

EXPLANATORY NOTE TO THE BOARD

(Not part of the Management Plan)

- a) The following document is based on the preliminary work programmes of the European Food Safety Authority for 2007 which was adopted by the Management Board in March 2006 and which provided the basis for the Preliminary Draft Budget (PDB) request from EFSA for the 2007 budget.
- b) Since March, EFSA has been able to form a clearer view of its work for 2007 taking into account the demands placed on it by risk managers, and in particular the recommendations from the Management Board following the external evaluation of EFSA carried out under Article 61 of EFSA's founding Regulation. The document has been revised to reflect also the need for EFSA to demonstrate the allocation of resources to activities identified in the Work Programmes. This approach will be further developed for the Work Programmes for 2008.
- c) The preliminary document adopted in March 2006 has been widely consulted on – through the Advisory Forum, the Scientific Committee, the Stakeholder Consultative Platform and the European Commission. The document has also been shared with the European Parliament. Comments from these consultations are reflected in this document.
- d) The Budgetary Authority should reach its conclusions on available budget for 2007 in mid-December 2006 and it is anticipated that there will in fact be reserves set by the budgetary Authority on EFSA 2007 budget of EUR 3.9 million for Titles I and II (Staff and Infrastructure) and EUR 5.6 million for Title III (Operations).
- e) EFSA is still a growing Authority and has placed a high priority in terms of its management activities on recruitment and retention of excellent staff. Due to difficulties in meeting recruitment targets in previous years, EFSA will start 2007 with staffing figures below those anticipated, even though it is expected that EFSA will achieve its target of 300 staff by the end of 2007. However over the year the staffing costs originally foreseen will be less than those indicated in the PDB presented to the Board in March 2006 and consequently EFSA will review the reserve on Title I & II at a later date.

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f) For Title III, it is anticipated that, following the possible adoption of the list of organisations under Article 36, there will be a significant shift in EFSA's work compared to previous years in relation to outsourcing scientific tasks. In addition EFSA's key priority for the development of greater scientific collaboration and cooperation will also have a significant draw on Title III. Therefore it is anticipated that EFSA will request to have this reserve lifted. This budgetary aspects are of course reflected in this Management Plan.

g) As a request of the European Parliament, four conditions will have to be satisfied to release the amounts in reserve i.e.:

1. The final work programme will have to include a list of tasks for 2007, as foreseen today, with clear indication of which tasks have been added compared to the previous year and why;
2. A positive evaluation of the performance of EFSA against its work programme is to be provided by specialised committees of the European Parliament,
3. The guidelines on staff policy will be fully implemented;
4. The new staff policy plans will be presented to the Parliament in time for the PDB 2008.

h) As with previous EFSA Management Plans it should be noted that this document can only provide predictive planning information. Due to the nature of the work of the Authority, questions may be put to it at any time during 2007 some of which, by their very nature, urgency and level of complexity, may have a significant effect on work in other areas and re-adjustments may need to be made. Any significant impact on this programme will of course be brought back to the Management Board for discussion and decision.

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Adoption of the Work Programmes for 2007

i) The Board is asked to consider this document in its entirety during the December meeting of the Board noting in particular that the endorsement of the Work Programme elements is important as this provides the basis for the Authority's budget justification and activities in 2007. It is possible that this document could be adopted if the Board agrees at the December meeting. If this is not the case the Board will be asked to reflect on this document once again in January 2007. The legal deadline for its adoption is 31st January 2007.

The founding Regulation gives guidance to the Board in relation to its adoption of the Work Programmes of the Authority.

1. to consider the budget placed at the disposal of the Authority,
2. to ensure that the Work Programmes are consistent with the Community's legislative and policy priorities in the area of food safety.

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