



**EFSA PROGRESS REPORT**

As requested by the Board, I attach a written progress report on major and forthcoming issues since the last Board meeting.

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Executive Director

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**Progress Report**

**WORK PROGRESS AT EFSA**

1. Since 27 April, EFSA has issued a further 13 opinions. These included 6 opinions of the AFC Panel on food contact materials, 1 opinion of the BIOHAZ Panel on the biodiesel process, 3 opinions of the FEEDAP Panel on enzymes, coccidiostats and probiotics respectively, 2 opinions of the NDA Panel on vitamins and minerals and 1 opinion of the PPR Panel on daminozide.

**Visit from FDA**

2. EFSA received a senior delegation from the FDA Centre for Food Safety and Nutrition (CFSAN) on 3 June led by Dr. Robert Brackett, the Director. Discussions concentrated on opportunities for future co-operation, particularly in the area of food crises where a high level of co-operation has already been established.

**Meeting of the Advisory Forum**

3. The Advisory Forum held its 9th meeting in Budapest on 8 June. This was in particular the formal occasion to welcome the new Member States to the Forum as full members. Key issues which were covered included:
  - (i) a decision to establish a confidential IT system between the National Authorities and EFSA to allow for both rapid exchange of data and dialoguing, particularly in times of crisis. It is intended that the system will run for twelve months initially to allow for evaluation and possible subsequent modification. The system will be of particular value in the event of a food emergency;
  - (ii) reflections on the lessons learnt from the recent difference of view between EFSA and the Commission over the risks to the public relating to methylmercury and fish ;
  - (iii) the desirability of future discussions on the number of Scientific Expert Panels and their missions in order to cope with the increasing work load;
  - (iv) a discussion of the Paeps Report on EFSA which will be reported to the Board in the context of their own discussions ;
  - (v) support from EFSA to the new Member States.

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#### **Open Meetings of the FEEDAP and GMO Panels**

4. Successful open meetings of the FEEDAP and BIOTECH Panels were held on 6 May and 25 May in Barcelona and Brussels respectively.
5. The FEEDAP Panel meeting was held a 2-hour open session to enable the Panel to hear views and concerns from stakeholders in relation to the New Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 on additives for use in animal nutrition, in particular as regards the assessments to be carried out by EFSA and its FEEDAP panel. The comments and suggestions made will be taken forward as input to the Guidance Document for applicants and the Panel itself to be drafted by the Panel in the near future. Approximately 80 participants attended the open session.
6. The GMO Panel event took the form of a full day stakeholder consultation on the « Draft guidance document for the risk assessment of genetically modified plants and derived food and feed ». Some 80 stakeholders registered for the meeting and the draft Guidance will be revised in the light of the discussion.
7. In both cases the meetings were preceded by a registration procedure which provided the opportunity to submit comments in writing.

#### **Forthcoming EFSA events**

8. Forthcoming EFSA events include :
  - (1) EFSA's first scientific colloquium on the methodologies and principles for setting tolerable intake levels for dioxins, furans and dioxins – like PCBs will be held in Brussels on 28 June and 29 June. The interest of the international scientific community in this meeting is considerable and registered participants include experts from Canada, Japan and the US.
  - (2) The Advisory Forum « special event » will be held in Berlin on 8-9 November and it is expected that this will immediately be followed (9-10 November) by the EFSA stakeholder event. Further information and invitations will be available in July.