reports on: 'EU scientific workshop on bee health and sustainable pollination' and 'Review of the TTC approach and development of new TTC decision tree'.
<p>Animal health and plant health</p>	<p><u>Panel on Plant health</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Opinions on: 'Assessment of new scientific information regarding Citrus Black Spot' and 'Urgent opinion in the field of plant health regarding <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i>'. <p><u>ALPHA Unit</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ External report on 'Pilot project on <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> to reduce risk assessment uncertainties'.
<p>Biological hazards and contaminants</p>	<p><u>Panel on Contaminants in the food chain</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Opinions on: 'Risks for human health related to the presence of 3- and 2-monochloropropanediol (MCPD), and their fatty acid esters, and glycidyl fatty acid esters in food', 'Appropriateness to set a group health-based guidance value for zearalenone and its modified forms' and 'Acute health risks related to the presence of cyanogenic glycosides in raw apricot kernels and products derived from raw apricot kernels'. ○ Statement on the presence of microplastics and nanoplastics in food, with particular focus on seafood. <p><u>BIOCONTAM Unit</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Technical report on 'Multi-country outbreak of Shiga toxin-producing <i>Escherichia coli</i> infection associated with haemolytic uraemic syndrome'.

<p>Additives and products or substances used in animal feed</p>	<p><u>Panel on Additives and products or substances used in animal feed</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Opinions on feed additives: technological (3), sensory (6), nutritional (8) and zootechnical (8). ○ Statement on the 'Analysis of the need for an update of the guidance documents'. <p><u>FEED Unit</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ External reports on: 'Assistance in the update of the systematic literature review: Influence on copper on antibiotic resistance of gut microbiota on pigs (including piglets)' and 'Effects of copper intake levels in the gut microbiota profile of target animals, in particular piglets'.
<p>Food ingredients and packaging</p>	<p><u>Panel on Food additives and nutrient sources added to food</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Opinions on: re-evaluation of food additives (8) and nutrient source applications (2). <p><u>Panel on Food contact materials, enzymes, flavourings and processing aids</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Three opinions on food contact materials.
<p>Genetically modified organisms</p>	<p><u>Panel on Genetically modified organisms</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Opinions on: 'PMEM report on MON 810 for 2014 season', 'Carnation', 'Oilseed rape AP75' and 'Cotton AP68'. <p><u>GMO Unit</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Technical reports on 'Safeguard clauses from Austria on GM oilseed rapes GT73 and Ms8, Rf3 and Ms8 x Rf3' and 'Report on EFSA scientific network for risk assessment of GMOs 2015'.
<p>Dietetic products, nutrition and allergies</p>	<p><u>Panel on Dietetic products, nutrition and allergies</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Opinions on: Health Claims Art. 13.5 (2) and Dietary Reference Values (Choline and vitamin B6). <p><u>NUTRI Unit</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Technical reports on the outcomes of public consultations on DRV for Choline and vitamin B6.
<p>Pesticides and plant protection products and their residues</p>	<p><u>PRAS Unit</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 17 conclusions on pesticides peer review. ○ Guidance of EFSA on 'Reporting data on pesticide residues in food and feed according to Reg. (EC) N.396/2005' (2015 data collection). ○ 25 reasoned opinions on MRLs. ○ EFSA statements on: 'Pesticide active substances that do not require a review of the existing MRL under Article 12 of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005', covering 39 questions, and 'Dimethoate', which covered a request from EC for an urgent EFSA assessment following a French notification regarding emergency measures on serious risks for consumers due to the levels of dimethoate residues in fruits and other food commodities. ○ 10 technical reports.

Assessment and methodological support	<u>AMU Unit</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Scientific report on 'Data structures for tracing back & forward of products in multinational food or feed safety incidents'. ○ External report on 'Development of training material and delivery on in-house training courses on steering an expert knowledge elicitation'.
Evidence management	<u>DATA Unit</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Technical report on 'Data dictionaries - guidelines for reporting data on zoonoses, antimicrobial resistance and food-borne outbreaks using the EFSA data models for the Data Collection Framework to be used in 2016'. ○ Support to: CONTAM (Cyanogenic glycosides in raw apricot kernels, MCPD and their fatty acid esters) and ANS (re-evaluation of food additives). ○ EU Menu project: Intermediate reports/deliverables accepted for Finland, Poland, Austria, Hungary, Italy, Romania and Slovenia.
Application Desk	<u>APDESK Unit</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Receipt of 128 applications and 139 requests via web form. ○ Webinar on scientific aspects to consider when preparing a health claim application. ○ Publication of the updated EFSA's Catalogue of support initiatives during the life-cycle of applications for regulated products.
Quality Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The 2016 customer feedback exercise with DG SANTE and Member States kicked-off. Output selection has been extended to cover all areas. ○ The 2015 customer feedback highlighted the need to implement with DG SANTE a systematic and harmonised discussion on the ToR before mandates are sent to EFSA. A pilot with the BIOHAZ, CONTAM, CEF, NDA and PLH Panels was agreed to test the approach. ○ ISO certification is planned for Sept. 2016. A pre-certification exercise was carried out to identify any last possibly remaining issues to be addressed before the certification.

COMMUNICATION

<p>Media and social media</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Media coverage counted approx. 6128 articles. This represents almost a two-fold increase (+170%) in coverage compared to the previous reporting period. This is linked to a series of high-profile, sensitive topics in recent months, including glyphosate, contaminants in vegetable oils and food, pesticides residues in food, <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> and apricot kernels. At a local scale, Italian national and local media reported on Europe Day events organized by EFSA, following a concerted promotion effort. ○ Attention on the above mentioned topics resulted in a total of 26 interviews with EFSA experts. ○ 131 media requests were recorded, which represent a 60% increase compared to the previous quarter. Most of the requests are related to glyphosate. ○ EFSA's twitter account received 1270 new followers, i.e. an average of 11 new users a day.
<p>Risk communication</p>	<p><u>Content overview</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Launch of #Efsa4Bees website, showcasing EFSA's work on bee health, particularly that of the MUST-B working group. The microsite went live with new bees interactive infographic and the first EFSA blog. ○ Publication of 10 news stories including, among others, the guidance on uncertainty in scientific assessment, the report <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i>, the launch of EFSA Strategy 2020 and the opinions on risk of cyanide poisoning with apricot kernels and contaminants in palm and other vegetable oils. ○ First Innovation prize launched: EFSA hackathon for ideas to develop an EFSA mobile app. ○ EFSA glossary: publication of more than 250 layman definitions of scientific terms most often used in EFSA's communications. ○ Joint communication with ECDC on the rapid assessment on the outbreak of STEC and on VectorNet. <p><u>Website</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Migration of website hosting to DIGIT: savings for approx. 65k Euro/year. ○ Improvements of navigation and performance through partial re-organization of code. <p><u>EFSA Journal</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Launch of EFSA Journal on Wiley Online Library, including migration of the EFSA Journal backfile from 2003. ○ Online survey of EFSA Journal users launched and completed. <p><u>Publications and multimedia</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Best practices for crisis communication: How to communicate during food or feed safety incidents. ○ Uncertainty video: first video of the 'understanding science series' with a new format. ○ Flash interviews: production of videos after each open plenary meeting to enhance openness and transparency. ○ Designed and published the EFSA Annual Report 2015, the Programming Document 2016-2019, the EFSA Scientific

	<p>Cooperation Annual Report 2015, the EFSA Strategy 2020 and the Crisis Communications Guidelines on both the EFSA Website and the EU Bookshop.</p>
<p>Advisory Forum and scientific cooperation</p>	<p><u>Advisory Forum</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Among others, at the 59th meeting held in Parma the AF discussed on Data Quality Assurance, the revision of the Forum operating procedures and the Member States' Declaration of Commitment. In addition, the AF was updated on the activities carried out by the CEF Panel and the FIP Network. ○ Meeting of the Advisory Forum Communications Working Group: improving coordination and preparation for diverging views and engagement of scientists with the media. ○ Launch of 'EU Insights project': a risk perception survey on antimicrobial use in animals and the impact on human health. <p><u>Focal Point Network</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Among others, at the 27th meeting held in Zagreb, the FP focused on the mapping of funding landscape to support the implementation of the EU Risk Assessment Agenda and on their role in a future agreement aiming to improve the quality of scientific data submitted to EFSA. <p><u>Pre-accession Programme and European Neighbourhood Policy Programme</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ EFSA and DG SANTE workshop on strengthening the regional cooperation in the South East Europe and the Middle East for prevention and control of Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD). ○ Participation of the EU Enlargement countries at the Workshop on IMPRORISK model and exposure assessment, organised by the State General Laboratory (SGL) of Cyprus in cooperation with EFSA. ○ Training seminar for the EU Enlargement Countries on Basic Concepts and Methodology of the Food Safety Risk Assessment.
<p>Stakeholders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Meeting of EFSA Stakeholder Consultative Platform. Among others, the Platform discussed around the new Stakeholder engagement approach, Matrix project and uncertainty in risk assessment. ○ Stakeholders meeting to present EFSA draft guidance on novel and traditional food in third countries. ○ Visit of Greenpeace and other environmental organization to EFSA: assessment methodologies, pesticides and bee health. ○ Stakeholder workshop on bee health. ○ In the area of local stakeholder/institutional relations, the ED met with Barilla in Parma: presentation of EFSA's operating environment, challenges ahead and exchange of views.

<p>Institutional and international relations</p>	<p><u>European Commission</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Visit of the EU Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, Vytenis Andriukaitis, and Cabinet/Commission delegation: introduction to EFSA’s operating environment and EFSA’s relations with external parties. <p><u>European Parliament</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Annual hearing of the ED at the ENVI Committee. ○ Discharge of EFSA’s budget 2014. ○ Meeting of the ED with MEP Martin Haüsling (focus on pesticide peer review system and bee health), MEP Mark Demesmaeker (focus on GMOs and pesticides) and MEP Christel Schaldemose (focus on food contact materials). ○ Participation in several events: Roundtable on systematic review in scientific risk assessment, workshop on new breeding techniques, event on glyphosate, debate on uncertainty and workshop on novel foods. <p><u>Member States</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Visit of a German regional parliamentary (Lower Saxony) delegation: EFSA’s operating environment and exchange of views on a series of issues, mainly animal health and welfare. ○ Visit of a French delegation, including the French Consul to Milan, accompanied by French industry representatives: presentation of EFSA’s tasks, missions and challenges and exchange of views in the area of nutrition. ○ Hearing with the French Senate on EFSA’s role and mission in the EU food safety system, with a focus on the pesticides peer review system. <p><u>International relations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Conference calls with, among others: World Health Organization on combined exposures, Health Canada on ethyl maltol, US Food and Drug Administration on feed additives/ feed ingredients cluster, and Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN on scientific cooperation activities. ○ Canadian Food Inspection Agency: launch of scientific cooperation activities in the common areas of interest.
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CORPORATE – RESOURCES AND SUPPORT

<p>Strategy based services</p>	<p><u>Corporate business control (PTT)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New process design for Strategy, portfolio and budget under development according to schedule (Q3 2016). ○ Performance Development Network of the Network of Agencies: EFSA has been assigned to lead the work stream ‘Strategy, Planning and Reporting’. <p><u>Independence</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Completion of the centralisation of the validation process of ADoIs with the Legal and Regulatory Affairs Unit.
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Expertise based services

Court cases

- On 29 February 2016, the General Court issued an order in case T-725/15 R brought by Chemtura Netherlands plc against EFSA. With the order, the General Court rules in EFSA's favour by dismissing the application for interim relief filed by the applicant. This permitted EFSA to republish its conclusions on active substance diflubenzuron. On 11 March 2016, the General Court notified EFSA an Appeal lodged by Chemtura Netherlands plc in case C-134/16 P(R) against the order of the General Court on the interim relief. The same applicant also filed an application for further interim measures in case C-134/16 P(R)-R. The Court of Justice granted the temporary suspension of the contested order issued by the General Court in case T-725/15R, requiring EFSA to remove once again its conclusions on diflubenzuron from its website. On 15 April 2016, EFSA lodged its observations on the interim measures and observations on the appeal in cases C-134/16 P(R) and C-134/16 P(R)-R respectively.
- On 7 March 2016, EFSA submitted its statement of defence in the main case T-725/15 brought by Chemtura Netherlands plc against EFSA. In this case, the applicant challenges EFSA's decision partially rejecting the confidentiality claims of the applicant and publishing EFSA's conclusions on its website.
- On 7 April 2016, the Advocate General Kokott published its Opinions in Cases C-673/13P, *Commission / Stichting Greenpeace Nederland v PAN Europe*, and C-442/14, *Bayer CropScience et Stichting De Bijenstichting*, both concerning the release of confidential information used for the first approval of glyphosate. These Opinions follow the hearing which took place on 4 February 2016. The judgements in these two cases can be expected to be pronounced by the end of the year, which will also result in the reactivation of Case T-716/14, *Tweedale v EFSA*, which proceedings were stayed pending final ruling from the Court in these two mentioned Cases.

Ombudsman

- On 2 May 2016, in complaint 0952/2014/OV, EFSA shared with the European Ombudsman an outline of the actions and on-going reflections adopted following the conclusions of the European Ombudsman in this case. The complaint concerned an allegation of maladministration for a supposedly overly complex public consultation system. The Ombudsman found EFSA showed an appropriate degree of flexibility and did not commit maladministration.

Outreach and support services

- Launch of traineeship campaign to increase the geographical balance of candidates.
- Launch of the campaign to support the ANS and CEF Panel renewal.
- Organisation of Europe Day event (26-30 April): information sessions attended by 900 citizens plus an exhibition stand in Parma centre.

Assurance, Business engineering and Customer empowerment (PTT)

- Launching of IT component of MATRIX and Information Access Management projects.

- ICT Advisory Committee Network (ICTAC) promoted the Joint Cloud Undertaking initiative led by EFSA and the need for a shared approach in the Records and Archives Management.

Talent Selection

On 31st May, 437 posts were occupied and 12 job offers accepted by the selected candidates bringing the total to 449 posts filled-in out of the planned 470 posts (including seconded national experts). With regards to the Establishment plan (Officials and Temporary Agents) the recruitment execution rate is at 97.9%, while that for Contract Agents is at 88.8%, leading to a total occupancy rate of statutory staff of 95.4%. This gives an overall recruitment execution rate, including Seconded National Experts (which is 100%) of 95.5%.

Staff Categories	Target 2016	Total Contracted and Offered
Temporary Agents and Officials (Establishment Plan)		
Executives, Managers & Officers (AD)	230	215
Assistants functions (AST)	100	108
Total	330	323
Contract Agents		
Officers functions (CA FG IV)	75	76
Assistants functions (CA FG I, II, III)	50	35
Total	125	111
Seconded National Experts	15	15
Total all staff categories	470	449

Transaction based services

Financial management

- On 31 May 2016, €42.88 million or 53.99% of the €79.41 million budget was committed, and €25.35 million or 31.99% of the €79.24 million payment appropriations were paid.

Glossary

ADoI – Annual Declaration of Interest
AF – EFSA’s Advisory Forum
AFCWG – Advisory Forum Communications Working Group
AFSCO – EFSA Unit on Advisory Forum and Scientific Cooperation
ALPHA – EFSA Unit on Animal health and plant health
AHAW – EFSA Panel on Animal health and welfare
AMR – Antimicrobial resistance
AMU – EFSA Unit on Assessment and methodological support
ANS – EFSA Panel on Food additives and nutrient sources added to food
BIOCONTAM – EFSA Biological hazard and contaminants Unit
BIOHAZ – EFSA Panel on Biological hazards
CEF – EFSA Panel on Food contact materials, enzymes, flavourings and processing aids
COMMS – EFSA Department of Communications
CONTAM – EFSA Panel on Contaminants
DATA – EFSA Unit on Evidence management
DG SANCO – Directorate General for Health and Consumers
DoI – Declaration of Interest
DPO – EFSA Data Protection Officer
EC – European Commission
ECA – European Court of Auditors
ECDC – European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
ED – EFSA Executive Director
EP – European Parliament
ERA – Environmental risk assessment
ERWG – EFSA’s External Review Working Group
EU – European Union
EXO – EFSA’s Executive Office Unit
FAQ – Frequently asked questions
FEED – EFSA Unit on Feeds
FEEDAP – EFSA Panel on Additives and products or substances used in animal feed
FIP – EFSA Unit on Food ingredients and packaging
FP – EFSA Focal Points
GMO – EFSA Panel/Unit on Genetically modified organism
HUCAP – EFSA Unit on Human capital and knowledge management
IEP – Information exchange platform
IFCSLG – International Food Chemical Safety Liaison Group
MAP – Multi-Annual Plan
MEP – Member of the European Parliament
MRL – Maximum residue levels
MS – EU Member States
PMEM – Post Market Environmental Monitoring
PRAS – EFSA Unit on Pesticides
PPR – EFSA Panel on Plant protection products and their residues
QPS – Qualified Presumption of Safety
RASA – EFSA Department of Risk assessment and scientific assistance
RASFF – Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed
REPRO – EFSA Department of Scientific evaluation of regulated products
RESU – EFSA Department of Resources and Support
SC – EFSA Scientific Committee
SCER – EFSA Scientific Committee and Emerging Risk Unit
SCISTRAT – EFSA Department of Scientific strategy and coordination
SCP – Stakeholders Consultative Platform
SOP – EFSA’s Standard Operational Procedure
WG – Working group

Annex to the Progress Report

Progress Indicators as of 31 May 2016

Executive Summary

This document includes:

- An overview of EFSA's results in the first 5 months of 2016 on key performance indicators.
- Detailed tables with figures and data referring to the period 1/1/16 – 31/05/16 on: outputs adopted by unit (figures 1 to 3), analysis of on-going questions by status and their monthly evolution (figures 4 and 5) and evolution of key indicators on Communication activities (figure 6).

In the first 5 months of the year, 133 scientific outputs (136 same period previous year), 36 technical reports (43 same period previous year) and 22 supporting publications (38 same period previous year) have been finalized/ adopted, representing respectively 42%, 44% and 49% of the yearly target.

The updated forecast at the end of the year is to reach at least 99% of the scientific output, 99% of the Technical Report and more than 100% of the supporting publication.

Adoption timeliness for Activity 1 - provision of scientific opinions and advice & risk assessment approaches - is at 100% (target 100%).

Adoption timeliness for Activity 2 - evaluation of products, substances and claims subject to authorization stands at 84%, (target of 90%).

Financial performance at global level as of 31 May is 0.1% above the monthly target for commitments and 4.5% below the monthly target for payments (global commitment is 54% and global payment at 33.5% of the total for the year). Commitments for Scientific Cooperation are above May plan and stand at €4.08 million (42% of the yearly target). Scientific cooperation payments are slightly below the May plan and stand at €2.80 million (29% of the yearly target).

For further details on financial performance, please refer to document mb160615-i4 (Budget Execution & Transfers).

Overview of Key performance indicators as of 31/05/2016

Description	Traffic light	Comment
1 Scientific Outputs/Technical Reports Activity 1	☹️	12 outputs adopted and 2 technical reports finalised for A1 in the first 5 months of the year. <i>Current forecast to be reached at the end of 2016 is 93% for scientific output (47 vs 49) and 73% for technical report (16 vs 22).</i> <i>Main reason: deadlines of some mandates have been postponed to 2017.</i>
2 Scientific Outputs/Technical Reports Activity 2	😊	118 outputs adopted and 20 technical reports finalised for A2 in the first 5 months of the year. <i>Current forecast to be reached at the end of 2016 is 99.6% (264 vs 265) for scientific output and exceeds 100% for technical report (49 vs 47).</i>
3 Scientific Outputs/Technical Reports Activity 3	😊	3 outputs adopted and 14 technical reports finalised for A3 in the first 5 months of the year. <i>Current forecast to be reached at the end of 2016 is 100% for scientific output (5vs 5) and more than 100% for technical report (16 vs 13).</i>
4 Supporting publications	😊	22 supporting publications finalised in the first 5 months of the year. <i>Current forecast to be reached at the end of 2016 is more than 100% for supporting publications (66 vs 45).</i>
5 Global Commitments & Payments rate	☹️	Global commitments 0.1% above and payments 4% below monthly target (for details, see document mb160615-i4-Budget Execution & Transfers) – Global commitment is 54% of the yearly target and global payment is 33.5% of the yearly target.
6 G&P Commitments & Payments rate	☹️	Grants and procurements commitments above (+15%) and payments slightly below (-10%) monthly plans (for details, see document mb160615-i4-Budget Execution & Transfers).
7 Adoption Timeliness Activity 1	😊	Timeliness for scientific outputs under A1 is 100% aligned with target of 100%.
8 Adoption Timeliness Activity 2	☹️	Timeliness for scientific outputs under A2 is 84% below target of 90%. <i>Main reasons are: high workload in the pesticides area and prioritisation of tasks for PRAS and complexity of the opinions for FEED</i>
9 % of press releases/web	NA	2016 KPI no more aligned with new procedure of publication

	news items delivered within 20 WD of output adoption		(WILEY) which takes into consideration 28 working days instead of 20 working days in the previous publication process. <i>In Progress</i>
10	Traffic to EFSA WEB content	😊	Total nr. of visits to the EFSA website is 1.220.000 above the monthly target and representing 45% of the yearly target. <i>Current forecast to be reached at the end of 2016 is more than 100%.</i>
11	Subscribers to online products	😞	Subscribers to online products at end of May is 33.749, slightly below the monthly target and representing 94% of the yearly target (36.000). <i>Current forecast to be reached at the end of 2016 is 97%. Main reason is: With the setup of the specific platforms for Journal and careers, starting in June many subscribers to subscriptions products will be deleted from the current database and will be invited to the new services. With this move many inactive subscribers may be lost.</i>
12	Impact score	😊	Impact score of articles dedicated to EFSA is 20.5, slightly above the new target set up to 18. <i>Current forecast to be reached at the end of 2016 is 100% of the new target 18.</i>
13	Increase followers from social media platforms	😊	Nr. of followers from social media platforms (Twitter, LinkedIn, Youtube) at end of May is 32.384 above yearly target. <i>Current forecast to be reached at the end of 2016 is to exceed the yearly target (36.000 followers instead of 27.730 followers initially planned).</i>
14	Number of SNEs	😊	15 SNEs were present at the end of February representing 100% of the target. <i>Current forecast to be reached at the end of 2016 is 100% of the yearly target of 15.</i>
15	Occupancy Rate	😞	Average Statutory staff occupancy rate is 93.9% below the 95% yearly target.

Progress indicators: detailed tables

SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES

**Fig.1. Provision of scientific opinions and advice & risk assessment approaches (Activity 1)
01.01.2016 –31.05.2016 vs. Annual Target**

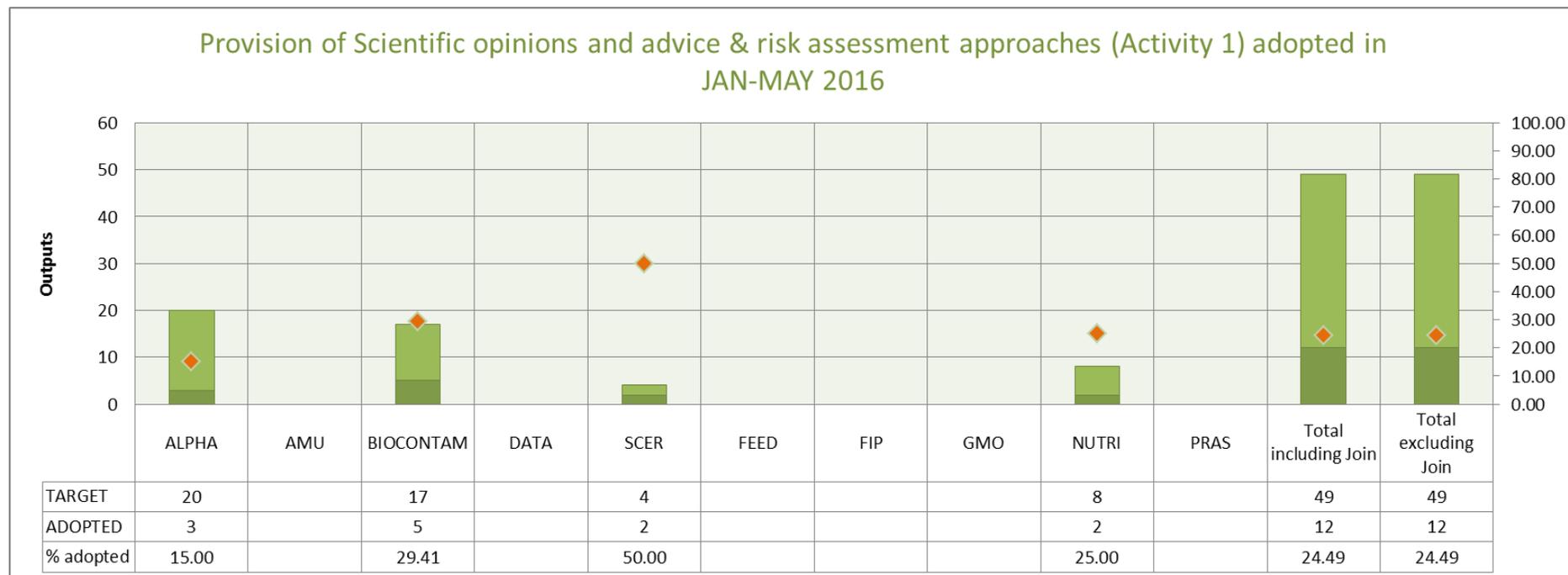


Fig. 2. Evaluation of products, substances and claims subject to authorisation (Activity 2), 01.01.2016 – 31.05.2016 vs. Annual Target

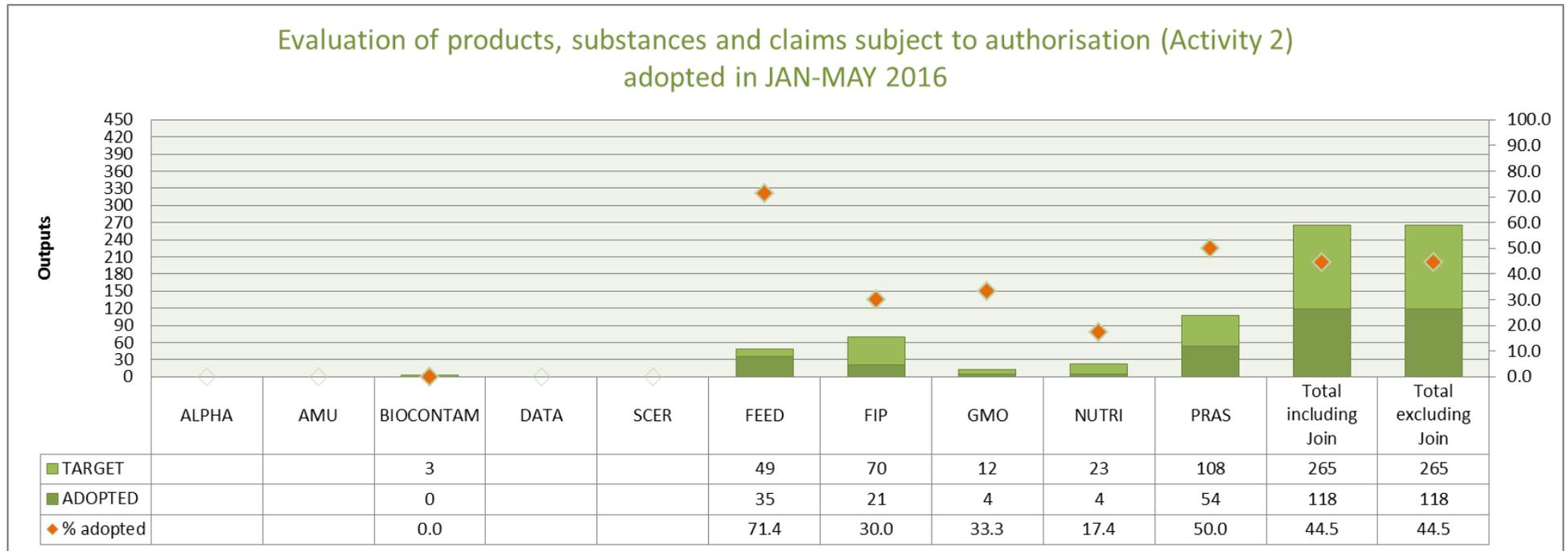


Fig. 3. Data Collection, Scientific Cooperation and Networking (Activity 3) 01.01.2016 – 31.05.2016 vs. Annual Target

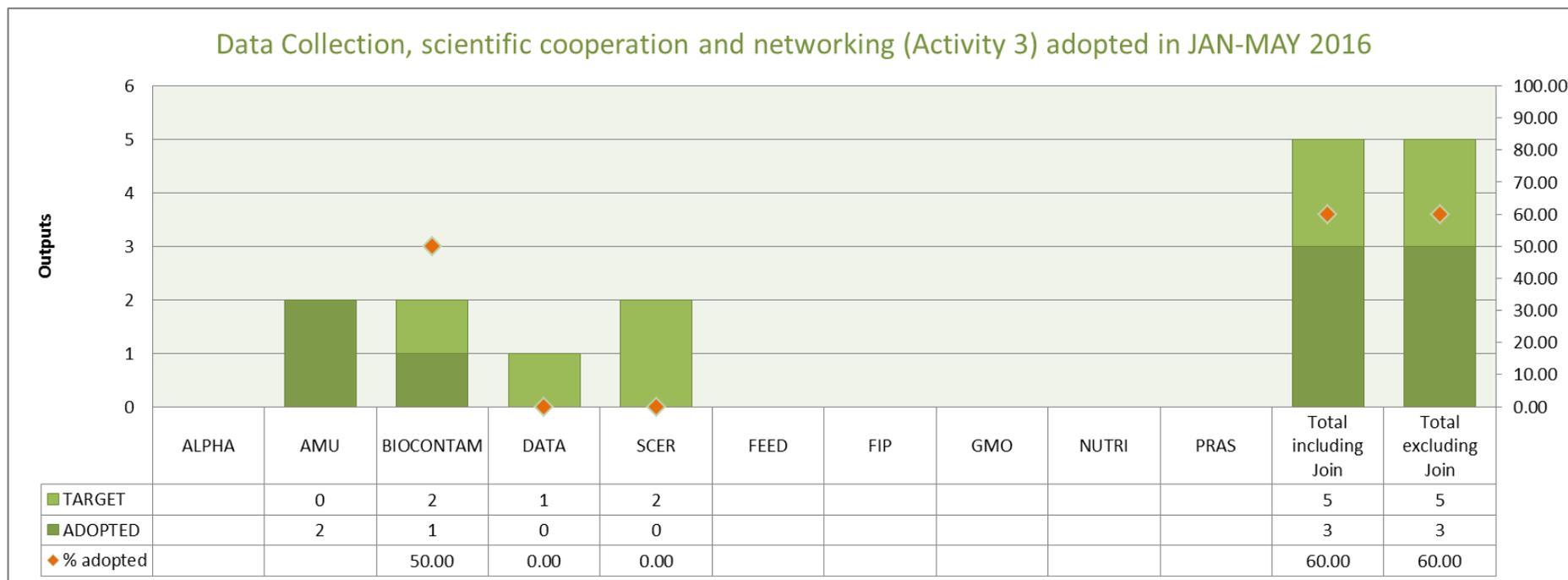
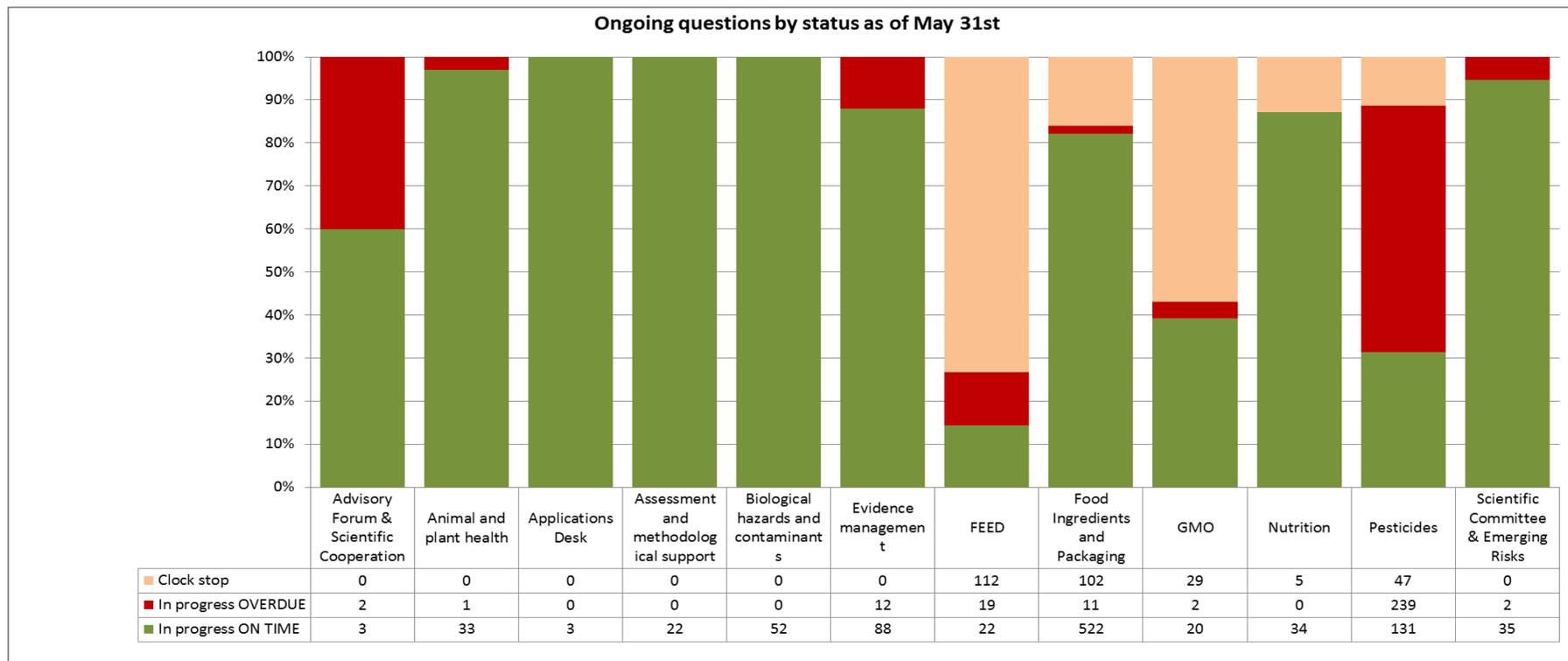


Fig. 4. Ongoing questions¹ by status

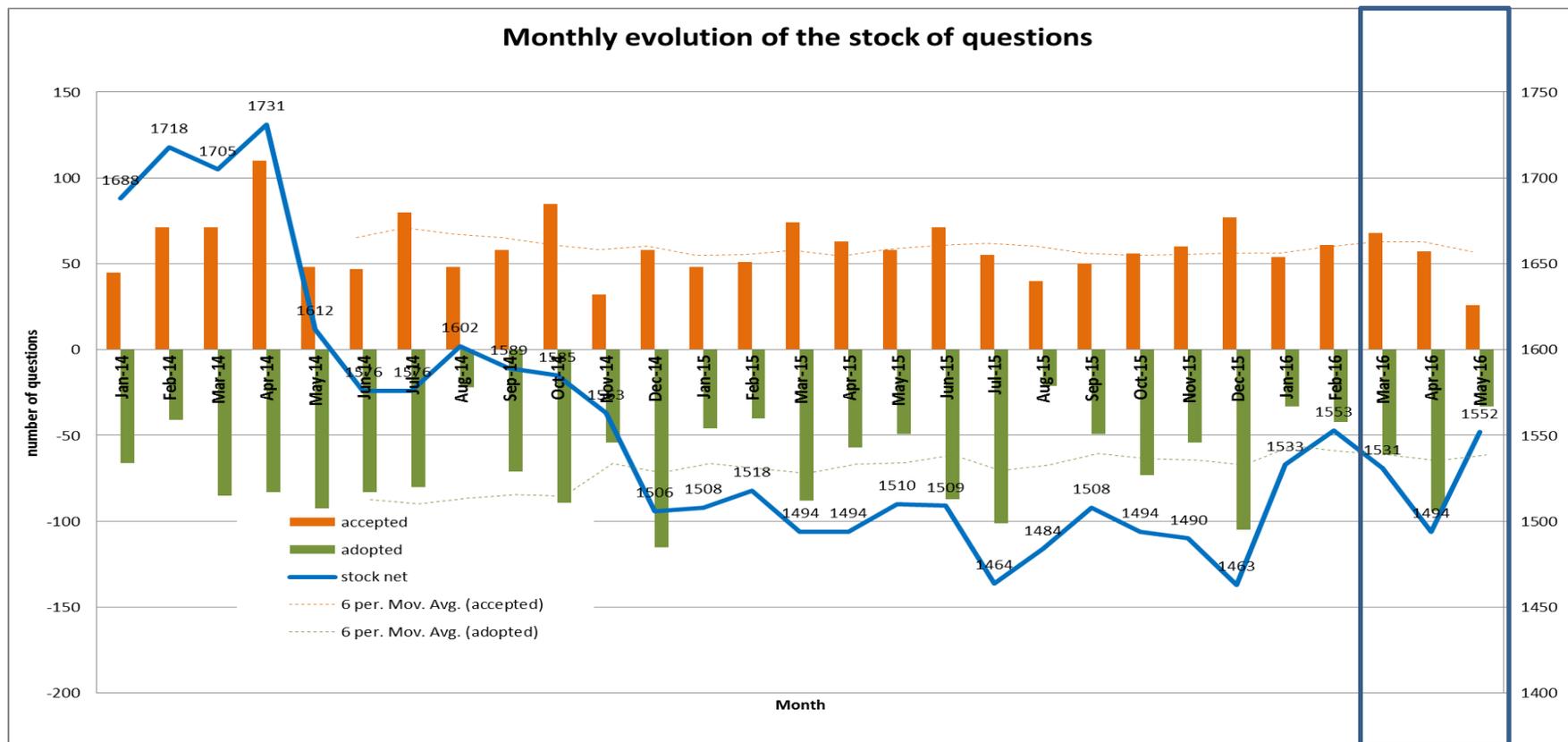


At end of May, 224 questions (linked to the adoption of EFSA Scientific Outputs) were overdue, -19% compared to February 2016 (275 questions) and -20% compared to December 2015 (280 questions).

Questions in clock stop status stand at 295 as of May with an increase (+1%) compared to February 2016 (292 questions) and a decrease (-29%) compared to December 2015 (415 questions).

¹On-going questions excluding the over 1500 questions under consideration referring to health claims pursuant to article 13 of Regulation 1924/2006 on nutrition and health claims made on food.

Fig. 5. Monthly evolution of the stock of questions



The stock of questions in the Register of Question system (RAW) at end of May 2016 is 1552 compared to February 2016 (1553), an increased amount (+6%) compared to December 2015 and mainly related to Enzymes applications (40 questions received in the period).

Fig. 6. Evolution of selected Communication KPI

