



Annual Activity Report 2008

Management Board meeting 29 January 2009, Rome

EFSA's Achievements 2008

1. CORE BUSINESS
2. COOPERATION
3. CREDIBILITY
4. CAPACITY

1. CORE BUSINESS

- **Workload:**
 - 2007: 1 mandate per working day
 - 2008: 2 mandates per working day
- **Scientific Outputs:**
 - 490
 - doubled compared with 2007
 - Reduction of backlog: 1/3
- **Communication**
 - media coverage: +62%
 - Web visits: +43%
 - publications: +9%
 - Eurobarometer on public perception: postponed until 2010

2. COOPERATION

- **Scientific Committee & Advisory Forum**
- **Member States:**
 - Grants 2008: 3,4 M € ; 2007: 2,4M€
 - Focal Points
 - Advisory Forum: cooperation with SC via ESCO WGs
 - Scientific Cooperation & Assistance Directorate
- **Risk managers:** Commission, Member States
- **EU agencies/organisations:** ECDC, EMEA, JRC (MOUs)
- **International activities:** Strategic approach on agenda for today

3. CREDIBILITY

- **Independence**
 - Policy on DOIs adopted by MB
 - Implementation of policy/IT tool
- **Quality**
 - Self-assessment
 - Internal review
- **Emergency manual**

4. CAPACITY

- **STAFF** = 395
 - 96% Establishment Plan vs. 91% in 2007
 - Human Resources policies
 - Staff survey (annual)
- **EXPERTS** = 1200 (SC, Panels, WGs, Taskforces...)
 - expert survey (annual)
 - New Panels: ANS, CEF
- **BUDGET** = 97% execution
91% in 2007
- Buildings
- New IT tools and automated processes

Highlights for risk assessment I

- Opinions on nutritional profiles and first opinions on health claims were adopted
- Risk-benefit assessment of nitrate in vegetables was published
- Fish welfare opinions were adopted
- EFSA provided scientific advice for the implementation of BSE/TSE roadmap
- Bisphenol A: EFSA reviewed latest data on human toxicokinetics
- Food additives and hyperactivity: EFSA evaluated the “Southampton study”

Highlights for risk assessment II

- Guidance Document on risk assessment for birds and mammals was issued by PPR Panel
- Technical Guidance Documents for feed additive applications were adopted
- Scientific evaluations were adopted on 30 pest risk assessments
- Fast-track advice was issued on:
 - contaminated sunflower oil
 - melamine contamination
 - dioxins in Irish pigmeat

Increased support to the panels

- Initiatives taken:
 - Staff increased especially for units working on applications
 - More outsourcing (€2.3 m in 2008 vs. €1.6 m in 2007 activity 1)
 - Increased support from the SCA, especially in the area of data collection and statistics
 - increasing of tele/web-conferences
- AFC Panel was replaced by ANS and CEF Panels
- Monitoring and planning tools were developed to support the prioritization and reprioritization

Highlights of SC in 2008

- Opinion on implications of animal cloning for food safety, animal health and welfare, and the environment
- Public consultation of draft opinion on the need for specific RA approaches of applications of nanotechnologies
- Public consultation of draft opinion on Transparency in Risk Assessment (Scientific Aspects)
- Advice: management plan, strategic plan, ESCO

Highlight of AF in 2008

- **Emerging issues:** salmonella U292, anisakidae in fishery products, melamine
- **Special topics:** animal cloning, QRA of STEC in minced meat, BSE risk, campylobacter, RA of chemical mixtures, endocrine disruptors, expert database, data collection approaches, exchanging information (Extranet/IEP), emerging risks, dietary reference values, folic acid, health claims, PPR guidance, pesticide peer review, increasing awareness of EFSA's scientific work, nanotechnology, acrylamide, aspartame, botanicals, nitrate, ensuring transparency and scientific quality in RA
- **Special AF meetings:** animal health and welfare, plant health

Highlight of SCA activities in 2008

- **Implementation of the Data Collection Strategy, including**
 - Agreements on Food Databases with MSs
 - Pesticide Residue
 - Zoonoses Reports
- **Implementation and interim evaluation of the Strategy on Cooperation with MSs including set-up of**
 - Expert Database
 - Focal Points
 - Information Exchange Platform

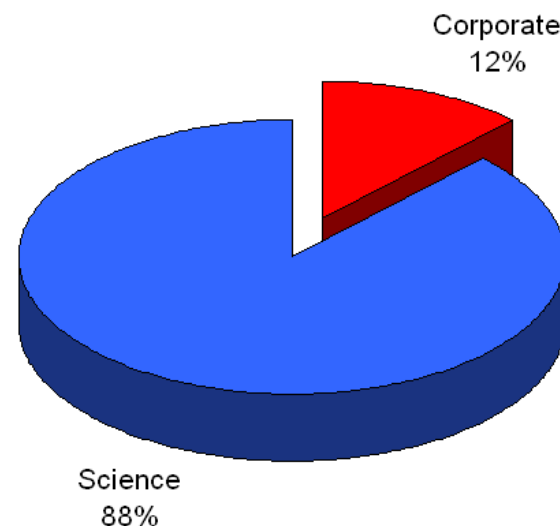
Highlight of SCA activities in 2008

- Completion of the 3rd and 4th stage pesticide peer review, and launch of the Pesticide Steering Committee
- Strengthening of data analysis activities
 - Data management
 - Exposure assessment
 - Data modelling
 - Other methodological support
- Strengthening work processes
 - Framework contract
 - Tracking work processes
- Establishment of Emerging Risk activities

Strong increase focused on Science

- **30 PRESS RELEASES**
- **39 WEB NEWS STORIES**
- **3 PRESS BRIEFINGS**
attended by **60** journalists
in total
- **20%** of scientific opinions
supported by
communications activities

Scientific Panels vs. Corporate Split



Over 11,650 articles in total ⇒

+ 62% vs. 2007

EFSA Website in 2008

Workflow for scientific opinions

The workflow for scientific opinions runs from the moment EFSA receives a request for scientific advice or initiates its own activity to the moment it publishes and communicates its scientific findings.

Receipt of request

EFSA's advice informs the policies of risk managers - so EFSA carries out much of its work in response to requests from the European Commission, European Parliament and EU Member States, as well as initiating its own scientific activities.

[Read more](#)

Assessment

EFSA's main task is to carry out scientific risk assessments. The evaluation stage is the main part of the risk assessment workflow. It is carried out by scientific experts tasked to deliver opinions on specific issues.

[Read more](#)

Adoption and Communication

Risk communication is part of EFSA's mandate. EFSA makes all of its scientific advice publicly available through its website and seeks to raise awareness and explain its findings to all interested parties.

[Read more](#)

Receipt of request



Assessment



Adoption and Communication

More high quality content:

- Workflow for scientific opinions
- 16 new scientific topic sections
- Call for new Panel members and expert database highlighted and explained

Steady increase in traffic:

- Over 2 million visits in 2008
- >21,000 EFSA highlights subscribers

Web casting - record viewing figures:

- New email promotional campaign
- >1300 live views for December Board meeting



The screenshot shows the EFSA website interface. On the left, there is a navigation menu with 'Home' and 'Key Topics'. Under 'Key Topics', 'Animal Health' is selected. The main content area is titled 'Animal Health' and features a photograph of a cow. To the right of the photo, there is text explaining that animal health is a key part of EFSA's mandate, covering not only animal diseases but also the critical relationship between animal welfare, animal health and food safety. Below this, it mentions that EFSA's scientific advice to risk managers addresses these closely connected fields based on the wide range of expertise of its scientific experts and the latest scientific knowledge available. Further down, it states that many animal diseases can pose a risk to consumers via the food chain or, less commonly, through other pathways including direct transmission. Standards of animal welfare and animal management practices including feeding, housing and husbandry can impact on the prevalence and spread of food-borne diseases. Well-known examples include Salmonella, Brucella and BSE which can contaminate foods and cause illness among consumers. Outbreaks of animal diseases such as Foot-and-mouth can often have serious socio-economic and environmental consequences. On the right side of the page, there is a search bar, a 'Print this page' button, and a 'See Also' section with two links: 'Panel on animal health and welfare (AHAW)' and 'Panel on biological hazards (BIOHAZ)'.

Join our Scientific
Committee or Panels

Publications in 2008

Targeted: reaching new and wider audiences



A new look



Greater scientific visibility



Promoting EFSA's drive for Panel members/experts



Events in 2008



2 Scientific Colloquia – 6 Joint events – Major international scientific conferences – Open doors – Local events...



OVER 3700 PARTICIPANTS

Conclusions

- Much done, much to do.....