

74th Meeting of the EFSA's Management Board

Minutes of the Public Session

Parma, 11 October 2017 – 9:00-12:50

Members of the Management Board Present	
Jaana Husu-Kallio (Chair)	Stella Michaelidou-Canna
Robert van Gorcom (Vice-Chair)	Giuseppe Ruocco
Raymond O'Rourke (Vice-Chair)	Michael Scannell
Aivars Bērziņš	Andrej Simončič
Zita Čeponytė	András Székács
Iñaki Eguileor	Piet Vanthemsche
Didier Houssin	Michael Winter

Apologies: Jan Mousing

Staff of the European Food Safety Authority	
Bernhard Url (Executive Director)	Barbara Gallani
Elisa Aiassa	Juliane Kleiner
Gian Luca Bonduri	Alberto Spagnoli
Peter De Pauw	Hans Verhagen
Guilhem de Seze	Selomey Yamadjako
Dirk Detken	

Also attending:

Anthony Hardy, Chair of the EFSA's Scientific Committee

Table of Contents

Summary of decisions	3
Welcome by the Chair	4
Adoption of the agenda	4
Board members' ADoIs and ODoIs	4
EFSA performance report	4
Update from the Scientific Committee	4
Update on the PROMETHEUS project	5
Experts' employers survey	5
Renewal of the EFSA Scientific Committee and Scientific Panels Accounts	5
Scuola per l'Europa	6
EFSA coordination of the EU agencies network	6
Amendments to Art. 36 organisations	6
Feedback from the Audit Committee	6
Any other business	6
Summary of actions	7

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

The Board adopted:

- Five amendments (new entries) to the Art. 36 list of competent organisations designated by Member States which may assist EFSA within its mission.

In addition, the Board noted:

- The EFSA Performance Report, which provided information on the implementation of the Single Programming Document 2017-2019, reporting in particular the activities and the results achieved from May to August 2017.
- An update from the Scientific Committee, provided by its Chair Prof. Anthony Hardy, who presented an overview of the activities carried out in the areas of nanomaterials and nanosubstances.
- An update from the PROMETHEUS project. The project defines a set of guiding principles and a 4-step approach (plan/conduct/verify/report) for 'evidence use' (collecting, appraising and analysing data and evidence), which help to fulfil the guiding principles in EFSA scientific assessments.
- The presentation on the Experts' employers survey, which provides insight into improvements to optimise conditions for experts contributing to EFSA's work.
- An update on the renewal of the EFSA Scientific Committee and Scientific Panels in 2018. This will be the first procedure on which EFSA is expected to implement the rules on Competing Interest Management developed following the adoption of the EFSA Policy on Independence on 21 June 2017.
- The presentation of the Scuola per l'Europa, which marked a major step forward by moving to the new seat for the start of the schoolyear 2017-18.
- An update on the EFSA coordination of the EU agencies' network (EUAN). EFSA will chair the EUAN until February next year. From March to August 2018 the EUAN will be chaired by FRONTEX and from September 2018 to February 2020 by ECDC.
- The feedback from the Chair of the Audit Committee, who reported, among others, on the revised IAS internal audit charter, the validation of the ABAC access rights, the revision of the internal control framework, EFSA's action plan following the IAS's pesticide audit, the implementation of the ISO's recommendation on quality management and EFSA's process architecture.

Item 1: Welcome by the Chair

1. The Chair opened the 74th Management Board meeting by welcoming the Board members, Executive Director, Chair of the Scientific Committee, EFSA Management Team and staff members. In particular, the Chair welcomed Michael Scannell (Director of Directorate D: Food chain: stakeholder and international relations) who participated in the Board meeting for the first time.

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda

2. The Chair asked the Board if they wished to add any items to the agenda. The agenda was adopted with the following item under Any Other Business: feedback from Ms Husu-Kallio (Chair) on her participation in the meeting of the Advisory Forum (3-4 October) and feedback from Mr Van Gorcom (Vice-Chair) on his participation in the meeting of the Stakeholder Bureau (19 September).

Item 3: Board members' Annual and Oral Declaration of Interests

3. Pursuant to Article 13 of the Management Board Rules of Procedure adopted on 27 June 2013, the Board took note of the ED assessment of the Declarations of Interests submitted by two of its members and confirmed it.
4. The Chair invited the Board members to declare possible interests in addition to those already declared in their Annual Declaration of Interests. No additional interest was declared.

Item 4: EFSA performance report

5. Bernhard Url (Executive Director - ED) introduced to the Board the performance report covering the reporting period from the 1st of May to the 31st of August, 2017. The document included information in all aspects of the EFSA performance measured during the reporting period against the annual and multiannual work programme as presented in the Single Programming Document 2017-2019. In particular, focus was put to the contribution of activities and outputs to the achievement of the EFSA Strategy 2020.
6. Guilhem de Seze (Scientific Evaluation of Regulated Products - REPRO) provided an update on the on-going work for the assessment of pesticide Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) and EFSA's plan to absorb the backlog in the coming future. As well, Selomey Yamadjako (Business Services Department - BuS) brought to the Board's attention data on the management and consumption of resources, highlighting that EFSA remains committed to the achievement of the annual targets. A [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed description.
7. The Board noted EFSA's performance report and asked the ED to convey their gratitude to the EFSA's staff and experts for the considerable results achieved in the reporting period. In particular, they acknowledged the demanding workload that EFSA is called to face and expressed their gratitude for the high commitment of its staff and experts. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda items is available online at the following [link](#).
8. **Action:** EFSA to revise the presentation of the performance report by introducing a section on the "highlights" of the reporting period.

Item 5: Update from the Scientific Committee

9. The Board noted the update provided by Prof. Anthony Hardy, who presented an overview of the activities carried out in the areas of nanomaterials and nanosubstances. A [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed

description. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at the following [link](#).

Item 6: Update on the PROMETHEUS project

10. The Board noted Elisa Aiassa's (Assessment and Methodological Support - AMU) update on the progress of the project on promoting methods for evidence use in scientific assessments (PROMETHEUS). The project defines a set of guiding principles and a 4-step approach (plan/conduct/verify/report) for 'evidence use' (collecting, appraising and analysing data and evidence), which help to fulfil the guiding principles in EFSA scientific assessments. It engages with all EFSA panel experts and scientific staff to identify EFSA methodological needs for evidence use. A [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed description. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at the following [link](#).
11. **Action:** EFSA to keep the Board periodically updated on the implementation of this project.

Item 7: Experts' employers survey

12. The Board noted Hubert Deluyker's (former Scientific Adviser) presentation on the Experts' employers survey. The findings of the survey show that a significant amount of expert's time on Panel work is spent during working hours. Benefits identified by the employers of their scientific staff doing this work include networking among scientists, building risk assessment expertise with knowledge transfer to the institute and recognition of the expert and the institute at EU level. The overriding concern noted was the time and effort required to be an EFSA Panel member impacting on achieving the other tasks that need to be accomplished in the institute. Regarding financial support, the findings show there is a significant gap between the indemnity paid to experts and the cost of Panel work done during office hours. A [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed description. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at this [link](#).
13. The Chair wished to take the opportunity to thank Hubert Deluyker for the considerable work he carried out over the past years in supporting EFSA's growth and the achievement of its objectives. Mr Deluyker resigned as EFSA's ED Scientific Adviser in September 2017 because of retirement.

Item 8: Renewal of the EFSA Scientific Committee and Scientific Panels

14. The Board noted Juliane Kleiner's (Senior Science Coordinator) presentation on the on-going process for the renewal of the EFSA Scientific Committee and Scientific Panels in 2018. For the first time all Panels will be renewed at the same time and in view of the changes introduced by the amendment to the EFSA's Funding Regulation in force on the 1st of July 2018. As well, as highlighted by the ED, the 2018 Panel renewal will see the application of the new implementing rules of the independence policy adopted by the Board on 21 June 2017. A [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed description. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at the following [link](#).
15. **Action:** Andrej Simončič will observe the meeting of the external evaluators for the renewal of the Scientific Committee and Scientific Panels on behalf of the Management Board.

Item 9: Scuola per l'Europa

16. The Board noted Alberto Spagnoli's (Senior Policy Adviser) presentation on the Scuola per l'Europa, which marked a major step forward by moving to the new seat for the start of the schoolyear 2017-18. A [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed description. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at the following [link](#).

Item 10: EFSA coordination of the EU agencies network

17. The Board noted Alberto Spagnoli's update on the work carried out by EFSA as chair of the EU agencies network. *Inter alia*, he highlighted EFSA's coordination of the network with regard to the on-going financial negotiations in the context of the budget for the 2018 financial year, the Interinstitutional Working Group II on agencies resources and the negotiations around the next Multiannual Financial Framework. A [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed description. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at the following [link](#).

Item 11: Amendments to Art. 36 list

18. Aivars Bērziņš left the meeting at 12.30 P.M. and gave his proxy to Iñaki Eguileor.
19. The Board adopted the amendments (five new entries) to the Art. 36 list of competent organisations designated by Member States which may assist EFSA within its mission. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at the following [link](#).

Item 12: Feedback from the Audit Committee

20. The Chair of the Audit Committee updated the Board on the outcomes of the meeting held on 10 October 2017. Among others, he reported on the revised IAS internal audit charter, the validation of the ABAC access rights, the revision of the internal control framework, EFSA's action plan following the IAS's pesticide audit, the implementation of the ISO's recommendation on quality management and EFSA's process architecture. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at the following [link](#).

Item 13: Any other business

21. Jaana Husu-Kallio (Chair) and Robert Van Gorcom (Vice-Chair) provided the Board with a feedback on their participation in the meetings of the Advisory Forum (Tallin, 3-4 October 2017) and Stakeholder Bureau (Brussels, 19 September 2017) respectively. In particular, the Chair underlined that she exchanged views with the Member States on EFSA's scientific excellence and she was glad to verify that EFSA is highly trusted and supported Europe-wide.
22. Pieter Vanthemsche made a final statement voicing the Management Board full trust in EFSA's scientific work overall and on the assessment of the safety of glyphosate in particular: *"EFSA played its role in performing the preliminary independent and scientific risk assessment [of glyphosate] and we, as members of the Management Board, are informed of the procedure and we can confirm that every step of that procedure has been respected, as it is the case with many other regulated products. In the political discussion, some stakeholders try to undermine the authority and credibility of EFSA because they do not like the message. This is deplorable and irresponsible, and it puts a lot of pressure on EFSA: the Panels, the staff, etc. I think that lot of people are convinced that the European Food Safety Authority is a vital and essential cornerstone of the*

European food safety policy of the 21st century, as it was put in place at the beginning of the century. We have to encourage all scientists, management and staff to continue their valuable work. We trust them and we will support them."

END

Summary of actions

Action reference	Action	Deadline	Status
October 11, 2017 - 1	EFSA to add a section "Highlights" in the presentation of the performance report.	December 2017 onwards	ON-GOING
October 11, 2017 - 2	EFSA to keep the Board periodically updated on the implementation of the PROMETHEUS project.	2019	OPEN
October 11, 2017 - 3	Andrej Simončič to observe the meeting of the external evaluators for the renewal of the Scientific Committee and Scientific Panels.	Q1 2018	OPEN