

PROGRESS REPORT

June - September 2007

Highlights

1. Signing of agreement with the Food and Drug Federation (FDA)

On July 2nd, in Brussels, EFSA's Executive Director, Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle, and FDA's Commissioner, Andrew von Eschenbach, signed the Statement on confidentiality arrangements to facilitate the sharing of non-public information. This agreement clarifies exactly what is to be intended as confidentiality information which frees up the barriers that existed previously on the flow of information, making it possible to share information on food safety issues. This will assist EFSA undertake scientific risk assessments based on data from around the world and from the scientific community on both sides of the Atlantic. This is EFSA's first such agreement with an agency from outside of the EU. EFSA anticipates that it will seek to draw up agreements with other agencies around the world to have a truly global picture on food safety matters.

2. Fees

EFSA has closely followed-up the outcome of the Commission consultation on the feasibility and advisability of presenting legislative proposal enabling EFSA to receive fees for processing authorization files. This issue was discussed in two Commission committees, the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health (Member States) on the one hand and the Advisory Committee (stakeholders) on the other hand. The Commission recently (August 2007) published a report summarizing the different reactions under the consultation process while notably underlining the difficulties of introducing fees which could lead to an overall potential timing and inefficient fee-system.

3. Relationship with the European Institutions

On several occasions, EFSA representatives participated to the EP Environment Committee meetings. The meetings concerned the development of an EU thematic strategy on the sustainable use of pesticides and the proposed new legislation on the placing on the market of plant protection products.

EFSA was also invited to present its opinion on the assessment of health risks of feeding ruminants with fishmeal in the context of the TSE regulation to members of the EP Environment Committee. This gave place to an interesting open debate between the EP, Commission and EFSA.

An EFSA delegation attended the European Commission's Advisory Group on the Food Chain and Animal Health on 5 July 2007, where notably attention was given to the revision of the framework Regulation on Animal By-Products, to the White Paper on Obesity and Nutrition, to the establishment of fees for EFSA, to the impact assessment on general food labeling rules (including GM-labeling) and the possible consequent changes and, finally to the Commission working programme under the new comitology procedure.

4. EFSA Colloquium on Environmental Risk Assessment of Genetically Modified Plants

An EFSA Scientific Colloquium took place on 20-21 June 2007 in Tabiano, Italy. The objectives of the colloquium were to consider approaches to environmental risk assessment in the light of current scientific thinking. Issues, such as environmental fitness, impacts on non-target organisms, long-term effects, impacts of large scale production, impacts on life cycles of production systems, broader environmental considerations and risks versus benefits, were discussed.

5. Health Claims

Following a stakeholder consultation meeting and a public consultation on the draft opinion on the “Scientific and technical guidance for preparation and presentation of the application for authorization of a health claim”, the Panel adopted this guidance at the Plenary meeting on 5/6 July.

SCIENCE DIRECTORATE

RISK ASSESSMENT DEPARTMENT (RA)

6. AFC Panel

In the period June – September 2007 the AFC Panel had its 24th plenary meeting the first week of July. During the meeting several draft opinions in the main areas of the Panel have been scrutinized. In the area of additives 2 opinions have been adopted. The opinion on Red 2 G created intensive media attention and coverage since the Panel concluded to withdraw the ADI for Red 2G on the basis that carcinogenic risk for man cannot be excluded. This has resulted in legislative measures which have been taken by the European Commission. Another opinion in the same field on Guar Gum, partially depolymerised (E 412) has equally been adopted. In the field of Flavourings 2 opinions on revised Flavouring Groups were adopted. On the JECFA evaluations of flavourings substances assessed since 2000 and on the decision of EFSA to further evaluate these substances, the Panel has adopted 1 Flavouring Group at the meeting and decided to issue a written procedure round to adopt 5 further opinions. Finally, a 15th list of food contact materials has been adopted comprising 3 substances

7. AHAW Panel

AHAW Panel held two plenary meetings during this period (27-28 June and 5-6 September). In June scientific opinions concerning the “welfare of fattening pigs” and the “welfare of sows and boars” were discussed for possible adoption. In September’s Plenary four scientific opinions are likely to be adopted: three on Pig welfare (fattening pigs, sows and boars, and tail biting) and the opinion on the “Framework of EFSA AHAW risk assessment” (already submitted for adoption by written procedure in July August).

The Panel is planning a Stakeholder meeting in October 4th concerning the mandate on “seals killing and skinning”, with participation of more than 30 organizations.

Two calls were launched for proposals under the framework of Art 36 grant awarding, referring to Animal welfare issues (risk assessment guidelines on stunning and killing) and on Animal diseases (scientific reviews on 3 specific diseases and an evaluation of the distribution of arthropod vectors and their potential for transmitting exotic or emerging vector-borne animal diseases and zoonoses). The call should be evaluated by the end of October/November.

Representatives of the AHAW Unit presented the panel activities at a CRL meeting on Fish Diseases; at a meeting in Tartu Estonia, at the XIII International Congress in Animal Hygiene; at the Annual Assembly of the European Federation for Animal Health and Sanitary security; at a COPA COGECA meeting on Blue tongue; at an ERANET meeting; for TAIEX in Cyprus; and in Tokyo at the 6th World Congress on the Use of Animals in Life Sciences. In addition AHAW attended to the SCOFCAH meetings on 5 and 19 of July in Brussels.

8. BIOHAZ Panel

Two opinions were adopted at the BIOHAZ Plenary in June:

- Protocol for the evaluation of new rapid BSE post-mortem tests
- Protocol for the evaluation of rapid post-mortem tests to detect TSE in small ruminants

The second annual BSE-TSE networking meeting was held in Berlin in June. It was attended by 13 Member States representatives and other stakeholders.

The deadline for submitting proposals to EFSA for a grant under Article 36 (Reg. 178/2002) on "Quantitative microbiological risk assessment on *Salmonella* in slaughter and breeder pigs" was 11 June and a number of promising offers were received.

The 33rd BIOHAZ Plenary was held on 11-12 July and progress was made with the development of a number of opinions. The BIOHAZ Panel will meet again on 6-7 September, this time in Rotterdam. Two draft opinions will be presented for possible adoption:

- Protocol for *ante-mortem* cattle tests
- Public health risks involved in the human consumption of reptile meat.

9. CONTAM Panel

The CONTAM Panel did not meet in plenary in the period June-August. However, during this period eight different working group meetings were held to progress with opinions in the area of nitrate in vegetables, marine biotoxins, perfluorooctane sulfonates (PFOS) as well as undesirable substances in animal feed subsections natural plant products, persistent organic pollutants and mercury. At the next CONTAM Panel meeting (18 to 20 September 2007) three opinions on chlordane as undesirable substance in animal feed, PFOS and ethyl carbamate in food and beverages are expected to be submitted for adoption.

10. FEEDAP Panel

During the period June-August, the FEEDAP Panel met twice in plenary and adopted 10 opinions. The FEEDAP Panel and the Scientific Secretariat were invited to participate again in the WG of the Standing Committee on Animal Nutrition on 7 June, which aimed at establishing new guidelines for the assessment of feed additives. The discussion focused on the safety for the target animal and the efficacy. According to the European Commission, the final document is expected to be adopted next autumn.

EFSA staff also participated in the 7th Workshop organised by the Community Reference Laboratory for Feed Additives and the Consortium of National Reference Laboratories. This workshop aim was to standardize the procedures related to the methods of analysis in the European Control Laboratories.

11. GMO Panel

The GMO Panel had one plenary meeting on 4-5 July in Parma. At this plenary meeting, the GMO Panel adopted its opinion on the risk assessment of the A7204-12 Soybean application within the framework of

Regulation 1829/2003. A statement of the GMO Panel on the analysis of data from a 90-day rat feeding study with MON 863 maize was adopted by written procedure on 25 June 2007.

Three 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 June – August. One working group meeting discussed the risk assessment of the genetic modification aspect of feed additives' applications that have been submitted within the framework of Regulation (EC) 1831/2003.

Three working group meetings were organised within the framework of self tasking activities "animal feeding trials", "the assessment of allergenicity of GM food/feed", and "Guidance for the risk assessment of GM plants for non food or non feed purposes".

Two proposals have been launched in the frame of Art36 cooperation in June 2007 concerning the expression of Cry proteins in microorganisms and plants and the impact of herbicide tolerant GM plants on non-target organisms.

Following a request from the European Commission, EFSA has published a statement on 20 July on the fate of recombinant DNA or proteins in the meat, milk or eggs of animals fed with GM feed. The Commission was interested in such a statement following a petition from Greenpeace to label food products from animals that have been fed with GM feed.

12. NDA Panel

Food Allergies

Following two meetings of the Working Group (WG) on Food Allergies in June, the NDA Panel adopted on 6 July 2007 six opinions on ingredients/substances submitted in the framework of the procedure laid down in Article 6, paragraph 11 of Directive 2000/13/EC based, particularly considering the likelihood of adverse reactions triggered in susceptible individuals by the consumption. The opinions were published in August.

Novel Foods

An opinion of the safety of α -cyclodextrin as a novel food ingredient to be added as dietary fibre was adopted on 6 July.

Definition of Dietary Fibre

In the context of ongoing discussions on the international level (Codex Alimentarius), EFSA had been asked by the Commission to provide a definition for "dietary fibre". The Working Group on Population Reference Intake had drafted a statement and forwarded it to the Panel which discussed and adopted the Statement on a request from the Commission related to dietary fibre (published in August) in its Plenary meeting on 5/6 July 2007.

13. PLH Panel

The PLH Panel held its 6th plenary meeting on 11-12 July. A proposal for protocol for scientific review of pest risk assessments for quarantine pests was presented to the panel and thoroughly discussed. The protocol is aimed at provision of scientifically sound, objective and resource-effective evaluation of PRAs. The protocol

is expected to be adopted at the plenary meeting in the second part of September. Also several draft opinions from the batch of 30 pest risk assessment dossiers by France were discussed in depth and will be prepared for adoption at the plenary meeting in September.

The work on the French PRAs was continued in WGs over June and July, including the new WG on Viruses composed of experts on banana and citrus viruses.

The Panel Chair and the Scientific Coordinator gave a presentation on the Panel's achievements and on two opinions (on citrus canker and peach fruit fly) at the meeting of the Standing Committee on Plant Health held on 28 June in Brussels. The Panel activity was received very positively by the Member States.

14. PPR Panel

The PPR Panel held one plenary meeting 3-4 July, during which it considered the work for two new questions. One is on the clastogenic properties and classification and labelling of TBSA, a metabolite of tritosulfuron (EFSA-Q-2007-128), requested by the European Commission. The second is concerning the genotoxic and carcinogenic potential of buprofezin in the context of the human risk assessment (EFSA-Q-2007-130A), requested by EFSA's PRAPeR unit. During this Plenary meeting one opinion on the FOCUS air report was adopted.

The Working Groups on Toxicology and Residues had one meeting each and discussed in addition to the above mentioned questions the draft opinions on revising MRLs of dieldrin for courgette and on cumulative risk assessment. Some of the work on an example to accompany that opinion will be sourced out under procurement.

A call under Article 36 was launched to carry out preparatory work for the development of a Guidance Document on exposure of operators, workers, bystanders, and residents to pesticides.

Sub-Working Group meetings and Core Working Group meetings concerning the revision of the Guidance Document on risk assessment for birds and mammals took place on 18 June ("Focal species and ecological parameters") and on 2-3 July (Core WG); a next meeting of the latter WG is scheduled for 10-11 September.

The Fate Working Group held 2 meetings (in July and September), and discussed the opinions on the FOCUS air report and on the default Q10 value used to describe the temperature effect on transformation rates of pesticides in soil.

In addition a meeting with Member States to explain and discuss the opinion on the IESTI (international estimate of short term intake) will be held in Brussels on 7 September.

SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE DEPARTMENT (SCA)

15. Datex Unit

Evaluation of the data on polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) submitted by Member States was completed during the period. A draft report was prepared and peer reviewed. The final report was submitted to the Commission and presented by EFSA at the 9 July 2007 meeting of the Environmental and Industrial Contaminant Expert Group. The new data does not support the previous conclusion that benzo(a)pyrene is a good indicator for the whole group of toxic polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. Since this is partly the basis for requirements in the current legislation, the Commission will raise a new question for EFSA to nominate one or a combination of several polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons that can better represent the combined impact of compounds from the group in foods.

Data on mercury in feed submitted by Member States were collated, analysed and presented to the meeting on 23-24 July 2007 of the CONTAM Panel Working Group on mercury in feed.

Submissions in response to the first Article 36 call originating from the Unit were evaluated and a recommendation of the preferred candidate issued for final approval. The project will assist Member States in submitting food consumption data in a format suitable for the concise food consumption database.

Several requests have been passed on to the Network for Food Consumption Database Managers for information related to various exposure assessments. The next meeting of the Network will take place in October 2007 and planning for the meeting has started.

An acceptable nutritional profile is necessary before health claims can be made for any food product. The Unit is involved in collecting food composition data from official and commercial sources to assist the NDA Panel Working Group on health claims. A preliminary evaluation of commercial nutrition composition data submitted through CIAA applying selection criteria suggested by the Working Group was completed during the period.

16. Pesticide Risk Assessment Peer Review (PRAPeR) Unit

The peer review of the 3rd stage continued by distributing the draft assessment reports of 7 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. Several other substances are either in the process of having the public report being finalised or await confirmation by the EU-Commission of the preliminary prioritisation and will be processed accordingly.

The consultation of Member States' experts in the PRAPeR meetings continued in July with 5 meetings (sections physical/chemical properties and analytical methods, toxicology, residues, environmental fate and behaviour, and ecotoxicology) to discuss the identified issues for 3 active substances. The outcome of the consultation of experts and the summary of the risk assessment for these substances will be finalized in the 4th quarter 2007. Meanwhile, the peer review was completed for 6 new active substances as well as the first 4 existing active substances of the 3rd stage, part A, by submitting the EFSA conclusions to the EU-Commission and the respective applicant(s) and by making them publicly available on the EFSA website (PRAPeR section).

Additionally, the safety of proposed MRLs for new crops included in Annex I of Regulation (EC) 396/2005 was assessed upon request of the EU-Commission of 28 June. The report was finalised on 30 July and covers about 3400 proposed MRLs for 93 active substances. A second Commission request concerning 10 active substances (4 chemical compounds and 6 micro-organisms) which are proposed as candidates that might be exempted from the necessity of setting of MRLs is under examination; the envisaged finalisation of the first draft is end of September 2007. Furthermore, the development of a data base on toxicological reference values as requested in Article 41 of Regulation 396/2005 continued.

17. Zoonoses Unit

By mid June national reports on zoonoses, antimicrobial resistance and foodborne outbreaks in 2006 were received from all the Member States except Malta, and additionally from Norway and Switzerland. The validation of these national datasets was carried out and finalised by end June. Both the amount and the quality of the data were improved.

A new self-tasking mandate on developing harmonised monitoring schemes for antimicrobial resistance in indicator bacteria in animals and food was given to the Unit. This mandate covers recommendations for monitoring of MRSA (Methicillin Resistance *Staphylococcus aureus*), which is an emerging zoonotic agent in pig populations. The relevant Working Group assigned for this task had already its first meeting in June.

A country visit to enhance the reporting on zoonoses at the national level was made to Czech Republic, where EFSA staff met the representatives of all the reporting institutions and national reference laboratories.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE AND ADVISORY FORUM UNIT (SC/AF)

18. Scientific Committee

The Scientific Committee held its plenary meeting on 9-10 July and adopted an advice on approaches to enhance EFSA's responsiveness to urgent questions. The advice is composed of 3 procedures to be handled in a flexible manner to allow different types of responses depending on the type of questions and timeframe allotted and on the experience gained in practice.

Several draft mandates for EFSA Scientific Cooperation (ESCO) working groups were discussed and agreed on by the Scientific Committee and the Advisory Forum, e.g. fostering harmonised risk assessment approaches in Member States and emerging risks. The ESCO mandate on botanicals has been agreed on by the Scientific Committee and will be forwarded to the Advisory Forum for possible agreement in September 2007.

An advice on a proposal for a review system to assess the quality of EFSA's scientific work was adopted by written procedure and EFSA is currently developing an implementation plan for the proposed self, review, the internal review, and the external review.

The working group on botanicals shared its draft guidance document for the safety assessment of botanicals and botanical preparations used in food as supplements with the EMEA HMPC for comments. The guidance document together with the two compendia of botanicals will be subject for possible adoption by the Scientific Committee either in September or November 2007.

In September a meeting has been organised with DG SANCO to discuss possible implications related to the draft opinion on the introduction of the QPS approach for the assessment of microorganisms notified to EFSA. The draft opinion will be presented for possible adoption at the 17-18 September 2007 SC plenary meeting.

The SC WG of Animal Cloning had three meetings in the reporting period and made good progress. It is planned to prepare a draft opinion for agreement by the Scientific Committee for public consultation by November 2007.

In addition working group meetings were held in the area of transparency in risk assessment –scientific aspects, emerging risks, human health risk-benefit assessment, benchmark dose approach and welfare of experimental animals.

19. Advisory Forum

The 22nd meeting of the Forum took place on 28-29 June 2007 in Bratislava (Slovak Republic) and the Advisory Forum agreed on the mandates for the following Scientific Cooperation projects:

- Fostering harmonised risk assessment approaches in Member States
- Analysis of risks and benefits of the fortification of food with folic acid

- Mandate for an EFSA scientific cooperation working group on Emerging Risks
- Harmonisation of chemical occurrence data collection in food and feed
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Regarding the establishment of focal points in Member States for cooperation within EFSA, several Advisory Forum members, including the Netherlands, Sweden, Italy, Hungary, Belgium, Austria, Portugal, France, Ireland, United Kingdom and Lithuania, expressed their interest to proceed fast and those countries could have their focal points already in place this year.

Table 1 Number of plenary and working group meetings, as well as the number of opinions, reports and statements adopted in the period June/July/August 2007

	Plenary Meetings	Working Group Meetings	Number of opinions / reports
AFC	1	5	13
AHAW	2	21	0
BIOHAZ	2	14	2
CONTAM	0	8	0
FEEDAP	2	10	10
GMO	1	6	3
NDA	1	5	9
PLH	1	11	0
PPR	1	5	1
SC	1	16	2
PRAPeR	0	5	11
TF Zoonoses	0	1	0
Total	12	107	51

EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND MANAGEMENT BOARD UNIT

20. Food Improvement Agents Package

EFSA followed the developments in the legislative process of four legislative proposals concerning food improvement agents (additives, flavourings, enzymes and their authorization process). The vote in first reading in the European Parliament's Plenary took place on 10 July 2007 in Strasbourg. EFSA very much

appreciated the European Parliament's demand to extend the timelines for the scientific evaluation by EFSA.

21. Relationship with the European Institutions

EFSA continued to interact with the European Parliament, the Commission and the Council. EFSA also started looking at possible ways how to best convey information on the work of EFSA to the Institutions and especially to the European Parliament.

On 3 July 2007 a bilateral meeting between the DG SANCO Director General, Robert Madelin, and the EFSA Executive Director, Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle took place.

22. Parliamentary questions

EFSA has been directly approached by MEPs seeking for further information about the latest scientific developments on a series of specific topics. It concerned the use of a *Candida utilis* Torula yeast in animal feed and in food, the risk assessment of endosulfan as an active substance under the 1st stage pesticide review programme, the risk assessment of *Ambrosia* that could be considered as a harmful organism to plants and finally the EFSA activity on the use of nanotechnology in food. Concerning the latter, it is to be noted that on 26th of July the EU Commission officially asked EFSA to deliver an initial opinion on the risks arising from nanoscience and nanotechnologies on food and feed safety and the environment opinion.

EFSA ER Unit together with the relevant scientific panel coordinators contributed in answering to these questions.

23. Pre-Accession Programme for Turkey and Croatia

EFSA training seminar on Stakeholder Cooperation, Dubrovnik, Croatia, 5/6 July 2007

EFSA agreed on a long list of seminars with the Croatian authorities and stakeholders and this seminar on Stakeholder Cooperation was the third of the seminars in the Pre-Accession Programme for Turkey and Croatia for 2006/2007. The seminar was welcomed by Boris Antunovic, Director of the Croatian Food Agency.

An interactive exercise was organized the second day of the seminar. On the basis of a questionnaire developed by EFSA participants discussed cooperation with the authorities, with stakeholder groups and with other bodies similar to EFSA. The participants were then divided in two groups, one for authorities and one for the stakeholders, for group work on 1) consultation, 2) cooperation and 3) perception. Each group appointed a rapporteur who reported back on the discussions in plenary session with all participants.

All participants were very active in the discussions both at the specific speeches and at the group work. There was a very high interest among the participants in learning more about stakeholder involvement in the EU, but also a lot of interest in a closer cooperation between the authorities and the stakeholders in Croatia. Participants appreciated the opportunity to network with the authorities, with other stakeholder groups and with EFSA. There was a wish to have further meetings/workshops on stakeholder involvement in 2008.

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTORATE

24. Communications activities: on- and offline

With regard to tailored activities/materials aimed at specific groups and/or media, the following were organised or produced.

Management Board meeting – Parma, 19 June. A news alert was distributed to journalists in advance of the meeting. A web news story on the outcome of the discussions was posted on the website right after the meeting. Moreover, in the aim of keeping our audience informed about activities or changes of/in EFSA Management Board, the call for new Management Board members launched on 1 September was highlighted on our website.

Joint events in Member States – Bratislava (SK), 28 June. EFSA and the Slovak Ministry of Agriculture organised a conference focused on the presentation of EFSA's role and mission, achievements since its creation and future plans. More than 150 stakeholders attended the conference which was followed by an interesting Question and Answer session. The event, which was presented on the websites of both organisations, was concluded by a press conference attended by 25 Slovak journalists from press agencies, national dailies, weeklies, monthlies, as well as radio and TV stations. To better inform the Slovak audience about EFSA, an informative publication about EFSA's work was translated into Slovak. The joint event was organised on the occasion of the Advisory Forum hosted by the Slovak authorities the next day (29 June).

In the framework of joint events organised in co-operation with other food safety bodies in Member States, and in order to better explain the work of EFSA in the Member States, the leaflet of the EFSA 5th anniversary was translated into Spanish, Portuguese, and Romanian. The different language versions are to be distributed at the occasion of such events organised in the respective countries. Moreover, EFSA Corporate brochure was produced also in Hungarian, Turkish, Bulgarian, and Romanian.

EFSA-FDA agreement to facilitate scientific co-operation, Brussels, 2 July 2007. This important step in EFSA's activities was presented on our website as well as through a news alert distributed to EU and International media in advance of the meeting. The action was successful in triggering the interest of journalists, generating seven media requests and coverage in European and International media. Interviews with representatives of the two organisations with newswires such as *Reuters* and *Dow Jones* and specialised press took place in Brussels right after the signing. Moreover, a joint EFSA-FDA press release was distributed. It generated to date 25 articles including several pan-EU and US publications as well as specialised press.

25. Press releases/statements Science:

- a. EFSA statement on EFSA's risk assessment of smoke flavouring Primary Product FF-B (21 June)
- b. EFSA reaffirms its risk assessment of genetically modified maize MON 863 (28 June)
- c. EFSA re-evaluates safety of food colours and adopts first opinion. Food colour Red 2G raises potential safety concerns (9 July)
- d. EFSA concludes review of new scientific data on potential risks to human health from certain hormone residues in beef (18 July)
- e. EFSA provides guidance to applicants on health claims. Final Guidance Document published (26 July)

GMO maize MON 863 - The publication of the EFSA scientific statement on GMO maize MON 863 generated factual coverage across Europe with some 25 articles published in ten countries. The coverage was most extensive in Scandinavia helped by the fact that the Swedish authorities put out at the same time a press release. A lesser number of articles appeared in France, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, UK and Austria.

Food colour Red 2G - The press release on the opinion on food colour Red 2G generated one of the highest level of coverage ever on a single EFSA topic. To date Red 2G has triggered more than 300 articles and most of the coverage reported the timely execution of EFSA's risk assessment. The proximity of the risk assessment and risk management decisions gave two opportunities for coverage in quick succession and helped highlight in a good concrete example how EFSA's work directly supports the work of risk managers, the food industry and consumers. In addition, interviews were given e.g. by the Executive Director to the French weekly *Le Point* and another interview by the AFC Panel's Vice Chair Karl-Heinz Engel with the Bavarian radio *Bayern Radio 2*. Most of the coverage was in the UK and Greece but overall articles were

published in some 20 countries, including key national media such as *La Tribune* (FR); *La Repubblica* (IT); *Hospodarskie Noviny* (CZ); *Nepszabadsag* (HU); *VIMA* (GR); *Politis* (CY); *Jornal de Noticias* (PT); *BBC News*; the *Independent* (UK); *Rzeczpospolita* (PL), the *Times* (UK) and *Irish Independent* (IE).

Hormone residues in beef - The press release generated limited, but factual coverage. Given the potential political/trade sensitivities around the wider issue, this was a positive result with EFSA remaining outside of these debates beyond its remit. In addition to Ireland, articles also appeared in the UK, Greece, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands and Spain. Most articles were published in specialized press such as *EuroCarne*; *Newsfood*; *Agroinformacion*; *Allgemeine Fleischer Zeitung*, *Meat Process*.

26. Web developments:

Web: The web redesign entered in its final phase and the release of the EFSA's new website is due for September 4.

Web news stories: EFSA's developments and activities were also presented on the website, in particular, on 10 July 2007 a web story was published on "EFSA to prepare a scientific opinion on the animal welfare aspects of killing and skinning seals".

27. Publications

Since the last Board meeting in June, the following publications, in addition to those previously mentioned, were produced:

- a. Summary of the Scientific Colloquium no. 6 (risk-benefit analysis of foods): August 2007.
- b. Community summary report on trends and sources of zoonoses, zoonotic agents, antimicrobial agents, antimicrobial resistance and food-borne outbreaks in the EU in 2005: June 2007.
- c. EFSA News no. 15 (EN, IT, FR, DE): June 2007.

ADMINISTRATION DIRECTORATE

28. Recruitment status

HR – Numbers of recruitment procedures for Temporary Agents and officials (until 1st Sep. 2007)

			RECRUITMENT (+)			END OF CONTRACT (-)				
	Staff foreseen 2007 (establishment plan)	Total staff number end Dec 06	Number of Recruitment procedures	New comers	Change in contract, Cat. or Grade (*)	Resignations	Contract Expiry	Change in contract, Cat. or Grade (**)	"Net" Result	Total staff number 1 st Sep 07
AD	166	87	56	36	20	3	0	10	43	130
AST	134	86	41	13	28	3	1	15	22	108
Total	300	173	97	49	48	6	1	25	65	238

HR – Numbers of recruitment procedures for all staff (until 1st Sep. 2007)

		RECRUITMENT (+)			END OF CONTRACT (-)				
	Total staff number end Dec 06	Number of Recruitment procedures	New comers	Change in contract, Cat. or Grade (*)	Resignations	Contract Expiry	Change in contract, Cat. or Grade (**)	"Net" Result	Total staff number 1 st Sep 07
TA+ Officials	173	97	49	48	6	1	25	65	238
AUX	24	0	0	0	0	2	14	-16	8
CA	24	9	9	0	0	2	9	-2	22
END	7	5	5	0	0	3	0	2	9
Total	228	111	63	48	6	8	48	49	277

(*) = EFSA's staff recruited to TA posts (including AUX, CA, END) at EFSA

(**) = EFSA's staff leaving their TA post in order to be recruited to a new TA post at EFSA (AUX, CA, END not included)

29. Budget execution

As of 20 August 2007, € 34.5 million or 66 % of the € 52.2 million appropriations including the Pre-accession enlargement program was committed whereas the forecasts stood at € 35.8 million for the end of August.

Regarding the payments, € 22.5 million or 43 % of the total appropriations were paid as of the same date against an initial forecast of € 23.8 million.

Whereas Title I (Personnel) and Title II (Infrastructure) are in line with the forecast execution, the execution and the payments under Title III (operations) stands under the forecast (i.e.: € 10.8 million committed against € 12.7 million forecast and € 5.1 million paid against € 6.5 million forecast). The difference compared to the forecasts is mainly attributable to the scientific cooperation & assistance activities, the communication activities, the enlargement program and the subventions under Art. 36 where eight calls (representing a global amount of € 1.5 millions have already been launched but the related amount not yet committed. Because the main communication events will take place during the second semester and the scientific activities are coming on stage, it is expected that this delay could be absorbed in the months to come.

The following charts represent the budget execution by Title (Budget nomenclature) and by Activity (Activity Based Budgeting).

In terms of Activity Based budgeting, four activities have been identified by EFSA¹:

- Activity 1: Provide scientific opinion and advice to the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Member States
- Activity 2: Enhance risk assessment methodologies in Europe
- Activity 3: Communicate scientific advice and dialogue with interested parties
- Activity 4: Manage and provide administrative support

¹ These 4 activities were adopted for the 2008 budget but the estimation of their application to the 2007 budget is presented in this note.

30. Budget Nomenclature

Actual 20.08.07 (in million €)

	Title	Appropriations	Commitments	% Committed	Payments	% Paid
1	PERSONNEL	24.1	16.3	67,67 %	13.9	57,65 %
2	INFRASTRUCTURE	9.3	7.5	79,83 %	3.5	37,64 %
3	OPERATIONS	18.3	10.5	57,67 %	5.0	27,74 %
	TOTAL	51.7	34.3	66,34 %	22.4	43,46 %
3	Enlargement	0.5	0.2	49,20 %	0.1	9,91 %
	GRAND TOTAL	52.2	34.5	66,16 %	22.5	43,11 %

31. Activity Based Budgeting

Actual 20.08.07 (in million €)

Activity	Appropriations	% of Budget	Commitments	% Committed	Payments	% Paid
Activity 1	25.3	48,45%	16.9	66,96%	11.3	44,68%
Activity 2	8.0	15,40%	5.0	62,23%	3.4	41,97%
Activity 3	8.4	16,04%	5.3	62,79%	2.6	31,32%
Activity 4	10.5	20,12%	7.3	69,93%	5.2	49,61%
TOTAL	52.2	100%	34.5	66,16%	22.5	43,11%