

Annual Activity Report of the European Food Safety Authority for 2007

Document describing the activities of the Authority in 2007

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Annual Activity Report 2007

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I Highlights

1. In 2007, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) was in its fifth year of operation and, by the end of the year, its output of scientific opinions had exceeded 500 and its staff numbers had reached 310. During the year, more than 200 opinions were adopted, a record total for the Authority, and more than 1000 applications and renewals were received. As an organisation, EFSA continued to review its activities, operational procedures and structures, as its remit continued to evolve in line with changes in the policy and legislative environments and to reflect the growing workload.
2. EFSA addressed emerging challenges such as cloning, nanotechnology, and new research on the effects of food colours on hyperactivity, in addition to existing activities in public health, food safety and nutrition, animal health and welfare, plant health and the environment. In addition, many self-mandates were initiated. Therefore, EFSA's management had to ensure that the prioritisation of all its activities was regularly reviewed.
3. The highlights of EFSA's scientific activities in 2007 included the adoption of scientific opinions on the vaccination of animals, pig welfare, seal killing and skinning, BSE/TSE-related questions, foodborne zoonoses such as VTEC and *L. monocytogenes*, aflatoxins, coccidiostats, pesticide residues and pest risk assessments in plant health.
4. In addition, a significant number of the scientific opinions adopted dealt with applications related to feed additives, GMO, food contact materials, food supplements, food additives, flavouring substances, smoke flavourings, novel foods and food allergy.
5. In order to enhance risk assessment methodologies and scientific cooperation, several opinions were adopted in areas such as the environmental risk assessment of additives, products or substances used in animal feed, the role of animal feeding trials in the safety and nutritional assessment of GM plants and derived food and feed, a revised methodology for Geographical BSE-Risk assessment and a guidance document for manufacturers for the preparation and presentation of individual applications for health claims.
6. The Fifth Anniversary of EFSA's inception provided an excellent opportunity for EFSA to strengthen its networks, locally in Parma and also among the European institutions in Brussels and the public at large. The objectives were to further build awareness and appreciation for EFSA's mission, role and scientific work amongst EFSA's institutional and stakeholder partners, and ultimately, with the public at large. In particular, EFSA sought to explain and illustrate to key target audiences how risk assessment and EFSA's work in this area have contributed to improving food safety in the EU, thereby building confidence in the EU food safety system. A series of well-attended, high-profile events, including the Scientific Forum and Scientific Summit, were held in Parma and Brussels and subsequent surveys yielded an 88% satisfaction rating with the activities.
7. EFSA's activities in 2007 continued to be guided by the key recommendations from the Management Board in 2006. It strengthened its organisational structure to reflect the core activities in both the scientific and communications areas and to enable more targeted support and management.
8. To coordinate cooperative activities with the Member States (MS) and provide assistance to the risk assessment units, the Scientific Cooperation & Assistance department became operational in 2007.
9. Implementation of the Strategy on Cooperation and Networking, endorsed by EFSA's Management Board in December 2006, began with the first meeting of the Steering Group on Cooperation in March and the identification of 7 ESCO (EFSA scientific cooperation) priority

- projects: harmonisation of risk assessment approaches; safety of botanicals and botanical preparations; risks and benefits of fortification with folic acid; horizon scanning for emerging risks; harmonisation of chemical occurrence data; food consumption data collection; and establishing up a database of national experts in Europe.
10. EFSA worked closely with the national agencies in the MS and beyond to share scientific information. By the end of 2007, EFSA had signed Focal Point agreements with 18 MS and issued calls for 12 Article 36 proposals.
 11. In the area of communication, EFSA re-launched its website with a steady growth in traffic and re-branded the Authority's logo. Media coverage was increased by 60% in relation to 2006.
 12. In line with EFSA's policy on open dialogue with stakeholders, regular contacts were made with stakeholders and several consultations on specific scientific and management aspects were organised. The Authority initiated a review of its stakeholder strategy and the recommendations of that evaluation will be finalised in 2008.
 13. 2007 saw EFSA further develop its policy towards collaboration with international and third country food safety organisations with the objective of sharing information, best practice and experience. The Authority assisted the European Commission (EC) with its work in Codex Alimentarius and forged greater contacts with key international partners to ensure that the risk assessments carried out by EFSA were globally recognised. A landmark agreement to facilitate the sharing of non-public information was signed with the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and negotiations on other data-sharing agreements are ongoing with the Japanese Food Safety Commission, Food Standards Australia New Zealand and the New Zealand Food Safety Authority.
 14. The Management Board continued to play its key governing role in guiding the Authority through 2007, in particular by ensuring that the necessary resources were available to exercise its mandate, reviewing the structure of the Authority and aligning it with the priority objectives, and ensuring that the Authority developed into an efficient, effective organisation with well qualified and motivated staff.
 15. Emphasis was placed on the consolidation and strengthening of the Authority's scientific work following the principles of scientific excellence, independence, openness and transparency. A comprehensive update of processes for handling Declarations of Interest made by EFSA's scientific experts, management and staff was undertaken in 2007 to safeguard the independence of its scientific work.
 16. By the end of 2007, EFSA's staff numbers had increased to 310 (including 273 Temporary Agents and Official Agents) from 25 different European countries. 57% of staff was allocated to scientific activities, 13% to communications and the rest to supporting the management and administration of the Authority.
 17. In 2007, EFSA has improved and enhanced its Progress Indicators, as evidenced by the inclusion of indicators in Workplan 2008, and enhanced its compliance with horizontal legal requirements applicable to it as an independent legal entity.
 18. As EFSA is committed to sound and timely budgetary planning forecasting and implementation, it worked closely with the Budgetary Authority in the annual budgetary cycle. In 2007, EFSA was able to execute 91% of its 2007 Establishment Plan, a significant improvement on 2006.
 19. The ABB (activity based budget) has been adopted for 2007. Budgetary reporting was enhanced and financial workflows streamlined. The verification and processing of financial operations, i.e. commitments, payments and recovery orders, were further strengthened.
 20. EFSA continued the implementation of the 24 internal control standards.

21. In line with its policy on openness and transparency, EFSA published documents from its Management Board, Advisory Forum, Scientific Committee and Panels on its website. It also held open consultations on guidance documents and reports.
22. During 2007, EFSA strengthened its links with institutional partners to enable it to inform risk managers and communicate with the European Parliament and Council in relation to the future development of the Authority. EFSA held several meetings with Commissioners Kyprianou and Dimas and developed an increased presence in the European Parliament. Several EFSA staff members participated in Council Working Parties and liaison with Council Presidencies increased significantly during the year.
23. EFSA worked closely with other EU Agencies in 2007, for example, with ECDC on zoonoses and Avian influenza (AI), with EPPO in relation to pest risk assessment, and with EMEA on matters linked to GMOs and other areas where there was a need to share information and expertise.
24. EFSA worked closely with the new MS, Romania and Bulgaria, to facilitate their full participation in EFSA's activities. In addition, EFSA embarked on similar integration activities with the Pre-Accession countries of Croatia, Turkey and Macedonia.
25. EFSA continued to foster good relations with the national, regional, provincial and commune authorities in Italy and Parma to ensure that the impact on the area remained positive and of mutual interest and benefit. In this respect, EFSA worked closely with the local authorities in relation to the Fifth Anniversary celebrations, the Final Seat project, Parma Airport and the European School.
26. EFSA continued to work with the local administration in Parma on the permanent seat of EFSA in Viale Piacenza and plans for the building were developed by the appointed architects.
27. The monumental part of the Palazzo Ducale, the representative seat of EFSA, continued to accommodate meetings. An extra 3050 m² of office space, accommodating 160 EFSA staff, was provided in the Fratti Building adjacent to the current headquarters.
28. Objectives carried over into 2008 include:
 - International strategy
 - Evaluation of the impact of media initiatives
 - Crisis management exercise and updated crisis manual
 - Enhanced recognition of EFSA scientific experts

II Risk Assessment and Scientific Cooperation

II.1 Scientific Committee (SC)

29. During 2007, the SC provided scientific advice on methods of assessment of the quality of EFSA's scientific work and on approaches to enhancing EFSA's responsiveness to urgent questions. In addition, it adopted an opinion introducing a Qualified Presumption of Safety (QPS) approach for the assessment of the safety of selected microorganisms in food and feed, and a guidance document (for public consultation) on the safety assessment of botanicals and botanical preparations. Four public consultations were held to request data or solicit comments on draft opinions, guidance documents or other reports.
30. The SC had productive meetings on Panel workloads with Management Board members at the plenary meetings on 15-16 February and 16-17 April. The Chair and Vice-Chairs of the SC participated in 3 meetings of the Steering Group on Cooperation (March, May and November). The Chair of the SC also participated in all Management Board meetings, with the exception of the December meeting in Lisbon.
31. In March, the SC received a request from the EC related to the implications of live cloned animals obtained through somatic cell nucleus transfer (SCNT) for food safety, animal health, animal welfare and the environment. The SC elaborated a working strategy and EFSA launched a request for scientific contributions from Third Parties for consideration in the preparation of the opinion. In December, the SC approved a draft for public consultation on EFSA's website. The SC expects to adopt a final opinion at its plenary meeting in April 2008.
32. EFSA received a request from the EC in July for an initial scientific opinion on the risks associated with nanoscience and nanotechnologies in relation to food and feed safety and the environment. In November, the SC created a working group of 15 experts on nanotechnology and it is expected that the SC will endorse the draft opinion for public consultation by mid-July 2008.

II.2 General Requests for Scientific Opinions and Advice

Food additives, flavourings, processing aids and materials in contact with food (AFC)

33. The evaluation of the safety of exposure to dietary aluminium that was started in 2006 was progressed and the draft opinion was discussed during the 26th Plenary meeting of the AFC Panel (27–29 November 2007). The opinion is expected to be adopted by Spring 2008. The AFC Panel received a request for an evaluation of the safety of taurine and D-glucoronolactone as constituents of so-called "energy" drinks.
34. The AFC Panel was requested to undertake a review of a study examining the effect of mixtures of certain food colours and a preservative on children's behaviour. The outcome of this work will be published in Spring 2008.

Animal health and welfare (AHAW)

35. AHAW Panel activities in 2007 included 22 WGs on issues such as AI, Bluetongue (BT), aquatic diseases, welfare issues associated with methods for killing and skinning seals, and pig welfare. The scientific opinions on both BT and AI were reflected in DG SANCO legislative decisions and measures in 2007.
36. New mandates were received on BT, classical swine fever and AI and the Panel self-mandated an opinion on the guidelines for risk assessment in animal welfare. The mandate on AI

- identified the need to update the previous 5 scientific opinions and to assess risk factors for introduction of highly pathogenic AI into poultry holdings.
37. On pig welfare, 3 questions were adopted: (i) health and welfare aspects of different housing and husbandry systems for adult breeding boars, pregnant, farrowing sows and unweaned piglets; (ii) fattening pigs; and (iii) tail biting. In December, AHAW adopted the opinion launched by DG ENV on "seal killing and skinning". AHAW held, for this particular mandate, a Stakeholder meeting on October 4, with participation of more than 30 organizations.
 38. Four scientific opinions relating to vaccines were adopted: (i) vaccination against AI H5 and H7 subtypes in domestic poultry and captive birds; (ii) vaccination against AI H5 and H7 subtypes as a preventive measure carried out in MS in birds kept in zoos under Community-approved programmes; (iii) a review of Newcastle disease focusing on vaccination worldwide in order to determine its optimal use for control purposes; and (iv) BT vectors and vaccines. For BT, EFSA also launched a self-mandate on the origin and occurrence of the outbreaks in the EU. On aquatic diseases, three opinions were adopted on possible vector species transmitting disease and live stages of susceptible species not transmitting disease, as regards: (i) fish diseases; (ii) crustaceans; and (iii) molluscs.
 39. Two further opinions were adopted: (i) on assessment of the risk of tick introduction into UK, Republic of Ireland, and Malta as a consequence of abandoning National rules; and (ii) an opinion on the review of the Community Report on Trends and Sources of Zoonoses, Zoonotic Agents and Antimicrobial Resistance for the year 2005, adopted jointly with the BIOHAZ Panel.

Biological hazards (BIOHAZ)

40. On BSE/TSE-related subjects, the BIOHAZ Panel adopted 12 opinions mandated by DG SANCO on subjects such as: quantitative risk assessment on residual BSE risk in sheep meat and meat products; quantitative histological studies and the re-assessment of the BSE-related risk of bovine intestines after processing into natural sausage casings; certain aspects related to the risk of TSEs in ovine and caprine animals; the likelihood of the infectivity in specified risk materials (SRM) derived from cattle at different age groups estimated by back calculation modelling; and the assessment of TSE-related risks of the use of bovine blood in feeds for fish. The Panel's work in the area of BSE/TSE testing included an opinion on the CRL report on batch testing of TSE rapid tests, opinions on the protocols for the evaluation of new rapid TSE *post mortem* tests in both cattle and small ruminants, and the preliminary evaluation of *ante mortem* TSE tests for ruminants. This preparatory work supported the EC in its launch of the new call for expressions of interest for TSE test evaluation in October. Other major BSE-related activities included the revision of the methodology for Geographical BSE Risk (GBR) assessment.
41. The BIOHAZ Panel dealt with two mandates from the European Parliament, resulting in opinions on the health risks of feeding ruminants with fishmeal and certain aspects related to the feeding of animal proteins to farm animals.
42. On food hygiene and microbiology, the BIOHAZ Panel adopted 3 opinions: (i) "Microbiological risks in infant formulae and follow-on formulae with regard to Enterobacteriaceae as indicators" reviewed the former opinion of the Panel on that topic; (ii) microbiological criteria and targets based on risk analysis (self-tasked); and (iii) an update on the previous risk assessment on *Listeria monocytogenes* in ready-to-eat foods (used by the EC to establish the EU position on *L. monocytogenes* criteria in the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene).
43. On foodborne zoonoses, the BIOHAZ Panel adopted 4 opinions, 3 of which were self-mandates on scientific issues associated with further harmonization of the Annual Summary Zoonoses Report: (i) the monitoring of verotoxigenic *Escherichia coli* (VTEC) and identification of human pathogenic VTEC types; (ii) monitoring and identification of human enteropathogenic *Yersinia*

- spp.; and (iii) surveillance and monitoring of *Toxoplasma* in humans, food and animals. The ECDC was consulted throughout on the public health aspects of these opinions. An opinion on the public health risks associated with the human consumption of reptile meat was also adopted. The BIOHAZ Panel adopted its opinion on biological hazards while the chapter on chemical hazards was adopted by the CONTAM Panel.
44. Following the Council Conclusions of 6-7 December 2004 on Emerging Zoonotic Diseases, EFSA, in close collaboration with the ECDC, was invited to present a detailed analysis of the risk factors on the basis of the annual Community Summary Report. The BIOHAZ Panel in collaboration with the AHAW Panel and the ECDC drafted an opinion reviewing the Community Summary Report on Trends and Sources of Zoonoses, Zoonotic Agents and Antimicrobial Resistance in the European Union (EU) in 2005.
 45. The BIOHAZ Panel, in collaboration with the AHAW and FEEDAP Panels, started work on an opinion on the microbiological risk assessment of feedingstuffs for food-producing animals from both the animal and public health perspectives. The terms of reference include microbiological hazards in feedingstuffs, quantification of the effect of control options, and identification of areas where it would be appropriate to set microbiological criteria and/or targets for feedingstuffs to ensure public and animal health protection.
 46. The BIOHAZ Panel contributed to the risk assessment on pig welfare by the AHAW Panel, addressing in particular the food safety implications of different housing and husbandry systems.
 47. BIOHAZ collaborated with the AFC Panel to provide a recommendation on the potential induction of antimicrobial resistance to 1,2-benzisothiazolin-3-one (BIT) and 2-methyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one (MIT).

Contaminants in the food chain (CONTAM)

48. In 2007, the CONTAM Panel adopted 14 opinions in response to requests from the EC. An opinion on the public health impact of raising current maximum levels of aflatoxins in almonds, hazelnuts and pistachios from 4 µg/kg (EU maximum level) to 8 or 10 µg/kg was linked to the Codex Alimentarius where levels higher than the current EU maximum are being discussed. It concluded that changing the current EU maximum levels to 8 or 10 µg/kg in almonds, hazelnuts and pistachios would have minor effects on estimates of dietary exposure, cancer risk and Margin of Exposure. However, the CONTAM Panel also stated that exposure to aflatoxins from all sources should be as low as reasonably achievable, because aflatoxins are genotoxic and carcinogenic.
49. CONTAM started its work on the evaluation of current limits with regard to human health and methods of analysis of various marine biotoxins. This activity was initiated by a MS request for alternative methods to replace the mouse and rat bioassays (the officially recommended reference methods) for shellfish toxin evaluation and then re-worked into a request from the EC. Overall, a series of 9 risk assessments will be carried out.
50. The CONTAM Panel was requested by the EC to evaluate: (i) whether new data are available on substances with hormonal activity that might be used legally in Third Countries for growth promoting purposes in bovine meat; (ii) to assess potential risks to human health of such substances; and (iii) to indicate whether such new data would call for a revision of the previous risk assessments of the Scientific Committee on Veterinary Measures relating to Public Health (SCVPH). It was concluded by the CONTAM Panel that at present, epidemiological data provide convincing evidence for an association between the amount of red meat consumed and certain forms of hormone-dependent cancers.
51. The EC requested an assessment of risks to human health related to the presence of ethyl carbamate and hydrocyanic acid in food and alcoholic beverages, in particular stone-fruit brandies. A risk characterisation was performed using the Margin of Exposure approach. The

Panel concluded that exposure to ethyl carbamate in food excluding alcoholic beverages represents a low risk to human health. However, the Panel concluded that, for high consumers, ethyl carbamate in alcoholic beverages may be of concern, particularly with respect to stone-fruit brandies and tequila.

52. The CONTAM Panel adopted its first 6 opinions on cross-contamination of non-target feedingstuffs by authorised coccidiostats (narasin, lasalocid, salinomycin, semduramicin, maduramicin, monensin sodium). In this series, 5 opinions remain in the pipeline for possible adoption in 2008.
53. The Panel continued its series of opinions relating to the revision of Annex I of the Directive 2002/32/EC on undesirable substances in animal feed. The opinions adopted cover pyrrolizidine alkaloids, heptachlor, chlordane and glucosinolates. In this series, 7 draft opinions related to mercury, nitrite, free gossypol, tropane alkaloids, saponins from *Madhuca sp.*, ricin and theobromine as undesirable substances in animal feed remain in the pipeline for adoption in 2008.
54. Other requests in 2007 included cadmium, lead and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in food from the EC, and a MS request related to uranium in foodstuffs, particularly mineral water. An urgent request on the presence of melamine and structurally related compounds in protein sources intended for use in feed and food was received by the EC and addressed by CONTAM using the fast-track response procedure for the first time.

Additives and products or substances used in animal feed (FEEDAP)

55. In 2007, most of the Panel's activities focused on the evaluation of applications for feed additive authorisation and the development of guidelines/guidance documents for the scientific assessment of additives resulting from self-tasking initiatives.
56. Discussions were started with the EC, the CRL and industry associations on the establishment of a detailed 'priority' calendar for the re-evaluation of all existing feed additives, in accordance with Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003. The deadline for submission of applications for re-evaluation is 7 November 2010, after which the re-evaluation will begin following the calendar that will be established by the European Commission and SCFCAH.
57. The FEEDAP Panel received a request from the EC to assess the safety for the consumer of high levels of vitamin A in products of animal origin, consumed individually or in combination with other sources of vitamin A, e.g. food supplements or dietetic foods. The safety for target animals and the potential zootechnical implications of reducing vitamin A levels will also be evaluated. MS were invited to provide data on vitamin A supplementation in all categories of livestock in the EU, as well as human vitamin A consumption data. The WG of the FEEDAP Panel is currently analysing the information received and an opinion is scheduled for Spring 2008.

Genetically modified organisms (GMO)

58. The GMO Panel adopted a statement on the safe use of the nptII antibiotic resistance marker gene in GM plants in response to a request from the EC and following information provided by the European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products (EMEA). Also in response to a request from the EC, EFSA issued a statement on the fate of recombinant DNA or proteins in the meat, milk or eggs of animals given GM feed.
59. EFSA received a request from the EC with regard to a scientific publication on the statistical analysis of a 90-day rat feeding study with MON 863 maize. EFSA established a Task Force to consider the request and organised a technical meeting with the authors of the publication. In June 2007, the GMO Panel adopted a statement on MON 863 maize.

60. EFSA and the GMO Panel provided scientific support to the EC on activities of the Codex Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived from Biotechnology by commenting on the "Proposed Draft Guideline for the Conduct of Food Safety Assessment of Foods Derived from Recombinant - DNA Animals", the "Proposed Draft Annexes to the Guidelines for the Conduct of Food Safety Assessment of Food Derived from Recombinant-DNA Plants: Food Safety Assessment of Food Derived from Recombinant-DNA Plants Modified for Nutritional or Health Benefits" and the "Food Safety Assessment in situations of low-level presence of r-DNA plant material in food".

Dietetic products, nutrition and allergies (NDA)

61. The Panel started to address the different tasks allocated to EFSA in the Regulation and in particular the scientific advice on nutrient profiles for foods bearing claims. To this end, the outcome of the EFSA Scientific Colloquium N°9 on "Nutrient Profiling for foods bearing Nutrition and Health Claims" held on 11-12 October 2007 constitutes the basis for an opinion on the subject which will be adopted by January 2008.
62. The Panel is addressing recommended nutrient intakes for the European population. This pertains to the establishment of nutrient-based recommendations, and in particular the review of existing advice of the Scientific Committee for Food (SCF, 1993) on population reference intakes for energy, nutrients and other substances with a nutritional or physiological effect. The Panel has prepared advice on energy, macronutrients and water, which is expected to be delivered by mid-2008.
63. As part of its activities on nutrient intakes for Europeans, the Panel is working on the translation of nutrient-based recommendations into guidance on the contribution of different foods or categories of foods to a healthy diet (food-based dietary guidelines). An opinion is scheduled for mid-2008.
64. In preparation of the Community position for the meeting of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU) in November, the Panel issued a statement on the definition of dietary fibre on request from the EC.

Plant health (PLH)

65. Five scientific opinions were adopted:
 - On a pest risk assessment (PRA) made by Spain on *Bactrocera zonata*, a fruit fly listed in the quarantine list of the Community plant health legislation (Council Directive 2000/29/EC);
 - On PRAs made by EPPO for invasive alien species that pose a threat to plant health, environment and biodiversity in the EPPO region, i.e. *Lysichiton americanus* and *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*;
 - On responses made by Lithuania and Poland, respectively on a PRA made by both countries on *Ambrosia* spp.

The opinions were presented and thoroughly discussed in the Standing Committee on Plant Health, providing a valuable opportunity for dialogue with risk managers. The Panel also made considerable progress on opinions for 30 PRAs made by France on organisms considered harmful in 4 French overseas departments, i.e. Guadeloupe, Guyana, Martinique and Reunion. The deadline for delivery of these opinions is March 2008.

II.3 Risk assessment of regulated substances and products

AFC

66. The Panel continued the evaluation of substances intended for food contact materials. An increase in submission of dossiers was experienced during the last quarter of 2006 and the first quarter of 2007.
67. On re-evaluation of food additives, the AFC Panel adopted an opinion on the food colour Red 2G (E 128) on July 5. Based on the opinion of the Panel, the use of the substance was subsequently banned. This is the first in a series of re-evaluations EFSA has undertaken on the safety of food additives in the light of research accumulated since the first evaluations were undertaken almost 30 years ago. Food colours have been prioritised and will be assessed by EFSA in 2008.
68. New applications for food additives included 2 applications for steviol glycosides and, in the area of processing aids, an application for an extraction solvent was received.
69. Approximately 500 dossiers on substances for use in food supplements were received in mid-2005 but many were subsequently withdrawn. The remaining dossiers have been screened for the possibility of grouping them whenever possible and giving a common opinion for classes of substances rather than individual substances. In 3 opinions, the Panel evaluated 8 substances for which a total of 14 dossiers were submitted. Despite the effort, it became evident that the evaluation process will continue beyond 2007. Around 300 of the dossiers, comprising more than 200 substances, contain very limited information. For these requests, a deadline has been set for the end of 2007 for the submission of additional information for an evaluation.
70. In relation to chemically defined flavouring substances, evaluation of the remaining substances in the Register continued and is expected to be finalised in 2008. In total, 26 flavouring group evaluations were completed in 2007, including reviews of previous opinions based on new data received as the result of requests from the Panel, and a review of JECFA evaluations.
71. The Panel continued to evaluate the safety of the remaining 13 smoke flavourings from the initial total of 16 that were started in 2005. These products are added to a range of foods and until recently were not subject to any authorisation process for use in Europe. One of the smoke flavourings, named Primary Product FF-B, raised concern during the evaluation process. Consequently, the AFC Panel published a risk assessment on the 7th June 2007 in which it concluded that Primary Product FF-B can be regarded as weakly genotoxic *in vivo*. The product was subsequently withdrawn from the market by the applicant.
72. On evaluation of processes for treatment of natural mineral waters, EFSA was asked to evaluate the safety of the use of manganese and iron oxyhydroxide media for the removal of manganese, iron and arsenic from natural mineral waters. A variety of media is used for this purpose across Europe. A final opinion will be published in 2008.

BIOHAZ

73. The BIOHAZ Panel adopted an opinion on the safety vis-à-vis biological risk of the mesophilic process of biogas and compost treatment of animal by-products.

FEEDAP

74. The FEEDAP Unit performed completeness checks of applications submitted to EFSA and supported the FEEDAP Panel in the drafting of opinions. Overall, 23 opinions were adopted according to the terms of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003, including 19 opinions under Article 4(1) (evaluation of new products/extension of use), 3 under Article 13(3) (modifications of the

terms of the authorisation), and 1 under Article 25(1). The FEEDAP Panel also received requests from the EC to deliver scientific opinions under other legislation such as Regulation (EC) No 178/2002, Directive 70/524/EEC and Directive 93/74/EEC. Nine opinions were adopted under the terms of the above-mentioned legislative texts. In March, the Panel adopted one opinion on the environmental risk assessment of additives, products or substances used in animal feed following a self-tasked initiative.

75. Of the questions received in 2007, 2 were submitted for re-evaluation under Article 10(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 and 4 were received under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 (bacterial biomasses produced by genetically modified microorganisms) which are under evaluation.
76. FEEDAP working groups included 8 Standing WGs on enzymes, microorganisms, amino acids, trace elements, coccidiostats, colouring agents, organic acids and guidelines.
77. The FEEDAP Secretariat, with the support of the Panel, started to discuss with the EC, the CRL and industry associations the establishment of a detailed "priority" schedule for the re-evaluation of all existing feed additives in accordance with Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003. The deadline for submission of applications for re-evaluation is 7 November 2010, after which the re-evaluation will begin following the schedule that will be established by the EC and SCFCAH.
78. Seven technical hearings were held with industry associations/applicants (e.g. EU Feed Additives and Premixtures Association (FEFANA), International Association of the European Manufacturers of Major, Trace and Specific Feed Mineral Materials (EMFEMA), DSM, Zinpro and Degussa) to discuss issues related to the general assessment and handling of applications, as well as issues associated with specific dossiers.

GMO

79. In 2007, EFSA received 35 GMO applications including 14 new applications, 20 requests for renewals under Regulation (EC) 1829/2003 and one application submitted under Directive 2001/18/EC.
80. The Panel adopted 5 scientific opinions on applications for the placing on the market of GM plants within the framework of GM Food and Feed Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 relating to GM maize 59122 and GA21, GM Soybean A7204-12, GM cotton LLCotton25 and GM rice LLRice62 for food/feed uses, import and processing. In addition, the GMO Panel adopted annexes to these scientific opinions, comprising detailed answers to issues raised by MS. The Panel also finalised its review on the renewal application for GA21 maize.
81. Three opinions on feed additives (Quantum™ Phytase, Rovabio™ PHY AP/LC 3-phytase, and Danisco Xylanase) based on an enzyme preparation from a genetically modified microorganism were adopted by the GMO Panel for co-adoption with the FEEDAP Panel within the framework of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003.
82. The GMO Unit checked the completeness of 19 applications, supported the Panel with draft risk assessments and evaluation of comments from MS and the public.

NDA

83. The Panel issued scientific advice in the field of food allergy. Directive 2000/13/EC, as amended by Directive 2003/89/EC, on food labelling requires the mandatory labelling of ingredients present in foodstuffs, and establishes a list of ingredients that are known to trigger food allergies or food intolerances (Annex IIIa). Within the framework of this legislation, EFSA issued 22 opinions following the evaluation of dossiers submitted by manufacturers applying for permanent labelling exemptions for derived ingredients listed in Annex IIIa of the Directive.

84. In 2007 the Panel dealt overall with 10 dossiers related to novel food applications. It issued two opinions on the safety of the novel food ingredients alpha-cyclodextrin and *Allanblackia* seed oil, and a statement on fruit juices and nectars with added phytosterols.
85. The Panel started the evaluation of the suitability of lutein for infants and young children. An opinion on this dossier is expected to be issued by mid-2008.

Plant protection products and their residues (PPR)

86. The PPR Panel published 10 opinions and a statement covering the sectors of toxicology, residues, environmental fate of pesticides and ecotoxicology.
87. At the request of the EC, 3 opinions were adopted on the revision of Annexes II and III to Council Directive 91/414/EEC concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market: on fate and behaviour in the environment; on toxicological and metabolism; and on ecotoxicological studies. The three other opinions on physico-chemistry; analytical methods and residues were published in 2006, and the 6 opinions on Annexes II and III will contribute to the preparation of the revision of Directive 91/414/EEC.
88. Also in response to an EC request, two opinions were adopted in toxicology: one on the Acute Reference Dose (ARfD) for imazalil and the other on the clastogenic properties and classification of the TBSA metabolite of tritosulfuron. Two opinions were also adopted in the field of pesticide residues: one on the acute dietary intake assessment of pesticide residues in fruit and vegetables (a statement was also published) and one on the risks associated with an increase in the MRL for dieldrin on courgettes.
89. On request of the PRAPeR Unit, the PPR Panel self-mandated two questions and published one opinion on the final report of the FOCUS Air WG on Pesticides in Air relating to exposure assessment, as well as an opinion on the genotoxic and carcinogenic potential of buprofezin in the context of human risk assessment.
90. The PPR Panel also published an opinion on default Q10 values used to describe the effect of temperature on transformation rates of pesticides in soil (self-tasked question).

II.4 Enhance risk assessment methodologies and scientific cooperation

Scientific Committee

Opinions and Guidance Documents

91. The SC adopted advice on approaches to enhance EFSA's responsiveness to urgent questions at its plenary meeting on 9-10 July. The advice comprises 3 procedures that can be flexibly applied to enable different types of responses depending on the type of question and timeframe.
92. The SC adopted advice on a proposal for a review system to assess the quality of EFSA's scientific work by written procedure in August 2007. The system provides EFSA with the means to comprehensively review the quality of its scientific activities, both by internal review and by independent, external review processes, together with additional consultations with institutional and non-institutional stakeholders.
93. In November, the SC adopted an opinion introducing the Qualified Presumption of Safety (QPS) approach for a simplified safety assessment of selected microorganisms referred to EFSA, taking account of existing history of use and data available.

94. At its plenary in November, the SC adopted a guidance document that proposes an approach for the safety assessment of botanicals and botanical preparation for public consultation. The consultation took place during December 2007 and January 2008 and comments will be reviewed for possible update of the guidance document.

Public consultations

95. In December 2006, the SC approved the draft opinion introducing the QPS approach for the safety assessment of selected microorganisms for public consultation. The public consultation of the draft opinion took place in the period from 11 January to 5 March 2007. The comments were taken into consideration in the finalisation of the draft opinion that was adopted by the SC at its plenary meeting of 19-20 November.
96. In December, the SC published a draft of the guidance document that proposes an approach for the safety assessment of botanicals and botanical preparations for public consultation (see further above).

Dedicated meetings

97. Two meetings of an expert working group on food consumption data were held. The main task of this working group is to complete the EFSA concise food consumption database. It will also discuss possibilities for further harmonisation of strategies and approaches to the collection and collation of food consumption data in Europe. The Secretariat for this task has been transferred to the DATEX Unit for 2008.
98. The SC had productive meetings with some Management Board members at the plenary meeting of 15-16 February and of 16-17 April to discuss the workload of the Panels.
99. The SCAF Unit organised a joint EFSA/DG RTD meeting on 28 February to provide updates on respective activities, provide input on the indicative topics for the next year's call of the 7th Framework programme, and identify further areas of cooperation.
100. A meeting was organised with the Secretariat and Chair of the Committee on Herbal Medicinal Products of EMEA on 14 March in Brussels to provide updates on 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.
101. On 2-3 May, an EFSA/EU-EuroFIR/Nordic Council of Ministers Joint Workshop was held related to bioactive compounds in major European food plants. Two databases on bioactive compounds, one on potential health-beneficial effects and the other on potential toxic effects, were presented and their usefulness for EFSA's work was explored.
102. The Chair and Vice-Chairs of the SC participated in 3 meetings of the Steering Group on Cooperation (March, May and November), composed of members of the SC and the Advisory Forum, which has been established to advise EFSA on scientific cooperation activities involving EFSA and the MS.
103. In August, the draft guidance document for the safety assessment of botanicals and botanical preparations used in food as supplements was shared with EMEA's Herbal Medicinal Products Committee (HMPC) for comment.
104. In September, a meeting took place with DG SANCO to discuss possible implications of the draft opinion on the introduction of the QPS approach for the assessment of microorganisms notified to EFSA.

Scientific Cooperation and Assistance

Assessment Methodology

105. For the Article 36 project on QMRA Salmonella in pigs (BIOHAZ), the Assessment Methodology unit (AMU) acts as the technical link between the consortium and EFSA. The unit also assisted BIOHAZ in the opinions on the quantitative risk assessment of residual BSE risk in sheep and the age-specific risk of Specified Risk Materials in bovines.
106. The unit contributed to the MON 863 task force on the statistical re-analysis of the 90-day rat feeding study.
107. The AMU participated in the AHAW "Tuberculosis in deer" working group that developed and applied an innovative methodology to combine data from systematic literature reviews with expert opinions (Bayesian meta-analysis).
108. The AMU is part of the AFC Working Group for the evaluation of the FSA publication on the effects of certain food colours on hyperactivity in children.
109. The AMU managed the Q10 experimental dataset and coordinated the statistical analysis underlying the Q10-FATE opinion adopted by the PPR panel in December. In addition, it collated information on acute toxicology data in birds and mammals from Draft Assessment Reports for pesticides. This information will be used in the PPR Guidance Document for birds and mammals.
110. On April 4, the AMU delivered a final report on the global epidemiological analysis of the 2006 BT virus outbreak, which investigated factors associated with the introduction, establishment and spread of BTV-8 in north-western Europe. A review of the epidemiological analysis and reporting of surveillance data on AI was completed.
111. In collaboration with the Communications department, the unit organised three colloquia (Cumulative Risk Assessment of Pesticides to Human Health, Environmental Risk Assessment of Genetically Modified Plants, and Nutrient Profiling); from November 15 this responsibility has been transferred to the Scientific Cooperation Unit.
112. The AMU Multiple Framework Contract for outsourcing of statistical tasks and data management was finalised.
113. Training on Data Collection and Analysis tools and methodologies in food risk assessment was provided for the Turkish and Croatian delegations during the Data Collection Workshop which took place on the 2-3 October. Programmes for two further seminars for these pre-accession countries were developed and the AMU contributed to the programme coordination of the Scientific Forum on 20-21 November.
114. The AMU also provided support to the Zoonoses team in baseline studies in broilers and turkeys, to GMO on an application for a transgenic glufosinate-tolerant soybean (A2704-12), to PRAPeR in the creation of a database to store ADI, ARfD and AOEL values, to DATEX in the collation and summary of measurements of PAH in food samples, and to the IT department in installing specific statistical software packages on server and on client computers. Methodological and statistical support was also provided in the form of short-term consultations to various units in Science, including the PLH unit (planning of upcoming modelling activities), SC/AF unit (review of a draft guidance on transparency), SCA department (contribution to the EFSA Data Collection Strategy document) and Risk Assessment department (contribution to the future animal health policy in EFSA document). The AMU provided scientific support to the FEEDAP unit on the evaluation of the genetic toxicology of feed additives.

Pesticide Risk Assessment Peer Review

115. The main task of PRAPeR continued to be the review of all pesticides on the EU market since 1993. Following the completion of the second stage of the programme in 2006, EFSA progressed the peer review of the third stage which comprises 136 active substances (in two parts A and B) currently used in plant protection products. In 2007, peer review was launched for all substances in part A and was completed for 14 active substances. The conclusions were published on the EFSA website along with an extensive set of background documents. They provide the EC and the authorities of the MS with a scientific basis for determining whether the substances in question can continue to be used; conclusions were finalised for 6 new active substances.
116. Activities related to Regulation No 396/2005 on maximum residue levels (MRLs) focused on requests received from the EC on the establishment of the Annexes II, III and IV.
117. In March, EFSA submitted an opinion to the EC on the safety of temporary MRLs proposed for inclusion in Annex III of the Regulation. The risk assessment model was based on food consumption data from 14 MS. For 79 of these active substances, additional information on toxicological reference values was made available by MS, enabling EFSA to provide refined calculations.
118. For a further 93 active substances that should be included in Annex II of the Regulation, EFSA assessed the safety of MRLs for crops not yet covered by Community legislation. The report on the potential consumer health risk for approx. 3400 MRLs was submitted by August 2007.
119. In addition, EFSA started the compilation of a database of toxicological reference values (ADI and ARfD) and other relevant toxicological information, as requested in Article 41 of Regulation 396/2005. The database will be accessible to the EC and competent authorities in the MS.
120. In response to an EC request, EFSA provided an opinion on the potential consumer risk of 9 active substances which should be included in Annex IV of Regulation 396/2005. This Annex lists active substances for which the establishment of MRLs is not compulsory because of low consumer risk.

Data Collection and Exposure

121. During 2007, the Data Collection and Exposure Unit (DATEX) grew from two to seven staff. Expertise has been acquired in food consumption survey design, database management and consumer research. The unit now has capacity to cover food and feed contaminants, food consumption and food composition as well as techniques for exposure assessments. The unit has mainly serviced the CONTAM Panel, the NDA Panel, and the AFC Panel but has also responded directly to inquiries from the EC.
122. The Unit contributed to the following opinions/requests: aflatoxins in almonds, hazelnuts and pistachios, nitrate in vegetables, cadmium and other heavy metals, marine biotoxins (CONTAM), and smoke flavourings (AFC).
123. Evaluation of the data on polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons submitted by MS was completed. A draft report was prepared and peer reviewed. The final report was submitted to the EC and presented by EFSA to the Environmental and Industrial Contaminant Expert Group.
124. Calls for scientific data were issued and/or are currently running on furan in food and beverages, acrylamide in food and saponins from *Madhuca* sp., gossypol, ricin and theobromine in feed.

125. In terms of food composition, the Unit is involved in collecting food composition data from official and commercial sources to assist the NDA Panel Working Group on health claims. Preliminary evaluations of official and commercial food composition data were carried out applying selection criteria suggested by the Working Group.
126. The Expert Group on Food Consumption Data met to discuss the progress of the EU concise food consumption database and to plan future activities. Agreement was reached to publish summary tables for each MS on the EFSA website. The Unit also initiated the establishment of an Expert Group to assist in data standardization and design of EU chemical occurrence surveys.
127. DATEX issued three calls for Article 36 activities: completion of the concise food consumption database; assistance in food classification for chemical occurrence data submissions, and improving knowledge of furan formation during food handling and preparation. Contracts were signed for the first two activities and a contract will be signed in early 2008 for the third activity.

Scientific Cooperation

128. Recruitment for the Scientific Cooperation Unit has progressed with a head of unit and secretary in place since September/November, one scientific staff member working since July, and two further scientists transferred internally. In addition, two new scientific staff members will join in early 2008.
129. Financial management of the Focal Point agreements with MS and validation of the database of organisations approved to support EFSA under Article 36 started in 2007.
130. In March 2007, the Advisory Forum Steering Group on Cooperation (ESCO) agreed the establishment of an Expert Database to support EFSA's scientific work. An Expert Database Working Group, made up of experts appointed by Advisory Forum Members, and with the participation of DG RTD, was set up with its first meeting in December 2007. Testing of the database is scheduled for January – March 2008.
131. The unit has taken over the secretariat of the ESCO Working Group on Food Fortification with Folic Acid. A first discussion with some experts from interested MS took place and a first meeting of the Working Group is planned for early 2008.
132. The unit drafted a policy paper on the organization of Scientific Colloquia. A strategy paper was also drafted on how best to increase the visibility of scientific work in EFSA in the scientific community. In November 2007, the unit took over the scientific part of the coordination of scientific events, such as the Scientific Forum and Scientific Colloquia.
133. From June 2007, the Unit coordinated the production of two special journal issues: one on Foot-and-Mouth disease which will be published in "Transboundary and Emerging Diseases" in January 2008, and the other on the BT epidemic in Western Europe in 2006 which will be published in "Preventive Veterinary Medicine" during the first quarter of 2008.

Zoonoses (Data Collection)

134. The unit coordinated the annual data reporting on zoonoses, antimicrobial resistance and food-borne outbreaks, for 2006. A revised web reporting system and reporting manual were launched in March, and the national datasets were received by the end of May. Information was obtained from 24 MS and 6 additional European countries.
135. The Community Summary Report on Zoonoses, Antimicrobial Resistance and food-borne outbreaks in 2006 was prepared in close collaboration with the ECDC and EFSA's Zoonoses Collaboration Centre. For the first time, statistical analyses of the trends in occurrence of zoonotic agents and analysis of data compliance with the new Community microbiological criteria were included in the report.

136. Harmonised reporting schemes for antimicrobial resistance in *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* isolates from animals as well as for foodborne outbreaks were issued by the Zoonoses Task Force during 2007. These schemes will substantially improve the quality and the subsequent analyses of the data collected. Two additional reports describing the development of the Community reporting system for foodborne outbreaks were also issued.
137. Other harmonisation exercises were initiated in the monitoring in *E. coli* and *Enterococcus* isolates from animals and food. An Article 36 grant was awarded for a project to prepare proposals for harmonised monitoring and reporting schemes for *Trichinella*, *Echinococcus*, *Sarcocystis* and *Cysticercus* in animals and food.
138. The unit analysed and reported the results of the EU-wide baseline surveys on *Salmonella* in laying hen and broiler flocks. A further in-depth report on the comparison of prevalence rates in MS was prepared in response to a request from the EC.
139. At the end of 2007, the unit started to analyse two further *Salmonella* baseline surveys in turkeys and slaughter pigs. In addition, two proposals for new EU-wide baseline survey protocols were prepared in response to a request from the EC. These concerned *Salmonella* in breeding pig herds and MRSA (Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*) in pigs. Both these baseline surveys will be carried out in 2008. The occurrence of MRSA in pigs is an emerging issue and the survey will provide important information to assess the spread of the microorganism and the public health implications.
140. The Unit visited 8 MS to enhance zoonoses reporting at the national level: Germany, Austria, Latvia, Estonia, Czech Republic, Spain, Italy and Belgium. Special training in reporting of zoonoses was provided for the new MS, Turkey and Croatia.

Risk Assessment

AFC

141. Draft guidelines, which are expected to be adopted in 2008, were developed for the recycling of plastics, for substances for use in active and intelligent food contact materials, and for submission of dossiers for food enzymes in view of the pending Regulations in this area.

AHAW

142. The AHAW Panel adopted an opinion on the "Framework for EFSA AHAW risk assessment" which highlighted that, in the absence of international standards for animal welfare, clear guidelines for risk assessment evaluation are urgently needed in order to establish a solid scientific approach.
143. Two calls were launched for proposals under the framework of Article 36 relating to animal welfare (risk assessment guidelines on stunning and killing) and 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 calls were evaluated and the final agreements signed in December 2007 for delivery in September/October 2008.

BIOHAZ

144. The revised methodology on GBR was published by the BIOHAZ Panel. It was submitted for public consultation in early 2007 and adopted later in the year after inclusion of feedback.
145. The BIOHAZ Panel adopted the opinion on the self-tasking mandate on microbiological criteria and targets based on risk analysis. EFSA and the BIOHAZ Panel took into consideration all the comments received during the public consultation which was held in 2006 and amended the opinion accordingly.

CONTAM

146. In the opinion on the public health impact of raising current maximum levels of aflatoxins in almonds, hazelnuts and pistachios from 4 µg/kg (EU maximum level) to 8 or 10 µg/kg, the CONTAM Panel used the Margin of Exposure (MOE) approach. For risk managers, this methodology offers a comparison of risks posed by different genotoxic and carcinogenic substances. The MOE approach has also been applied by the CONTAM Panel in its risk assessment related to the presence of ethyl carbamate and hydrocyanic acid in food and alcoholic beverages.

FEEDAP

147. Following the public consultation that took place in 2006, the FEEDAP Panel adopted an opinion on the "Development of an Approach for the Environmental Risk Assessment of Additives, Products or Substances used in Animal Feed" in March. The principles set out in the guidance document will be used as the basis for assessing the environmental risks associated with the use of feed additives. The document was submitted to the EC and incorporated into the new "Implementing Rules for the preparation and presentation of applications and the assessment and authorisation of feed additives" which were adopted in December by the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health (SCFCAH) and will serve as the basis for the environmental risk assessment of feed additives.
148. In September, a working document was published which provided practical guidance for the extrapolation of efficacy and safety from major species to minor species when assessing feed additives within the framework of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003. Another document entitled "Guidance for the Assessment of Compatibility of Zootechnical Microbial Additives with Antimicrobial Substances" was endorsed by the Panel and submitted for public consultation through the EFSA website. It is expected to be adopted by the Panel in March 2008. These documents have been prepared with the aim of informing and helping applicants in the preparation of dossiers.
149. In addition, the Panel has started a self-tasking activity to examine the scientific basis for the existing functional groups within the category of zootechnical additives (according to Annex I of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003).
150. The FEEDAP Panel and its Secretariat participated in meetings organised by the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health (SCFCAH), concerning in particular the discussion on the "Implementing Rules for the preparation and presentation of applications and the assessment and authorisation of feed additives". In 2006, EFSA, via the FEEDAP Panel, presented to the EC a complete proposal for the assessment of feed additives, which now constitutes the "backbone" of the document that was adopted by the SCFCAH by qualified majority in December.

151. After adoption of the “Implementing Rules for the preparation and presentation of applications and the assessment and authorisation of feed additives”, EFSA will develop specific guidance documents aimed at providing detailed guidance to applicants seeking authorisation of feed additives. The work has already started with the development of a guidance document on flavouring substances, with the important contribution of industry representatives.

GMO

152. In accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 on genetically modified food and feed, EFSA is tasked with publishing detailed guidance to assist applicants in the preparation and presentation of applications for the placing on the market of GM food and/or feed. Following a website consultation, the GMO Panel finalized its guidance document for the risk assessment of GM plants containing stacked transformation events.
153. Following consideration of feedback received during public consultation, the GMO Panel adopted a revised report entitled “The safety and nutritional assessment of GM plants and derived food and feed – the role of animal feeding trials”. The report was presented to risk assessors from MS during a special meeting of the Advisory Forum in November.
154. The GMO Panel adopted a draft guidance document on the risk assessment of GM plants for non-food or non-feed purposes. Following feedback from the EC and the European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products (EMA) with respect to legal and risk management issues, the report will be published on the EFSA website for public consultation.
155. Within the self-task on new approaches for the assessment of allergenicity of GM food, specific subgroup meetings were organised to deal with specific issues such as the use of bioinformatics and the development of animal models. The WG on “Strategies for statistical analysis of data generated for the comparative food safety evaluation of GMOs” presented its interim report to the Panel.
156. In March, EFSA organized a scientific hearing with applicants in order to be informed about forthcoming developments in the area of plant biotechnology which may lead to further issues to be addressed in risk assessments (e.g. guidance documents and self-tasking activities).
157. In May, EFSA participated in a joint scientific session at the 2nd Meeting of the European Advisory Committees on Biosafety on the deliberate release of GMOs which took place in Ljubljana, Slovenia. An EFSA Scientific Colloquium on Environmental Risk Assessment of Genetically Modified Plants took place in June.
158. In November, a special meeting of the EFSA Advisory Forum was held with GMO experts from national regulatory risk assessment bodies and the GMO Panel to discuss scientific GMO risk assessment approaches at national and European levels. EFSA assisted the Joint Research Centre in a workshop organized in November following a request by the European Parliament.
159. In June, two proposals were launched in the framework of Article 36 scientific cooperation concerning (1) the expression of Cry proteins in microorganisms and plants and (2) the impact of herbicide tolerant GM plants on non-target organisms. A third call for scientific cooperation concerning guidance for the risk assessment of GM animals has been delayed until 2008.
160. The scope of 8 of the applications currently under assessment and submitted within the framework of the GM Food and Feed Regulation includes the cultivation of a GM crop. In such cases, a MS is involved in the environmental risk assessment in accordance with Article 6.3(c) and 19.3(c) of Regulation (EC) 1829/2003. In this context, experts from France, Germany, Spain and the Netherlands met with members of the Panel in January 2007 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. Bilateral meetings took place with experts from Germany and The Netherlands.

NDA

161. During 2007 the NDA Panel issued scientific advice within the context of Regulation 1924/2006 on nutrition and health claims made on foods. In particular, the Panel adopted a guidance document for manufacturers for the preparation and presentation of individual applications for health claims. This guidance was adopted following online public consultation and a meeting with stakeholders.

PLH

162. To ensure a transparent, objective and consistent approach to the peer review of pest risk assessments, the Panel initiated a self-mandate to develop guidelines for the evaluation of PRAs prepared by a third party for phytosanitary purposes.
163. Aimed at enhancing the quality and availability of scientific data needed for a comprehensive risk assessment, a successful call within the Article 36 framework was launched on an inventory of data sources for phytosanitary pest risk assessment in the European Community, resulting in the award of a grant.

PPR

164. Updating of the Guidance Document on the risk assessment of Birds and Mammals was progressed: a Workshop took place in May 2007 involving 22 Member States and 10 representatives from industry. A public web consultation on the new draft Guidance Document was carried out at the end of 2007 and adoption is expected in Spring 2008.
165. Updating of the Guidance Document on persistence of pesticides in soil started at the end of 2007. The preparation of a new Guidance Document on pesticide exposure assessment for workers, operators, bystanders and residents was also started at the end of 2007 with the outsourcing of the assessment on current approaches and knowledge in EU (via an Article 36 grant).
166. Using the outcome of the 7th EFSA colloquium held on 28-29 November 2006 on "Cumulative risk assessment of pesticides to human health: the way forward", an opinion is being prepared on the suitability of existing methodologies and the identification of new approaches to assess cumulative and synergistic risks from pesticides to human health with a view to setting MRLs; it is anticipated that this opinion should be adopted in Spring 2008. The PPR Panel has self-tasked another request for an opinion on the cumulative exposure assessment of triazole fungicides as an example of the main opinion.

II.5 Scientific Outputs and Resources

Table 1. Scientific outputs of EFSA in 2007.

	AFC	AHAW	BIO HAZ	CONTAM	FEEDAP	GMO	NDA	PLH	PPR	SC/AF	PRA PeR	DATEX	AMU	Zoonoses	Sci Coop
Opinions	68	15	22	14	34	6	26	5	10	1	2	0	0	0	0
Plenaries	6	7	8	5	9	8	4	6	7	6	4	0	0	4	0
WGs	9	22	21	11	22	8	5	5	7	11	0	1	0	9	1
WG meetings	44	130	63	48	54	50	25	40	51	52	29	21	0	20	1
Other reports/ documents	2	5	0	1	1	1	8	0	1	2	17	0	12	3	6
Public consultations	0	5	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	4	46	3	0	0	0
Guidance documents	0	1	2	0	2	1	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	5	0
Data collection reports	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	4	0
Contracts/ grants	0	3	2	0	1	2	0	1	2	1	0	2	1	9	18

Table 2. New applications and renewals in 2007.

	IN to end 2007	OUT to end 2007	In process 2007
AFC	Additives: 385 Flavourings: 1541 Supplements: 420 Food Contact Mats: 182 Total: 2528	1 1201 113 Total: 1315	1213
FEEDAP	186	139	47
GMO	91	30	61
NDA	Claims:4 Infant form: 4 Novel Food: 17 Food allergy: 51 Total: 76	0 3 14 51 Total: 68	8
PRAPER	239	80	159

Table 3. Human resource by Unit.

Unit	Type of contract					2007	2006
	TA		CA	END	AUX		
	AD	AST					
Directorate	1	1				2	2
RA Dir	1	1				2	-
AFC	8	5		1		14	10
AHAW	9	3	2	2	1	17	11
BIOHAZ	10	5				15	11
CONTAM	4	2				6	5
FEEDAP	8	3	2			13	10
GMO	9	3				12	11
NDA	4	2				6	5
PLH	3	2				5	3
PPR	6	3				9	5
	63	30	4	3	1	101	73
SCA Dir	1	1				2	-
Assess Meth	5	2				7	6
DATEX	4	3				7	3
Emerging Risks		1				1	-
PRAPeR	20	5	1			26	19
SCOOP		1		1		2	-
ZOONOSES	5	2	1	2		10	9
	35	15	2	3	0	55	37

Table 4. Financial resource by Unit.

<i>RA Dir</i>	Budget 2007	Execution 2007	Execution 2006
AFC	1,286,209	965,956	1,083,660
AHAW	1,801,318	1,462,193	1,070,536
BIOHAZ	1,682,457	1,410,217	597,147
CONTAM	641,921	464,906	367,476
FEEDAP	730,308	615,230	501,423
GMO	1,004,331	643,179	596,589
NDA	487,119	307,159	146,375
PLH	693,951	510,783	190,667
PPR	864,961	654,499	433,505
SCA Dir			
Assess Meth	100,210	49,458	0
DATEX	91,010	35,552	0
Emerging Risks	16,426	0	226,055
PRAPeR	514,536	458,082	557,727
SCOOP	1,095,219	941,761	298,197
ZOONOSSES	504,184	444,080	626,104
SCAF	1,255,000	865,694	591,276

III Communication

III.1 Activity overview

167. In 2007, EFSA continued to implement its communications strategy with the following priorities: build visibility for EFSA's corporate mission and scientific expertise; enhance the clarity and relevance of EFSA risk communications; and promote coherence in risk communications across the Community.
168. The expert Advisory Group on Risk Communications held two plenary meetings in Parma in 2007. New challenges in risk assessment and risk communications, such as nanotechnology, cloning and EFSA's role in nutrition, were discussed along with developments in GMOs, zoonoses, and aspartame. The final draft of the Annual Review on Risk Communications was delivered to EFSA for comment.
169. To follow-up the outcomes of the strategy paper "Building the visibility of EFSA's Scientific Work", a working group involving staff from both Communications and Science addressed methods of increasing awareness of EFSA's work in the scientific community and a paper was drawn up presenting the advantages and disadvantages of the various options, and the implications for resources and scheduling.
170. With the evolution of EFSA's role and the increasing importance of its corporate image, EFSA presented its new logo in March. EFSA is now developing a corporate identity manual which will be delivered in the course of 2008.

The ring of stars that forms the main graphical element recalls our European dimension without simply duplicating the conventional EU flag. It also captures the spirit of a network, introducing an idea of cooperation with our institutional and stakeholder partners.

The EU flag is included as a reference to the fact that EFSA belongs to the EU institutional framework.



The phased orange colour of the stars and the blue in the main body of the logo allow for continuity with EFSA's original corporate colours while bringing EFSA's image up to date.

Lower case is used in the main body of the logo to capture the spirit of a young, dynamic and accessible organisation.

171. 2007 provided the opportunity to present EFSA as an institution – its role, work and achievements in its first five years of activity – to a wide range of target audiences, increase cooperation with MS, and increase the Authority’s visibility in the Parma region. A wide range of events was organised in Parma and Brussels and a number of joint events were held in MS, in cooperation with the national food safety authorities.

III.2 Media relations

172. In 2007, EFSA’s press office implemented a targeted communications approach using appropriate channels, tools and processes to reach the media. Seven press conferences were held, attended by 147 journalists. The following media materials were issued:

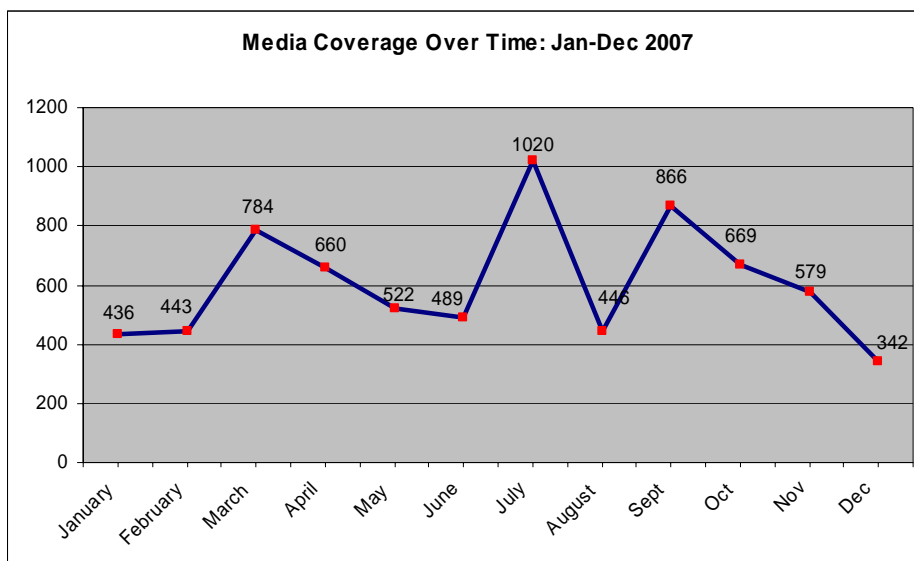
- 24 press releases and statements
- 39 web news stories
- 37 news alerts
- Frequently Asked Questions on Bisphenol A

173. In total, 19 press releases and 5 press statements were issued covering both corporate developments and scientific activities. EFSA produced 39 web news stories on key corporate and scientific developments and activities and web stories were published to inform the public also on institutional matters. Overall, 37 tailored news alerts were distributed to a selected list of journalists.

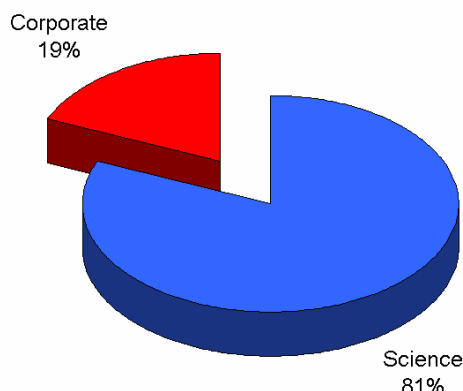
174. In 2007, approximately 20% of EFSA scientific opinions were supported by proactive communications activities both on- and off-line, including press releases/press statements, web news stories and news alerts.

175. EFSA spokespersons gave 44 interviews over the year with selected media to illustrate, with practical examples, EFSA’s work in specific areas of risk assessment. In addition to this, the EFSA press office received 425 requests from European and international media.

176. Through the use of professional media monitoring services, EFSA was able to expand the tracking of its media coverage, with around 7194 articles and audiovisual news-pieces registered in 2007, representing a 49% increase in EFSA-related media coverage vs. 2006. 81% of articles covered scientific issues in 2007 (19% for corporate) vs. 69% and 79%, respectively, for media coverage related to science in 2005 and 2006.



Scientific Panels vs. Corporate Split



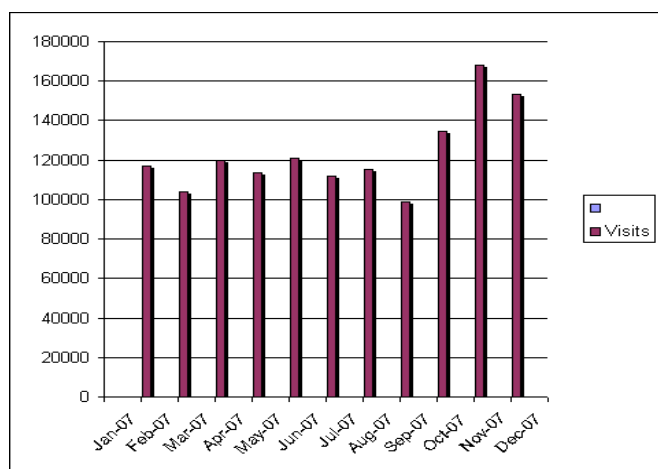
III.3 Other conferences and events

177. The *Open Doors Day* is an initiative of European Institutions taking place annually to mark May 9 with the aim of present their activities to the general public. The 2007 event also provided the opportunity to celebrate the “50 Year Anniversary of the Treaty of Rome” and about 80,000 visitors, mainly European families living in the Brussels region, participated in the celebration.
178. The *JRC Open Day* is a 12-year tradition and this year, as for Brussels, May 9 celebrations were associated with the 50 Year Anniversary of the European Union. EFSA had a stand attended by staff from Communication and Science who organised educational activities for children.
179. *Identity and Safety of Mediterranean Food Products* is the first event co-organised with the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM). About 100 participants from public and private institutions (local and national authorities, professional organisations, universities, the industry, non-profit organizations as well as representatives from CIHEAM and EFSA) attended the conference in Palazzo Ducale.
180. The Communications Directorate provided logistical and administrative support in the organisation of events for other EFSA activities, and in particular for the Science Directorate, including:
 - A consultation workshop for a PPR Working Group on the revision of the guidance document on birds and mammals with industry and MS in Valencia on 8-11 May.
 - EFSA's 8th Scientific Colloquium - Environmental Risk Assessment of Genetically Modified Plants - Challenges and Approaches in Tabiano on 20-21 June.
 - Participation of the PRAPER and PPR Panels in the XIII Symposium in Pesticide Chemistry organised by the Institute of Agricultural and Environmental Chemistry of the Catholic University of Piacenza on 3-6 September.
 - EFSA's 9th Scientific Colloquium - Nutrient Profiling for Foods Bearing Nutrition and Health Claims in Parma on 11-12 October.
 - EFSA conference with stakeholders – Risk assessment of feed additives in the EU: present and future in Toulouse on 24-25 October.
 - EFSA's 10th Scientific Colloquium - Pest risk assessment - Science in support of phytosanitary decision making in the European Community in Parma on 6-7 December.

III.4 Website

181. On 4 September, EFSA launched a completely redesigned and rebuilt website to optimise usability for EFSA's online audiences. The re-launch is a first step in EFSA's new online communication strategy which aims to increase visibility significantly. Some of the website's new features include:
- Simpler navigation;
 - Topic- and output-driven content;
 - More graphics and more use of the colour palette;
 - More user-friendly written content;
 - Events and meetings calendar: all EFSA events and meetings listed in one place;
 - All documents searchable by title, date and category;
 - EFSA scientific opinions searchable by sub-category, date and title;
 - EFSA staff searchable by name;
 - All declarations of interest for panel and working group members searchable by name or group;
 - Cross-linking throughout the site using the right-hand column linking feature.
182. In the last quarter of 2007, the site received nearly 150,000 visits per month on average, with a total of over 440,000 visits (up 34% on the same quarter of 2006). Over 17,500 subscribers now receive EFSA's electronic highlights newsletter, compared with around 12,500 at the end of 2006.
183. In the context of the redesign of the EFSA website, a number of new "key topic" sections was published to allow users easy access to information on topical issues, highlighting EFSA's work in this area with cross-links to opinions and other scientific outputs.
184. EFSA continued to broadcast its Management Board meetings in 2007, with an average of over 1,500 viewing sessions (live and on-demand) registered for a single event.

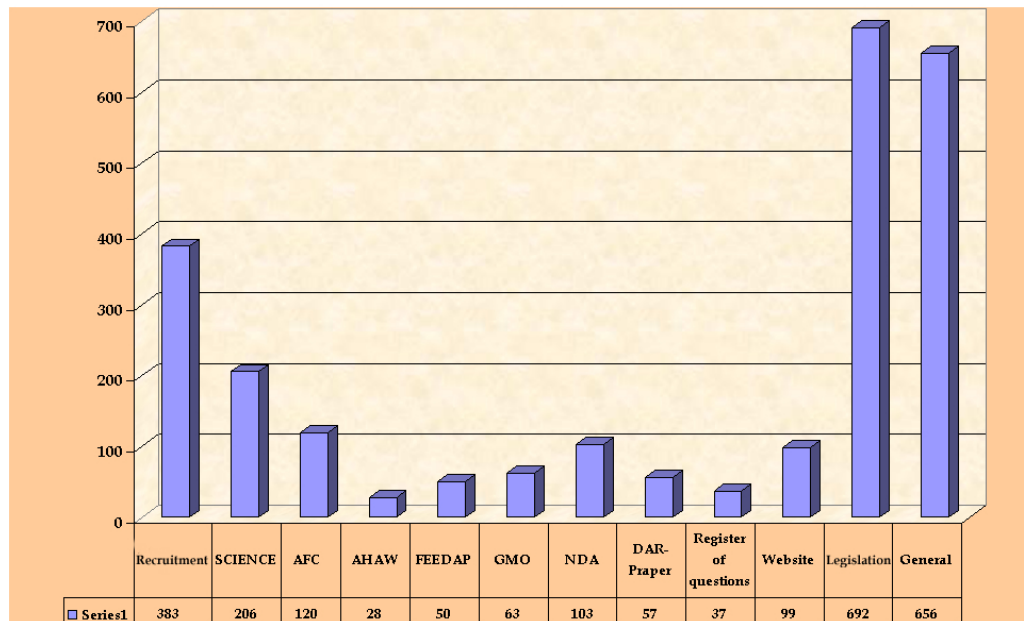
EFSA website - visits in 2007



Infobox

185. The Information mailbox (info@efsa.europa.eu) is the main contact point for the outside world to address requests for information to EFSA. In 2007, the number of requests for information received by e-mail has reached a total of 2,494. The chart below gives the breakdown by topic.

EFSA Infobox activities – breakdown by topic in 2007



III.5 Publications

186. EFSA's corporate publications (Annual Report, Summary of the Annual Report, Management Plan and EFSAnews) were published in the four working languages. In addition, a new corporate brochure was produced in the four official languages as well as in Croatian, Bulgarian, Turkish and Romanian. As part of the support provided to applications developed by EFSA's services, the Public Information & Events (PIE) Unit supported the FEEDAP Panel with the publication of the user guide for the feed additives workspace in ScienceNet.
187. Three new Scientific Colloquium reports were published: "Cumulative risk assessment of pesticides to human health: the way forward" (7th Colloquium); "Risk-benefit analysis of foods: methods and approaches" (6th Colloquium) and "Development of food-based dietary guidelines" (5th Scientific Colloquium). The Community Summary report on trends and sources of zoonoses, zoonotic agents, antimicrobial resistance and foodborne outbreaks in the European Union in 2005 was published in May 2007. A brochure summarising this report and intended for the general public was published in Turkish and Croatian in addition to the four working languages.
188. A CD-ROM compiling all the documents (opinions, guidance, statements) issued by the panels was also produced and distributed to the administrations/institutions of EFSA's scientific experts.
189. EFSA contributed to the 2007 edition of the EU Agencies' joint publication, part of a wider communication programme agreed by the Agencies' Heads of Communication and Information. The joint publication entitled "EU agencies – whatever you do, we work for you" is intended for the general public.

Table 5. Human resource by Unit.

Unit	Type of contract					2007	2006
	TA		CA	END	AUX		
	AD	AST					
	1	2				3	2
PI&E	3	6	1			10	6
Press Office	4	5	2	1	1	13	9
Web	1	2	2			5	3
	9	15	5	1	1	31	20

Table 6. Financial resource by Unit.

Unit	Execution 2007	Budget 2007	Execution 2006
PI&E	1,744,000	1,449,055	399,023
Press Office	582,000	442,678	627,035
Web	140,000	80,830	123,956

IV Dialogue with EU Institutions, Member States, International Organisations and Stakeholders

IV.1 European institutions and agencies

190. In 2007 EFSA continued to implement the Recommendations of its Management Board with regards to the strengthening of its relationship with the EU institutions, international partners and stakeholders. Emphasis was placed on developing close dialogue with the EC on priorities and workload, with the European Parliament on advice to support their work and also furthering contacts and support to risk managers in the MS. The overall objectives were:
 - To build an appropriate interface between risk assessors and risk managers;
 - Monitor changes in policy and legislation that impact on EFSA and ensure that decision makers are informed about the implications of their decisions for EFSA;
 - Increase understanding of EFSA's role and activities among risk managers;
 - To ensure that EFSA is providing the appropriate advice and information to the key EU and national level decision makers; and
 - To assist with building coherence in risk communications activities with EFSA's institutional partners.
191. EFSA continued to involve EC colleagues to the fullest extent possible in the scientific meetings of EFSA, in the Advisory Forum, Stakeholder Consultative Platform and through regular meetings at all levels.
192. EFSA increased its presence in the European Parliament in 2007 to ensure that the requirements for advice and support from EFSA were understood and communicated and that the remit, work programmes and overall objectives of EFSA were communicated to Parliament.
193. EFSA welcomed the appointment of contact MEPs for the EU Agencies and welcomed the appointment of MEP Kartika Liotard as liaison MEP for EFSA. During the week of EFSA's 5th anniversary celebrations in Brussels in November 2007 MEP Liotard hosted a session of questions and answers with EFSA's Executive Director in the European Parliament.
194. Contacts were made with MEPs with an interest in EFSA's activities. EFSA met EP rapporteurs on dossiers that affect EFSA, such as food improvement agents and plant protection products, in order to provide scientific and technical assistance.
195. The Executive Director addressed the ENVI Committee twice – in February and October 2007 – to present the work programmes for 2007 and 2008 respectively. She also appeared before the COBU and COCOBU Committees in January and June to discuss budgetary matters with MEPs.
196. EFSA's liaison officers with the European Parliament regularly attended meetings of the ENVI Committee. In addition, EFSA increased its contact with coordinators and key MEPs in the main Committees to further assist the discussions on scientific/technical matters.
197. EFSA's scientific officers attended meetings of the ENVI Committee to describe EFSA's activities in the area of GMOs and fish meal.
198. EFSA's Executive Director met with MEPs during 2007 to explain EFSA's work and answer specific concerns raised by them.
199. During 2007, EFSA launched its first issue of *EFSA Information* to the European Parliament, which is aimed at informing MEPs regularly on EFSA's activities and forthcoming opinions.
200. On several occasions, EFSA representatives attended EP hearings, including one dedicated to the EC's Animal Health Strategy which proposes an action plan for animal health and welfare over the next six years. EFSA has also been invited to participate in the EP Intergroup organised by the Eurogroup for Animal Welfare. It is expected that EFSA's contribution will cover animal welfare aspects of laboratory testing of animal feedstuffs, particularly in relation to GM feeds.

201. EFSA increased its liaison with the EU Presidencies (Germany and Portugal) and started the preparatory work with the Troika and the 2008 Presidencies, Slovenia and France. The Executive Director met German Federal Minister Seehofer in Berlin and Portuguese Minister of Agriculture Silva in Lisbon on several occasions during the terms of their Presidencies.
202. At the invitation of the German and Portuguese Presidencies, EFSA participated in meetings of Council Working Parties, in particular those of CVOs, COPHS and the Plant Protection Products Officers, to explain EFSA's role in these areas and to provide technical and scientific assistance to MS representatives.
203. At the invitation of the German Presidency and Federal Minister Seehofer, the Executive Director addressed EU Ambassadors and presented EFSA 's strategy for scientific cooperation and networking with MS.
204. EFSA scientific officers participated in a conference on nutrition organized by the German Presidency in February 2007 and a seminar on data collection systems in May 2007.

Other EU Agencies

205. EFSA worked closely with the other EU Agencies to ensure synergistic working practices, avoid duplication of effort and fully utilise existing expertise.
206. EFSA has effective working relationships with the EMEA on animal feed additives, botanicals and botanical preparations, nutrition and health claims, GMO and assessment of veterinary drug residues. During 2007, EFSA organised joint working groups with the ECDC in relation to zoonoses and AI and both agencies collaborated on data sharing, scientific information and statistics, and preparation of the zoonoses report.
207. EFSA collaborated with other EU Agencies through the Heads of EU Agencies meetings and in particular with EMEA, ECDC, ECHA and EEA. The Community Summary Report on Trends and Sources of Zoonoses and Foodborne outbreaks in 2006 was prepared in collaboration with ECDC.

Brussels Week 19-22 October 2007

208. EFSA used the week to explain its role, discuss future scientific challenges and demonstrate the value of its scientific work in support of EU and national decision-makers. Events included an exhibition in the European Parliament; information stands in the Berlaymont and Charlemagne buildings; EFSA Scientific Forum attended by more than 500 participants on November 20-21, with a prior press briefing; the European Food Safety Summit jointly organised with the Portuguese Presidency and the EC; a networking Buffet Dinner in the Piazza of the Berlaymont; several interviews with the Executive Director, Management Board members and invited Forum speakers; and a visual presence for EFSA in Brussels with 3 large banners were placed on the façade of the Berlaymont and Charlemagne buildings.
209. Webcast: The entire Forum and Summit were webcast live on the EFSA website. Well over 2000 viewing sessions from 38 countries were registered throughout the 3 days of the conferences, with further viewing sessions expected over the coming months through the video-on-demand facility.
210. Media relations activities: In total, 43 media from across the EU attended the Forum and Summit. Of these, 22 attended the press briefing that took place prior to the opening of the Forum on 20 November and 4 attended the press point with the Executive Director on 22 November. Several interviews were arranged with 12 different EU media. On the evening of 22 November, the Executive Director was invited by German-speaking journalists for an informal background meeting in Brussels.

IV.2 Stakeholders

211. To meet its key objective of developing consumer confidence in the safety of the food supply, the Authority continued to engage in dialogue and invite feedback from its stakeholders in order to ensure that its goals, priorities and outputs are in line with expectations.
212. EFSA continued to develop its relationships with stakeholders in 2007 and organised two temporary working groups within the EFSA Stakeholder Consultative Platform to address transparency in risk assessment and methodology for public consultation. While in hindsight the timeframe for delivery agreed with the WGs was unrealistic, the work they initiated has been reported back to the Platform and will be taken forward at the April 2008 Plenary Meeting. In addition, the work on transparency will be used to inform the SC meeting on transparency scheduled for mid-2008. Other important initiatives in 2007 included dedicated meetings with the Platform on specific topics such as nutrition and health claims, increased public consultation of stakeholders and regular meetings with consumer organisations.
213. EFSA carried out an external review of its activities with stakeholders in 2007, not just to assess the efficiency and added value of its current activities, but also to examine future requirements. The results of the review will shape EFSA's future stakeholder activities, and most importantly, it will constitute the basis for a Stakeholder strategy that will be presented to EFSA's Management Board in 2008.
214. The main activities with stakeholders in 2007 were as follows:
 - open consultation on scientific issues either via the web, scientific colloquia or technical meetings, with a total of 9 public consultations organised in 2007.
 - regular consultation on PRAPeR work where interested parties were consulted on draft assessment reports (DARs) on a regular basis and via the website.
 - improved design and access to the register of scientific questions on EFSA's website for stakeholders.
215. The agendas, minutes and presentations of the Platform were published on a dedicated page of EFSA's website. Accessibility of information on stakeholder activities was enhanced with the launch of the new EFSA website.
216. As part of its stakeholder consultations, dedicated meetings were held on the draft guidance on nutritional and health claims and on the risk assessment of feed additives and stakeholders were invited to take part in EFSA 's scientific colloquia during 2007. Further meetings dedicated to stakeholders were agreed for 2008, including issues of particular interest to stakeholder groups: cloning, transparency in risk assessment, nanotechnology.
217. EFSA continued to ensure that interested parties could take part in meetings of the Stakeholder Consultative Platform and, to this end, announcements were published on EFSA's website before each meeting.
218. EFSA held bilateral meetings with stakeholder organizations that have legitimate interests in the work of the Authority. EFSA participated in general assemblies of stakeholder groups – farmers, industry groups and consumer groups – during 2007.
219. EFSA increased its interactions with consumer groups and its representatives and the Authority's staff participated in meetings of consumer groups at the EU and international level. In particular, EFSA 's Executive Director addressed the Trans-Atlantic Consumer Dialogue (TACD) during their annual meeting in Brussels in March, and also the BEUC General Assembly in November 2007 to present the priorities and the challenges of the Authority for the coming year.
220. Furthermore, EFSA continued to cooperate with private initiatives, such as the European Food Safety Platform, in order to explain the work of the Authority and contribute to the discussions.
221. Stakeholder groups also participated at seminars on Stakeholder Relations organized by EFSA with Turkey and Croatia in the context of the Pre-Accession Programme. Representatives from

the two new MS – Romania and Bulgaria – were also invited to share their views and the lessons learnt in preparation for accession.

IV.3 International cooperation

222. The overall objective of this activity was to:

- ensure that the Authority's scientific experts provide assistance to the EC's services in the international arena, particularly in relation to Codex and OIE.
- build close working relationships with international and third country organizations to facilitate the exchange of information and data.
- build the visibility of EFSA internationally.
- prepare accession and pre-accession states for full participation in the activities of EFSA.

223. During 2007, EFSA increased its participation in the delegations of the EC to Codex Alimentarius meetings. At the request of the EC, EFSA participated in working groups preparing specific documents for Codex Alimentarius. It assisted the EC by providing technical and scientific support in the Codex Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods derived from Biotechnology, 7th session, Chiba, Japan, 24 – 28 September 2007.

224. EFSA collaborated with international organisations such as OIE (through AHAW), WHO and FAO on projects of mutual relevance and benefit in order to share information and experiences. Projects included data collection and the assessment of global food safety issues.

225. EFSA examined the potential to use work previously undertaken by JECFA, JMPR, JEMRA and other international scientific committees while ensuring that the quality of its opinions and its independence were uncompromised.

226. EFSA received a delegation from the Japanese Food Safety Commission in early January. The visitors, among them the Director General and the Director for Risk Communication, discussed future informal exchange of information between both agencies with the EFSA Executive Director and Director of Science and visited the EFSA BSE unit to learn about the Authority's work in this area, in particular the geographical classification of BSE risk (GBR).

227. On November 21 in Brussels, EFSA and the Food Safety Commission of Japan met to discuss the signing of confidentiality arrangements to facilitate the sharing of non-public information. Similar instruments are currently under discussion with Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) and the New Zealand Food Safety Authority.

228. On July 2 in Brussels, EFSA and FDA signed the Statement on confidentiality arrangements to facilitate the sharing of non-public information. Following this agreement, EFSA and FDA held a technical meeting on November 12 in Parma. The agenda focused on scientific subjects common to both agencies, such as the Qualified Presumption of Safety (QPS) approach and general discussion on approaches to risk assessment, nanoscience and nanotechnologies, risk assessment of animal cloning and aspartame. There was also a discussion on future bilateral meetings and future issues for cooperation.

229. EFSA continued its practice of pre-notifying international and key third country authorities of its findings. This has proven mutually beneficial in dealing with sensitive matters and has promoted trust between EFSA and its international partners.

230. Preparation of an International Strategy will begin in 2008.

EFSA's Enlargement Projects

231. As part of the EU programmes to integrate candidate and pre-accession countries into the work of EFSA and in line with the wider EU policies in these areas, EFSA participated and managed the Pre-accession Programme for Croatia and Turkey during 2007.

Pre-Accession Programme for Turkey and Croatia 2006/2007

232. The main activities in 2007 were:

- To assist the food authorities in Turkey and Croatia in building their expertise in risk assessment.
- To promote cooperation with the most advanced neighbourhood countries by providing training, exchanging information and involving them in EFSA's data collection activities.

233. A total of 14 seminars and Project Steering Committee meetings with national authorities and stakeholders were organised with an average of 40 participants per meeting. The focus was on in-depth workshops and seminars in the various areas of EFSA's expertise and the topics of the seminars were chosen after meetings between the EFSA Pre-accession Programme Steering Committee and national authorities. The projects have strengthened the efforts of competent authorities in beneficiary countries to understand the basic elements of the EU food safety system and the representatives of the pre-accession countries have gained insight into the work of EFSA and have suggested several activities for 2008.

External Programmes – The Pre-Accession countries and Neighbourhood countries

234. In this area the main objectives were:

- To assist the food authorities in the Pre-Accession countries and Neighbourhood countries to build their expertise in risk assessment, assist with their activities, and promote EFSA's activities.
- EFSA has applied for the Commission Regional Programme on Financing Preparatory Measures for the Participation of The Former Yugoslav Republic Of Macedonia, Croatia and Turkey in Certain Community Agencies. The contract between the EC and EFSA for a one-year programme was signed on 12 December 2007.
- New legislation on the European Neighbourhood Policy came into force in January 2007 and provides a framework for ENP countries to cooperate with EFSA in a manner similar to existing activities with Candidate countries. Initial contacts with DG RELEX were made in 2007 regarding EFSA's possible participation in the ENP Programme.

IV.4 Italian authorities

235. EFSA has a fruitful relationship with the Italian authorities and continued to build cooperation at local, regional, provincial and national level in 2007.

236. The Authority has been particularly active in collaborating with the Management Board of the European School and with the Italian Ministry of Education to facilitate the full recognition of the School in the European system. The School has been accredited by the European School system up to fifth grade and the procedure to obtain recognition of the Baccalaureate was started in 2007, with a view to achieving full status in 2008.

237. The Liaison Committee established in 2005 met in 2007 to discuss, among other issues, transport and EFSA's Fifth Anniversary. This committee – comprising representatives of the municipality, province, region, Ministry of Health from Rome, prefect, police and other local institutions – continued to develop close working relations with the overall objective of integrating EFSA into Parma. Regarding the airport, meetings were organised with the Director General of Parma Airport to provide the airport with EFSA flight statistics in order to enhance air links with Parma.

238. EFSA continued to liaise closely with the Europass office, which includes members from the region, provinces of Emilia Romagna, the Chamber of Commerce, the Regional Union of Chamber of Commerce in Emilia Romagna and Regional Universities, and which supports EFSA in developing close relationships within the territory. EFSA launched a new cycle of

conferences under the title “Shall we talk about food safety?” in 2007 to familiarise the local population with EFSA’s activities. On a roundtable basis, topics such as animal health, nutrition, contaminants and mycotoxins were discussed among Italian scientists and EFSA experts at well attended meetings.

239. Parma Week, 1-7 October 2007

During the week 1-7 October, a range of activities to mark EFSA’s Fifth Anniversary took place at different venues in Parma. The programme did much to increase visibility and awareness of EFSA in the Parma and greater Emilia Romagna area and represented a unique opportunity to present its work to decision makers, stakeholders and the general public. Events included: an EFSA exhibition and information stand in central Parma; lectures for pupils from local schools; the launch of a book “Looking at Parma”; a ceremony in Palazzo Ducale; Porte Aperte (Open Door) at EFSA headquarters and at Palazzo Ducale (EFSA’s official seat); a Scientific Symposium on Food Safety, Nutrition and Nanotechnology organised in cooperation with the University of Parma; a live interview with the Executive Director on national radio; daily articles in the local press in Parma; and a section of the EFSA website dedicated to the weeks activities.

IV.5 Crisis preparedness

240. The objective was to ensure that EFSA is prepared to react and support the European Community, in particular the EC, during emergencies or other urgent situations.
241. EFSA published a tender to review its in-house procedures and perform exercises with its staff and with the MS via the Advisory Forum. This tender was awarded in October 2007 and the consultant has updated EFSA’s procedures and drafted a crisis manual for all staff. A Crisis Exercise will be performed in January and in April 2008 (with the Advisory Forum) to finalise the crisis manual.

IV.6 Management Board

242. The EFSA Management Board ensures that the Authority functions effectively and efficiently, delivers its mandate as defined in the founding Regulation and meets the expectations of European and national institutions, stakeholders and the public. The Secretariat provides administrative support to the Board.
243. Highlights of Board activities in 2007 include:
- Implementation of the six key recommendations of the independent evaluation undertaken during 2005;
 - Establishment of the budget and work programmes and monitoring their implementation;
 - Updating the internal rules of the Scientific Committee and the nine Scientific Panels to assist EFSA scientists and increase indemnities;
 - Adoption of the new Declarations of Interest forms aimed at enhancing the transparency of the professional backgrounds of Panel members and EFSA staff.
244. During 2007, the Management Board met in January, March, June, September, and December and at the Fifth Anniversary celebrations in Parma and Brussels where members actively participated as speakers and Chairs to the Scientific Forum and Summit.
245. At an Away Day on 26 March 2007, the Board discussed the conclusions of the 2006 Evaluation and formed a task force that visited EFSA to interview scientists and meet the Scientific Committee in early 2007.
246. The Board issued its findings at the June 2007 Board meeting and the recommended follow-up actions were adopted by the Board at its September 2007 meeting.

247. During 2007, Professor Pogačnik from Slovenia was appointed to the Board to replace Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle who was appointed Executive Director in 2006.
248. Elections held at the September Management Board meeting resulted in Bart Sangster being elected Vice-Chair to replace Dame Deirdre Hutton who remains a member of the Board. The Board now has two Vice-Chair's, Bart Sangster and Diána Bánáti.
249. During 2007, the Audit Committee, which consists of four Board members met several times to monitor the financial management of EFSA.
250. The Management Board adopted the work programmes, budgets, Establishment Plan, accounts and the Annual Activity Report within the legal deadlines. The Board also adopted several other key documents including the Annual Report, the updated Article 36 list, endorsed the Advisory Forum's strategic projects, Focal Points and adopted the new Declarations of Interest policy document and forms.

IV.7 Dialogue with Member States: Advisory Forum

251. Guided by the *Strategy for Cooperation and Networking between EU Member States and EFSA*, the Steering Group on Cooperation (SGC) was established following the plenary meeting in February when members of the Forum, the SC and other EFSA staff reviewed scientific cooperation in the framework of the *Strategy*. Three meetings were held during 2007 to set priorities and monitor the progress of the different ESCOs in accordance with the terms of reference and agreed timelines. A representative of the European Parliament was invited to Forum meetings in 2007.
252. At its five plenary meetings in 2007, discussions included: the implementation of the *Strategy for Cooperation and Networking between EU Member States and EFSA*; cooperation in communications; exchange of scientific information; the list of competent organisations under Article 36; terms of reference for EFSA Scientific Cooperation Projects (ESCO); the establishment of national focal points; the mandates and progress of ESCO projects; EFSA's draft Management Plan 2008; operation of the Forum; and the new policy, format and guidelines for Declaration of Interests.
253. Besides the plenary meetings, a special Forum meeting on GMO risk assessment in Europe was held in Brussels in November with participation of 60 national experts in GMO risk assessment. A meeting report was published which included recommendations for follow-up.

Cooperation in Communications

254. The Advisory Forum Working Group on Communications (AFCWG) met four times in 2007 to strengthen communications between EFSA, MS and the EC. A review of its working methods and Terms of Reference was undertaken and the views of members solicited by means of a questionnaire. The aim for 2008 is to enhance the added value of its work for all members, through increased interaction and intelligence sharing, not just at formal WG meetings, but also outside of meetings, on areas of mutual interest.
255. A number of initiatives in communication were undertaken:
 - *Moving together – News on European food safety co-operation* is a newsletter, coordinated by EFSA, that promotes the Advisory Forum's cooperation and networking strategy, further to the request of the AFCWG. The editorial board comprises representatives from Belgium, Germany, Greece, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway and EFSA. The focus is on scientific issues in the field of food and feed risk assessment, highlighting synergies and scientific cooperation among MS. The newsletter will be published twice per year in English, French, Italian and German. The first issue was published in December 2007 and MS can translate it into other languages for distribution.

- Text was agreed for MS websites to explain the European food safety system, the role of MS, risk assessors, risk managers, EFSA and the European institutions. This is being used in a number of MS as a consistent and clear way of explaining the roles of the different actors in the system to stakeholders via websites.
 - A total of 7 joint events with MS were held over the year, linked to EFSA's 5th anniversary and the anniversaries of a number of food authorities. These events, involving stakeholder engagement and media activity, enabled EFSA and MS to work together to communicate synergistic activities within the European food safety system.
256. The AFCWG also focused on sharing experience and at every meeting a member presents a case history of dealing with a significant issue or incident and an analysis of the lessons learnt. In addition, during the year a taskforce of the WG examined the issue of misinformation in the media and responses to inaccurate reporting during "food scares".
257. The AFCWG was briefed by EFSA scientists and colleagues in MS on key emerging issues such as cloning and nanotechnology, helping to develop communications strategies related to these issues.
258. Finally the group has begun discussing how to increase the visibility of risk assessment work amongst the scientific community and will review opportunities and share experiences in this area in 2008.

Cooperation in Information Technology

259. In 2007, the IT Working Group met 5 times, 3 meetings co-hosted by Forum Member institutions and 2 web-conferences. These meetings were instrumental in progressing the projects run by EFSA and the IT WG (AF Extranet, Audio/Web conferences, Data Collection Framework) and sharing IT best practice (key IT systems used by members and IT Governance in food safety organizations). In addition, the meetings helped consolidate the network of Heads of IT.
260. The EFSA Extranet was developed to meet the requirements for collaboration and information sharing of many communities, including the Forum and its Working Groups, and EFSA panels and suppliers. The IT WG is considering ways of implementing the Strategy on Cooperation and Exchange of Scientific Data on the Extranet. EFSA invested €330 k in 2007 in the Extranet, with an additional €400 k planned over the next 2 years.
261. The IT WG is developing technologies to facilitate scientific meetings with international experts and ease communications among members of the Forum during food crises. EFSA is building capacity to enable high-quality video-conferencing with up to 40 sites and audio/web-conferencing with up to 100 participants. Although EFSA is currently offering audio- and web-conferencing with up to 100 participants and video-conferencing with up to 5 sites, full capacity will not be reached until the third quarter of 2008. EFSA is investing €350 k in this project.
262. Finally, the IT Working Group has been working on a framework for allowing scientists to quickly generate cost-effective and reliable data collection applications with minimal assistance from IT. This framework includes tools for helping scientists bridge data collections and could be configured to offer data collection as a web-based, self-service or to allow Forum members create their own data collection applications. To date, EFSA has produced a technical architecture, a process model for launching data collection campaigns and a prototype for Ad-Hoc Data Collection. EFSA's IT Unit has dedicated two project managers to this project, invested €140 k and plans to invest an additional €350 k over the next 2 years.

Joint events with MS

263. The joint Food Standards Agency (UK)/EFSA workshop on *"Food incident prevention and horizon scanning to identify emerging risks"* took place on March 5-6 in London.
264. *"EFSA and food safety in the EU: achievements and challenges"* was held on June 7 in cooperation with the Italian Ministry of Health. The event included three roundtables on the following themes: "Harmonisation and transparency in risk assessment"; "Communicating food risks and benefits: a strategy for Europe"; and "What do different institutions and stakeholders expect from EFSA, and what does EFSA expect from them".
265. *"Committed to the safety of Europe's food"* took place in Bratislava on 28 June in cooperation with the Slovak Ministry of Agriculture.
266. *"Working Together Towards Safer Food in Europe"* was held on 10 September in Bucharest in cooperation with the Romanian National Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority, prior to the Management Board meeting.
267. *"Joining forces for safer food in Europe: the EU food safety system"* took place on 19 September in Lisbon in cooperation with the Portuguese Food Safety Authority (ASAE), prior to the Advisory Forum meeting.
268. In 2007, other national agencies that also celebrated their five-year anniversary:
 - On 7 November 2007, the Executive Director addressed the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) at the commemoration of its Fifth Anniversary.
 - *"Five years of VWA: together taking care of trust"* was the 5-year celebratory event of the Dutch Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority which took place on 6 December. The symposium, attended by EFSA's Executive Director, included participants from a wide range of stakeholder organisations representing consumers, regulatory bodies, academia and industry.
 - The Executive Director addressed a meeting of the Spanish Agency for Food Safety and Nutrition (AESAN) in Santander on 13 September to mark the fifth anniversary of its inauguration.

Publications

269. In March, an anniversary leaflet was published in the four official languages plus Spanish, Portuguese and Romanian. A brochure entitled "Five years with EFSA – taking stock, looking forward" was published in September for decision-makers and key partners, outlining the main achievements of the Authority over the last five years. A small leaflet answering simple questions on EFSA for the general public was also produced in 6 languages.

V Administration

V.1 Human Resources

- 270. The key objectives of the Human Resource Unit in 2007 were to complete an ambitious recruitment plan and to consolidate the establishment of a stimulating work environment for staff.
- 271. The execution rate of the Establishment Plan in 2007 was 91% compared with 69% at the end of 2006, while staff turnover was reduced to 4% compared with 8% in 2006. In addition, essential processes on which a stable and stimulating work environment are based (e.g. career development and promotion) were launched.
- 272. A net recruitment of 100 Temporary Agents was achieved by restructuring the recruitment team, improved planning and follow-up, and streamlining recruitment procedures.
- 273. The Unit dedicated significant resources to completing the Staff Policy Plan which is being developed in close cooperation with EC services and the agencies coordination group. In this context, EFSA will finalise a number of implementing decisions of the new Staff Regulations that include staff appraisal, career development and promotion.
- 274. The first appraisal exercise was undertaken in 2007 and will conclude in early 2008. Based on outcomes, the first promotion reclassification/exercise will be performed in early 2008. EFSA has processed the full range of implementing rules linked to Staff Regulations and the CEOS and will be able to trigger Procedure 110 in early 2008. The Staff Policy Plan 2009-2011 was drafted and submitted to the Management Board for approval.
- 275. The assessment of existing competencies is linked to the outcome of the first career and development cycle. Based on it, training and personal development needs will be identified and training programmes established. EFSA has also introduced a review of its learning and development policy in 2007 that will serve the staff in the course of 2008.
- 276. In 2007 a new set of indicators was created for the purposes of progress reporting to Management Board and internal review.

V.2 Facilities

Office buildings

- 277. During 2007 a new building (FRATTI building) near the original headquarters was occupied with an increase of 3050 m² in office space (+ 40%); this new space accommodates 160 persons and provides meeting rooms for an additional 80 persons.
- 278. Regarding the final seat project, several meetings with architects and the Municipality were organised to check the proposals and define the project according to EFSA needs and original budget. The definitive project is being developed by the architects and is expected in early 2008.

Security, Health & Safety

- 279. The actions recommended in a security report have been completed, improving building security, infrastructure, systems and procedures and enhancing the protection of EFSA staff and assets. The relationship with the local police forces has been consolidated and their support for the organization of EFSA events increased to ensure that security is covered.
- 280. Facilities has worked on the establishment of an EFSA Health & Safety Committee and on the production of a Health & Safety plan in collaboration with Human Resources.

Equipment & furniture

- 281. The move to the new Fratti building has meant major seating reorganizations in the DUS buildings, and more than 300 moves were performed during the year. The increases in office space and staff numbers have required increased logistical support for meetings (welcome desk, configuration and re-configuration of meeting rooms), a growing volume of mail, office supply services, and support for newcomers.
- 282. Procedures for incoming and outgoing mail have been implemented.

V.3 Legal Affairs

- 283. In 2007, the Legal Affairs Unit provided legal advice and support in relation to the implementation of legal acts providing authorization procedures involving EFSA, with a special focus on the Feed Additives Regulation (Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003), the Genetically Modified Food and Feed Regulation (Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003) and the Health and Nutrition Claims Regulation (Regulation (EC) No 1924/2006). The support has resulted in the finalization of guidance documents and correspondence with the EC and stakeholders. The Unit has continued to follow-up cases lodged before the Court of First Instance against EFSA. This activity of the unit has resulted in 6 favourable orders of the President of the Court in 2007.
- 284. Over the course of the year, the Unit has also provided support to the two scientific departments for the package on Declarations of Interest and, after its adoption by Management Board, has offered legal advice on its interpretation. In the context of a general revision of EFSA statutory texts, the Unit has also reviewed the rules of procedure for the Scientific Committee and Panels, leading to their adoption by Management Board.
- 285. In relation to Procurement and Contract Management, the Unit provided assistance in further adjusting and refining procurement templates in line with the modifications to the Financial Regulation which came into force in spring 2007. Awareness raising, information sharing and training on procurement and contract matters were provided both on a day-to-day basis and during structured training. A workshop on procurement, open to all staff, was organised in February. During 2007, EFSA completed 10 open calls for tender and 40 negotiated procedures. These procedures resulted in 59 new EFSA contracts signed during 2007.
- 286. According to Regulation 178/2002 and Regulation 2230/2004, the financial support for Article 36 networking of organizations takes the form of grants. The Legal Unit prepared all templates for calls for proposals for grants to be launched according to the annual work programme published at the beginning of the year. In total, 12 calls were launched. Dedicated training meetings were held to explain the main rules governing grants.
- 287. The Legal Unit provided support for all questions related to the Final Seat. The hosting Commune is tendering all procedures aimed at the construction of the Final Seat (tender for the architects and building contractors). The Unit provided support for all related legal questions concerning procurement procedures, editing of agreements/letters with the Italian contracting authorities, and support to Administration for negotiations to comply with public procurement rules (EU and Italian as appropriate).
- 288. During 2007, the data protection officer (DPO) intensified the follow-up of data protection issues after an investigation by the European Data Protection Supervisor in spring 2007. In addition to mapping data processing operations at EFSA, the follow-up on notifications was intensified in the Human Resources area. A prior checking notification was prepared for the CDAC (Carrier Development Appraisal Cycle).
- 289. The DPO attended 2 meetings of the DPO network of EU institutions and bodies during 2007. In relation to public access to documents, EFSA continued to implement tools and procedures to ensure that requests for public access are processed in an efficient and lawful manner, in

close cooperation with the Communications Directorate and various units of the Science Directorate. Close cooperation was maintained with external partners on this matter, mainly with EC services (Secretariat General and DG SANCO) to ensure common understanding and views on best practice in this area. EFSA has also started reflecting on the impact of the implementation of the Aarhus Convention on public access to environmental information.

290. The total number of public access requests received in 2007 was 28. The majority of these requests were in the GMO and AFC areas and were handled by the Legal Affairs Unit in close cooperation with the respective scientific units. A total of 27 of these requests led to access given to the requestor. In 5 of these requests, the complexity of the application and the need for third-party consultations required an extension of the deadline, in line with regulation 1049/2001, but the process was concluded and access granted in 2007. One request was denied because the documents requested were not held by EFSA.

V.4 Finance and Accounts

Finance

291. Five main objectives were identified in relation to financial activities.

- a). Improve overall budget execution
Overall budget execution was reported monthly on an ABB- and budget-basis to Management. Forecasts were provided to Management Board and analytical reporting implemented with the Authorising Officers.
- b). Optimise and document the workflows
The catering, shuttles and missions workflows were implemented in order to gain efficiencies and facilitate reporting and forecasting. The meeting and ABB workflows were either started or postponed to next year in view of limited development resources.
- c). Shorten payment deadlines
Payment deadlines were carefully monitored with monthly reports sent to the Authorising Officers. The reduction of carry-over at year end will also be ensured by additional financial verification of carry-over requests in early 2008.
- d). Implement the ABAC system
In view of agenda constraints at DG BUDG, migration to ABAC was postponed to 2008. Preparation for this migration was started, with first training given by DG BUDG and on-going coordination by an internal task force.
- e). Improve the effectiveness of Internal Control Standards
The workplan in the ICS area was implemented through the organisation of the High Level Risk Assessment workshop, the survey on the efficiency of Internal Control Standards organised at all levels in EFSA, and the follow-up of the ICS action plan.

Accounts

292. The number of transactions executed increased by 30% in 2007 to approximately 17,500 payments. The average execution time was 2.3 days.
293. This increase was also reflected in the management of new legal entity files and bank account files for suppliers, experts and other stakeholders. EFSA now has more than 4600 records in its third party (bank accounts) central database.
294. EC services have decided to postpone the migration to ABAC in 2008.
295. Both legal and ad-hoc reporting were improved in order to give more visibility and transparency to senior management.

V.5 Information Technology

296. The IT Unit continued the production of the Zoonoses Community Report in which €285 k were invested in 2007. In addition, the IT Unit finalised the Food Consumption Database so that the DATEX unit was able to collect data for the concise version. The PAH database was also produced.
297. The Unit continued to develop the Data Collection Framework (DCF), a set of standards and technologies allowing scientists to quickly compose reliable and cost-effective data collection applications with minimal assistance from the IT Unit. DCF was used to generate a first version of data collection applications with a simple schema.
298. Work on the Document Register is ongoing. A first phase was rolled out, including features for registering incoming and outgoing correspondence and for tracking exception requests. Most of the €131 k invested in 2007 will come to fruition in 2008 in the form of an end-to-end, corporate-wide electronic document workflow.
299. The Mission Order Workflow, a system used to streamline the authorization of staff missions (€76 k), was finalised. The Mission Reimbursement Workflow, which the IT Unit intended to build in 2007, was postponed to 2008.
300. Intranet development was delayed to the 4th quarter of 2007 so that the higher priority Scientific Extranet and AF Extranet could be produced on time. The Intranet Inception phase was completed and the priority functionalities related to collaboration and document sharing will be implemented in 2008.
301. Audio- and Web-conference capabilities were developed for up to a 100+ participants and Video-conference capabilities for up to 5. The Project to establish quality video-conferences with up to 40 participants and build audio-visual meeting rooms for quality work sessions (and Communication Control Centre during food crises) started in December, with a total budget of €350 k. It is scheduled to be completed by the second quarter of 2008.
302. Other projects
Website: The IT unit switched to a more stable and cost-effective web content management system. EFSA's new website, based on the new system, was launched in September 2007 (€353 k). New search features (€94 k) are now being rolled out.
ABB: A system for facilitating budget forecasting for activities will be rolled out in 2008.
Time Tracking: A system for tracking costs of activities will be rolled out in December 2008.
MB Extranet: An extranet space for Management Board members (meeting registration, secure document sharing) will be available for user testing in February 2008.
Register of Questions: a tool used for listing questions received by EFSA was upgraded and now includes a list of all EFSA Scientific output.

V.6 Audit

303. A Forward Audit Plan (2008-2010) was prepared in 2007. The processes governing risk communication and the preparation of EFSA's scientific outputs will be the main areas to be audited in 2008 and 2009, respectively.
304. Follow-up of the recommendations issued by the Internal Audit Service (IAS) in 2006 was performed and a second audit from the IAS took place in 2007. As a result, 35 of the 36 recommendations were "closed" by the Auditors.

Table 7. Human resource by Unit.

Unit	Type of contract					2007	2006
	TA		CA	END	AUX		
	AD	AST					
	1	1				2	-
Accounts	1	4				5	4
Facilities	1	11	2			14	9
Finance	3	12	2			17	13
IT	6	13	2			21	17
Legal&Po	10	5	2	2	2	21	18
Library&Archives		4	1			5	5
HR	4	11	3			18	20
	26	61	12	2	2	103	86

Table 8. Financial resource by Unit.	Budget 2007	Execution 2007	Execution 2006
Unit			
E R	1,269,637	1,208,482	1,460,529
Accounts	3,607	3,249	2,559
Facilities	4,477,134	4,424,120	2,961,514
Finance	2,846,239	2,608,396	2,195,297
IT	4,509,521	4,501,994	3,750,950
Legal&Po	99,840	65,982	20,500
Library&Archives	194,358	178,684	132,392
HR	32,764,385	29,629,396	22,434,786

Annex 1: List of Management Board Recommendations Implemented.

Recommendation: Develop active networking and stronger cooperation with Member States

Actions

1. Implemented Strategy on Cooperation and Networking
2. Established Steering Group on Cooperation with 7 priority projects
3. ESCO Working Groups become operational
4. 12 Article 36 calls are issued
5. Focal Point agreements are negotiated and 18 agreements are signed in 2007
6. Joint events organised with Member States in connection with anniversaries of EFSA and national food safety agencies.

Recommendation: Strengthen EFSA's relationship with its institutional partners (EU and international) and stakeholders

Actions

1. Increased presence in European Parliament
2. Appointment of liaison MEP
3. Contact with MEPs with particular interest in EFSA's activities
4. Meetings with Commissioners
5. Executive Director addresses ENVI, COBU and COCOBU committees and EU ambassadors
6. EFSA staff participation in Council Working Parties and EP hearings
7. European Parliament hosts EFSA Fifth Anniversary exhibition and joint organisation of the European Food Safety Summit with the EC and Portuguese Presidency
8. Information exchange agreement signed with FDA and negotiations ongoing with Japan, Australia and New Zealand
9. Representation of EC in Advisory Forum and Stakeholder Consultative Platform
10. EFSA launches first edition of *EFSA Information* to inform MEPs on the Authority's activities.
11. Increased liaison with EU Presidencies
12. Increased interaction with other EU agencies, e.g., ECDC on zoonoses and AI and EMEA on feed additives
13. Collaboration with OIE, FAO and WHO on data collection and global food safety issues
14. Nine consultations with stakeholders in various forms: online, colloquia or technical meetings
15. Regular consultation of PRAPeR with stakeholders for Draft Assessment Reports
16. Improved design and access to register of questions on EFSA website for stakeholders
17. Pre-Accession programme with Turkey, Croatia and Macedonia.

Recommendation: Enhance EFSA's organization

Actions

1. Organigramme is reorganised to reflect priorities and enhance efficiency
2. Staff members reach 310
3. Execution rate of Establishment Plan is 91%
4. Department of Scientific Cooperation and Assistance becomes operational

Recommendation: Enhance the impact and effectiveness of EFSA communications

Actions

1. Working Group on for building the visibility of EFSA's scientific work is formed and strategy paper is published
2. Targeted communications strategy to reach the media is implemented
3. EFSA branding is refreshed
4. EFSA website is re-launched with enhanced functionality
5. Media monitoring programme is implemented
6. EFSA corporate publications are published in the four official working languages and a new corporate brochure is also published in Turkish, Croatian, Bulgarian and Romanian.
7. Newsletter on Advisory Forum activities – *Moving Together* – is launched

Recommendation: Develop EFSA's role in nutrition

Actions

1. Scientific advice is issued within the context of Regulation 1924/2006 on nutrition and health claims made on foods
2. EFSA organises Scientific Colloquium N°9 on "Nutrient Profiling for foods bearing Nutrition and Health Claims" and a resulting opinion is scheduled for January 2008
3. In food allergy, 22 opinions are issued following the evaluation of dossiers submitted by manufacturers applying for permanent labelling exemptions for derived ingredients listed in Annex IIIa of Directive 2000/13/EC, as amended by Directive 2003/89/EC.
4. Work on recommended nutrient intakes for the European population is initiated; advice on energy, macronutrients and water is scheduled for mid-2008.
5. EFSA starts work on food-based dietary guidelines; an opinion is scheduled for mid-2008.

Recommendation: Define EFSA's medium and long term vision

Actions

1. Internal Management Team brainstorming session in October 2007
2. Planning roadmap for Multi-Annual Workplan

Annex 2: Financial Statements

(Financial Regulation – Art. 76 (a) & 80)

1.1 Balance sheet 31/12/2006 & 2007

ASSETS	Notes	2007	2006	LIABILITIES	Notes	2007	2006
A. NON-CURRENT ASSETS	2.1.1			A. CAPITAL			
<i>Intangible fixed assets</i>	2.1.1.1			<i>Capital</i>			
Computer software		2 020 511.34	1 378 177.03	<i>Reserves</i>			
<i>Tangible fixed assets</i>	2.1.1.2			<i>Retained earning</i>	2.1.3	4 784 986.69	3 683 922.86
Land and buildings				<i>Budgetary outturn not reimbursed</i>			
Plants and equipment		44 367.62	38 056.62	<i>Economic result of the year</i>	2.1.4	2 288 048.58	1 101 063.83
Computer hardware		3 124 873.59	1 857 829.77	Total		7 073 035.27	4 784 986.69
Furniture and vehicles		329 035.54	205 843.42				
Leasing and similar rights				B. PROVISIONS			
Other tangible fixed assets				<i>Provisions for risks and liabilities</i>			
Assets under construction and advances				<i>Financial liabilities</i>			
Depreciation		-2 767 239.22	-1 842 190.22	Total		0.00	0.00
Long-Term receivables		2 000.00		C. CURRENT LIABILITIES	2.1.6		
Total		2 753 548.87	1 637 716.62	<i>Employee benefits</i>			
B. CURRENT ASSETS	2.1.2			<i>Provision for untaken leave</i>		523 190.53	388 021.07
<i>Stock</i>	2.1.2.1			Sundry payables		11 333.35	11 030.55
<i>Short-term receivables</i>				Social security and taxes		48 461.56	23 755.69
Pre-Financing Third parties	2.1.2.2	353 900.36	224 211.15	<i>Accounts payables</i>			
Sundry receivable (Employee benefits)	2.1.2.3	96 873.04	41 687.36	Current payables		1 269 217.07	1 224 557.93
Current receivable	2.1.2.3	150.00	974.83	Other			
Deferred expenses and accrued income	2.1.2.3	265 801.31	111 783.22	Consolidated EC		2 322 980.85	2 402 505.65
Consolidated EC Entities	2.1.2.3	406 457.89		Pre Financing		456 857.10	408 879.56
<i>Cash and equivalents</i>				Consolidated EC Entities		3 479 285.21	3 379 831.61
Bank	2.1.2.4	11 307 629.47	10 607 195.57	Accrued expenses and deferred income			
Cash							
Imprest account							
Total		12 430 812.07	10 985 852.13	Total		8 111 325.67	7 838 582.06
TOTAL ASSETS		15 184 360.94	12 623 568.75	TOTAL LIABILITIES		15 184 360.94	12 623 568.75

1.2 Economic Outturn account

	Notes	2007	2006
Operating revenues			
from third parties		27 680.01	23 449.25
<i>from consolidated EC entities</i>		<i>46 397 798.37</i>	<i>35 117 476.35</i>
Other operating revenues			
from third parties			
<i>from consolidated EC entities</i>			
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES	2.2.1	46 425 478.38	35 140 925.60
Administrative expenses	2.2.2		
Staff expenses		-20 474 632.44	-16 014 200.20
Infrastructure expenses		-6 834 353.92	-5 711 387.84
Pensions expenses			
Other expenses		-2 419 341.31	-2 175 493.10
Depreciation and write offs		-1 005 239.53	-771 231.55
<i>Administrative expenses with consolidated EC entities</i>		<i>-436 935.39</i>	<i>-416 459.89</i>
Operating expenses	2.2.3		
Operating expenses		-12 651 191.83	-8 689 380.81
Other operating expenses			
<i>Operating expenses with consolidated EC entities</i>		<i>- 313 438.22</i>	<i>-260 273.90</i>
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES		-44 135 132.64	-34 038 427.29
<i>SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</i>		2 290 345.74	1 102 498.31
Financial operations revenues	2.2.4		
from third parties		1 233.01	2 704.68
<i>from consolidated EC entities</i>			
Financial operations expenses	2.2.5		
from third parties		-3 530.17	-4 139.16
<i>from consolidated EC entities</i>			
<i>SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FROM NON OPERATING ACTIVITIES</i>		-2 297.16	-1 434.48
<i>SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES</i>		2 288 048.58	1 101 063.83
Extraordinary gains			
Extraordinary losses			
<i>SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FROM EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS</i>	2.2.6	0.00	0.00
ECONOMIC RESULT OF THE YEAR		2 288 048.58	1 101 063.83

1.3 Cash flow

		2007
Ordinary activities, loans and borrowings related to operating activities	Cash Flows from ordinary activities	
	Surplus/(deficit) from ordinary activities	2 288 048.58
	<u>Adjustments</u>	
	Amortization (intangible fixed assets)	367 488.89
	Depreciation (tangible fixed assets)	616 255.20
	Increase / (decrease) in Provisions for risks and liabilities	135 169.46
	Increase / (decrease) in Employee benefits	
	Increase / (decrease) in Value reduction for doubtful receivables	
	(Increase) / decrease in Stocks	
	(Increase) / decrease in Long term Pre-financing	
	(Increase) / decrease in Short term Pre-financing	-129 689.21
	(Increase) / decrease in Long term Receivables	-2 000.00
	(Increase) / decrease in Short term Receivables	-208 378.94
	(Increase) / decrease in Receivables from consolidated EC entities	-406 457.89
	Increase / (decrease) in Long term liabilities	
	Increase / (decrease) in Accounts payables	169 121.41
	Increase / (decrease) in Other liabilities	
	Increase / (decrease) in Liabilities related to consolidated EC entities	-31 547.26
	(Gains) / losses on sale of Property, plant and equipment	21 495.44
	Extraordinary items	
	Net Cash Flow from ordinary activities	2 819 505.68
	Cash Flows from loans and borrowings	
	Net cash flow from loans and borrowings	
Investing and financing activities	Cash Flows from investing activities	
	Purchase of tangible and intangible fixed assets	-2 119 071.78
	Proceeds from tangible and intangible fixed assets	
	(Increase) / decrease in financial assets	
	(Increase) / decrease in investments	
	(Increase) / decrease in cash investments	
	Net cash flow from investing activities	-2 119 071.78
	Cash Flows from financing activities	
	Net Cash Flow from financing activities	
Net increase / decrease in cash and cash equivalents		700 433.90
<i>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of period</i>		10 607 195.57
<i>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of period</i>		11 307 629.47

1.4 Statement of changes in capital

Capital	Reserves		Accumulated Surplus / Deficit from previous years	Economic result of the year	Capital (total)
	Fair value reserve	Others reserves			
Balance as of 31 December 2006			3 683 922.86	1 101 063.83	4 784 986.69
Changes in accounting policies					
Fundamental errors					
Other revaluations					
Reclassifications					
Allocation of the previous economic result			1 101 063.83	- 1 101 063.83	
Economic result of the year				2 288 048.58	2 288 048.58
Balance as of 31 December 2007			4 784 986.69	2 288 048.58	7 073 035.27

Annex to Financial Statements

2.1 Notes to the balance sheet

2.1.1 Non-current assets

Fixed assets form part of the EFSA and European Communities' long-term assets and are shown in the financial statements under two headings. Generally speaking, tangible fixed assets denote the following categories of assets:

- Land and buildings;
- Plant, machinery and tools;
- Computer equipment;
- Furniture and vehicles;
- Other movable property;
- Leases; and
- Tangible fixed assets in the course of construction.

Intangible fixed assets are computer software.

By definition, fixed assets consist of physical property belonging to the EFSA that is intended for continuing use in its activities. They are not used up immediately and must therefore be expected have a lifetime of more than one financial year.

The fixed assets were valued at their acquisition price minus depreciations calculated using the monthly straight-line method.

The fixed assets with an acquisition price value under €420 have not been recognized.

Fixed assets type, depreciation rates

Computer software	4 years, 25%
Computer hardware	4 years, 25%
Telecommunications and audiovisual equipment	4 years, 25%
Specific electric equipment	4 years, 25%
Office furniture	10 years, 10%
Health, safety and security equipment	8 years, 12.5%

2.1.1.1 Intangible fixed assets

Intangible fixed assets	Computer software	Others	Intangible fixed assets under construction	TOTAL
Gross carrying amounts 1 Jan. 2007	1 378 177.03	0.00	0.00	1 378 177.03
Additions	642 334.31			642 334.31
Disposals				0.00
Other changes				0.00
Gross carrying amounts 31 Dec. 2007	2 020 511.34	0.00	0.00	2 020 511.34
Accumulated depreciation and impairment 1 Jan. 2007	-690 951.33	0.00	0.00	-690 951.33
Depreciation	- 367 488.89			- 367 488.89
Write-back of depreciations				0.00
Disposals				0.00
Impairment				0.00
Write-back of impairment				0.00
Other changes				0.00
Accumulated depreciation and impairment 31 Dec 2007	-1 058 440.22	0.00	0.00	-1 058 440.22
Net carrying amounts 31 Dec. 2007	962 071.12	0.00	0.00	962 071.12

2.1.1.2 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets	Land and buildings	Plant and equipment	Furniture and vehicles	Computer hardware	Leasing and similar rights	Other tangible fixed assets	Assets under construction and advances	Totals
Gross carrying amounts 1 Jan. 2007	0.00	38 056.62	205 843.42	1 857 829.77	0.00	0.00	0.00	2 101 729.81
Additions		6 311.00	123 192.12	1 347 234.35				1 476 737.47
Disposals				-80 190.53				-80 190.53
Other changes								0.00
Gross carrying amounts 31 Dec. 2007	0.00	44 367.62	329 035.54	3 124 873.59	0.00	0.00	0.00	3 498 276.75
Accumulated depreciations and impairments 1 Jan. 2007	0.00	-16 040.12	-53 060.57	-1 082 138.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	-1 151 238.89
Depreciation		-9 587.22	-28 710.13	-577 957.85				-616 255.20
Write-back of depreciations								0.00
Disposals				58 695.09				58 695.09
Impairment								0.00
Write-back of impairment								0.00
Other changes								0.00
Accumulated depreciation and impairment 31 Dec. 2007	0.00	-25 627.34	-81 770.70	-1 601 400.96	0.00	0.00	0.00	-1 708 799.00
Net carrying amounts 31 Dec. 2007	0.00	18 740.28	247 264.84	1 523 472.63	0.00	0.00	0.00	1 789 477.75

2.1.2 Current assets

2.1.2.1 Stocks: none

2.1.2.2 Short-term Pre-financing

Pre-financing is the equivalent of cash advances paid in the context of purchases of goods or services by EFSA and it may be split into a number of payments over a period defined in the particular pre-financing agreement. These payments are made before the goods are delivered or the services are performed.

Pre-financing EC entity (ownership of the EC entity) < 1 year	Value 31 December 2007	Value 31 December 2006
Centralized direct management		
Centralized indirect management		
Decentralized management		
Shared management		
Others		

Pre-financing Third Party (ownership of the Recipient) < 1 year	Value 31 December 2007	Value 31 December 2006
Centralized direct management		
Decentralized management	353 900.36	224 211.15
Shared management		
Joint management		
Others		

2.1.2.3 Receivables

<i>Receivables from :</i>	<i>Balance as of 31 December 2007</i>				<i>Balance as of 31 December 2006</i>			
	Total	Doubtful amounts	Amounts written off	Net value	Total	Doubtful amounts	Amounts written off	Net value
EC								
Consolidated EC entities	406 457.89			406 457.89				
Members States								
Third States								
Staff	96 873.04			96 873.04	41 687.36			41 687.36
Other Public Bodies								
Private Companies	265 951.31			265 951.31	112 758.05			112 758.05
Private Persons								

Staff (balance sheet: sundry receivable):

The open balance of €96 873.04 corresponds to salary advances plus on hold. The open amount is due mainly to the correction made in December 2007 for the new weighting coefficient for Italy which has been reduced, Council decision. This balance is to be settled in the staff payroll throughout 2008.

Private companies (balance sheet: current receivable & prepaid expenses):

The open balance of €265 951.31 corresponds mainly to deferred charges (€265 801.31) which will be booked in the next financial year and €150.00 due by debtors.

Consolidated EC entities (balance sheet: Consolidated EC Entities):

The open balance of €406 457.89 corresponds mainly to the amount due to EFSA of €398 118.00 DG ELARG and the remaining €8 339.89 concerns a debt from a Consolidated EC Entity (European Agency) to be recovered.

2.1.2.4 Cash and equivalents

The balances of EFSA on 31 December 2007 and 2006 were as follows:

<i>Description</i>	<i>31 December 2007</i>	<i>31 December 2006</i>
A. Current accounts	11 307 629.47	10 607 195.57
B. Imprest accounts		
C. Cash in hand		
D. Transfer (Cash in transit)		
E. Short-term deposits		
Total	11 307 629.47	10 607 195.57

2.1.3 Retained earning:

Detailed overview can be found under the table 1.4 "Statement of changes in capital".

2.1.4 Economic result of the year:

Detailed overview can be found under the table 1.2 "Economic outturn account" and respective notes.

2.1.5 Provisions:

Provisions can be distinguished from other liabilities such as payables and accruals because there is uncertainty about the timing or amount of the future expenditure required for settlement of the liability.

Contingent liabilities and assets can be distinguished from provisions because the existence of the liability or assets will only be confirmed by the occurrence or non-occurrence of uncertain future events over which EFSA has no control.

Since provisions are liabilities there is an important basic accounting principle that forms the starting point for this accounting rule. It is the principle of the actual existence of a present obligation: financial statements deal with the financial position of EFSA at the end of its reporting period and not its possible position in the future.

In 2006, the EC accounting rules (n° 3 and 10) were clarified and implemented. A provision for "untaken leave" has been recorded.

2.1.6 Current liabilities

<i>Payable to:</i>	<i>Balance as of 31 December 2007</i>	<i>Balance as of 31 December 2006</i>
	Total	Total
EC	2 779 837.92	2 811 385.21
Non consolidated EC entities		
Member States		
Third States		
Staff	59 794.91	34 786.24
Other Public Bodies		
Private Companies	4 748 502.28	4 604 389.54
Private Persons		

EC (balance sheet: consolidated EC entities & consolidated EC Pre Financing):

The open balance of €2 779 837.92 consists of three parts: €2 322 980.82 that corresponds to the cancellation of the pre-financing received from the European Commission (Budgetary Outturn Account), bank interest yield on 2007 of €413 841.70 and third to €43 015.40 due to other European Institutions and Agencies. On 2008, the amount regarding the cancellation of the pre-financing received and the bank interests yielded on 2007 will be reimbursed to the European Commission.

Staff (balance sheet: sundry payables & social security and taxes):

The open balance of €59 794.91 consists of two parts: €11 333.35 which is payable against staff from the normal course of activities and €48 461.56 which corresponds to social security.

Private companies (balance sheet: current payables & accrued expenses):

The total amount of €4 748 502.28 corresponds to: €1 269 217.07 which regards to invoices received from suppliers and unpaid at year end and €3 479 285.21 from accrued expenses, which are an estimation of the cost incurred for services and goods delivered in 2007 year but not paid.

2.2 Notes to the economic outturn account

2.2.1 Operating revenues

Corresponds mainly to the accrued subsidy received from the European Commission DG SANCO and DG ELARG. There is also an amount of €129 469,00 recovered from the Translation Centre in Luxembourg.

2.2.2 Administrative expenses

Staff	Account 62
Infrastructure expenses	Heading 61002 except 61002500
Others expenses	Heading 61001 and 61002500
Depreciation and disposals	Account 63

The expenses with consolidated EC entities have been presented separately.

2.2.3 Operating expenses

Account 60. The operating expenses with consolidated EC entities have been taken from the previous heading.

2.2.4 Financial operations revenues

Exchange rates differences: €1 233.01

2.2.5 Financial operations expenses

Bank charges: €3 249.17

Exchange rates differences: €281.00

2.2.6 Extraordinary gains/losses

None.

2.3 Notes to the financial statements

Rental guarantee: the offices rented in Brussels to 2005 are still subject to a rental guarantee on our former bank for the sum of €124 630. This guarantee should have been cancelled early 2007. The cost for the service, €2 492,60, is included in the bank charges account. There is no bank guarantee in Parma.

Contingent liabilities:

- Operating leases:
 - Short term: €1 973 176
 - Long term: €7 059 233 (to 2010).
- Others:
 - "RAL" (legal commitments not yet delivered): €3 804 127

A provision for untaken leave has been taken into accounts in order to reflect the liability toward staff members (€523 190).

The valuation of the intangible fixed assets (IT software) is based on the purchase price only. Neither development nor other add-on costs are included in this amount.

No other material event or information has been communicated to the Accountant in order to reflect them in these financial statements.

Report on Implementation of the Budget

2.4 Budget execution

REVENUE			EXPENDITURE										
Origin of revenue	Revenue entered in the final budget for the financial year	Revenue collected	Expenditure allocation	APPROPRIATIONS UNDER THE FINAL BUDGET (C1 and C4)					APPROPRIATIONS CARRIED OVER FROM THE PREVIOUS FINANCIAL YEAR				
				entered	committed	paid	carried over	cancelled	entered	committed	paid	carried over	cancelled
Community subsidies	52 207 306.27	48 193 192.22	Titre I Staff	24 109 037.23	23 024 155.85	22 346 545.61	677 610.24	1 084 881.30	483 021.61	483 021.61	315 534.31	0	167 487.30
Other subsidies	0	0	Titre II Administration	9 347 370.00	9 147 271.35	6 758 978.42	2 388 292.93	200 098.65	2 893 911.07	2 893 911.07	2 732 112.20	0	161 798.87
Miscellaneous assigned revenue	0	129 469.00	Titre III Operating expenditure	18 880 368.04	15 345 534.58	9 815 792.78	5 529 741.80	3 534 833.46	4 512 242.92	4 512 242.92	3 352 729.70	0	1 159 513.223
Other revenue	0	27 530.01											
TOTAL	52 207 306.27	48 350 191.23	TOTAL	52 336 775.27	47 516 961.78	38 921 316.81	8 595 644.97	4 819 813.49	7 889 175.60	7 889 175.60	6 400 376.21	0	1 488 799.39

2.5 Budgetary outturn account

	2007	2006
Revenue		
Commission subsidy DG Sanco	47 973 273.00	37 243 100.00
Commission subsidy DG Elarg	219 919.22	276 882.00
Other revenue – CDT	129 469.00	0.00
Other revenue	27 530.01	23 449.25
Total revenue (a)	48 350 191.23	37 543 431.25
Expenditure		
Personnel expenses - Budget title I		
Payments	22 346 545.61	17 238 494.64
Automatic carryovers	677 610.24	483 021.61
Administrative expenses - Budget Title II		
Payments	6 758 978.42	4 143 521.58
Automatic carryovers	2 388 292.93	2 893 911.07
Operational expenses - Budget Title III		
Payments	9 815 792.78	7 136 708.13
Automatic carryovers	5 529 741.80	4 512 242.92
Total expenditure (b)	47 516 961.78	36 407 899.95
Outturn for the financial year (a-b)	833 229.45	1 135 531.30
Cancellation of unused carryovers	1 488 799.39	1 263 989.92
Adjustment for carry-over from previous years	0.00	1 859.93
Exchange differences for the year	952.01	1 124.50
Balance carried over from year N-1	2 402 505.65	4 131 469.45
Reimbursement to the EC	-2 402 505.65	-4 131 469.45
Balance of the outturn account for the financial year	2 322 980.85	2 402 505.65
Interest yielded on the EC subvention funds and reimbursed to the E.C.		302 810.30
Interest yielded on the EC subvention funds and to be reimbursed to the E.C.	413 841.70	

2.6 Reconciliation Budgetary / Economic Outturn

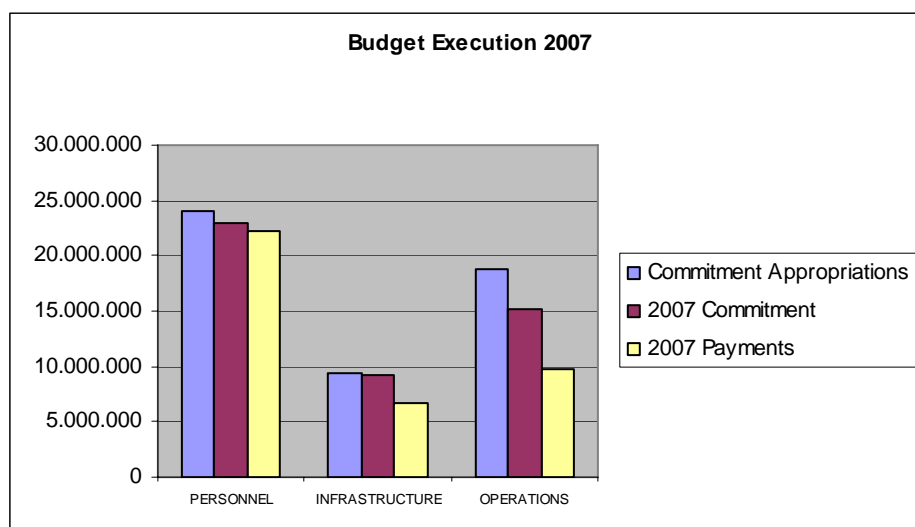
	2007
<i>Budgetary Revenue Outturn</i>	2 322 980.85
<i>Adjustments for accrual and budgetary items</i>	
Adjustments for Accrual Cut-off (reversal 31.12.N-1)	1 545 626.02
Adjustments for Accrual Cut-off (cut- off 31.12.N)	-4 411 421.19
Other receivables	
Cleared Pre-financing in the year	-968 078.39
Reduction of EC contribution considered as pre-financing	-2 322 980.85
Reversal of counter values	
Unpaid invoices at year end but booked in charges	-1 171 882.85
Reversal accrued expenses previous year	
Depreciation of tangible assets	-616 255.20
Depreciation of intangible fixed	-367 488.89
Provisions	-135 169.46
Asset acquisitions (less unpaid amounts)	806 785.18
Other liabilities	
New pre-financing paid in the year	826 225.67
Accrued expenses	
Costs on C4	129 469.00
Costs on C5	
Value reductions	-21 495.44
Exchange rate differences	952.01
Payment appropriations carried over to 2008	8 595 644.97
Adjustment from assigned revenue	398 118,00
Extraordinary losses / gains	
<i>Economic result</i>	2 288 048.58
<i>Adjustment</i>	-34 932.27

Report on implementation of the Budget

Budget execution 2007

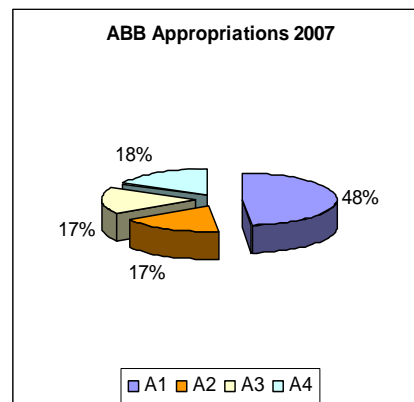
- €47.4 million or 91% of the €52.2 million budget including the Pre-accession program was committed. This commitment level is below the forecast made (€48.9 million). It however represents a year on year increase of 30%. In 2006, €36.4 million or 90% of the budget was committed.
- €38.8 million or 74% of the total appropriations were paid which is in line with the forecast (€38.9 million). Payments increased by 36% compared to 2006 where €28.5 million or 70% of the total appropriations were paid.
- €8.6 million or 18% will be carried forward for payment in 2008. The carry-forward rate decreased by comparison to 2006 where €7.9 million or 22% of the executed budget was carried over for payment in 2007.

Title (in M€)	Commitment Appropriations	2007 Commitment	2007 Execution	2007 Payments	% Paid	RAL
PERSONNEL	24.059.770	22.974.889	95%	22.297.278	93%	677.610
INFRASTRUCTURE	9.347.370	9.147.271	98%	6.758.978	72%	2.388.293
OPERATIONS	18.800.166	15.265.333	81%	9.735.591	52%	5.529.742
of which Pre-accession	544.306	538.430	99%	306.124	56%	232.306
TOTAL	52.207.306	47.387.493	91%	38.791.848	74%	8.595.645



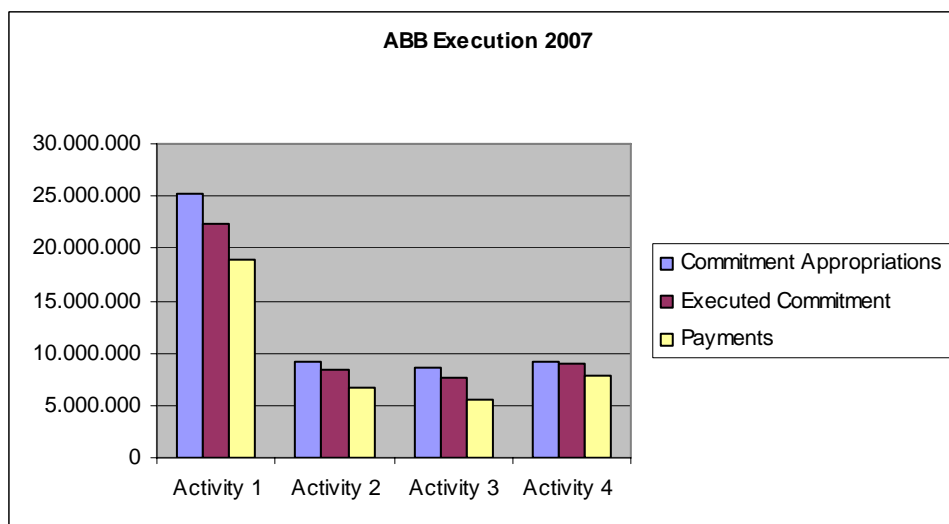
In terms of Activity Based budgeting, the credit appropriations to the four activities are as follows:

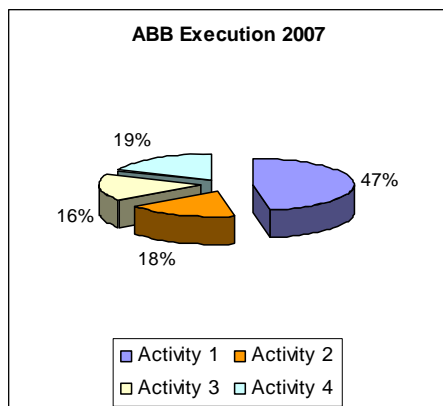
- Activity 1: Provide scientific opinion and advice to the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Member States
- Activity 2: Enhance risk assessment methodologies in Europe
- Activity 3: Communicate scientific advice and dialogue with interested parties
- Activity 4: Manage and provide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



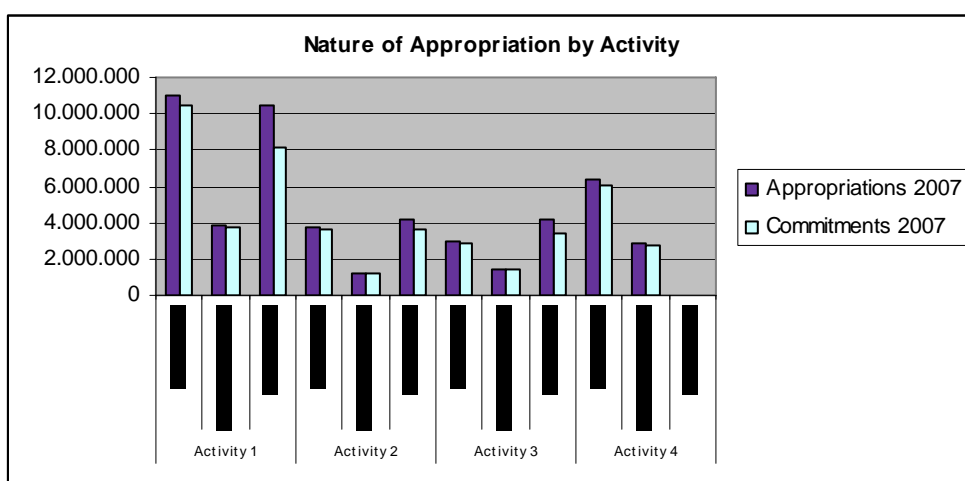
The 2007 budgetary execution of the Activities is as follows:

Activity	Commitment Appropriations	Executed Commitment	% Committed	Payments	% Paid	RAL
Activity 1	25.223.270	22.381.694	89%	18.847.971	75%	3.533.723
Activity 2	9.118.726	8.452.512	93%	6.611.218	73%	1.841.294
Activity 3	8.630.753	7.650.952	89%	5.496.543	64%	2.154.409
Activity 4	9.234.558	8.902.334	96%	7.836.115	85%	1.066.219
TOTAL	52.207.306	47.387.493	91%	38.791.848	74%	8.595.645





In terms of relative weight, the execution of the Activities mirrors their appropriations with the scientific activities representing globally 65% of the executed budget.



Each Activity is made of three costs centres being their personnel, infrastructure and operational costs i.e. the classification by Titles. The spreading of these costs centres by Activity is as shown by the graph. Activity 4 has by definition no costs under Title III.

Variance with Budget Forecast

The budget execution was forecast at 94%. This forecast was mainly influenced by scientific activities, contracts or subventions, and risk communication projects under Title III.

Title	Commitment Appropriations	2007 Commitment	% Committed	Budget Forecast 2007	%
PERSONNEL	24.059.770	22.974.889	95%	23.325.706	97%
INFRASTRUCTURE	9.347.370	9.147.271	98%	9.003.794	96%
OPERATIONS	18.800.166	15.265.333	81%	16.585.323	88%
of which Pre-accession	544.306	538.430	99%	480.000	79%
TOTAL	52.207.306	47.387.493	91%	48.914.823	94%

Title I (Personnel) reached a 95% execution rate instead of the 97% forecast. The difference of €0.35 million is mainly explained by the decrease of the salary level in Italy voted by the Council in late December which triggered the cancellation of a €0.3 million payment expected for salary level adjustment.

Title II (infrastructure) reached a 98% execution rate or 2% over the forecast.

In Title III (operations), the €1.3 million difference between the final execution and the forecast is mainly due to the underspent in relation to science meetings (- €1.2 million) as shown in the table below. AHAW, BIOHAZ and GMO meetings represent a difference of €0.6 million, the spreading of the remaining amount being shared by the other units.

Science activities	Commitment Appropriation	2007 Commitment	% Committed	Forecast Year end	% Committed	Difference	Difference
Science meetings	8.673.298	6.685.998	77%	7.895.143	91%	-1.209.145	-14%
Science contracts	949.792	678.639	71%	741.915	78%	-63.276	-7%
Science grants	2.041.000	1.722.833	84%	1.740.000	85%	-17.167	-1%
Science cooperation (focal points)	505.070	416.000	82%	260.000	51%	156.000	31%
GRAND TOTAL	12.169.160	9.503.470	78%	10.637.058	87,41%	-1.133.588	-9,32%

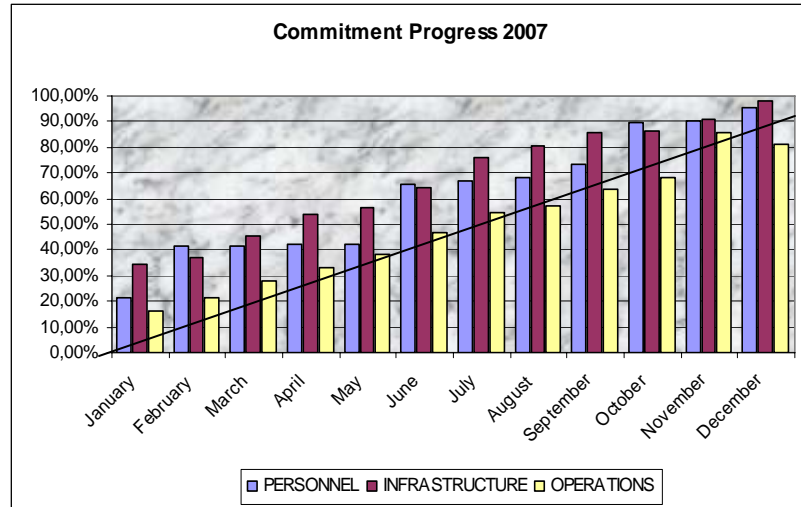
In terms of Activities, the budgetary execution shows that Activity 3 and 4 were close to the forecast with a difference of 2% and 1% respectively. The science Activities have a lower execution rate mainly due the above explanation, the €1.1 million underspent in Activity 1 being the most important.

Activity	Commitment Appropriations	Executed Commitment	% Committed	ABB Forecast 2007	%
Activity 1	25.223.270	22.381.694	89%	23.501.018	93%
Activity 2	9.118.726	8.452.512	93%	8.585.166	94%
Activity 3	8.630.753	7.650.952	89%	7.856.326	91%
Activity 4	9.234.558	8.902.334	96%	8.972.312	97%
TOTAL	52.207.306	47.387.493	91%	48.914.823	94%

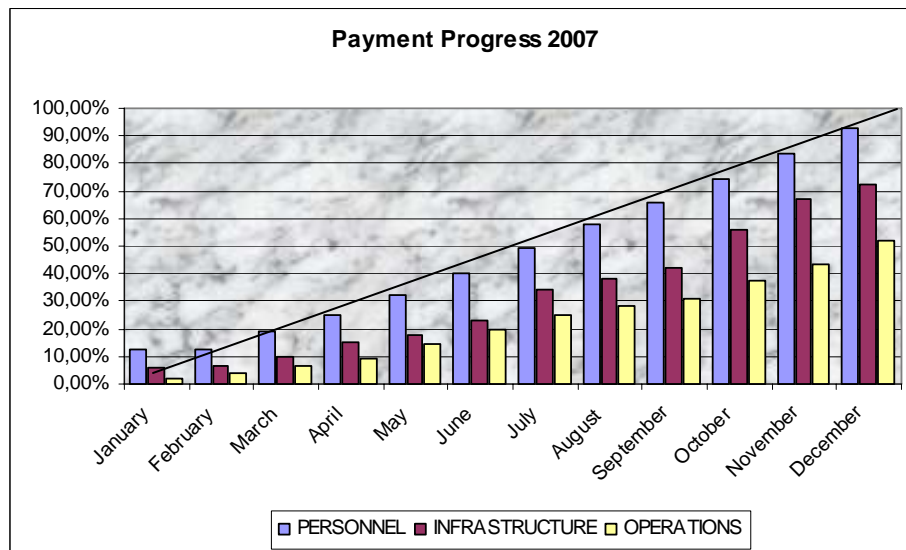
Evolution of budget execution

In terms of budget execution along the year, the commitment pattern is above linearity except for Title III as shown in the graph below. The pattern of the commitments for the staff is mainly guided by the commitments for salaries done for three months in advance, so the "stair" pattern in Title I. For what concerns Title II, large commitments for the rent of the buildings are made at the beginning of the year whereas the other activities are committed along the year.

Title III however shows a commitment progression below the linear progression. It is worth noting that the commitments under Title III decreased from November to December due to large decommitments related to meetings which trigger the lower execution than forecast. Particular attention is therefore to be given to the financial management of the meetings and their swift decommitments when all payments are processed.



The payment pattern, except Title I, is fairly under linearity. For what concerns Title I the linearity is explained by the payments to the staff. The nature of the projects conducted in Title II (mainly IT and building refurbishment) and Title III and the ensuing time required from signature of the contract to the delivery of the service (and therefore payment) explains part of the under linearity pattern. For Title III, however 52% only of the amounts committed have been paid and this should attract more efforts on the payment side.



Execution of C8 and C4 credits

In addition to the €38.8 million paid under the C1 credits, €6.4 million were paid under the C8 credits or 81% of the appropriations available following last year carry-forward. Under Title III, 26% of the C8 were not utilised and will therefore be cancelled. In order to increase the execution of the C8 credits, additional controls were introduced this year. They result in a reduced number of commitments carried

forward (from over 600 in 2006 to 485 in 2007) and a reduced carry forward rate (18% versus 22% in 2006).

C8	Title	Appropriation	Executed Payment	% Paid	To be Cancelled
1	PERSONNEL	483.022	315.534	65%	167.487
2	INFRASTRUCTURE	2.893.911	2.732.112	94%	161.799
3	OPERATIONS	4.512.243	3.352.730	74%	1.159.513
GRAND TOTAL		7.889.176	6.400.376	81%	1.488.780

Following the reimbursement from the Centre de Traduction in Luxembourg amounting to €129.469, a SAB was approved by the MB in order to register these credits under C4 credits. They were 100% utilised.

C4	BL	Appropriation	Executed Payment	% Paid	RAL
	1171 - Translation	49.267	49.267	100%	0
	3300 - Translation	80.202	80.202	100%	0
GRAND TOTAL		129.469	129.469	100%	0

Glossary of Financial Terms

ABB	Activity based budgeting
Accounting Officer / Accountant	Official in charge of executing payments collecting revenues and recovering receivables. He is also in charge of preparing and presenting the accounts keeping the general ledger and defining the accounting rules and methods used in the Authority. Finally he is in charge of defining and validating the financial and accounting systems as well as the treasury management system.
Accrual accounting	Accounting methodology based on the use of the generating events for recording a transaction (following the adoption of the new 2005 Financial Regulation)
Balance sheet items	constituting the different items found in a balance sheet
BOB	General ledger program
Budgetary commitment	Action involving a specific allocation of credits for a specific task
Business Objects (BO)	Management reporting program
C1/current credit appropriations	Current year credit appropriations
C2/non automatic carry forward	Carried over credits (non automatic) following the decision of the budget Authority
C4/earmarked revenue 1 st year	Earmarked revenue / for re-use (first year)
C5/earmarked revenue 2 nd year	Earmarked revenue / for re-use (carried over)
C8/ carried over	Automatically carried-over credits. Carry over of credits committed but not paid during the previous exercise also called "Reste à liquider" (RAL) standing for "remaining credits to be paid"
Cash accounting	Accounting methodology based on cash flows
Cash flow	Treasury movement
IAS	International Accounting Standards
IPSAS	International Public Sector Accounting Standards
Imprest account	Usually used for the payment of limited expenses and collection of non standard and limited incomes
ISIPARC	Inventory management program
Authorizing Officer and delegated Authorizing Officer	In charge of budget incomes and expenditures. He executes the budget following the principle of sound financial management and he guarantees the regularity and legality of the operations
OIB	European Office located in Brussels in charge of the infrastructure and the logistics of the Commission
PPC	Public Procurement Committee: Committee in charge of managing call for tenders and public procurement (supervised by the Authorizing Officer)
RAL	See C8/carried over credits
Recovery order	budgetary transaction corresponding to a debit note or an invoice
SAB	Supplementary and amending budget
SI2	Budget management program

Annex 3: Budget Execution 2007

**Global Budget Execution 2007:
Summary Titles C1**

Title		Commitment Appropriation Transaction Amount (1)	Executed Commitment Amount (2)	% Committed (2)/(1)	Executed Payment Amount (4)	% Paid (4)/(3)	RAL (2)-(4)
1	EXPENSES FOR PERSONNEL LINKED TO THE AUTHORITY	24,059,770	22,974,889	95%	22,297,278	93%	677,610
2	BUILDING EQUIPMENT + MISCELLANEOUS OPERATING EXPENDITURE LINKED TO THE AUTHORITY	9,347,370	9,147,271	98%	6,758,978	72%	2,388,293
3	OPERATING EXPENDITURE LINKED TO THE AUTHORITY	18,800,166	15,265,333	81%	9,735,591	52%	5,529,742
GRAND TOTAL		52,207,306	47,387,493	91%	38,791,848	74%	8,595,645

**Global Budget Execution 2007
Summary Titles C8**

Title		Commitment Appropriation Transaction Amount (1)	Executed Commitment Amount (2)	% Committed (2)/(1)	Executed Payment Amount (4)	% Paid (4)/(3)	RAL (2)-(4)
1	EXPENSES FOR PERSONNEL LINKED TO THE AUTHORITY	483,021.61	483,022	100.00%	315,534.31	65.33%	167,487
2	BUILDING EQUIPMENT + MISCELLANEOUS OPERATING EXPENDITURE LINKED TO THE AUTHORITY	2,893,911.07	2,893,911	100.00%	2,732,112.20	94.41%	161,799
3	OPERATING EXPENDITURE LINKED TO THE AUTHORITY	4,512,242.92	4,512,243	100.00%	3,352,729.70	74.30%	1,159,513
GRAND TOTAL		7,889,175.60	7,889,175.60	100.00%	6,400,376.21	81.13%	1,488,799.39

**Global Budget
Execution 2007:
Summary Chapters
C1**

Chapter		Commitment Appropriation Transaction Amount (1)	Executed Commitment Amount (2)	% Committed (2)/(1)	Payment Appropriation Transaction Amount (3)	Executed Payment Amount (4)	% Paid (4)/(3)	RAL (2)-(4)
11	Personnel in activity	22,606,271.00	21,613,557.44	95.61%	22,606,271.00	21,376,267.96	94.56%	237,289.48
13	Missions and duty travel	266,828.00	265,051.16	99.33%	266,828.00	204,088.65	76.49%	60,962.51
14	Socio-medical infrastructure	574,809.00	555,623.71	96.66%	574,809.00	251,630.82	43.78%	303,992.89
15	Exchange of officers and experts	358,729.00	328,333.76	91.53%	358,729.00	303,433.76	84.59%	24,900.00
16	Social Welfare	216,982.00	186,975.66	86.17%	216,982.00	148,279.81	68.34%	38,695.85
17	Reception and entertainment expenses	36,151.00	25,346.89	70.11%	36,151.00	13,577.38	37.56%	11,769.51
19	Pensions and pension subsidies	0.00	0,00	0,00%	0.00	0,00	0,00%	0,00
Total Title 1		24,059,770.00	22,974,888.62	95.49%	24,059,770.00	22,297,278.38	92.67%	677,610.24
20	Investments in immovable property, rental of building and associated costs	3,841,500.00	3,794,906.76	98.79%	3,841,500.00	3,070,872.16	79.94%	724,034.60
21	Expenditure on data processing	2,175,000.00	2,170,517.74	99.79%	2,175,000.00	1,499,469.13	68.94%	671,048.61
22	Movable property and associated costs	1,830,887.00	1,747,237.30	95.43%	1,830,887.00	1,209,862.33	66.08%	537,374.97
23	Current administrative expenditure	334,366.00	286,048.23	85.55%	334,366.00	226,721.77	67.81%	59,326.46
24	Postal charges and telecommunications	601,286.00	600,877.10	99.93%	601,286.00	359,966.07	59.87%	240,911.03
25	Expenditure on formal and other meetings	564,331.00	547,684.22	97.05%	564,331.00	392,086.96	69.48%	155,597.26
Total Title 2		9,347,370.00	9,147,271.35	97.86%	9,347,370.00	6,758,978.42	72.31%	2,388,292.93
30	SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES	9,192,575.00	7,034,121.88	76.52%	9,192,575.00	5,133,615.52	55.85%	1,900,506.36
31	Scientific cooperation & assistance	2,321,585.00	1,928,932.39	83.09%	2,321,585.00	810,132.74	34.90%	1,118,799.65
32	Scientific Committee & Advisory Forum	1,255,000.00	865,693.84	68.98%	1,255,000.00	715,157.48	56.98%	150,536.36
33	TRANSLATION & INTERPRETATION EXPENSES	255,000.00	211,124.13	82.79%	255,000.00	179,124.13	70.24%	32,000.00
34	IT DATA COLLECTION AND NETWORKING	1,365,700.00	1,365,049.66	99.95%	1,365,700.00	816,104.28	59.76%	548,945.38
35	INFORMATION & PUBLICATION	2,466,000.00	1,972,563.10	79.99%	2,466,000.00	800,888.03	32.48%	1,171,675.07
36	OPERATIONEL EXPENDITURE	1,239,000.00	1,227,049.56	99.04%	1,239,000.00	944,207.23	76.21%	282,842.33
37	EXTERNAL RELATIONS	161,000.00	122,368.66	76.01%	161,000.00	30,237.96	18.78%	92,130.70
39	SPECIAL PROJECTS	544,306.27	538,429.59	98.92%	544,306.27	306,123.64	56.24%	232,305.95
Total Title 3		18,800,166.27	15,265,332.81	81.20%	18,800,166.27	9,735,591.01	51.78%	5,529,741.80
GRAND TOTAL		52,207,306.27	47,387,492.78	90.77%	52,207,306.27	38,791,847.81	74.30%	8,595,644.97

**Global Budget
Execution 2007:
Details C1**

Chapter		Commitment Appropriation Transaction Amount (1)	Executed Commitment Amount (2)	% Committed (2)/(1)	Payment Appropriation Transaction Amount (3)	Executed Payment Amount (4)	% Paid (4)/(3)	RAL (2)-(4)
1100	Basic salary	12,555,263.00	12,348,945	98.36%	12,555,263.00	12,348,945.28	98.36%	0.00
1101	Family allowance	1,108,995.00	1,076,188	97.04%	1,108,995.00	1,076,188.11	97.04%	0.00
1102	Transfer and expatriation allowance	1,721,927.00	1,683,143	97.75%	1,721,927.00	1,683,143.07	97.75%	0.00
1103	Secretarial allowance	22,518.00	19,978	88.72%	22,518.00	19,977.70	88.72%	0.00
1110	Auxiliary agents	1,274,000.00	1,257,569	98.71%	1,274,000.00	1,257,569.36	98.71%	0.00
1113	Stagiaires	15,000.00	4,896	32.64%	15,000.00	4,896.07	32.64%	0.00
1115	Contract staff	737,000.00	671,909	91.17%	737,000.00	671,909.13	91.17%	0.00
1130	Insurance against sickness	428,886.00	422,349	98.48%	428,886.00	422,348.84	98.48%	0.00
1131	Insurance against accidents and occupational disease	118,617.00	88,069	74.25%	118,617.00	88,068.84	74.25%	0.00
1132	Unemployment insurance for temporary staff	168,679.00	152,758	90.56%	168,679.00	152,757.98	90.56%	0.00
1140	Birth and death allowance	6,664.00	1,586	23.81%	6,664.00	1,586.48	23.81%	0.00
1141	Annual leave travelling expenses	270,180.00	250,448	92.70%	270,180.00	250,448.47	92.70%	0.00
1147	Call on duties	34,632.00	27,853	80.43%	34,632.00	27,852.95	80.43%	0.00
1150	Overtime	4,304.00		0.00%	4,304.00	0,00	0.00%	0,00
1170	Freelance and joint interpreting and conference service interpreters	20,658.00	1,230	5.95%	20,658.00	1,230.00	5.95%	0.00
1171	Translation centre Luxembourg (administrative matters)	175,513.00	89,856	51.20%	175,513.00	82,856.47	47.21%	7,000.00
1172	Payment for administrative assistance from the Community institutions	147,478.00	124,721	84.57%	147,478.00	117,133.50	79.42%	7,587.25
1175	Interim services	542,331.00	509,828	94.01%	542,331.00	412,039.37	75.98%	97,788.48
1176	Consultancy	8,607.00	8,607	100.00%	8,607.00	0,00	0.00%	8,607.00
1177	Other services	50,822.00	43,477	85.55%	50,822.00	25,866.67	50.90%	17,610.00
1180	Miscellaneous expenditure on recruitment	283,828.00	279,314	98.41%	283,828.00	239,466.04	84.37%	39,847.99
1181	Travel expenses (including for members of the family)	32,176.00	28,590	88.85%	32,176.00	28,589.75	88.85%	0.00
1182	Installation, resettlement and transfer allowances	494,426.00	458,397	92.71%	494,426.00	458,397.45	92.71%	0.00
1183	Removal expenses	267,368.00	193,686	72.44%	267,368.00	134,836.95	50.43%	58,848.76
1184	Temporary daily subsistence allowance	328,573.00	281,611	85.71%	328,573.00	281,610.98	85.71%	0.00
1190	WEIGHTINGS	1,787,826.00	1,588,549	88.85%	1,787,826.00	1,588,548.50	88.85%	0.00
Chapter 11		22,606,271.00	21,613,557.44	95.61%	22,606,271.00	21,376,267.96	94.56%	237,289.48
1300	Mission and travel expenses	266,828.00	265,051	99.33%	266,828.00	204,088.65	76.49%	60,962.51

	Chapter 13	266,828.00	265,051.16	99.33%	266,828.00	204,088.65	76.49%	60,962.51
1400	Restaurants, meals and canteens	45,208.00	45,208	100.00%	45,208.00	34,613.40	76.56%	10,594.60
1410	Medical service	142,807.00	128,300	89.84%	142,807.00	66,160.53	46.33%	62,139.47
1420	Further training, language courses and retraining for staff	386,794.00	382,116	98.79%	386,794.00	150,856.89	39.00%	231,258.82
	Chapter 14	574,809.00	555,623.71	96.66%	574,809.00	251,630.82	43.78%	303,992.89
1520	Visiting experts, National Experts on Detachment	358,729.00	328,334	91.53%	358,729.00	303,433.76	84.59%	24,900.00
	Chapter 15	358,729.00	328,333.76	91.53%	358,729.00	303,433.76	84.59%	24,900.00
1600	Special assistance grants	1,721.00		0.00%	1,721.00	0,00	0,00%	0,00
1610	Social contacts between staff	44,430.00	40,557	91.28%	44,430.00	15,095.12	33.98%	25,462.00
1620	Other interventions	41,721.00	31,193	74.77%	41,721.00	25,193.48	60.39%	6,000.00
1630	Early childhood centres and other creches	127,389.00	115,225	90.45%	127,389.00	107,991.21	84.77%	7,233.85
1640	Complementary aid for the handicapped	1,721.00		0.00%	1,721.00	0,00	0,00%	0,00
	Chapter 16	216,982.00	186,975.66	86.17%	216,982.00	148,279.81	68.34%	38,695.85
1700	Reception and entertainment expenses	36,151.00	25,347	70.11%	36,151.00	13,577.38	37.56%	11,769.51
	Chapter 17	36,151.00	25,346.89	70.11%	36,151.00	13,577.38	37.56%	11,769.51
	Title 1	24,059,770.00	22,974,888.62	95.49%	24,059,770.00	22,297,278.38	92.67%	677,610.24
2000	Rent	1,991,500.00	1,982,490	99.55%	1,991,500.00	1,910,767.74	95.95%	71,722.26
2010	Insurance	48,000.00	47,294	98.53%	48,000.00	42,208.32	87.93%	5,085.41
2020	Water, gas, electricity and heating	388,000.00	387,713	99.93%	388,000.00	327,462.56	84.40%	60,250.35
2030	Cleaning and maintenance	275,000.00	253,339	92.12%	275,000.00	184,661.31	67.15%	68,677.64
2040	Refurbishment of premises/ Fitting out	672,800.00	662,858	98.52%	672,800.00	303,497.50	45.11%	359,360.00
2050	Security and surveillance of buildings	340,000.00	339,300	99.79%	340,000.00	236,521.82	69.57%	102,778.11
2080	preliminary to construction, acquisition or rental of immovable property	51,200.00	50,505	98.64%	51,200.00	21,351.17	41.70%	29,153.99
2090	Other expenditure on buildings	75,000.00	71,409	95.21%	75,000.00	44,401.74	59.20%	27,006.84
	Chapter 20	3,841,500.00	3,794,906.76	98.79%	3,841,500.00	3,070,872.16	79.94%	724,034.60
2100	Purchase/ Maintenance of equipment	710,490.00	709,171	99.81%	710,490.00	473,847.27	66.69%	235,323.26
2101	Purchase / maintenance of software	522,582.00	519,679	99.44%	522,582.00	385,575.86	73.78%	134,103.35
2103	Software development	795,133.00	794,873	99.97%	795,133.00	523,221.00	65.80%	271,652.00
2104	User Support	146,795.00	146,795	100.00%	146,795.00	116,825.00	79.58%	29,970.00
	Chapter 21	2,175,000.00	2,170,517.74	99.79%	2,175,000.00	1,499,469.13	68.94%	671,048.61
2200	Technical equipment and installations	442,215.00	442,213	100.00%	442,215.00	148,157.01	33.50%	294,056.18
2201	Hire or leasing of technical equipment and installations	6,215.00	3,836	61.72%	6,215.00	3,836.00	61.72%	0.00
2210	Purchase of furniture	371,199.00	370,137	99.71%	371,199.00	301,476.11	81.22%	68,660.96
2231	Hire or leasing of vehicles	993,418.00	915,531	92.16%	993,418.00	749,528.27	75.45%	166,002.85
2250	Library stocks, purchase and preservation of books	5,164.00	4,611	89.29%	5,164.00	2,371.25	45.92%	2,239.72
2251	Special library, documentation and reproduction equipment	1,486.00	1,452	97.72%	1,486.00	1,452.10	97.72%	0.00

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2255	Subscriptions and purchase of information media	11,190.00	9,457	84.51%	11,190.00	3,041.59	27.18%	6,415.26
Chapter 22		1,830,887.00	1,747,237.30	95.43%	1,830,887.00	1,209,862.33	66.08%	537,374.97
2300	Stationery and office supplies	153,414.00	153,326	99.94%	153,414.00	126,970.97	82.76%	26,355.03
2320	Bank charges	3,607.00	3,249	90.08%	3,607.00	3,249.17	90.08%	0.00
2330	Legal expenses	91,233.00	65,982	72.32%	91,233.00	59,968.68	65.73%	6,013.00
2340	Damages	8,607.00		0.00%	8,607.00	0,00	0.00%	0,00
2350	Miscellaneous insurance	25,861.00	20,000	77.34%	25,861.00	1,429.60	5.53%	18,570.40
2353	Removals and associated handling	30,126.00	25,250	83.81%	30,126.00	21,841.97	72.50%	3,408.03
2390	Publications	21,518.00	18,241	84.77%	21,518.00	13,261.38	61.63%	4,980.00
Chapter 23		334,366.00	286,048.23	85.55%	334,366.00	226,721.77	67.81%	59,326.46
2400	Postal charges	80,895.00	80,500	99.51%	80,895.00	52,790.65	65.26%	27,709.35
2410	Telecommunications subscriptions and charges	108,762.00	108,751	99.99%	108,762.00	68,839.01	63.29%	39,911.87
2411	Purchase and installation of equipment	411,629.00	411,626	100.00%	411,629.00	238,336.41	57.90%	173,289.81
Chapter 24		601,286.00	600,877.10	99.93%	601,286.00	359,966.07	59.87%	240,911.03
2500	Management Board meetings	564,331.00	547,684	97.05%	564,331.00	392,086.96	69.48%	155,597.26
Chapter 25		564,331.00	547,684.22	97.05%	564,331.00	392,086.96	69.48%	155,597.26
Title 2		9,347,370.00	9,147,271.35	97.86%	9,347,370.00	6,758,978.42	72.31%	2,388,292.93
3010	AFC: Scientific co-operation with external experts	445,000.00	328,335	73.78%	445,000.00	169,190.00	38.02%	159,145.00
3011	AFC: Subventions for studies and evaluations	85,000.00		0.00%	85,000.00	0,00	0.00%	0,00
3012	AFC: Travel / subsistence and indemnities expenses for members of the Panel and its Working Groups	756,209.00	637,621	84.32%	756,209.00	562,805.82	74.42%	74,814.79
3020	FEEDAP: Scientific co-operation with external experts	27,208.00		0.00%	27,208.00	0,00	0.00%	0,00
3021	FEEDAP: Subventions for studies and evaluations	20,000.00	20,000	100.00%	20,000.00	0,00	0.00%	20,000.00
3022	FEEDAP: travel / subsistence and indemnities expenses for members of the Panel and its working Groups	683,100.00	595,230	87.14%	683,100.00	481,251.35	70.45%	113,978.65
3030	PLH: Scientific co-operation with external experts	18,139.00		0.00%	18,139.00	0,00	0.00%	0,00
3031	PLH: Subventions for studies and evaluations	100,000.00		0.00%	100,000.00	0,00	0.00%	0,00
3032	PLH: Travel / subsistence and indemnities expenses for members of the Panel and its Working Groups	575,812.00	510,783	88.71%	575,812.00	406,550.51	70.60%	104,232.54
3040	PPR: Scientific co-operation with external experts	54,416.00	54,000	99.24%	54,416.00	0,00	0.00%	54,000.00
3041	PPR: Subventions for studies and evaluations	90,000.00	90,000	100.00%	90,000.00	0,00	0.00%	90,000.00
3042	PPR: Travel / subsistence and indemnities expenses for members of the Panel and its Working Group	720,545.00	510,499	70.85%	720,545.00	428,638.13	59.49%	81,860.71
3050	GMO: Scientific co-operation with external experts	19,261.00	0	0.00%	19,261.00	0,00	0.00%	0.00
3051	GMO: Subventions for studies and evaluations	86,000.00		0.00%	86,000.00	0,00	0.00%	0,00
3052	GMO: Travel / subsistence and indemnities expenses for members of the Panel and its working Groups	899,070.00	643,179	71.54%	899,070.00	573,458.32	63.78%	69,721.15

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3062	NDA: Travel / subsistence and indemnities expenses for members of the Panel and its Working Groups	487,119.00	307,159	63.06%	487,119.00	301,383.56	61.87%	5,775.71
3070	BIOHAZ & BSE-TSE: Scientific co-operation with external experts	3,400.00	3,400	100.00%	3,400.00	3,400.00	100.00%	0.00
3071	BIOHAZ & BSE-TSE: Subventions for studies and evaluations	800,000.00	797,532	99.69%	800,000.00	159,506.46	19.94%	638,025.85
3072	BIOHAZ & BSE-TSE: Travel / subsistence and indemnities expenses for the members of the Panel and its Working Groups	879,057.00	609,284	69.31%	879,057.00	586,891.85	66.76%	22,392.63
3082	CONTAM: Travel / subsistence and indemnities expenses for members of the Panel and its Working Groups	641,921.00	464,906	72.42%	641,921.00	443,461.94	69.08%	21,444.04
3090	AHAW: Scientific co-operation with external experts	9,416.00	4,900	52.04%	9,416.00	0,00	0,00%	4,900.00
3091	AHAW: Subventions for studies	300,000.00	300,000	100.00%	300,000.00	0,00	0,00%	300,000.00
3092	AHAW: Travel / subsistence and indemnities expenses for members of the Panel and its Working Groups	1,491,902.00	1,157,293	77.57%	1,491,902.00	1,017,077.58	68.17%	140,215.29
Chapter 30		9,192,575.00	7,034,121.88	76.52%	9,192,575.00	5,133,615.52	55.85%	1,900,506.36
3100	Scientific cooperation	505,070.00	416,000	82.36%	505,070.00	73,000.00	14.45%	343,000.00
3101	Subventions for studies and evaluations	560,000.00	515,301	92.02%	560,000.00	38,060.22	6.80%	477,240.88
3102	Travel / subsistence and indemnities expenses	30,149.00	10,460	34.70%	30,149.00	0.00	0.00%	10,460.37
3110	Data collection exposure	34,970.00	13,849	39.60%	34,970.00	7,848.90	22.44%	6,000.00
3112	Data collection : Travel/subsistence and indemnities expenses	56,040.00	21,703	38.73%	56,040.00	21,703.05	38.73%	0.00
3120	Emerging risks	386.00		0,00%	386.00	0,00	0,00%	0,00
3122	Emerging risks: Travel/subsistence and indemnities expenses	16,040.00	0	0.00%	16,040.00	0,00	0,00%	0.00
3130	Assessment methodology	39,170.00	3,200	8.17%	39,170.00	3,200.00	8.17%	0.00
3132	Assessment methodology: travel/subsistence and indemnities expenses	61,040.00	46,258	75.78%	61,040.00	46,257.85	75.78%	0.00
3142	PRAPeR: travel/subsistence and indemnities expenses for the members of the Expert Group and its Working groups	499,189.00	458,082	91.77%	499,189.00	410,534.51	82.24%	47,546.99
3145	MRL: travel/subsistence and indemnities expenses for members of the Expert Group and its Working Groups	15,347.00	0	0.00%	15,347.00	0,00	0,00%	0.00
3150	Zoonoses: Scientific cooperation with external experts	288,426.00	268,080	92.95%	288,426.00	37,280.00	12.93%	230,800.00
3152	Zoonoses: travel/subsistence and indemnities expenses for members of the Task Force and its Working Groups	215,758.00	176,000	81.57%	215,758.00	172,248.21	79.83%	3,751.41
Chapter 31		2,321,585.00	1,928,932.39	83.09%	2,321,585.00	810,132.74	34.90%	1,118,799.65
3200	Advisory Forum Plenary	250,000.00	183,735	73.49%	250,000.00	135,830.30	54.33%	47,904.91
3201	Advisory Forum WG COM	100,000.00	47,863	47.86%	100,000.00	47,862.51	47.86%	0.00
3202	Advisory Forum WG IT	55,000.00	45,061	81.93%	55,000.00	33,756.39	61.38%	11,304.87
3203	Advisory Forum horizontal WG	130,000.00	81,959	63.05%	130,000.00	44,846.96	34.50%	37,112.52

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3204	Advisory Group on Risk Communication (AGRC)	65,000.00	16,660	25.63%	65,000.00	14,636.64	22.52%	2,023.06
3210	SC: cooperation with external experts	10,000.00	2,875	28.75%	10,000.00	2,875.00	28.75%	0.00
3212	SC: travel/subsistence and indemnities expenses for members of the Scientific Committee and its Working Groups	645,000.00	487,541	75.59%	645,000.00	435,349.68	67.50%	52,191.00
Chapter 32		1,255,000.00	865,693.84	68.98%	1,255,000.00	715,157.48	56.98%	150,536.36
3300	Translation	250,000.00	211,124	84.45%	250,000.00	179,124.13	71.65%	32,000.00
3301	Interpretation	5,000.00	0	0.00%	5,000.00	0,00	0,00%	0.00
Chapter 33		255,000.00	211,124.13	82.79%	255,000.00	179,124.13	70.24%	32,000.00
3400	Data collection IT	497,154.00	497,069	99.98%	497,154.00	337,222.93	67.83%	159,846.40
3401	Networking of organization	62,017.00	61,631	99.38%	62,017.00	30,941.97	49.89%	30,688.98
3402	Dedicated IT systems to support the operations	806,529.00	806,349	99.98%	806,529.00	447,939.38	55.54%	358,410.00
Chapter 34		1,365,700.00	1,365,049.66	99.95%	1,365,700.00	816,104.28	59.76%	548,945.38
3500	Communications	575,000.00	442,678	76.99%	575,000.00	176,997.76	30.78%	265,680.09
3501	Publications	497,000.00	373,851	75.22%	497,000.00	282,208.44	56.78%	91,642.67
3502	Conferences & events	1,247,000.00	1,075,204	86.22%	1,247,000.00	317,431.83	25.46%	757,772.31
3503	Web	140,000.00	80,830	57.74%	140,000.00	24,250.00	17.32%	56,580.00
3504	Travel / subsistence and indemnities expenses for communication meetings	7,000.00		0,00%	7,000.00	0,00	0,00%	0,00
Chapter 35		2,466,000.00	1,972,563.10	79.99%	2,466,000.00	800,888.03	32.48%	1,171,675.07
3602	Library: Access to databases / documents	155,000.00	144,923	93.50%	155,000.00	80,738.64	52.09%	64,184.15
3603	Mission of staff related to operational duties	1,084,000.00	1,082,127	99.83%	1,084,000.00	863,468.59	79.66%	218,658.18
Chapter 36		1,239,000.00	1,227,049.56	99.04%	1,239,000.00	944,207.23	76.21%	282,842.33
3700	Stakeholder platform	100,000.00	75,959	75.96%	100,000.00	30,167.96	30.17%	45,790.70
3701	Crisis support	61,000.00	46,410	76.08%	61,000.00	70.00	0.11%	46,340.00
Chapter 37		161,000.00	122,368.66	76.01%	161,000.00	30,237.96	18.78%	92,130.70
3900	Enlargement	544,306.27	538,430	98.92%	544,306.27	306,123.64	56.24%	232,305.95
Chapter 39		544,306.27	538,429.59	98.92%	544,306.27	306,123.64	56.24%	232,305.95
Title 3		18,800,166.27	15,265,332.81	81.20%	18,800,166.27	9,735,591.01	51.78%	5,529,741.80
GRAND TOTAL		52,207,306.27	47,387,492.78	90.77%	52,207,306.27	38,791,847.81	74.30%	8,595,644.97

Annex 4: Establishment Plan 2007

Grade	Staff	Establishment Plan 2007		
	Employed on 31.12.06	Employed on 31.12.07	Authorised	Employed on 31.12.07 / Authorised
	Total	Total	Total	%
AD16	0	0	0	
AD15	1	1	1	
AD14	1	1	2	
AD13	0	0	0	
AD12	5	5	13	
AD11	16	19	16	
AD10	2	2	3	
AD9	8	12	22	
AD8	27	37	30	
AD7	5	24	36	
AD6	20	30	23	
AD5	2	13	20	
Total AD	87	144	166	87%
AST11	0	0	0	
AST10	0	0	0	
AST9	0	0	0	
AST8	0	0	1	
AST7	3	3	5	
AST6	0	0	2	
AST5	9	6	22	
AST4	11	18	30	
AST3	15	27	20	
AST2	8	24	21	
AST1	40	51	33	
Total AST	86	129	134	96%
Overall Total	173	273	300	91%

Annex 5: Allocation of Staff 2007

Staff Allocation by Activities - 31/12/2007								
Directorate	Department	Unit	%	Activities				2007
				1	2	3	4	
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR								
	<i>Executive Directorate</i>		3%	2	1	1	1	5
		Internal Audit/Quality Mgt			2		1	3
		Strategy&Prospective				1		1
			2006 2%	2	3	2	2	9
SCIENCE			54%	1	1			2
	<i>RA Dir</i>			2				2
		AFC		12	3			14
		AHAW		15	2			17
		BIOHAZ		14	2			15
		CONTAM		5	1			6
		FEEDAP		12	1			13
		GMO		9	3			12
		NDA		5	1			6
		PLH		5	1			5
		PPR		8	1			9
				88	13	0	0	101
	<i>SCA Dir</i>			2				2
		Assess Meth		2	5			7
		DATEX		4	4			7
		Emerging Risks		0	1			1
		PRAPeR		25	1			26
		SCOOP		0	2			2
		ZOONOSSES		8	2			10
				41	14	0	0	55
	Science +SC&AF			3	6	2		11
				128	28	0	0	
			2006 52%	131	34	2	0	167

COMMUNICATIONS								
	<i>Comm Dir</i>		10%			3		3
		PI&E				10		10
		Press Office				13		13
		Web				5		5
		2006	9%	0	0	31	0	31
ADMINISTRATION								
	<i>Admin Dir</i>		33%				2	2
		Accounts					5	5
		Facilities					14	14
		Finance					17	17
		IT					21	21
		Legal&External Relations			7	6	8	21
		Library&Archives					5	5
		HR					18	18
		2006	38%					0
			100%	0	7	6	90	103
				133	44	41	92	310
				43%	14%	13%	30%	

Staff by Type of Contract - 31/12/2007										
Directorate	Department	Unit	%	Type of contracts					2007	2006
			TA		CA	END	AUX			
			AD	AST						
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR										
	Executive Directorate			3	2				5	3
		Internal Audit/Quality Mgt	3%	2	1				3	1
		Strategy&Prospective			1				1	-
		2006	2%	5	4	0	0	0	9	4
SCIENCE										
	Directorate			1	1				2	2
	RA Dir			1	1				2	-
		AFC		8	5		1		14	10
		AHAW		9	3	2	2	1	17	11
		BIOHAZ		10	5				15	11
		CONTAM		4	2				6	5
		FEEDAP		8	3	2			13	10
		GMO		9	3				12	11
		NDA		4	2				6	5
		PLH		3	2				5	3
		PPR	54%	6	3				9	5
				63	30	4	3	1	101	73
	SCA Dir			1	1				2	-
		Assess Meth		5	2				7	6
		DATEX		4	3				7	3
		Emerging Risks			1				1	-
		PRAPeR		20	5	1			26	19
		SCOOP			1		1		2	-
		ZOONOSSES		5	2	1	2		10	9
				35	15	2	3	0	55	37
		SC&AF		6	4	1			11	8
		2006	52%	104	49	7	6	1	167	118
COMMUNICATIONS										
	Directorate			1	2				3	2
		PI&E	10%	3	6	1			10	6
		Press Office		4	5	2	1	1	13	9
		Web		1	2	2			5	3
		2006	9%	9	15	5	1	1	31	20

ADMINISTRATION									
<i>Directorate</i>			1	1				2	-
	Accounts		1	4				5	4
	Facilities		1	11	2			14	9
	Finance		3	12	2			17	13
	IT	33%	6	13	2			21	17
	Legal&External Relations		10	5	2	2	2	21	18
	Library&Archives			4	1			5	5
	HR		4	11	3			18	20
	<i>2006</i>	<i>38%</i>							
		100.0%	26	61	12	2	2	103	86
			273		24	9	4		

Annex 6 Report on the implementation of the Internal Control Standards and Internal Control

Risk Assessment

A high level risk assessment workshop was performed in 2007 by EFSA and risks in relation with EFSA's main activity identified. Before the workshop a self assessment exercise was carried out and 17 risks were identified by the directors and head of departments.

The top 5 risks identified were: tight timelines, workload, crisis preparedness, unexpected large numbers of authorisation files and questions from the European Parliament and NGO's.

This risk assessment was used to prepare the 2008 Work Plan.

Internal Control Standards

The implementation of the following 16 standards was achieved (compared to 8 last year):

Standards		Comments
N°	Description	
1	Ethics and integrity	Administrative guidance is distributed to all new comers. ICS presentation to all staff will be repeated with the new set of standards entered into force on January 2008.
2	Mission, role and tasks*	Job descriptions were done and are available within the CDAC document.
3	Staff competence*	A new training officer was nominated in December 2007. Training strategy developed in 2007 and more training offered to EFSA staff. (average number of training days per staff member = 7) A training catalogue is available to the staff. A SLA on training was signed with the EU Commission services.
4	Staff performance**	The staff appraisal system was launched in 2007. Evaluation of staff was done end 2007.
6	Delegation	Decision of the Executive Director is done on a regular basis regarding new delegations. New authorizing officer's by delegation signed the <i>charter of AO's</i> Regular update of SI2 rights.
7	Objective setting**	A detailed work plan was established and approved by the Management Board. It contains the objectives for all EFSA's activities, these have been forwarded to all staff via their own objectives settings for the year.
9	Annual management plan	Management plan of EFSA approved yearly by the Management Board.
11	Risk analysis and management*	High level risk assessment workshop was done in September 2007 and risks identified in relation with EFSA's main activity. A crisis exercise was launched in 2007 with two days crisis scenario early January 2008.

12	Adequate management information*	Reporting on budget execution is done monthly. Progress reports are also available for the operational activities, as well as performance indicators.
14	Report of irregularities	Note on irregularities signed in 2006 and communicated to all staff. The note is readily available on intranet.
16	Segregation of duties*	List of personnel (in Finance) and specimen signature for initiating agents, verifying agents and AO updated regularly. SI 2 access demands are filed, SI2 access rights are monitored and updated. Financial circuits are in place.
18	Recording exceptions	Bi-Annual reports on exceptions were done in 2007, with the list of "exception requests" in annex, as well as a list of exception request by Directorate. An electronic workflow for Exception requests is in place since October 2007.
19	Continuity of operations	In place since 2006. Back ups are in place to ensure continuity of service.
21	Audit reports	The follow-up made on previous recommendations from CoA, IAS, IAC was performed.
22	Internal Audit Capability	The internal Audit Capability was fully staffed in 2007.
24	Annual review of internal control*	Four Audit Committees were held in 2007. The Audit Committee members closely monitored the progress made on the action plan following the IAS and the CoA reports and analysed the various audit reports and action plans performed during 2007 by the internal auditor. They also monitored the progress on the Audit Work Plan. ICAT survey done in October 2007.

*These standards were partially implemented in 2006.

** These standards were not implemented in 2006.

The implementation of the following 7 standards has been partially achieved (compared to 12 last year) but in order to reach the full compliance, further actions need to be taken:

Standards		Comments
N°	Description	
5	Sensitive functions**	"Sensitive functions" were discussed with the Audit Committee and a specific note from the Executive Director prepared on this subject
10	Monitoring performance against objectives and indicators	Performance indicators are being reviewed and a new set will be put in place.
13	Mail registration and mailing system	Filing and registration plan still to be finalised.
15	Documentation of procedures	Mission guide revised in 2007. Human Resources and Financial procedures available on intranet and regularly updated. Internal procedures and decisions of the Executive Director communicated to all staff. Procedures related to Science and Communication workflow will be further developed in 2008.

17	Supervision	Ex-post controls will be more regular in 2008.
20	Recording and correction of internal control weaknesses	Note signed by the Executive Director in November 2007
23	Evaluation	The implementation of the recommendations issued by the Management Board following the Art. 61 Evaluation of EFSA was performed in 2007. The Review and Evaluation of scientific output and communication impact will be developed in 2008.

** This standard was not implemented in 2006.

The following standard was not implemented (compared to 4 last year) and will be considered as a priority in 2008:

Standard		Comments
N°	Description	
8	Multi-annual programming	Is a priority of EFSA in 2008.

Negotiated procedures

In 2007, 17 contracts (representing a global amount of € 303,382) were signed as a result of negotiated procedures in which one single candidate was invited. (Representing less than 1% of the 2007 expenditure)

10 contracts (for a total amount € 284,515) were signed in Science Directorate, 4 contracts in HR (representing a total amount of € 10,309), and one contract in each of the following units/directorates: External Relations (€ 2,658), Facilities (€ 2,000) and Communications (€ 3,900).

The justifications for awarding contracts based on a negotiation with one single candidate are as follows:

- For 14 out of these 17 contracts, the contract value is below/equal to the applicable threshold for a single candidate negotiation (€ 5,000) ;
- The remaining 3 contracts were signed by the Science Directorate and concern individual lots resulting from one single negotiation for urgent data collection related to the Bluetongue disease. In this case a note documents the use of a negotiated procedure based on art. 126, 1°(b) of the FR Implementing Rules.

Annex 7: Report on the implementation of the Internal Control Standards and Internal Control

Annex 5: DECLARATION OF ASSURANCE

I, the undersigned,

Executive Director of EFSA

In my capacity as authorising officer,

- Declare that the information contained in this report gives a true and fair view.
- State that I have reasonable assurance that the resources assigned to the activities described in this report have been used for their intended purpose and in accordance with the principles of sound financial management, and that the control procedures put in place give the necessary guarantees concerning the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions.

This reasonable assurance is based on my own judgement and on the information at my disposal, such as the results of the work of the internal audit capability, the observations of the Internal Audit Service and the lessons learnt from the reports of the Court of Auditors for years prior to the year of this declaration.

The observations made by the Court of Auditors and the Internal Audit Services in 2007 have triggered steps for improvements and will be further addressed by the growing availability of human resources and the implementation of the internal control standards.

- Confirm that I am not aware of anything not reported here which could harm the interests of the Authority.

Glossary of Abbreviations

ADI – Acceptable Daily Intake
AOEL – Acceptable Operator Exposure Level
AFC Panel – Panel on food additives, flavourings, processing aids and materials in contact with food
AHAW Panel – Panel on animal health and welfare
AI – Avian Influenza
ASEAN – Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BIOHAZ Panel – Panel on biological hazards
BRIC countries – Brazil, Russia, India and China
BSE – Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy
CONTAM Panel – Panel on contaminants in the food chain
COPHS – Chief Officers of Plant Health Service
CRC – Community Reference Laboratory
CVO – Chief Veterinary Officer
CWD – Chronic Wasting Disease
DG ENV – Directorate General Environment
DG RDT – Directorate General Research and Technical Development
DG SANCO – Directorate General on Health and Consumer Protection
ECDC – European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
ECB – European Chemicals Bureau
ECHA – European Chemical Agency
EEA – European Environment Agency
EFSA – European Food Safety Authority
EMA – European Medicines Agency
ENVI – The European Parliament Committee for Environment, Public Health and Food Safety
EPO – European Patent Office
EU – European Union
FAO – Food and Agriculture Organization
FDA – Food and Drug Administration (US)
FEEDAP Panel – Panel on additives and products or substances used in animal feed
FELASA – Federation of European Laboratory Animal Science Associations
FSANZ – Food Standards Australia New Zealand
GBR – Geographical BSE-Risk
GMO Panel – Panel on genetically modified organisms
ILSI – The International Life Sciences Institute
IPPC – International Plant Protection Convention
JRC – Joint Research Centre
MRL's – Maximum Residue Levels
NDA Panel – Panel on dietetic products, nutrition and allergies
NGO – Non-Governmental Organisation
OIE – Office International des Epizooties
OECD – Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OJ – Official Journal
PLH – Panel on Plant Health
PPR Panel – Panel on plant health, plant protection products and their residues
PRAPeR – Pesticides Risk Assessment Peer Review Expert Group
QMRA – Quantitative Microbiological Risk Assessment
QPS – Qualified Presumption of Safety
REACH – Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals
SC – Scientific Committee (EFSA)

SSC – Scientific Steering Committee
TSE – Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy
USDA – United States Department of Agriculture
WHO – World Health Organization