



European Food Safety Authority

Audit activities at EFSA

Address to Management Board-Rome 29 January 2009

Mr David Caira, Internal Auditor

- Audit committee
- Internal Audit (IA) Services at EFSA
- Internal Audit Services (IAS) at European Commission
- European Court of Auditors (ECA)
- 2008 audit results
- 2009 audit plan

The audit committee assists the management board by ensuring that the work of:

- EFSA Internal Auditor
- Internal Audit Service (IAS) of the European Commission
- European Court of Auditors (ECA)

Is properly conducted and taken into account by the management board and the Executive Director and receives appropriate follow-up.

It also Guarantees the independence and objectivity of the Internal Auditors.

The audit committee of EFSA was created in January 2006. It is composed of 5 members of the Management Board and meets at each session of the management board:



Mr Vaxelaire



Mr Madelin



Mr Url



Mr Yazitzoglou



Mr Facelli

Additionally the Executive Director of EFSA is present together with EFSA Internal Auditors. Please note that the chair of the management board is a permanent invitee.

The responsibilities and tasks of the committee shall be to:

- Provide the best advice to the EFSA ED and MB;
- Examine the Audit programmes of EFSA IA;
- Follow-up implementations of audits;
- Monitor actions taken by EFSA in responses to recommendations;
- Advise the ED and management about significant risks;
- Evaluate the steps to minimise such risks to the Authority;
- Keep the management board informed of Audit reports;
- Monitor the quality of internal audit work at EFSA.

The mission of the Internal Auditor within EFSA is to give assurance to the Executive Director and to the Management Board through the Audit Committee as to the adequacy and effectiveness of the Authority internal control systems.

The auditor shall advise the Authority on dealing with risks by:

- Issuing opinions on the quality of management;
- Issuing opinions on the quality of internal controls;
- Following-up the actions taken in response to audit recommendations;

The Internal audit of EFSA is active since 2005. It is actually composed of 2 staff members who report to the Executive Director and the Management Board through the Audit Committee:



Mr Caira



Mr Bucureci

Furthermore the IA co-operate and liaise with both the IAS and ECA and to follow-up actions taken by EFSA in response to their audit recommendations.

The engagement to be performed by the Internal Auditor would mainly consist of the following audits:

- Financial audit (financial statement)
- Operational audit (review of operating procedure)
- Compliance audit (respect of operating procedure)
- Informatic audit (IT and related system)
- Integrated audit (combination of the above audits)

The Internal Audit Service is a structure giving support and advice to the European Commission as regards to its activities across all Directorates, General services and Agencies (including EFSA).

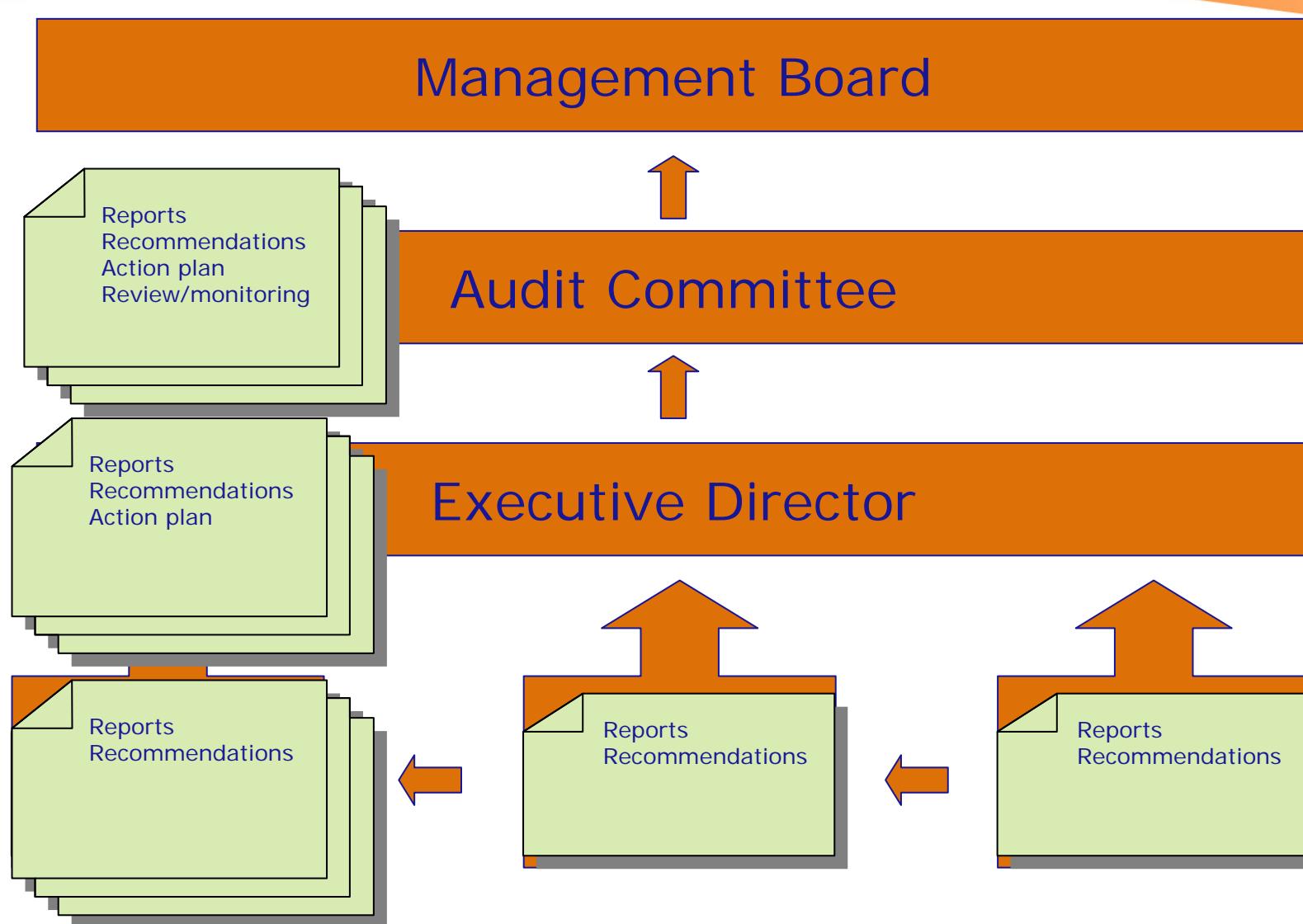
IAS perform standard audits (Ex: Implementation of internal control standards of the EC for instance).

Whereas

IA perform audits more closely related to mission and tasks of EFSA. (Ex: processes for EFSA scientific outputs).

As per Article 248 of the treaty, the ECA shall assist the European Parliament and the Council in exercising their power of control over the implementation of budget.

In this context the ECA draw-up a report for each financial year which is published, together with the replies of the Authority, in the Official Journal of the European Union.



2008 audit for ECA were:

- Audit annual accounts 2007 => unqualified opinion.

2008 audits for IAS:

- Audit of communication process => recommendations.

2008 audits for EFSA IA:

- Audit on fixed assets inventory => recommendations.
- Audit on DOI/SDOI => recommendations.
- Audit on Carry-forwards => recommendations.

2009 audit for ECA:

- Annual account 2008 => results expected in June 2009

2009 audits for IAS are:

- Sample review of recruitment.
- Sample review of DoI.
- Follow-up of IAS recommendations.

2009 audits for EFSA IA are:

- IT risk assessment and in depth testing of controls.
- Review of processes governing scientific outputs.
- Review of processes concerning budget execution.
- Review of processes governing grants allocation.
- Follow-up of IAS and IA recommendations.

Thank you very much for your attention !