



## European Food Safety Authority

---

### Adopted Minutes of the Management Board Meeting 19 December 2006 Marina Congress Center, Helsinki

#### Members of the Management Board present

- Diána Bánáti
- Marianne Elvander
- Peter Gaemelke
- Marion Guillou
- Matthias Horst
- Robert Madelin
- Pirkko Raunemaa
- Bart Sangster
- Roland Vaxelaire
- Patrick Wall

#### Professor Vittorio Silano, Chair of the Scientific Committee of EFSA

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

- Antoine Cuvillier
- Catherine Geslain Lanéelle
- Herman Koeter
- Djien Liem
- Christine Majewski
- Alexandrine Maviel-Sonet
- Francois Monnard
- Ingela Soderlund

### PUBLIC SESSION

#### Preliminary Formalities

Patrick Wall opened the meeting by welcoming the Board Members, Professor Silano, the Authority's staff and the viewers on the web. He thanked the Finnish Food Authority, EVIRA, for hosting the meeting. The Chair asked if members wished to make any declarations of interest for any agenda items beyond those already made in the annual declarations of interest. Apologies had been received from Giorgio Calabrese, Konstantinos Yazitzoglou, Deirdre Hutton and Joao Machado.

#### 1. Adoption of Agenda (Document MB 19.12.2007 -1)

1.1 The Chair asked the Members of the Management Board if there were any changes or additions they would like to make.

1.2 No items were added to the agenda. The agenda was adopted.

## **MB 23.01.2007 – 2 Adopted minutes**

### **2. Adoption of draft minutes of the previous meeting and matter arising from the minutes (Document MB 19.12.2007 -1)**

- 2.1 The minutes of 12 September 2006 were adopted and would be published on the Authority's website.
- 2.2 No matters at the meeting had been carried over from the September Board meeting.

### **3. Update by Executive Director (MB 19.12.2006-3)**

- 3.1 The Chair invited the Executive Director to update the Management Board on developments which had taken place following the last meeting.
- 3.2 The Executive Director updated the Board on the scientific activities of EFSA, highlighting a guidance document on uncertainties in dietary exposure assessments, adopted by the Scientific Committee and public consultations on GMO feeding trials and Geographical BSE-Risk (GBR). She further updated the Board on EFSA's activities in the area of Blue Tongue where EFSA supported the Commission Services and Member States with scientific advice. EFSA currently has 2 mandates on Blue tongue: i. to provide scientific assistance to the Commission by preparing regular reports on the bluetongue disease situation; ii. to prepare an analysis of epidemiological data in relation to the ongoing outbreak in Europe.
- 3.3 EFSA further provided support to Commission Services in the area of possible mutual recognition of risk assessment of GMO's between Codex and EFSA and scientific support on the inadvertent release in the US of GM rice. There had been a fruitful conference on the risk assessment of pesticides which will lead to an important self task in EFSA. The second stage of the peer review of pesticides had been finalised. The new Plant Health Panel had delivered its first opinions and there had been contacts between the European Plant Protection Office (EPPO) to discuss how the work of EPPO and EFSA would be organised.
- 3.4 The Executive Director had met the Environment Committee of the European Parliament, Chief Veterinary Officers (CVO's) and with the Commission on two separate occasions to dialogue on matters of common interest.
- 3.5 Significant work had been carried out since September on implementing the Board recommendations on the evaluation of EFSA, notably on cooperation and networking of Member States, dialogue with institutional partners, communications activities, an internal reorganisation of EFSA and the development of EFSA's activities in the field of nutrition. The Executive Director noted that considerable progress had been made and added that she would come back to the Board regularly with updates.
- 3.6 The Chair expressed the gratitude and support of the Management Board to Professor Silano and all scientists working for EFSA for their work during their year. He announced that a working group would be set up in order to look at how best support scientists help them to deliver risk assessments.

## **MB 23.01.2007 – 2 Adopted minutes**

- 3.7 Professor Silano expressed the commitment of his scientific colleagues and thanked the Chair and the Board for their support
- 3.8 The Board complimented the Executive Director on the improved pace of progress at EFSA, for giving clear signals and providing follow-up. The Board further stressed the need for the Authority to support the scientists as best as it could. The Executive Director thanked the Board for its appreciation and for its support for the work of scientists on Panels and in the Scientific Committee and would keep the Board updated on the results of the effort to improve work conditions.
- 3.9 Professor Silano thanked EFSA and the Board for their support and offered to participate in the working group, also with other colleagues from the Scientific Committee if that was desirable.

### **4. Budget 2007 for discussion and adoption (MB 19.12.2006-4)**

- 4.1 The Chair introduced the point, explaining that the Management Board was legally obliged to adopt the Authority's budget and gave the word to the Head of Finance.
- 4.2 The Head of Finance, Francois Monnard, explained that the preliminary draft budget that the Board had adopted provisionally in March 2006 had now gone through the EU budgetary procedure and been adopted by the Council and European Parliament.
- 4.3 The European Parliament had placed a reserve of 9,5 million € on the budget. The Budget therefore showed 2 columns – 57 million € and the one with the reserve. The reserve on the budget was not EFSA specific as all Agencies had had some of their budgets placed in reserve.
- 4.4 Francois Monnard explained that the European Parliament had set 4 conditions for lifting of reserve: i. the final work programme would have to include a complete task list for 2007 with clear indication about which tasks had been added compared to the previous year and why; ii. the Environment Committee would have to give a positive evaluation of the performance of the Authority against its work programme; iii. the guidelines of staff policy have to be fully implemented; iv. new staff policy plans would have to be presented to Parliament in time for the preliminary draft budget 2008. Mr Monnard further explained that the Parliament had made no changes to the establishment plan, according to which the Authority would have 300 temporary agents at the end of 2007, however with the reserve in place the recruitment objective would not be possible to meet. It was foreseen to have a meeting with Budget Committee of the Parliament in May 2007 to discuss the lifting of the reserve on staff expenditure and scientific activities.
- 4.5 The Board enquired about whether the Authority would be in a position to reach its employment target and about the link between the budget and employment procedures. The Executive Director explained that the recruitment team had been doubled and that other measures had been put in place in order to reach and achieve the objective.
- 4.6 The member from the Commission suggested that a carry over of some 4,1 million € available at DG SANCO level could be added to the EFSA budget and enquired about the impact of the cuts

## **MB 23.01.2007 – 2 Adopted minutes**

implied by the 9,5 €million reserve on the budget, in particular on the risk assessment activities. The Executive Director explained that the way the budget had been structured and presented was expressly done in order to show how the reserve had been allocated in order for the Authority to be able to maintain the 2006 level of work and that the need to come back to the Board on this matter had been indicated.

- 4.7 The Board enquired about how the €4,1million carry over could be added to the budget. The Head of Finance explained the procedures involved and that the Board needed to request the money to be added to the Authority's budget.
- 4.8 The Board agreed to request that the carryover be added to the EFSA budget and suggested that the money should be allocated into title 3 and be made available to scientific activities. The Board agreed that the sums should be allocated to specific budget lines over a break in the meeting and a new spreadsheet produced before the budget was adopted.

### **5. Work Programme 2007 for discussion and possible adoption (MB 19.12.2006 -5)**

- 5.1 The Head of External Relations presented the policy and legislative environment in which the Work Programme had been drafted. Focused on the new organigram, the Work Programme reflected the priorities of the Management Board including an overall strategy on nutrition, building close relationships with other EU institutions and other EFSA partners. The Board had provisionally adopted the document in March 2006 after which it had been sent out for consultation. The 2007 Work Programme had a different structure to better illustrate how resources were spent in each activity and take into consideration how Management Board priorities have been taken into account into the activities. This structure would be further developed in the 2008 Work Programme. The legal deadline for adopting the document was by the end of January 2007.
- 5.2 The Director of Science introduced the 2007 scientific programme, emphasizing closer relationships with experts in Member States, in particular through the Advisory Forum.
- 5.3 The Board expressed their appreciation of the draft Work Programme, and made recommendations on the global view and the details of the Programme, recommending close cooperation with the Commission and in particular DG Research. The Board also noted the importance of international cooperation and a common approach in the field of risk assessment, interest in EFSA's future work on nanoparticles and noted the more visible role of the Scientific Committee. The Board expressed concern about timetables, initiatives and taking on work which had previously not been in the work programme thereby potentially overstressing staff and scientific experts.
- 5.4 The Board recommended that an Executive Summary be prepared to accompany the document. Doubts were expressed regarding statements concerning the field of nutrition in the work programme. The Board enquired whether these were in line with the founding Regulation and asked for the legal remit to be investigated. The Executive Director assured that EFSA would develop its activities on nutrition, recommended by the Board in its recommendations following the EFSA evaluation, within the remit of EFSA.

## **MB 23.01.2007 – 2 Adopted minutes**

5.5 The Board suggested that indicators, such as in the Communications part of the document, should be added to the document, which should be used as a tool by EFSA.

5.6 The Executive Director thanked the Board for their comments and indicated that she thought it was possible to take all of them into consideration. She stressed that it would now be important to develop clear strategy now on EFSA's activity in the field of nutrition along the lines of the Board recommendations from June, develop the main priorities in this field and give scientific support to the Commission and Member States within the remit of EFSA. She further welcomed idea to have an executive summary and a power point presentation to facilitate the implementation the work programme as soon as the plan had been endorsed. It was agreed that a version with track changes would be circulated to facilitate reading.

### **6. Adoption of the Budget**

6.1 The Chair explained that structure of the redrafted budget and handed over the word to the Head of Finance to explain how the 4 131 000 had been allocated to title 3.

6.2 Francois Monnart detailed the allocation and informed the Board that the Chapters within Title 3 that had benefited from an allocation were 30 and 31. A total of 9,2 million were now available in comparison with the initial request of 9,6 with 3,4 million available in Chapter 31, with an initial request of 4,5 million.

6.3 The Board took note of the new budget and the budget was adopted.

### **7. Collaboration and networking with Member States**

- a. Draft strategy paper for cooperation and networking between the EU Member States and EFSA – (for endorsement) (**MB 19.12.2006 -6a**)
- b. Draft list of competent organisations designated by the Member States which may assist the Authority with its mission (Article 36 of 178/2002) (for adoption) (**MB 19.12.2006 – 6b**)

7.1 The Chair explained that the items under point 6 were linked and asked the Executive Director to provide the background.

7.2 The Executive Director introduced the documents. The Strategy on cooperation and networking had been drafted based on the Board recommendation on stronger networking and cooperation between Member States. The Advisory Forum and the Scientific Committee had been closely involved in the preparation of the document. The main objective of the cooperation would be to contribute to the risk assessment process. This would benefit all actors as they would all be using the same sources of expertise, make best use of resources and develop synergy.

7.3 The Board strongly supported the approach and stressed the need to have a European platform. The Board enquired about the focal points mentioned in the document and who would be responsible for setting them up.

## **MB 23.01.2007 – 2 Adopted minutes**

- 7.4 The Director of Science explained that the focal points would be organised by the Member States.
- 7.5 The Board endorsed the document.
- 7.6 The Executive Director thanked the Board for endorsing the strategy, the basis for developing the networking. The so called article 36 list would be one of the tools to implement this list. It was up to the Management Board to adopt this list, which had been put together on the basis of submissions from Member States. The organisations selected had public or governmental involvement, it was an initial list which could be amended. An open specific procedure would be developed to ask all organisations, when the Authority would contract tasks, about their interest. She added that this way of funding organisations was different from the way which EFSA was already able to conclude contracts with organisations. This procedure involved grants meaning that not all costs would be covered by EFSA, but some. It was stressed that clear guidelines would be made public in conjunction with the publication of the list, which would also make clear the relation with organisations not on the list.
- 7.7 The Board suggested that Declarations of Interest should be made by the staff working for the organisations on the list as with other scientists working for EFSA. Furthermore the organisations on the list should be removed from the list automatically after a defined period.
- 7.8 Marianne Elvander declared an interest as she was employed by one of the organisations on the list. Marion Guillou, Diana Banati, and Patrick Wall also made declarations of interest.
- 7.9 The Executive Director agreed that a cover note would be drafted and circulated to the Board for their agreement, to draft a letter to the Permanent Representations providing a information about the adoption of the list.
- 7.10The Board adopted the list.

## **8. Budget Transfers – for information (MB 19.12.2006 -7)**

- 8.1 The Chair states that EFSA is legally obliged to report transfers made in the budget to the Board.
- 8.2 The Head of Finance explained the amount of transfers made to the Board.  
The transfers made under the 10 % limit represented 6.01 % of the appropriations for the financial year
- 8.3 The Board took note of the document.

## **9. Execution of the 2006 Budget – update (MB 19.12.2006 – 8)**

- 9.1 The Chair asked the Head of Finance to introduce agenda point 9, the execution of Budget 2006, to the Board.
- 9.2 The Head of Finance informed the Board that the execution of the budget would amount to slightly over 37 million, or some 91 per cent of the budget.
- 9.3 The Board took note of the document.

## **MB 23.01.2007 – 2 Adopted minutes**

### **10. End of PHARE Project – Final report (MB 19.12.2006 – 9)**

10.1 The Head of External Relations reported on the implementation of the PHARE project which ran between 2005 and 2006 over a period of 18 months. The programme had been a success which was manifested by the statements received by Romania and Bulgaria after the finalisation of the Programme.

10.2 The methodology used had been adopted after a dialogue with the two new Member States and the Programme had been guided by a Steering Committee. During the course of the programme, hundreds of Romanian and Bulgarian scientists, administrators and communicators had attended training seminars, working group meetings and conferences.

10.3 Pirkko Raunemaa, who had lent her support to the programme throughout its implementation, stated that the new members of the EU and indeed of EFSA were now well prepared and enthusiastic to join EFSA's activities in the new year.

### **11. Concluding remarks**

11.1 The Chair thanked the members of the Board, the audience, the Authority's staff for the preparatory work, the interpreters, Professor Silano, the team responsible for the web streaming and closed the meeting