



## European Food Safety Authority

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### Adopted Minutes of the Management Board Meeting 29 March 2006 Hotel Meridian, London

#### Members of the Management Board present

- Angeliki Assimakopoulou
- Ernst Bobek
- Carlos Escribano-Mora
- Peter Gaemelke
- Deirdre Hutton
- Robert Madelin
- Joao Machado
- Pirkko Raunemaa
- Bart Sangster
- Stuart Slorach

- Professor Vittorio Silano, Chair of the EFSA Scientific Committee

#### Staff of the European Food Safety Authority present

- Antoine Cuvillier
- Herman Koëter
- Djien Liem
- Christine Majewski
- Alexandrine Maviel-Sonet
- Irene Van Geest
- François Monnard
- Finn Sheye

### PUBLIC SESSION

#### Preliminary Formalities

Stuart Slorach opened the meeting by welcoming the Board members, the Authority's staff, those watching on the web stream and the live audience in London.

The Chair asked if members wished to make any declarations of interest beyond those already made in the annual declarations of interest, which can be found on the EFSA website. There were none.

The Chair reported that Catherine Geslain-Laneelle, who had been nominated as the next Executive Director of EFSA had to leave after the private session and that he had received notices of absence before the meeting from Matthias Horst, Giorgio Calabrese, Roland Vaxelaire, and Patrick Wall.

#### 1. Adoption of Agenda (Document MB 29.03.2006 - 1)

The Chair asked if there were any additional points to the agenda. There was none. The draft agenda was adopted.

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### **2. Adoption of draft minutes of the previous meeting and matter arising from the minutes (Document MB 29.03.2006 -2)**

The Chair mentioned that a number of points from the last meeting will be discussed at this meeting: Point 6 on the establishment of the Internal Audit Committee, the Board had agreed on the Committee on the 10 February by written procedure and it has been agreed that Roland Vaxelaire (chair), Patrick Wall and Robert Madelin from the Board together with EFSA's internal auditor and the Executive Director would form the Committee. Point 7 on EFSA evaluation was discussed at the Board's Away Day 28 March and the evaluation had been on the EFSA website for comments. Point 9 the working of the Scientific Committee and Panels and the Budget too.

The minutes of the meeting of 24 January were adopted and would be published on the Authority's website.

### **3. For discussion and adoption: Preliminary Work Programme 2007 (Document MB 29.03.2006-3)**

The Acting Executive Director introduced the document, highlighting the major activities foreseen in 2007 and mentioned that the 2007 Work Programme (WP) is more comprehensive than earlier WP's. The question about the budget for 2007 was incorporated as an important part of the document. He also mentioned that 9 panels would be in place in 2007, and that MRL's on pesticides and health claims and nutrition profiling were expected to be added to the tasks of EFSA.

Following a discussion the Board agreed that:

- The results of the evaluation discussion at the Away Day should be included in the final document.
- Nutrition should be more explicitly mentioned.
- The WP should more clearly state the importance of the size of the budget and the amount of work
- Videoconferencing was important as it would mean more work done without travelling which would be easier for the experts
- It was important to highlight the objective of ensuring the same level of public health protection of all citizens in the European Union

The Board welcomed the Work Programme for 2007, congratulated EFSA staff for their efforts and adopted the preliminary document with the above comments.

### **4. For adoption: Draft Budget and Establishment Plan 2007 (Document MB 29.03.2006 - 4)**

The Acting Executive Director stressed the very difficult budget constraints for 2007, but mentioned the good co-operation EFSA has had with the Commission on the budget 2007.

The Director of Finance mentioned the current discussions between the Commission, the European Parliament and the Council on the 2007 – 2013 budgets for DG SANCO and the 2 agencies, ECDC and EFSA. With an amount of 57 million € instead of the planned

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62 million € there would have to be cuts on staff and on the work of the scientific panels and in addition other expenditure.

The Commission indicated that the amount for 2007 could be much lower than the 57 million €. One member of the Board stressed the need for all members to address the responsible politicians in the Member States!

The Board adopted the Draft Budget and Establishment Plan for 2007

### **5. Supplementary and Amending Budget pre-accession programme Turkey & Croatia. (Document 29.3.2006 - 5)**

The Director of Finance introduced the document informing the Board that EFSA had signed an agreement with DG Enlargement on a pre-accession Programme for Turkey and Croatia in the same way as the existing PHARE Programme for Romania and Bulgaria. The Programme would be funded by the Commission.

The Management Board adopted the supplementary and amended budget

### **6. Draft Annual Report 2005 (Document MB 29.3.2006 - 6)**

The document was introduced by the Acting Executive Director

The Annual Report was positively received by the Board.

A general comment was that the report was too long and it was suggested to use more annexes and also produce a short summary of the report. It was agreed that an effort would be made to shorten the Report next year. However EFSA also reminded the Board that, in accordance with the Regulation, the Annual Report was in fact an overview of activities more than a glossy promotional document. There were in addition editorial comments. The Acting Executive Director agreed that some further editing would be required.

The Board approved the Annual Report subject to the agreed editing of the Report.

### **7. Proposal for amendments of procedures and structures to further improve the functioning of the Scientific Committee and Panels (Document MB 29.3.2006 - 7)**

Professor Silano introduced the position paper by the EFSA's Scientific Committee and the Acting Director of Science introduced the Proposal by the Secretariat

They both stressed the need for the Panels to be able to have up to 23 members instead of the existing 21 members and also EFSA should look at the possibilities for the Scientific Committee to expand slightly.

The Chair stated that it was a good proposal and stressed that it would be good if the Board could agree on the change for the maximum number of experts for the Panels,

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while the discussion on the size of the Committee would have to be discussed in-depth later as the number of members was fixed in the Founding Regulation.

One member stressed that the certification of the experts would be of importance to implement now.

The Acting Executive Director mentioned that a guide for the expert compensation should be finalised soon except for the part on indemnities as the new experts need it. The number of members of the panels should be raised to a maximum of 23 members. EFSA will make a proposal to the Board for the approval of the extra members.

The Chair concluded that the possible raise of indemnities would be discussed later, but the Board agreed to the flexibility of the number of members of the Panels up to 23 members and to the guide except for the part on indemnities.

Following the lunch break, the Chair mentioned that 2 members had left, Robert Madelin and Carlos Mora Escribano, but he informed the Board that they had given proxy votes to other members of the Board.

### **8 Amendment to the rules of procedure of the Management Board (Document MB 29.3.2006 – 8)**

The Director of Legal Department introduced the document.

It was suggested to improve the text so it was clear that “a new Board elect a new chair as soon as possible” and had a revised text approved by written procedure.

The chair stressed that one of the vice chairs would soon resign due to her election as EFSA’s Executive Director and it was therefore agreed that Deirdre Hutton would be acting as chair until the new Board meet.

The Board asked the EFSA’s Legal Department to present a new proposal where it was clear that a new chair of the Board would be elected the first time the new Board meet. The Board agreed to a written procedure on this.

### **Management Matters**

#### **9. For discussion: EFSA Risk Communications Strategy and Plans (Document MB 29.3.2006 – 9)**

The Communication Department introduced the document. It was drafted due to a request from the Board in December 2005.

The Board stated that it was an excellent paper. It was mentioned that one problem may be the availability of languages. Improvement of information to Stakeholders to create more openness in daily work was also mentioned.

The Acting Executive Director stressed that the EFSA communication strategy aims at informing the consumers and other stakeholders in a very transparent and open way.

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The Chair stressed the importance of coherent messages from the Commission, EFSA and the Member States Authorities

### **10. For information: Update on the re-establishment of the SC and Panels**

The Acting Executive Director gave an update on the document and the procedures for the re-establishment of the SC and Panels.

The Chair mentioned that a meeting on this issue probably would take place in May.

### **11. For information: The List of Competent Organisations designated by the Member States which may assist the Authority with its mission**

The Acting Executive Director informed the Board of the list and the Legal Department had identified 65 institutions for which they were unclear whether they would comply with the criteria's. It would be discussed with the national authorities and a final document would be presented for the Board at the June meeting.

The Chair stressed the importance in promoting this to support the work of the Scientific Committees and Panels.

### **12. For information: Progress Report (Document MB 29.3.2006 - 10)**

The Acting Executive Director mentioned that in the Progress Report there is only a selection of highlights. He added that the progress indicators would be sent to the Board by the end of April and they would have additional information.

Based on a question from a member of the Board the Acting Executive Director mentioned the different type of staff at EFSA and that most staff are temporary agents.

### **13. For information: Update on the Appointment of a new Executive Director**

The Chair explained that the Board had nominated Catherine Geslain-Laneelle and that she had answered questions from the EP Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee in February 2006. The Chair would await the comments from the Parliament. He mentioned that Catherine Geslain-Laneelle was expected to start at the latest the 1 July.

### **14. For information: Update on the replacement of the Management Board (Document MB 29.3.2006 - 11)**

The Chair explained the replacement of the Management Board and that the EP has 3 months to make comments and then Council makes its decision. The shortlist included twice as many candidates as needed for the Board. It was expected that the decision should be taken before the Board meeting the 20 June.

**15. For information: Provisional Annual Financial Report 2005 (Document MB 29.3.2006 – 12)**

The EFSA Accountant highlighted 3 tables in the document: Balance sheet, economic outturn accounts and the budget execution. He also mentioned that the Court of Auditors had been at EFSA twice and that their report is expected shortly.

There were no comments

**Financial matters**

**16. For information : Transfers in the EFSA Budget (Document MB 29.3.2006 - 13)**

The Director of Finance explained the document

There were no comments.

**Any other business**

**17. The outcome of the Away Day and recommendations arising from the discussions**

The Chair explained the results of the Away Day on the evaluation of EFSA. The Board would make its recommendations and decision at the June Board meeting. There had been input from the Advisory Forum, the Stakeholders Consultative Platform, the staff of EFSA and the Scientific Panels and also from the public consultation on the website. The Acting Executive Director together with Catherine Geslain-Laneelle would present a proposal

**18. Note concerning EFSA's PHARE project as requested by the Board (Document MB 29.3.2006 – 14)**

The Director of Institution and International Relations presented the document and informed that it was prepared at request of the Board.

A member of the Board asked who is accountable for the use of the funds for this program and the Acting Executive Director replied that it is the responsibility of the Board as for all other EFSA budget items

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