



## Management Board Meeting

27 March 2007

### PROGRESS REPORT

January – March 2007: Highlights

#### **Implementing the recommendations of the Management Board**

##### **Highlights**

1. This report highlights many of the steps taken to implement the recommendations of the Management Board of the external evaluation of EFSA. The meeting of the Advisory Forum on 8 February saw the agreement of the Forum to develop further tools to implement the Strategy on Scientific Cooperation and Networking, which was endorsed by the Board at its December meeting. The list of competent organisations designated by Member States to assist the Authority, adopted by the Board and published Authority's website in January and the Strategy represent tangible progress towards implementing the Board's recommendation on developing active networking and stronger cooperation with Member States.

2. EFSA's Executive Director and Diána Bánáti, one of the vice-chairs of the Management Board, participated at a hearing of the Budgetary Control Committee in the European Parliament in the context of the discharge of the budget for 2005. The hearing took place at the European Parliament premises on 30<sup>th</sup> January. On 27 February EFSA Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle addressed the Public Health and Food Safety Committee (ENVI Committee) of the European Parliament. to present EFSA's Management Plan 2007 and to have an exchange of views with MEPs on the work programme and EFSA's activities in general.

3. Steps were taken to further enhance EFSA's organisation through the appointment of the Director for Administration on 16 January 2007 and the appointment of ad interim Heads for the Human Resources and Facilities Units. EFSA is expanding quickly and a big effort has been made to enhance the efficiency of recruitment. On March 9, there were 228 EFSA employees.

4. This meeting of the Board will see the discussion and provisional adoption of EFSA's Work Programme for 2008, an important aspect of EFSA's short and medium term planning. During 2007 the aim is to have a broad consultation, to integrate views from many sources, in particular the Advisory Forum, European Commission, Scientific Committee and Panels and EFSA's Stakeholder Consultative Platform into EFSA's annual and multi-annual plans. EFSA will also announce its 5 year anniversary and a programme of events surrounding this important milestone.

**SCIENCE DIRECTORATE**

**Risk assessment department**

5. AFC Panel

In the period December 2006 – March 2007 the AFC Panel had 1 plenary meeting. At its 21<sup>th</sup> meeting held beginning of February 8 opinions were adopted covering 12 different substances. One of the 8 opinions covered 5 similar substances (therefore one opinion), but with 5 different question numbers. In the area of Food Contact Materials a 14<sup>th</sup> list incorporating 3 substances was approved. An opinion covering 5 substances in the field of nutrient sources, some 3 opinions on Flavouring Group Evaluations (FGE's) number 08, 21 & 50 listing 147 flavouring substances and a 1<sup>st</sup> revision of an FGE namely of group 06, were equally accepted.

6. AHAW Panel

During this period the AHAW Panel held two Plenary Meetings (31January/1 February and 8-9 March). In January two opinions were adopted, (vaccination against AI of H5 and H7 subtypes of zoo birds and the risk of echinococcosis introduction into UK, Ireland, Sweden and Malta as a consequence of abandoning national rules). In March two additional opinions were adopted including a discussion paper on the risk assessment for food producing animals and the assessment of the risk of tick introduction into the UK, Ireland, and Malta as a consequence of abandoning the national rules.

In addition to the Plenary Meeting a total of 23 WG Meetings were held in January and March dealing with 9 different opinions. As requested by DG SANCO, the AHAW panel making all possible efforts to finalize 3 important opinions by April (i.e. Blue tongue-vaccines and vectors-Avian Influenza vaccines; and Newcastle disease vaccines ).

EFSA had an important meeting at FAO on the 8<sup>th</sup> February in order to strength the relations and collaboration with the scientific activities on AHAW issues. The AHAW Unit presented its activities in i) February, 9th in Cremona at the International Congress “*Food Safety: the Veterinarian's role*”-organized by ANMVI, FEV and UEVP ii) 28th February in Bologna, veterinary Faculty of at the European Technology Platform on Global Animal Health meeting.

7. BIOHAZ

During this period, the BIOHAZ Panel held 2 plenary meetings on 24-25 January and 7 - 8 March 2007, 14 working group meetings and adopted 9 opinions. The opinion on the health risks of feeding of ruminants with fishmeal in relation to the risk of TSE was adopted on 25 January 2007. As the request was made by the European Parliament, the opinion was sent to the President of the EP prior to publication, and a press release was issued.

Two opinions were adopted following public consultation:

- The Geographical BSE Risk assessment (GBR) method was revised following a self-tasking mandate to review the methodology as established by the European Commission in 1998 and used by the SSC and EFSA to assess the risk of BSE in domestic cattle population in a given

## MB 27.03.2007 – 3 Progress Report

country at a given point in time. The new method takes into account the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code and other new data and models.

- The opinion on microbiological criteria and targets based on risk analysis also considered comments gathered in a public consultation.

Also adopted was the opinion on microbiological risks in infant formulae and follow-on formulae, in which EFSA was asked by the European Commission to review a previous opinion on the subject.

Furthermore, opinions were adopted on BSE related risk of bovine intestines after processing into natural sausage casings, Safety of mesophilic biogas fermenters used for the treatment of animal by-products, Quantitative Risk Assessment for residual BSE risk in sheep, Assessment on batch testing of TSE rapid test kits. The BIOHAZ Panel also adopted an opinion assessing the AFSSA<sup>1</sup> opinion on scrapie in sheep and goats of 15 January 2007<sup>2</sup>.

### 8. CONTAM Panel

The CONTAM Panel met once in plenary in the above mentioned period and two opinions were adopted: one opinion on aflatoxins in almonds, hazelnuts and pistachios and another opinion on pyrrolizidine alkaloids as undesirable substances in animal feed. Different working group meetings were held in the area of aflatoxins in food, nitrate in vegetables, PFOS, marine biotoxins, carry-over of coccidiostats in non-target animal feed, hormones in bovine meat, and undesirable substances in animal feed subsections natural plant products, persistent organic pollutants and mercury.

### 9. FEEDAP Panel

The FEEDAP Panel held six working group meetings and one plenary meeting where two opinions were adopted. In addition, during this period and as part of the consultation process initiated by the European Commission on the development of guidelines for the assessment of additives for use in animal nutrition, within the framework of Article 7 of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003, the FEEDAP Panel has agreed and submitted two new documents. The first one is the specific guidance for the assessment of Flavouring compounds and the second one is the Guidance for the "Environmental Risk Assessment of Feed Additives". As well, a technical hearing took place with an applicant which is developing phage-based antibacterials, as new type of feed additives.

Finally, the European Commission, invited FEEDAP to participate in the WG of the Standing Committee, held on 29<sup>th</sup> of January, aiming at establishing new guidelines for the assessment of additives for use in animal nutrition, in this opportunity the discussion focused on the efficacy and safety of the target animal.

### 10. GMO Panel

The GMO Panel had its plenary meeting 31 January – 1 February 2007 in Parma.

At the plenary meeting, the GMO Panel adopted its part of a co-opinion (between the GMO Panel and the FEEDAP Panel) with regard to the risk assessment of the genetic modification aspect of the product Quantum<sup>TM</sup> Phytase.

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<sup>1</sup> AFSSA - Agence Française de Sécurité Sanitaire des Aliments (French Food Safety Agency)

<sup>2</sup> AFSSA Mandate No 2006-SA-0343 and AFSSA Mandate No 2006-SA-0195

## **MB 27.03.2007 – 3 Progress Report**

Ten working group meetings for the molecular characterization, the food/feed safety and the environmental risk assessment of applications for the placing on the market of GMOs within the framework of Regulation (EC) 1829/2003 have been held in the period of January – March 2007. One working group meeting took place in March 2007 to discuss the risk assessment of the genetic modification aspect of feed additives that have been submitted within the framework of Regulation (EC) 1831/2003.

Three working group meetings were organized within the framework of self tasking activities “the assessment of allergenicity of GM food/feed” and “Guidance for the risk assessment of GM plants for non food or non feed purposes”.

Experts from France, Germany, Spain and the Netherlands met with members of the Panel on 30th January 2007. These four countries have volunteered to carry out the initial environmental risk assessments of certain applications for cultivation in accordance with Article 6.3(c) and 19.3(c) of Regulation (EC) 1829/2003. The aim of that meeting was to share experiences on the environmental risk assessments of these applications and to discuss the evaluation of data presented in the applications and the risk assessment of herbicide tolerant and insect resistant GM crops.

### 11. NDA Panel

During this period the NDA Panel met in plenary and adopted two reports. One was an Opinion related to the evaluation of glucose syrups produced from barley starch, an allergen derivative, for permanent exemption from labelling (pursuant to the procedure laid down in the labelling Directive 2000/13/EC). The second report was a Statement related to a novel food application on fruit juices and nectars with added phytosterols. In addition, the following four working group (WG) meetings were held: WG on food allergy, WG on novel foods, WG on population reference intakes, and WG on claims.

The NDA Panel received three new requests for scientific opinion, one of them concerning a novel food application. The other two requests for scientific opinion were in relation to the Regulation on nutrition and health claims made on foods: one of them for an opinion on nutrient profiles, and the second one concerning scientific and technical guidance for the preparation and presentation of applications for authorisation of health claims.

### 12. PPR Panel

The PPR Panel held a plenary meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> January-1<sup>st</sup> February 2007 where two opinions were adopted on the revision of Annexes II and III of the Directive 91/414; one on the section Toxicological and metabolism studies and one on the Fate and behaviour of pesticides in the environment. At the Plenary meeting on 7-8<sup>th</sup> March two more opinions were adopted, one on the revision of Annexes II and III of the Directive 91/414, one on the section Ecotoxicology, one on the acute reference dose for imazalil. From January to mid March, 15 Working Group meetings took

## **MB 27.03.2007 – 3 Progress Report**

place in Ecotoxicology, Residues, Fate and Toxicology, in particular 4 WGs on the revision of the Guidance Document on risk assessment for birds and mammals.

### 13. PLH

The Panel on Plant Health held its 4th Plenary meeting on 21-22 February. In total two opinions were adopted, one on *Bactrocera zonata*, a fruit fly posing a threat to Community fruit production; and a second on *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*, an invasive alien aquatic plant and a further three were prepared for adoption by written procedure. Three working groups for new questions related to pest risk assessment dossiers prepared by France for the French Departements d'outre mer (DOM) took place in Jan-Feb.

## **Scientific Cooperation and Assistance Department**

### 14. Pesticide Risk Assessment (PRAPeR) Unit

The peer review of the 3<sup>rd</sup> stage continued by distributing the draft assessment reports of 6 substances to the respective applicant(s) and Member States. The public version of the reports has also been produced and made available on the EFSA website, initiating a 40-day public consultation period.

The consultation of MS experts in the PRAPeR meetings continued in January with 4 meetings (sections toxicology, residues, environmental fate and behaviour, and ecotoxicology) to discuss the identified issues for 3 active substances. Additionally, in January, the first PRAPeR meeting of experts was held to discuss biological pesticides. In total 33 experts from 15 MS as well as Turkey and Norway discussed over 3 days for two substances all sections in one meeting instead separate meetings for each scientific discipline which was found very useful and efficient due the considerable overlap of issues and expertise. The outcome of the consultation of experts and the summary of the risk assessment for the two substances will be finalized in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter.

The assessment of the safety of proposed temporary Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) to be set at EU level continued. The report of the assessment of more than 62.000 individual MRLs for 236 active substances is envisaged to be finalized timely on 14 March.

### 15. Assessment Methodology Unit

#### Bluetongue - Global epidemiological analysis

The conduct of a global epidemiological analysis requires a willingness to share data between the affected member states, a need to collect these data, and to standardize them so as to be able to incorporate them in a single analysis dataset. In order to make sure financial support was adequate, EFSA launched a tender through the negotiated procedure with the experts in the institutes that have the *de facto* monopoly on the outbreak data.

## **MB 27.03.2007 – 3 Progress Report**

A first set of results covering the period to 31 January were delivered and presented. The final reports are due 31 March. The initial findings reported by the EFSA bluetongue working group are that:

- i). Statistical modeling showed that the initial infection occurred in area close to Maastricht. Difficulties in the initial diagnosis were due to the fact that the disease was thusfar not known (exotic) in the area. The exact cause of the introduction is not known. However, following the introduction of various serotypes in recent years, member states have expressed an interest in the conduct of a(n import) risk assessment on this issue.
- ii). The BTV8 virus was present in vectors (*Culicoides* species) which are endemic to northwestern Europe. The prevailing high temperatures in the summer of 2006 resulted in high numbers of various *Culicoides* species. Thus, the warm(ing) climatic conditions may favor the establishment of these viruses after they have been adventitiously introduced in a new part of Europe.
- iii). The number of new bluetongue cases over time was equally influenced by changes in temperatures. This resulted in an initial peak and then a second peak of new cases which were separated by a cooler period.
- iv). Besides temperature, the number of observed bluetongue cases was also related with other environmental factors such as altitude and animal density.
- v). Local spread was modeled and found to occur at a rate of about 16 km/ week. In addition, it was demonstrated that, beside animal movement – which is subject to restrictions, wind may affect spread over long distances.

In conclusion, changes in climatic conditions coupled with frequent travel might increase the risk in the appearance of diseases that were thus far exotic.

### 16. Data Collection and Exposure Unit (DATEX)

During the past period the DATEX Unit completed the analysis of close to 75,000 analytical results for aflatoxin in food products submitted by 22 Member States, the European Federation of the trade in dried fruit, edible nuts, honey, spices, canned fruit and vegetables and similar foodstuffs FRUCOM and Turkey. The information was used in developing the CONTAM Opinion guiding the European Commission in their response to the Codex Alimentarius suggestion for aflatoxin Maximum Limits in almonds, hazelnuts and pistachios.

The Unit completed initial work on the presence of ethyl carbamate in food and alcoholic beverages. The findings were presented to the CONTAM plenary meeting in January and will be followed up with a full exposure assessment. The information was also presented at the the European Commission expert meeting for Environmental and Industrial Contaminants with a request to Member States for consumption information in relation to alcoholic beverages. Stone fruit brandies have been identified as particular problem products.

## **MB 27.03.2007 – 3 Progress Report**

The European Commission asked the NDA Panel for information in relation to the intake of phytosterols through novel food approvals. The NDA asked DATEX to initiate a survey project. Preliminary research identified four recent country surveys on the topic and a consultancy report covering the world market for phytosterol enriched products. An approach for the project was outlined and submitted to the Commission. The market for phytosterol enriched products is currently in dynamic expansion and any research will only be a snapshot in time. It is predicted that the market will double in five years. The project will guide further novel foods approvals ascertaining that a recommended maximum intake of phytosterols is not exceeded.

DATEX is also managing a survey of nutritional composition declarations on commercial food products. This will be used to build a database of food nutritional profiles for the NDA Panel. The Panel has been asked to develop a mathematical model that can categorise the nutritional quality of foods. The database information will be used to validate different models to come up with a system that can be used in approving health claims. The new legislation requires that the nutritional profile of foods fulfil certain quality criteria before a health claim can be approved.

### 17. Zoonoses

During the reporting period the Zoonoses Task Force held one meeting and adopted two reports: one on harmonisation of the monitoring of antimicrobial resistance in the Community and the other one was the final report on the analyses of the *Salmonella* baseline study in laying hens. The work on harmonisation of the reporting on foodborne outbreaks and the annual zoonoses information was continued. In January the Zoonoses Unit started the statistical and epidemiological analyses of the *Salmonella* baseline survey in broilers and the first preliminary results were already provided for the Member States and the Commission in beginning of March. Good progress was also made in the preparation of the *Salmonella* baseline survey protocol for breeding pigs. In end January the Zoonoses unit carried out its first ever county visit to enhance the reporting on zoonoses at the national level. This visit was made to Germany, and the representatives of different institutes involved in the reporting were met.

### Scientific Committee and Advisory Forum

#### 18. Scientific Committee

The Scientific Committee held its Plenary meeting on 15-16 February 2007. The information exchange at this meeting with some Management Board members on the workload of the Panels was considered very fruitful. In addition working group meetings were held in the area of transparency in risk assessment, emerging risks, safety assessment of botanicals, benchmark dose approach, welfare of experimental animals, and EFSA's responsiveness to urgent questions.

In the reporting period the new working group on internal and external review of the quality of EFSA's scientific work met twice and a draft strategy document for a review system to assess the quality of EFSA's scientific work will be forwarded to the Scientific Committee for possible adoption at its July 2007 plenary meeting.

## **MB 27.03.2007 – 3 Progress Report**

A joint EFSA/DG RTD meeting was held on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2007 to update each other about respective activities, to provide input on the indicative topics for the next year's call of the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework programme and to identify further areas of cooperation.

A meeting was organised with the Secretariat and Chair of the Committee on Herbal Medicinal Products of EMEA on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2007 in Brussels to update each other about respective activities in the safety assessment of botanicals and botanical preparations which have traditional medicinal properties and are used as food supplements in some of the European countries.

### **19. Advisory Forum**

The twentieth meeting of the Advisory Forum took place on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> February in the Palazzo Ducale in Parma. The Chair especially welcomed the representatives of Romania and Bulgaria who for the first time participated as full Members of the Forum.

The main items discussed at the meeting were the implementation of the Strategy on Cooperation and Networking with EU Member States and the list of Competent Organisations (art. 36 of regulation 178/2002) . Professor Vittorio Silano, the Chair of the Scientific Committee, and Dr Ada Knaap, vice Chair of the Scientific Committee.

It was decided to create a Steering Group on Cooperation (SGC), composed of Members of the AF, representatives of the SC and of EFSA staff, which should consider the projects as proposed by the Forum and the SC and should propose a work programme for conducting the various cooperative projects. This work programme would be tabled at the next meeting of the Advisory Forum in Berlin on 19-20 April for further consideration and possible adoption.

The Forum was also introduced to a number of 'front runner' projects on which the MS had indicated earlier that they would like to work together. The projects introduced were on: 1) the establishment of a data base of EU Member States experts, 2) risk and benefits of the fortification of food with folic acid, 3) Emerging risks on which a Workshop would be held in London in March, 4) the further collection of data as regards the assessments of Marine biotoxins, 5) the harmonisation of data collection EU wide and 6) the creation of a European network on food consumption database managers.

Finally, Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle introduced the list of Competent Organisations (art. 36 of regulation 178/2002) which was adopted by the Management Board in December. All the institutes as forwarded by the Permanent Representations will receive a letter from EFSA explaining how the selection process has been taking place.

### **External Relations**

#### **20. European Parliament**

- General

EFSA 's Executive Director appeared before the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee (ENVI Committee) of the European Parliament on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2007 to address the

## **MB 27.03.2007 – 3 Progress Report**

ENVI Committee to present EFSA's Management Plan 2007 and to have an exchange of views with MEPs on the work programme and EFSA's activities in general.

In the course of the exchange of views with MEPs, Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle responded to questions regarding the workload of EFSA and future tasks in the context of plant protection products and food improvement agents, the independence of EFSA and of its scientific experts, the relations with the European Commission, Member States and with other EU agencies, i.e. ECDC and EMEA, and the feasibility of the deadlines imposed on EFSA to perform its tasks. Questions from MEPs also covered areas such as nanotechnology, the mandate of EFSA regarding nutrient profiles, fluoride and requests for additional data in the context of GMO applications. In particular there was an intervention by an MEP regarding the lack of representation of the European Parliament in the Management Board of EFSA. Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle reiterated her commitment to appearing regularly before ENVI Committee and at any time when this would be consider necessary.

EFSA 's Executive Director took the opportunity of the hearing in the European Parliament on 27<sup>th</sup> February to meet bilaterally the new Chair of the ENVI Committee, Mr Miroslav Ouzký. During the course of March meetings were also held between EFSA 's Executive Director and MEP Dagmar Roth-Berendt , MEP François Grossetête and the former Chair of the AGRI Committee, Mr Joseph Daul. Meetings are also scheduled for the next months with the co-ordinators in the ENVI Committee and Chairs of other Committees in the European Parliament.

- **Legislative Proposals**

EFSA was approached by the rapporteurs of the ENVI Committee on the Commission's proposal on food improvement agents (flavourings, additives, enzymes and common procedure for authorisation). EFSA met the coordinators and officials in the ENVI secretariat at the end of January. Equally, EFSA was invited by MEP Dan Jørgensen, of the ENVI Committee, to participate at a Conference on the sustainable use of pesticides. EFSA contributed with a presentation on EFSA's activities in the area of peer-review risk assessment of pesticides and plant health.

- **Meetings with the Budgetary Authorities (European Parliament, Council) in the context of the discharge of the budget for 2005 for EFSA**

In the context of the budgetary procedure and in particular the discharge of the budget 2005, EFSA's Executive Director and Diána Bánáti, one of the vice-chairs of the Management Board, participated at a hearing of the Budgetary Control Committee in the European Parliament in the context of the discharge of the budget for 2005. The hearing took place at the European Parliament premises on 30<sup>th</sup> January. Days before the meeting with the European Parliament, EFSA also participated at a meeting of the Budget Council on the discharge of the budget for 2005. The Council adopted its opinion at the end of February and recommended the discharge of the budget 2005 for EFSA. The European Parliament is still in the process of finalising its opinion which will be delivered during the course of April.

21. Meetings between EFSA's Executive Director and EU Commissioner Kyprianou and EU Commissioner Dimas

## **MB 27.03.2007 – 3 Progress Report**

Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle met Commissioner Kyprianou, responsible for Health, on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2007. The items in the agenda of the meeting included items such as animal health and animal welfare, plant health and plant protection products, nutrition, genetically modified organisms and general matter of co-operation between EFSA and DG SANCO.

On 7<sup>th</sup> March Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle met Commissioner Dimas responsible for Environment. During the discussions, the Commissioner and EFSA's Executive Director had the opportunity to address issues such as pesticides, genetically modified organisms, co-operation with Member States and co-operations with the Commission services in these areas and also with other EU Agencies.

### **22. Participation of EFSA's Executive Director to events organized by stakeholder groups**

Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle participated at a CIES International Food Safety Conference organized by food operators and retailers at the end of January in Munich, Germany. She will also participate at the annual meeting of the Transatlantic Consumer Dialogue (TACD) that will take place in Brussels from 11-13 March 2007. She will address the TACD on 12<sup>th</sup> March and will speak about EFSA's activities in the international arena and the importance of regular and close dialogue with consumer groups.

### **23. Stakeholder Consultative Platform – next meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> April**

The next meeting of EFSA's Stakeholder Consultative Platform will take place in Parma on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> April. The dates for the second meeting of the Platform this year were also agreed and the Platform will meet again on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> October.

As a follow up of the last meeting of the Platform, two working groups of the Platform were set up. Those working groups will look at transparency in risk assessment and criteria for public consultation. The working groups are composed of few members of the Platform that volunteered to take part in the working groups. Both working groups will mainly work via e-mail and will be in charge of preparing the work to be further discussed at the plenary meeting of the Platform. Terms of references for the working groups will be drafted and discussed with the Platform at its meeting in April.

### **24. Relations with the Italian Authorities**

EFSA continued to focus on developing collaborating with the Italian Authorities, both at national and local level through the implementation of a good neighbour strategy. In particular EFSA worked closely with the University authorities on plans for a joint initiative later in 2007.

Several meetings have been held between EFSA's external relations unit with the local authorities to develop the framework and plans for the activities in Parma around EFSA's events for its 5h anniversary on October . The Liaison Committee met in on 21<sup>st</sup> February to discuss various important matters including transport, the 2007 event, and the programme of seminars involving EFSA in the Regione organized by Europass during 2007

## **MB 27.03.2007 – 3 Progress Report**

Furthermore, the events planned by the Parma authorities to celebrate Schuman Day (09/0572007) have also been planned in Parma.

### **25. Pre-Accession Programme for Turkey and Croatia**

On 30/31 January the EFSA Steering Committee for the pre-accession programme met in Ankara with 50 representatives from the Turkish authorities and stakeholders. On 13/14 February the Committee met with some 50 representatives from the Croatian authorities and stakeholders in Zagreb. At these meetings the EFSA representatives presented the work of EFSA, and representatives from the Turkish and Croatian authorities and stakeholders related the risk assessment and risk management situation in their countries. The presentations were followed by very positive discussions on the priorities for EFSA seminars in 2007 and final lists of seminars were agreed between EFSA and the two authorities.

The list included seminars on: Stakeholder co-operation, Crises handling, GMO, the Advisory Forum, Data collection and the work of the EFSA panels. Additionally it was agreed to continue to invite experts from the 2 countries to EFSA working group meetings, EFSA colloquia, Advisory Forum working group meetings and Management Board meeting

## **COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTORATE**

### **26. Communications activities: on - and offline**

Since the last Management Board meeting 2 months ago, our Communications Department has organised several activities. With the aim of communicating to the media EFSA's scientific activities and corporate issues, various media materials were produced:

Press releases:

- EFSA re-evaluates safety of bisphenol A and sets Tolerable Daily Intake (29 January)
- EFSA Opinion on the risk of rabies introduction into the UK, Ireland, Sweden and Malta as a consequence of abandoning serological tests measuring protective antibodies to rabies (28 February)
- EFSA Plant Health Panel evaluates US study on citrus canker disease (8 March)

The press release on "bisphenol A" (BPA) generated media interest which resulted in specific requests to the Press Office and notable coverage in European and International media (approximately 30 articles, both in specialised and general press). Most articles were neutral in tone with some pointing out BPA as a subject of controversy ( general press - *Suddeutsche Zeitung*, *Daily Express* and specialised press -*EU Food Law*). EFSA also published a Frequently Asked Questions document to address key questions with respect to the BPA risk assessment.

To date the press release on rabies has triggered interest from mainly specialised media and the Press Office received follow up questions.

Announcements:

## MB 27.03.2007 – 3 Progress Report

As several high level meetings were organised in Parma (such as the Management Board, the Advisory Forum held in Parma for the first time and the Liaison Committee), EFSA issued for each of these meetings an announcement which was disseminated to a selection of journalists, namely local and regional press but also pan-EU and some specialised food and consumer press. A balanced coverage was achieved in both written and audiovisual media. All main local dailies reported on the meetings as well as local radio and TV stations.

Announcements included:

- EFSA Management Board makes plans for 2007 (23 January)
- 27 rappresentanti dei Paesi membri si incontrano a Parma, riunione del foro consultivo dell'EFSA – 8-9 febbraio (7 February)
- La foto dei membri del foro consultivo dell'EFSA a Parma (8 February)
- Conclusasi la due giorni di riunioni del foro consultivo dell'EFSA - Palazzo Ducale (9 February)
- Riunione straordinaria - Comitato di collegamento tra EFSA e le autorità locali - 21 febbraio - 16.00 - 17.30 (19 February)

Web news story:

EFSA continued to provide web news stories on key developments and activities. In addition to publication on the web, the web story on EFSA's meeting with Member States on GMO environmental risk assessment was also sent to a targeted selection of media.

- a. EFSA meets the four Member States presently involved in carrying out GMO environmental risk assessment (7 February)
- b. FSA-EFSA workshop on food incident prevention and horizon scanning to identify emerging risks March 5 and 6 in London (28 February)
- c. Aflatoxins in food: EFSA assesses new proposed maximum levels for almonds, hazelnuts and pistachios and advises the European Commission (2 March)

On 1st February, Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle participated in the CIES International Food Safety Conference in Munich, where she gave a speech (supported by a presentation) on *Building Confidence in Food Safety in the EU: the role of EFSA*, which was followed by a round table discussion. Catherine's speech and presentation were published on both our and the organiser's website. Catherine gave also 3 one-to-one interviews with specialised monthly publications from Austria, Norway and the UK. In addition, a written interview with Food and Beverage International - another UK specialised media was prepared, focusing on EFSA and the food retailers' role.

### 27. Publications

Since the last Board meeting in January, the following activities were carried out:

- EFSA produced in January a brochure summarising the Zoonoses report 2005, which met with success. Further to such positive results, it was translated into FR-IT-GER to be distributed, among others, in the context of events to be organised for the EFSA 5th Anniversary. The printed version will be ready in the course of the second quarter of 2007.

## **MB 27.03.2007 – 3 Progress Report**

- The English version of the Annual Report and the Summary of the Annual Report 2006 was completed. The printed version (a sample of which will be presented during the Management Board meeting) will be ready and distributed in April. A pdf version will also be published on the EFSA website. The FR-IT-GER versions will be ready in the course of the second quarter 2007.
- The Summary Report of the Work Plan 2007 will be ready end of March 2007 and will be made available at the Management Board meeting.
- The leaflet of the EFSA 5th Anniversary will be presented at the Management Board meeting on 27 March 2007 (date of the official launch of the EFSA 5th Anniversary) and will be a key tool to communicate about EFSA's anniversary.
- The Summary of the Scientific Colloquium N°5 (Development of Food-Based Dietary Guidelines) is ready and should be published early April 2007.

EFSA logo:

- a. The new EFSA logo was delivered early March 2007. It will be presented to the Management Board during its meeting of March and officially launched in the context of the announcement of EFSA's 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary programme.
- b. EFSA is currently developing its new corporate identity in collaboration with the same external supplier (LDV United – Belgium). The achievement of the corporate identity manual is foreseen during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2007.

### 28. Web

Since the board meeting January 23, the web redesign has continued according to schedule. The new site navigation map and information architecture for individual template pages is nearing completion and initial graphic design concepts will be shared with management for further development. Two sets of user testing with a total of 16 participants selected (including members of the Advisory Forum working Group on Communications) according to typical user profiles have been carried out on the new navigation to ensure that external users can find information easily. During this period several new areas of content have been published on the EFSA website. This includes a newly updated stakeholders section which explains EFSA's work in this area more clearly, new topic pages on Avian Flu and Food additives, and a News section in the pressroom which hosts news stories related to EFSA activities and events. For example, the joint UK FSA-EFSA workshop on food incident prevention and horizon scanning to identify emerging risks (London 5-6 March) was announced in this news area. Increased promotion throughout the website of the EFSA Highlights newsletter subscription service has resulted in a nearly 8% increase in the number of new subscriptions.

## **ADMINISTRATION DIRECTORATE**

### Human Resources/Recruitment

29. Temporary / Officials / Auxiliary / Contract Agents / END's

### **Quarter 4 2006**

**MB 27.03.2007 – 3 Progress Report**

	<b>Recruitment</b>	<b>Departures/ Resignations*</b>	<b>"Net" Result</b>	<b>Total staff number end Q4, 2006</b>
<b>AT + Officials</b>	14	2	12	173
<b>AUX</b>	4	3	1	24
<b>CA</b>	7	4	3	24
<b>END</b>	2	3	-1	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>228</b>

\* Includes internal staff members changing contract type/category