



European Food Safety Authority

Office of the Executive Director and the Management Board

ED Progress report
Mid march 2009 – end of May 2009
HIGHLIGHTS

Risk Assessment

The ANS Panel adopted 22 opinions – further 86 nutrient sources are being evaluated. AHAW Panel adopted 7 opinions on stunning and killing of fish. New self tasks on ticks vectors were accepted BIOHAZ Panel adopted six opinions on TSE in goats, Meticillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, update of BSE monitoring regime. CONTAM Panel adopted opinions on uranium in food, nitrite in feed and 1 statement on shellfish toxins. CEF Panel adopted 22 opinions, including n benzophenone in cereals and launched 2 open consultations. FEEDAP Panel adopted 15 opinions on authorisation and one on yellow carotenoids. GMO concluded 6 applications on authorisation and adopted 2 guidance documents on GM for non-food/feed use and on statistical considerations for safety evaluation. NDA 63 opinions adopted so far on claims, EFSA will meet the stakeholders in BXL on the 15 June. PLH adopted opinion *citrus black spot* and *pine nematode*. PPR has published 2 scientific reports on the outcome of the public consultations on dermal absorption and protected crop systems.

Scientific Cooperation and Assistance

AMU Unit organised the first ESCO WG on isoflavons hazard. The DATEX Unit has supported the CONTAM unit on cadmium and uranium opinions and has collected consumption data and has estimated exposure for the nicotine in mushrooms statement. The EMRISK Unit has published an internal report on AH1N1 influenza and has established a network of EU agencies for the identification of emerging risk. The Scientific Cooperation Unit held the 5th Focal Points meeting and reached 26 Focal Point agreements signed so far. The expert database now counts 1500 experts. The PRAPeR Unit finalised 19 reasoned opinions on MRLs and 5 peer reviews. The Unit has worked with DATEX and CONTAM on the nicotine in mushroom statement. The ZOONOSES Unit has adopted 3 guidance documents and 1 scientific report. Scientific Committee & Advisory Forum The Scientific Committee held its 35th Plenary Meeting and adopted the opinions on transparency in risk assessment and on animal testing. The Advisory Forum held its 31th plenary in Bucharest.

Communications

The Communication Directorate has been engaged in many initiatives including media training for EFSA staff, interviews of the ED for the US press, the award ceremony of the regional school competition, the Europass conference organised jointly with EFSA on mollusc, press activities at the scientific conference organised in Prague organised in the context of the Czech presidency. The 23rd meeting of the Advisory Forum working Group on Communication was held in Rome and the celebration for the Festa dell'Europa were held in Parma. The Communication directorate was involved in the visits of the Executive Director to Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. Various publications were issued since the last management Board and work is progressing in line with the need to broaden the multilingual base of EFSA's publications. The list of the newly nominated panel expert was published on EFSA website on the 9th of June.

Administration

Meeting were organised between the Executive Director and Commissioner Vassiliou and official visits were spent to ECHA, the Austrian national food safety agency AGES, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. The Dutch minister for agriculture visited EFSA on the 8th of June. EFSA participated to the "food research in support to science-based regulations" organised in Prague on the context of the Czech presidency. The EFSA Stakeholder Consultative Platform met on 4-5 June in Brussels.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Panel on food additives and nutrient sources added to food (ANS)

The ANS Panel held four working group meetings and three Plenaries. Two meetings were held with the European Commission and scientific support was provided for Communications and Legal and Policy Affairs on more than thirty occasions. In addition, one request for public access to documents was received on the dossier on titanium dioxide.

The ANS Panel adopted twenty-two opinions (of which thirteen are statements) during its Plenary meetings in March, April and May 2009. Out of these, three opinions were adopted by written procedure. Moreover, two opinions and one statement were forwarded for adoption by written procedure with a deadline in June 2009.

The ANS Panel is dealing with 86 other nutrient sources, which have to be evaluated by 5 June 2009 and are scheduled for discussion during its Plenary meeting at the beginning of June. Thereafter, the ANS Panel will focus on the re-evaluation of food colours, the evaluation of new applications for food additives, the establishment of the data requirements for the applications for food additives, the revision of the guidance document on food additives and the re-evaluation of preservatives. In order to facilitate these, the ANS Panel will launch a contract to get pre-evaluation documents on the preservatives prepared and an article 36 grant to establish a database at the beginning of June.

Panel on animal health and welfare (AHAW)

The AHAW Panel held two Plenary meetings in this period and various working group meetings. Furthermore a statement on “fish welfare research needs” was drafted as requested by DG MARE.

During this reporting period representatives of the AHAW Unit attended SCOFCAH meetings on animal diseases; OIE Group on safety of products derived from Aquatic animals; SCAR on AHW and EMIDA; West Nile Fever Expert Consultation at ECDC in Stockholm; Preparatory meeting on the mandate of broilers; OIE Regional Seminar in Sofia; FAO-EUFMD in Rome; Working Group on Animal Identification; Working Group meeting on application of systematic reviews in food and feed safety and 2nd Special Advisory Forum with Animal Health representatives in Vilnius.

Seven opinions were adopted in this period on stunning and killing of Fish. Additionally, four scientific opinions were accepted on dairy cow welfare specific risk assessments, leg and locomotion problems; udder problems, Metabolic and reproductive problems, behaviour, fear and pain of dairy cows.

Draft calls concerning the Housing and management guidelines and data collection for the mandate of the impact of genetic selection on welfare of broiler chickens are expected to be launched in June/July 2009.

Two self-mandates were accepted by the Executive Director on ‘Ticks as Vectors of African Swine Fever and Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever’ and ‘Fostering harmonised Risk Assessments approaches on animal health and welfare issues in the Member States’.

Panel on biological hazards (BIOHAZ)

The Biohaz panel held three Plenary Meetings and various working group meetings during the reporting period. A teleconference was held on Campylobacter and videoconferences took place on scrapie in goats in Cyprus and antibiotic resistant marker genes (AMR).

The BIOHAZ Panel adopted six opinions during the reporting period: Genetic TSE resistance in goats; Consolidated opinion on use of antibiotic resistant marker genes (ARM) used as marker genes in genetically modified plants, and Public health significance of meticillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) in animals and foods, updated risk for human and animal health related to the revision of the BSE monitoring regime in some Member States (EU15, Slovenia and Cyprus); The use and mode of action of bacteriophages in food production, and Quantitative estimation of the impact of setting a new target for the reduction of *Salmonella* in breeding hens of *Gallus gallus*.

An open call for tenders on a quantitative microbiological risk assessment of *Campylobacter* in the broiler meat chain was published on 12 May in the Official Journal and the closing date is 6 July.

A negotiated procedure for procurement on a quantitative microbiological risk assessment of *Salmonella* in shell eggs (from *Gallus gallus*) was launched in April and the deadline was 20 May

A new mandate was received on parasites in fishery products. An internal mandate to produce an internal scientific report on the new influenza A H1N1 was received in May.

Panel on food contact materials, enzymes, flavourings and processing aids (CEF)

During the reporting period the CEF Panel two held Plenary meetings in Parma and four Working Group meetings (Food Contact Materials, Flavourings 1, Enzymes, Flavourings 2) and participated to meetings organised by the European Commission in the areas of enzymes (stakeholders meeting, 11 March in Bruxelles), of smoke flavourings and of food contact materials were attended.

Guidelines for Active and Intelligent Packaging have been published for public consultation until 25 April. Guidelines for food enzymes are on public consultation since 8 April 2009.

22 opinions were adopted in the two Plenaries:- an EFSA statement on 4-methylbenzophenone in breakfast cereals and an opinion on re-assessment of benzophenone (in Food Contact Materials) were adopted as urgent advice to Commission (art 29); 3 applications for Food Contact Materials; the first four applications on Smoke Flavourings; thirteen applications on Flavourings.

One contract for outsourcing of summaries of non toxicity parts of dossiers of Food Contact Materials was signed in April (launched in January) and another contract for outsourcing of summaries of toxicity parts of dossiers of Food Contact Materials was launched in May. The extension of the contract with FLAVIS (outsourcing) was signed in May. First applications for new Flavouring substances & Dossiers on recycling of plastics were received from DG SANCO.

Panel on contaminants in the food chain (CONTAM)

Within the reference period the CONTAM Panel held two Plenary meetings and twelve working group and audio conference meetings related to requests on undesirable substances in animal feed – section nitrite, arsenic in food, marine biotoxins, previous cargoes, and lead in food.

During the 31th and 32nd CONTAM Plenary meetings five opinions (two marine biotoxins- saxitoxins and pectenotoxins, uranium in foodstuffs and mineral water, nitrite as undesirable substance in animal feed, and criteria for acceptable previous cargoes for liquids oils and edible fats) and one statement on the influence of processing on shellfish toxins were adopted.

EFSA received one request for a scientific opinion on the effect on public or animal health or on the environment on the further distribution of *Ambrosia* spp. in the European Union. This request was allocated to the CONTAM Panel.

Panel on additives and products or substances used in animal feed (FEEDAP)

In the reference period the FEEDAP Panel held three Plenary meetings and seventeen working group meetings on micro-organisms, enzymes, coccidiostats, amino acids, organic acids related dossiers, trace elements and flavourings. A technical hearing has been held in order to provide support to the applicants for the preparation of dossiers for the re-evaluation of feed additives.

The Panel adopted fifteen scientific opinions on applications for authorisation of a feed additive and one general opinion on yellow carotenoids. One opinion on the histomonostat, paramomycin sulphate was adopted, which was made upon request by the European Commission under the provisions of Article 15 (urgent request) and due to the lack of histomonostats authorised as feed additives in Europe and the urgency of this matter for turkey farming.

After the consultation made to the EMEA, the opinion on Ractopamine was adopted. EMEA fully supported the safety evaluation conducted by EFSA. This document has been used by the European Commission and the Member

States for the preparation to the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF) meeting held in Brazil. The European Commission is calling for a re-evaluation of ractopamine by JECFA and requested to the CCRVDF to recommend the inclusion of ractopamine in the priority list of substances for re-evaluation by JECFA.

Panel on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO)

The GMO Panel held three plenary sessions and 16 working group meetings were held (food/feed safety, environmental risk assessment, molecular characterisations and for GM microorganisms). For self tasks and generic mandates, one day of meeting was held for non-target organisms, one and a half a day for updating the environmental guidance, two days for the development of guidance for GM animals, one and a half day days for statistics, and one day for assessment of allergenicity of GMOs. Technical assistance was provided to DG SANCO during a SCFCAH meeting with Member States regarding two of the panels' adopted opinions and to DG ENV and MS CAs on the update of the environmental sections of the guidance. EFSA organised a one day technical meeting for applicants to discuss general issues as well as aspects regarding individual application dossiers. GMO Panel members met experts from Austria regarding the Austrian Safeguard clauses on three different authorised GM plants.

A meeting was organised in Parma with experts from certain EU Member States regarding the risk assessment of maize MON810 renewal after the letter received by 18 EU ministers. One Panel member participated in a meeting from the Austrian Competent Authority on the regional aspects of precautionary decision making. The consortium selected for the contract on GM fish met the GMO Unit for a kick-off meeting and delegates from the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology visited the EFSA GMO unit during half a day for exchange of views.

Five opinions on six GMO application for authorisation for food and feed use under Reg. (EC) No 1829/2003 were adopted (Maize 1507 x 59122; Maize MON88017; Maize 59122 x 1507 x NK603; Maize NK603 also for cultivation and renewal of authorisation for existing products from Maize NK603; renewal of authorisation for existing products from maize 1507) and one opinion on clarifications regarding the feed additive Econase XT. Two Opinions on generic mandates were adopted: one co-opinion with the BIOHAZ Panel on the Use of Antibiotic Resistance Genes as Marker Genes in Genetically Modified Plants and one Opinion of the GMO panel on the consequences of this co-opinion on previous EFSA Assessments of Individual GM Plants. Two Opinions on guidance were adopted: one for GM plants used for non-food or non-feed purposes and one for Statistical considerations for the safety evaluation of GMOs.

In May the contract for the GM fish call was signed and the call for GM insects was published. Similar calls for GM birds and mammals are under preparation.

Two application for authorisation of feed additives under Reg. (EC) No 1831/2003 were received: L-Isoleucine and Danisco Xylanase G/L. Six applications for authorisation for food and feed use under Reg. (EC) No 1829/2003 were received (soybean BPS-CV127 ; maize MON89034 x 1507 x NK603 ; maize Bt11 x MIR162 x MIR604 x GA21; maize Bt11 x MIR162 x GA21; cotton 281-24-236 x 3006-210-23 x MON88913; potato AV43-6-G7 also for cultivation). New Working Groups on the update of the GMM guidance and for a self-task to elaborate guidelines on the choice of comparators, were implemented.

Panel on dietetic products, nutrition and allergies (NDA)

The NDA Panel held 3 Plenary meetings and seventeen Working Group meetings.

A draft frequently asked questions document in relation to health claims application was prepared by the Panel. This document is currently on the EFSA website for comments and discussion at a NDA technical meeting with applicants to discuss recent developments on health claims applications which will be held in June 2009.

The NDA Panel adopted eight opinions related to Article 14 health claims referring to children's health and development, one opinion related to Article 14 health claims referring to disease risk reduction, five opinions related to Article 13 (5) claim (claims based on newly developed scientific evidence and/or for which protection of proprietary data is requested), four Novel food opinions, one opinion on Review of labelling reference values for selected nutritional elements.

The NDA panel is currently preparing draft opinions covering Article 13 health claims.

With respect to an overview of health claim applications, to date EFSA has received 253 children and risk reduction claims. 70% of applications received have not been validated yet as EFSA is seeking more information from the applicants or clarification from Member States. By now the EFSA NDA Panel has adopted 52 opinions covering 59 applications; 14 applications have been withdrawn; nine applications are in progress. For Art. 13(5) claims (based on new science and/or proprietary data) EFSA has received twenty applications, six applications have been withdrawn, eleven opinions have been adopted and three applications are in progress.

In the context of the procedure of authorisation of health claims the NDA has received a new mandate on labelling reference values for n-3 and n-6 poly unsaturated fatty acids, and one on plant sterols/stanols in relation to the quantification of the size of the cholesterol lowering effect, the time required to obtain the claimed effect and the impact on the food matrix.

In the context of Novel foods the NDA received a new mandate on Cetyl Myristoleate

Panel on Plant health (PLH)

During the reference period the Panel held two Plenary meetings and eleven working group meetings. Work on the Panel's second guidance document on a harmonised framework for pest risk assessments was aided by a joint meeting of the two guidance document working groups.

Two of the Panel's opinions were presented to the Standing Committee on Plant Health (SCPH): In March the opinion on Citrus Black Spot and in April the opinion on the Pinewood Nematode. Both opinions were also positively received and acknowledged for their scientific excellence and the Panel congratulated for delivering the Pinewood Nematode opinion with respect to the short timescale requested. The PLH Unit HoU attended a Working Group meeting of the COPHs, contributing to further clarification of the EFSA role in the process of handling PRAs in the EU.

The opinion on the Pinewood Nematode was adopted by written procedure in April. Following completion of the public consultation on the guidance document for the evaluation of pest risk assessment, the comments received were incorporated and the guidance document adopted at the Plenary meeting in May. In addition, the Panel adopted the opinion on the Oak Processionary Moth (OPM).

The guidance document on a harmonised framework is scheduled for adoption by written procedure before the end of the current Panel's mandate.

Two new mandates are expected, the terms of reference of which are being jointly developed with the European Commission.

The paper on the role of EFSA in protecting plant health is being finalised, and will be launched for public consultation in June 2009

Panel on plant protection products and their residues (PPR)

The PPR Panel held one Plenary meeting during the reporting period. 23 Working Group Meetings and six tele/webconferences in the area of toxicology, residues, ecotoxicology and fate/behaviour took place. Furthermore, three network meetings with 3rd parties (EC and EPPO) took place.

A Stakeholder Consultation Workshop: "Improved Realism in Soil Risk Assessment - How will pesticide risk assessment in soil be tackled tomorrow?" was organised in 14 May at the Joint Research Centre in Ispra. The Head of Unit of the PPR Unit participated in the Pesticide Steering Committee. No opinions have been adopted during this period.

Two scientific reports on the outcome of two public consultations (on the existing guidance document on dermal absorption and on the draft project plan for the Development of a new Guidance Document on emissions from protected crops systems) were published.

A call for a Negotiated Procedure for outsourcing preparatory work on the revision of the GD on dermal absorption was launched on 20 April with a deadline in May 2009.

A new mandate on the review of the PPR Opinions on Annexes II & III issued in 2006/2007 was accepted and six outputs are foreseen by end of June 2009.

SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE

Scientific Cooperation (SCO)

Focal Point (FP) Agreements have been signed with 26 Member States; the remaining one will be signed shortly. Three national meetings were organised by FPs with the participation of EFSA (Poland, Slovakia, Germany). The 5th FP Meeting (13-14 May in Lisbon) focussed on FP activities and reporting in 2009.

SCO drafted a status report on the analysis of Work Plans of national authorities. A number of recommendations were made in order to help in achieving the goal of avoiding duplication of work.

Following the pilot phase, the Information Exchange Platform was revised. The first monthly reports (March and April) were sent to the Advisory Forum, Focal Points, to EFSA's Management and EFSA scientists.

To further populate the Expert Database, SCO is contacting Member States and EEA/EFTA countries, as well as some 22 international organisations to identify expert databases operating within EFSA's remit and explore possibilities for cooperation and data sharing. To date over 1500 experts applied; over 1300 were validated and included.

The draft 2010 Work Programme on grants and contracts was presented to the Advisory Forum and Scientific Committee. Following their feedback and further inputs from EFSA Panels and EFSA Science units, it is planned to submit the 2010 Work-Programme to the Management Board for adoption in its October meeting.

The draft final report on risks and benefits of folic acid, which also includes the outcome of the scientific event in Uppsala in January 2009, is currently being finalised by the ESCO Working Group following presentations at the Scientific Committee and the Advisory Forum in their April meetings. The report will be submitted to EFSA's Executive Director in the summer.

The project of developing the current EFSA Journal into an online Journal that is recognised in the scientific community and complies with best practices in the field of academic publishing made further progress. Technical specifications were developed as basis for design proposals of the new web area for the EFSA Journal (as part of the EFSA corporate website).

The summary report of EFSA's 12th Scientific Colloquium on assessing health benefits of controlling *Campylobacter* in the food chain was published in a scientific journal.

Assessment Methodology Unit (AMU)

AMU organised and chaired the first meeting of the ISOFLAVONS hazard characterisation ESCO Working Group in May 2009 and the first Working Group on the use of systematic literature review in food and feed safety risk assessment in March.

The first interim reports of the two art. 36 projects AMU started in January (Bees and presictive plant pest models) were delivered and discussed during follow up meetings.

In addition AMU attended Working Group meetings and provided scientific, statistical and data management support to Working Groups from Zoonoses, SCAF, PLH, BIOHAZ, PRAPeR, GMO, PPR, AHAW and NDA

A systematic review of the scientific literature was conducted on the relationship between urinary cadmium and renal or bone biomarkers of cadmium toxicity and the technical report 'Meta-analysis of Dose-Effect Relationship of Cadmium for Benchmark Dose Evaluation' was published in March along with the CONTAM Cadmium in food opinion which referred to the results from the technical report.

The unit provided significant written contribution to the in April adopted PLH opinion on high temperature treatment of pinewood shavings.

Two internal mandates are under preparation (emerging risks in fish and salmonella farm to retails modelling).

Data Collection and Exposure Unit (DATEX)

The DATEX Unit organised a meeting with the Food Consumption and Exposure Working Group to further discuss harmonised methodology for food consumption surveys. A guideline is being prepared with a first draft to be finalised in June to be further discussed by the Expert Group on Food Consumption and Exposure.

The Unit provided the occurrence, consumption and exposure chapters for the cadmium opinion that was published by the CONTAM Panel on 20 March 2009. The task involved reviewing in detail close to 140,000 analytical results submitted by 20 Member States and others.

The Unit prepared together with the CONTAM Unit the uranium opinion draft that was adopted by the CONTAM Panel and published in April 2009.

The Unit collected detailed consumption data for mushrooms for the nicotine statement and estimated exposure for the most vulnerable group. The information was used in this joint effort with the PRAPeR and CONTAM Units.

The acrylamide report was finalised during the period comparing almost 3,000 analytical results collected during 2007 with results previously collected by the JRC for 2003 to 2006. There was no uniform trend for the concentrations of acrylamide between food groups but overall exposure was reduced.

A call was published for a market intelligence contract to supply dynamic sales data for most of the EU Member States for individual food items. The results will be used to complement food consumption survey information and to provide brand information if needed.

The Unit has received new mandates for the Commission's continuing access to contaminant data stored by the Unit as needed for legislative actions. The Unit also received a mandate from the Commission to collect, collate and summarise furan data. Two new Working Groups are being formed to streamline data collection and submission and to develop a food classification system common to both food consumption and contaminant data, respectively.

Pesticide Risk Assessment Peer Review (PRAPeR)

The PRAPeR Unit organised the third meeting of the Pesticide Steering Committee to discuss the management and scheduling of the pesticide peer review programme, and held six bilateral teleconferences with the Commission to monitor progress. In addition, PRAPeR organised five meetings and five teleconferences with experts from the Member States to discuss the peer review of twelve active substances.

PRAPeR was represented in three meetings of the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health (2 meetings of the Legislation group and one meeting of the Pesticide Residues group).

PRAPeR launched the public consultation on the Draft Assessment Reports submitted by the rapporteur Member States for sixteen active substances. The Unit also organised a Member State consultation on the Annual Report on Pesticide Residues and a teleconference with experts from Member States to discuss the comments submitted.

Five conclusions were finalised concerning the peer review of the pesticide risk assessment for active substances.

19 reasoned opinions on MRL applications were adopted. In addition, in response to a request regarding certain MRLs of concern, the Unit finalised two reasoned opinions on the active substances concerned.

The Unit contributed, in collaboration with the CONTAM, DATEX and EmRisk Unit, to the statement on potential risks for public health due to the presence of nicotine in wild mushrooms.

In 2009 the PRAPeR Unit will receive a further 77 additional reports from the rapporteur Member States concerning active substances that have been resubmitted according to Commission Regulation (EC) No. 33/2008, of which approximately 80% are expected to be submitted in the period September – December. In addition, PRAPeR expects to receive seven assessment reports for Annex I renewal of existing active substances, and Draft Assessment Reports for up to ten new active substances.

For 34 additional MRL applications an advance notification was submitted to the Unit for which the mandate will be submitted officially within the next months. In the second half of 2009 further applications are expected.

Emerging Risks Unit (EMRISK)

The Unit has organised three meetings for establishing a network of European Agencies, engaged in building capacities for the identification of emerging risks, with partners within the EC. Two meetings with external contractor have been held on the development of a tool for the analysis of data from RASFF, and a meeting with the contractor on Bioactive Compounds Database has also been held.

The Working Group on "Crisis simulation exercise 2009" has held its first meeting on 23/24 April to define the functional in-house preparation of July 2009 exercise, and the command post simulation exercise of November 2009.

The final report from the ESCO WG on Emerging Risks was issued and published on the EFSA web site in March. The interim report on the RASFF mandate was completed. The internal report on the assessment of media monitoring systems (MedISys from the European Media Monitoring and ProMED-mail) for early-warning/emerging risk identification was submitted. The first monthly internal report on trends in trade was completed, addressing reporting of the parasite *Anatzakis* in mackerel. The unit contributed to the preparation of the EFSA statement on nicotine in wild mushrooms, and also to EFSA's surveillance of the novel influenza A H1N1 outbreak, including the internal scientific report.

The call for tender on the preparation and facilitation of the simulation exercise 2009 was launched on 16 March 2009, and the contract awarded at the end of May 2009. An article 36 call on the predicted impact of climate change and the development of aflatoxin B1 in EU has been prepared for publication start June 2009.

New self-tasking mandate on the identification of data sources potentially useful for emerging risks identification is under preparation. Publications of structured internal reports on recent statistics from the RASFF-Database will be compiled. A self-tasking mandate for a working group to provide scientific support to the identification of emerging risks is under preparation. A platform of external experts to support the work of the Emerging Risks Unit will be put in place.

Animal Diseases Transmissible to Humans Unit (ZOO NOSES)

A meeting of the Task Force on Zoonoses Data Collection (EFSA network) was held on 16-17 March 2009. The main focus of the meeting was the draft report on technical specifications for a EU wide survey on *Listeria monocytogenes* in food and the draft report on harmonised monitoring of verocytogenic *E. coli* (VTEC) in animals and food. Also the forthcoming reporting period for zoonoses data from 2008 was addressed from different aspects. Together seven working group meetings were organised related to *Listeria*, VTEC, trend analyses and the baseline surveys reports.

Together 3 guidance documents (reporting manuals) were issued in March to guide the zoonoses and food-borne outbreak data reporting. In addition, a scientific report on a statistical and spatial analyses of the zoonoses data with critical overview of statistical analyses carried out in the Community Summary Reports was published in May. Also the Community Summary Report on Food-borne outbreaks in 2007, which report was prepared in collaboration with ECDC, was published in beginning of May. The scientific report on the technical specifications for *Listeria monocytogenes* survey in food was finalised and issued in end May.

A contract on assistance in statistical and epidemiological analyses of the *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella* baseline survey was signed in April, and a call was launched for assistance in analyses of antimicrobial resistance data from year 2008.

A new mandate from the European Commission was received on technical assistance on statistical evaluation of monitoring data on *Salmonella* in fresh broiler meat.

The datasets from the EU-wide baseline surveys on *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella* in broilers and *Salmonella* and MRSA in breeding pigs were received from the European Commission. These dataset were validated and Member States were consulted about the correctness of them. The analyses of the data will start in June.

The reporting of the annual zoonoses data from 2008 by the Member States took place during April and May. The annual national reports should be available at the beginning of June.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE & ADVISORY FORUM

Scientific Committee (SC)

The Scientific Committee had two Plenary meetings during which it discussed the progress on the consideration of cross-cutting issues in the various Scientific Panels, SC Working Groups and the Scientific Cooperation and Assistance Directorate. EFSA updated the SC about the outcome of meetings of the Management Board and the Advisory Forum. Working group meetings were held in the area of Transparency in Risk Assessment, TTC (Threshold of Toxicological concern), BMD (Benchmark Dose) and ESCO botanicals.

The Scientific Committee adopted the following two opinions: “Guidance of the Scientific Committee on Transparency in the Scientific Aspects of Risk Assessments carried out by EFSA. Part 2: General Principles” and “Existing alternative approaches incorporating replacement, reduction and refinement of animal testing: applicability in food and feed risk assessment”.

The Transparency opinion was published on EFSA’s website together with the report of the public consultation, a compilation of the comments received during the public consultation and a report providing an overview of the guidance documents and guidelines developed or in use by EFSA.

The guidance document on the use of the benchmark dose approach in risk assessment was adopted during the Plenary meeting in May. The Scientific Committee agreed to organise a workshop in autumn 2009 to build the expertise in this area within EFSA and to ensure the implementation of the harmonised approach across EFSA’s Scientific Panels.

The Scientific Committee took note of the final report of the ESCO working group on Botanicals. The SC was requested by EFSA’s Executive Director to consider the recommendation of the ESCO working group to update the SC’s guidance document for the safety assessment of botanicals and botanical preparations based on the suggestions made by the ESCO WG. The SC agreed to follow-up this request and intends to adopt an updated guidance document at Plenary meeting in July 2009.

EFSA received in March 2009 a request from the European Commission to expand and further deepen the underlying details related to the Recommendations included in the Animal Cloning Opinion of July 2008 and to provide this scientific advice by June 2009. Following receipt of this request, EFSA started to prepare a statement in cooperation with members of the former Scientific Committee Working Group on Animal Cloning. A call to collect relevant data for the statement was launched on 11 March with a deadline of 30th April. A draft statement was circulated for peer-review to members of the former working group on animal cloning early May and an updated draft of the statement was discussed at the Plenary in May. EFSA expects to deliver its statement within the agreed timelines.

Following the adoption of the opinion on nanotechnology during its February Plenary meeting, the Scientific Committee discussed during this reporting period future activities in the area of nanotechnology and a new self task

mandate to follow the relevant developments in this area. The new mandate will be initiated with the new Scientific Committee in July.

ADVISORY FORUM (AF)

The 31st AF Plenary meeting was held in Bucharest in April, 2009. The AF discussed the cooperation in the field of food contact materials, enzymes, flavourings and processing aids, EFSA's approach to public consultation on scientific outputs, the ESCO report on folic acid, and the draft programme for grants and procurement in 2010. The AF also agreed on the meeting dates for its four meetings in 2010.

In addition, the AF representatives on animal health met in May, 2009 in Vilnius to discuss the strengthening of the cooperation in the areas of animal health and animal welfare.

On 18th May, the Steering Group on Cooperation (SGC) met in Parma. The SGC was updated about the ongoing ESCO project on isoflavones and took note of the final report of the ESCO Working Group on Botanicals. It further discussed ways of strengthening cooperation between EFSA and the Member States in the area of non-plastic food contact materials and it discussed possible future subjects for scientific cooperation in the area of harmonisation of risk assessment approaches.

COMMUNICATIONS

Communications activities:

In March, the Press Office organised media training for EFSA scientific staff. Thirteen scientists took part in the training with the objective of learning techniques and approaches when dealing with media. More media training is due to be organised in 2009 as a part of EFSA's communication strategy.

On 4 March, the Press Office organised an interview with EFSA's Executive Director for the Associated Press (US press agency). The interview focused on EFSA's upcoming visit to several US institutions, such as the FDA, the EPA and the CDC. Among the topics discussed were EFSA's relationship with the FDA, and GMOs.

On 24 March 2009, EFSA organised in Palazzo Ducale an award ceremony for the School competition entitled "*Dimmi come mangi! Comunica l'importanza di mangiare sano: sicurezza, qualità e corretta nutrizione*" in cooperation with Europass and the Province of Emilia Romagna. The event was covered by local media and newspapers -

From 31 March to 2 April, *EU Food Law* organised a conference in Brussels focused on health claims and related issues. At the conference, Professor Albert Flynn presented EFSA's current and future work on health claims and gave an interview to Kate Trollope from *EU Food Law* on the same topic.

On 20 April, a Europass conference organised jointly by EFSA, the Province of Ferrara and the Europass Office took place in Ferrara. The topic of the conference was the health and welfare of molluscs. EFSA was represented by Franck Berthe from the AHAW Panel, who was interviewed by TV Agreste, a local TV network. The footage was broadcast on 29 and 30 April. Local TV stations *Telestense* and *Lepida TV* also reported on the event, as did the national daily *La Repubblica*.

On 21 April, the Executive Director attended a high level international conference in Prague organised jointly by the Czech Ministry of Agriculture, the Czech Institute of Chemical Technology and EFSA in the context of the Czech Presidency of the European Union. The Czech colleagues organised a press conference that was attended by the Czech Minister of Agriculture, EFSA's Executive Director, DG Sanco Deputy Director General Paola Testori Coggi, the Rector of the Prague Institute of Chemical Technology. Czech journalists from 3 press agencies, a daily newspaper, 2 specialised publications and a radio station were present. Questions focused on food safety in Europe in general, the aim of the conference and scientific cooperation in Europe as well as some more specialised topics such as hormones in beef. The press conference was followed by two one-to-one interviews that EFSA's Executive Director gave to a national radio station, Cesky Rozhlas 2, and the biggest national daily Denik. On the second day of the conference, Jiří Ruprich, Management Board member gave an interview to national radio station Cesky Rozhlas 2 regarding the outcome of the conference.

On 22-23 April, the 31st Advisory Forum meeting took place in Bucharest. Prior to the meeting, the National Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority of Romania and EFSA published a joint press release which was distributed to Romanian media on 21 April. This generated good coverage in Romania which focused mainly on the meeting itself and EFSA's cooperation with Romanian food safety authorities and the role of EFSA.

On 7 May, the 23rd meeting of the Advisory Forum Working Group on Communications took place in Rome. The meeting was hosted by the Istituto Superiore della Sanità (ISS). The objective of these meetings with national communications experts is to exchange information and experiences and strengthen the coherence and co-ordination of communications activities between the national authorities and EFSA. Key issues on the agenda of this meeting included the development of risk communications guidelines, an overview of communication activities on upcoming scientific issues, an update on cooperation in communication, current activities of Focal Points and a presentation by an Italian journalist of *La Repubblica* about food safety related risk communication and media, focusing on the new influenza A/H1N1.

On 4-10 May, EFSA and Parma celebrated Europe Week, "Festa dell'Europa", with a series of events mainly taking place in Parma. The events were organised by EFSA in close cooperation with Comune di Parma, Europass and Provincia di Parma with the participation of the European Commission delegation in Milan, Europe Direct and Collegio

Europeo and the support of the European Parliament. The main objectives were to bring Parma citizens of all ages closer to Europe, explaining Europe and to explain European food safety system and EFSA's role in it. It was also an opportunity to create good community relations with local media and institutions. An average of 300 daily visitors visited EFSA's info point during the week while over 200 persons gathered for the institutional ceremony marking Schuman Day at which, EFSA's Executive Director represented EFSA.

From 6 to 8 May, EFSA's Executive Director visited the national food safety agencies of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia.

- The Executive Director gave an interview to one of Latvia's main newspapers, *Latvia Avize*, highlighting the role of EFSA, the independence of its scientists and GMOs.
- In Lithuania, the state Food and Veterinary Service organised a press conference attended by Lithuanian TV, radio, and around 10 other journalists, following presentations made by EFSA and the Service. After the press conference, the Executive Director provided some soundbites for television and radio. She also spoke to some journalists individually. The questions focused on health claims and food additives, as well as H1N1 flu and the safety of pork meat.
- In Estonia, the EFSA Executive Director gave an interview to Estonian Television which focused primarily on GMOs, the reason for EFSA's visit to Tallinn, H1N1 flu (safety of pork meat) and her general impression on food safety in the Baltic States.

EFSA scientists were present at an exhibition space during the annual meeting of SETAC Europe, Europe's biggest meeting on environmental toxicology and chemistry. The event took place from 31 May - 4 June 2009 in Gothenburg, Sweden. EFSA used the event to inform scientists about EFSA and to encourage scientists to sign up to the expert database. Around 2000 to 3000 participants attended the event.

Press releases / Web news stories:

The Press Office issued the following press releases and web news stories:

Press Releases:

- EFSA sets lower tolerable intake level for cadmium (19 March)
- EFSA evaluates risk of MRSA in food and animals (27 March)
- EFSA Management Board approves renewal of Scientific Committee and Panels (31 March)
- EFSA publishes first four opinions on smoke flavourings (6 April)
- EFSA assesses health risks linked to nicotine in wild mushrooms (11 May)
- EFSA doubles output in 2008 and expands scientific cooperation - Annual Report 2008 (11 May)

Web News Stories:

EFSA Stakeholder Platform considers plans to bolster public consultations (6 March)

Genetic TSE resistance in goats (6 March)

Ractopamine in food (7 April)

EFSA consults on guidelines on food enzymes (8 April)

EFSA completes 30 risk assessments on undesirable substances in animal feed (15 April)

Novel influenza virus in the United States and Mexico (26 April)

EFSA updates on its work on ARMGs (30 April)

EFSA-ECDC report for 2007: Salmonella remains most common cause of food-borne outbreaks (6 May)

EFSA evaluates bacteriophages (12 May)

Web

The most significant online communications improvements during the period have been in the areas of website content, site integrity management, monitoring and evaluation, and inter-institutional cooperation.

An important initiative was the launch of the new online general inquiries tool *Ask EFSA*, replacing the static InfoBox email address. The main benefit for the website users is instant FAQ answers to the most common inquiries, without the users having to phrase questions and wait for email responses. For queries not covered by the FAQs, there is a

simple form for users to submit their questions – all of which receive an individual response. Handling general inquiries through a form rather than an email address will allow EFSA to improve the efficiency of the internal management of the inquiries.

New Topics A-Z sections were published on Metals as contaminants in food and New Influenza A H1N1. The latter was published rapidly following breaking news of the virus outbreak in Mexico and the USA, and updated in the light of new developments and evolving scientific understanding of the virus. Existing Topic sections were updated to reflect ongoing developments including on Acrylamide, Aspartame, Fish welfare, Food-borne diseases, Flavourings, GMO and Pesticides.

Other content initiatives included enhanced information on EFSA's cooperation with other EU agencies including specific examples of joint activities, a new page on transparency in risk assessment following adoption of the Scientific Committee opinion, the integration of a homepage banner linking to the European Parliament elections, the launch of the INEX call with an online application and the related update of the quality assurance page. In addition, a more integrated approach towards making Declarations of Interest and working group minutes available online was established, and a review of the multilingual aspects of the site navigation was completed.

In the area of site integrity, important progress was made in respect to broken links management, orphan control, and site growth monitoring. Several web statistics evaluation tools were developed, enabling on-page metrics, campaigns tracking, and path analysis. Content management was enhanced through initiatives related to more flexible image management, more user friendly error messages, and new filtered queries.

New guidelines formalising existing practices along with enhanced archiving standards improved long-term process management. An important milestone is the contribution to the SOP for updates to already adopted and published scientific documents. In addition, a new Data Protection review has been conducted following the launch of Ask EFSA.

Under EFSA's chairmanship of the EU agencies network, the Web Team is the driving force in a revived EU Agency Web Managers network. A contact list covering web staff in 34 agencies has been created and distributed to the network. In addition, an in-depth online survey focusing on the websites and online communications strategy/resourcing situation in the agencies was launched, drawing an 82% response rate.

Publications

Since the last MB meeting, various scientific and corporate publications have been produced. These include:
Scientific:

- The third edition of EFSA's thematic newsletters, EFSA in focus (Animals, Plants, Food), in English was published and distributed in May. The other three EFSA working language versions are in production.
- USB keys of all scientific outputs covering June 2006 to April 2009, and other related corporate documents, were distributed to outgoing Panel members during the last plenary meetings.
- The 2008 Annual Zoonoses report was printed in May. The foodborne outbreaks report is in production.
- The Scientific Colloquium report 11 (Acrylamide carcinogenicity) was published electronically in May and will be printed and distributed in June. Report 12 (Assessing the health benefits of controlling *Campylobacter* in the food chain) is in production and will be published electronically end of May.
- Six scientific posters were printed; four for PPR and PRAPeR units for the SETAC conference in May, one for the AHAW unit in March and another one for the AMU Unit in May.
- The CD-ROM of all 2008 EFSA scientific outputs, this year embedded in a user-friendly folder highlighting all EFSA units, was distributed in March.

Corporate:

In line with the Management Board desire to strengthen and broaden the multilingual base of EFSA's publications, EFSA has begun to translate and produce several key corporate documents into all 23 official EU languages.

- The 2008 annual report in English and the summary, in all four EFSA working languages, were made available online in May. All other EU language versions are in production.
- The French, German and Italian versions of the Strategic Plan 2009-2013 were published electronically in May. It has been translated into all other EU languages and will be published electronically in June.
- Czech and Swedish versions of the corporate brochure were produced and made available for the joint events in the Czech Republic and Sweden. Versions in Greek and Slovenian are in production.
- EFSA news 19 in all four EFSA working languages was distributed in March and issue 20 is in production.
- A new family of EFSA corporate posters which can be used to visually promote EFSA during corporate and scientific events, explaining what EFSA does from risk assessments to risk communications, were produced in English and Italian.

ADMINISTRATION

Legal and Policy Affairs Unit (LPA):

Cooperation with EU Institutions

- European Commission

The sequence of bilateral meetings between the EFSA Executive Director and the SANCO General Director was continued and a meeting was held on 12 May. During this meeting the Roadmap on priorities for selected EFSA activities was adopted. The agenda comprised issues such as Health Claims, Cloning, Nano, International issues, ARMG (Antibiotic Resistance Marker Genes) and Irradiation.

EFSA staff members participated in numerous meetings of the European Commission's Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health on invitation of the Commission's services, notably on issues concerning GMOs, Phytopharmaceuticals, Animal Health and Welfare and Microbiological Hazards, as well as the plenary meeting of the SANCO Advisory Group on 29 May.

As part of regular meetings with European Commission, EFSA's Executive Director met Commissioner for Health Androulla Vassiliou on 4th June in Brussels.

- European Parliament

With the exception of the Budget Committee that continued to meet, EP Committees stopped holding sessions after 31 March, considering the preparation of the coming EU elections in June. LPA Unit monitored activities of interest for EFSA that essentially concerned the following dossiers which were handled (adoption of a resolution) during the April and May EP plenary sittings:

Nanomaterials: on 24 April, MEPs adopted by a very large majority a motion of resolution (EP initiative) by MEP Carl Schlyter concerning regulatory aspects of nanomaterials. They called the EU Commission to possibly evaluate the need to review legislation in order to ensure that risk is addressed and assessed in all cases when nanotechnologies are used. This resolution falls under EP's right of initiative but is limited in its binding effect. Once adopted, it is meant to be forwarded to the Council, the Commission and Member States (governments and national parliaments) as a political message for possible future legislation.

Animal welfare: a series of animal welfare dossiers were put to vote in EP plenary sittings, where MEPs respectively adopted the following reports in first reading:

- by MEP Neil Parish aiming at amending a Commission proposal for reviewing Directive 86/609 on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes (lab animals), which developed a more animal welfare friendly approach to the issue of the use of animals in scientific experimentation, while introducing measures based on the three "R" principle of replacing, reducing and refining the use of animals in experiments. The dossier is now on the table of the Council that will aim at reaching a common position (1st Council reading) to be then forwarded to the EP for a second reading. This is expected by the end of the year under the new term of office of the EP.
- by MEP Janusz Wojciechowski aiming at amending a Commission proposal for replacing Directive 93/119 on the protection of animals at the time of killing (farm animals sent to abattoirs), to introduce clearer and uniform rules for making animal protective measures more effective.
- by MEP Diana Wallis amending Commission proposal for a Regulation concerning trade in commercial seal products. The placing on the market of seal products shall be allowed only where the seal products result from hunts traditionally conducted by Inuit and other indigenous communities and which contribute to their subsistence. These conditions shall apply at the time or point of import for imported products.

Plant Protection Products (PPP): a recommendation (2nd reading) based on a report by MEP Bart Staes concerning statistics for plant protection products was submitted to vote on 24 April. This piece of future legislation constitutes the third pillar of the Plant Protection Products (Pesticides) legislative package that should be finally endorsed by the

Council before the summer break. The package also includes a Regulation on the placing on the market of PPP and a Directive on the sustainable use of pesticides.

Budgetary activities:

- On 16 April, EFSA participated as Head of the Agencies network to a Joint BUDG/CONT Committee meeting, where a study on the "Opportunity and feasibility of establishing common support services for EU agencies" was presented. This study notably addresses the implications of EU financial and administrative requirements for EU decentralised agencies.
- On 23 April, MEPs adopted the Fjellner Report on discharge in respect of the implementation of EFSA's budget for the financial year 2007 while confirming the discharge to be granted to EFSA's Executive Director, they approved the closure of EFSA's accounts for 2007.
- On 4 May, Commissioner Kallas presented the Preliminary Draft Budget for 2010 to the BUDG Committee. For the first time, the EFSA budgetary lines therein differ from those endorsed by EFSA Management Board on 31 March 2009. The Commission is proposing 1.4Mio€ less than EFSA's budget forecast. The first reading of the Draft Budget by the EP is scheduled on 28 September.

LPA Unit also monitored the following EP activities that have some implications for EFSA:

- On 2 April, the EP adopted a legislative resolution approving without amendment in the second reading of the codecision procedure, the Council's common position to adopt a Regulation laying down Community procedures for the establishment of residue limits of pharmacologically active substances in foodstuffs of animal origin and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 2377/90.
- On 24 April, the EP adopted a legislative resolution modifying, under the first reading of the codecision procedure, the proposal for a Regulation laying down health rules as regards animal by-products not intended for human consumption (Animal by-products Regulation).

- EU Presidency

In the context of the Czech Presidency of the EU, the Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic and the Institute of the Chemical Technology together with EFSA, organized in Prague on 21/22 April a high level international conference, entitled " Food Research in support to science-based regulations: challenges for producers and consumers". Dr Jiri Ruprich, Member of EFSA's Management Board, contributed with a presentation on Article 36 related-activities and was chairing a session on food safety and consumer issues. EFSA's Executive Director delivered a key-note speech at the opening of the Conference, highlighting EFSA's contribution to the EU food safety system by providing independent, high-quality scientific advice to underpin EU food safety legislation. Conclusions from this 2-days conference will be presented at a forthcoming meeting of the EU Council of Agriculture Ministers.

- EU Agencies

EFSA visited the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) based in Helsinki on 20 May. The purpose of the visit was to continue the exchange with ECHA as follow up of the visit of ECHA to Parma last year. At the occasion on this meeting, EFSA and ECHA Executive Directors signed a Memorandum of understanding for co-operation.

As part of the co-ordination of the EU Agencies network EFSA organized the 1st meeting with the Directors of EU Agencies on 10 June in Brussels. The main topic in the agenda of the EU Agencies Directors was the on-going evaluation of the EU Agencies as commissioned by the European Commission. The meeting was chaired by EFSA's Executive Director.

Bilateral EU Member States visits

- Visit to Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia: an EFSA delegation lead by EFSA 's Executive Director visited Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia on 6th, 7th and 8th May respectively. These visits allowed EFSA to acquire a better knowledge of the existing food safety arrangements in these countries and interact with risk assessor and risk managers at the national level. The visits were organized by EFSA 's Advisory Forum representatives and included discussions with national stakeholders, mainly competent authorities and Article 36 organisations.
- Visit to Austria: EFSA 's Executive Director visited Austrian national food safety agency, AGES, on 5th June. At the occasion of this visit AGES and EFSA organised a seminar on "The importance of EFSA for Austrian Food Safety". This seminar was open to interested parties and invited participants from national competent authorities, experts and stakeholder groups. The seminar was chaired by Bernhard Url, member of EFSA's Management Board and Executive Director of AGES. Furthermore, EFSA met in a bilateral meeting representatives from the various Ministers involved on food safety to discuss co-operation activities.
- Visit of Dutch Minister of Agriculture Mrs Verburg to EFSA: The Minister of Agriculture of the Netherlands, Mrs Verburg, visited EFSA on 7/8 June. The programme for this visit included presentations on how EFSA works, how it co-operates with Member States on scientific and communication areas. In addition, a focused-session on topics such as nutrition, GMOs, animal health and welfare, nanotechnology and animal cloning has been organized. The Chair of EFSA's Management Board, Prof. Diána Bánáti, also participated at the meeting.

Relations with Stakeholders

The EFSA Stakeholder Consultative Platform meeting was organised on 4/5 June in Brussels with an important agenda comprising inter alia the presentation of the EFSA Preliminary Management Plan for 2010, the Terms of Reference document in view of the renewal of the mandate of the Platform, the final presentation of the "EFSA's approach on Public consultations on scientific outputs" paper and a technical meeting on EFSA's opinion on transparency chaired by Prof. Vittorio Silano. In preparation of this meeting, written comments were sought on the future ToR by the Platform following discussion initiated on the 5/6 February meeting. In addition, a Working group of the Platform and EFSA developed the final draft of the public consultations on scientific outputs document.

The Transatlantic Consumer Dialogue (TACD) organised its annual meeting in Brussels on 7/10 June. In the context of this meeting, EFSA has been invited to speak at a workshop on Nanotechnology that took place on 10 June. Equally, EFSA will participate at discussions on new technologies with TACD members and representatives from the US and European commission services.

International Relations

On 24 April, EFSA received the visit of a delegation from Shanghai Municipal Food and Drug Administration, led by Dr. Xie Minqiang, Deputy Director General which is heavily involved in organizing the Shanghai EXPO 2010.

On 29 April, EFSA met the Irish Farmers delegation, led by COPA's president Padraig Walshe to introduce EFSA's general activities.

On 29 May, EFSA provided an overview of its work to a delegation of public servants from the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and the State Committee of Veterinary Medicine of Ukraine, within the framework of "Implementation of Ukraine's commitments under WTO and ENP frameworks in the rural sector" Project.

In April, May and June, EFSA organized study visits for students from the Boston College, the University of Milano, the European College of Parma, the Michigan State University and the Tulane University of New Orleans, presenting the general activity of the Authority and the work of its panels.

Pre-Accession Programme

The contract between the European Commission and EFSA on the IPA 2009/2010 Programme as regards the 3 Candidate countries (Turkey, Croatia, Former Republic of Macedonia) and the 5 Potential Candidate countries (Albania, Bosnia, Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia) was signed on 31 March and EFSA will receive 1.000.000 € during these 21 months to run the Programme, which for the 3 Candidate countries is a continuation of the 2008 IPA Programme, while for the 5 Potential Candidate countries is the first time they participate.

A national information meeting the 6th May in Antalya, Turkey on European Food Safety and EFSA was supported by the IPA Programme with speakers from EFSA and Germany where 42 experts from 17 provinces in Turkey participated in the meeting. A Pre-Accession Seminar on Animal Health and Welfare was organised on 14/15 June in Skopje where EFSA's role in contributing to the improvement of animal health in Europe was presented with practical examples of risk assessment as the basis for the scientific opinions. Experts from the EU Member States shared their views and experiences in the area of stunning and killing, transport and animal housing and management as well as on animal diseases. Representatives from the competent authorities in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia presented the state of art of animal health and welfare in their country. 50 experts from the different authorities and stakeholders in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia participated.

Legal

The LPA Unit continued to ensure legal support to all operations of EFSA, especially regarding the implementation of the DoI Policy and the interpretation of the legal framework regulating the Genetically Modified Organisms, Health and Nutrition Claims and of the pesticides.

Data Protection

Further awareness was made on data protection, with special focus on mapping of personal data processing in the Communications area, including meeting/events organisation and on-line features such as the new "Ask EFSA". Furthermore, EDPS opinions on prior checking notifications were received in important matters in the HR remit, namely EFSA staff recruitment procedures and staff probationary period assessment. These Opinions are published on EFSA EDPS website: www.edps.europa.eu.

Human Resources

| | Total staff number 31/12/2008 | RECRUITMENT (+) | | | | | END OF CONTRACT (-) | | |
|--------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|----------------------------------|
| | | Number of New Contracts | New comers | Change in contract, Cat. or Grade (*) | Departures(**) | Change in contract, Cat. or Grade | Contract Expiry | "Net" Result | Total staff number 31/05/2009 |
| AT+Officials | 318 | 20 | 8 | 12 | 8 | 12 | 1 | -1 | 317 |
| CA | 64 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 2 | | 1 | 65 |
| END | 13 | 2 | 2 | | 2 | 1 | | -1 | 12 |
| Total | 395 | 29 | 16 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 1 | -1 | 394 |

(*) = EFSA's staff recruited to TA posts (including AUX, CA, END) at EFSA.
(**) = Resignations, termination of contract after probationary period, termination of contract.
(***) = EFSA's staff leaving their TA post in order to be recruited to a new TA post at EFSA (AUX, CA, END not included)

Finance

Budget execution:

The budget execution in May stood at 94 % of the target execution for the month. This is mainly due to planning difficulties met in the area of scientific cooperation. The delays incurred are expected to be absorbed early summer.

Glossary

AF – Advisory Forum
AFC Panel – Panel on food additives, flavourings, processing aids and materials in contact with food
AHAW Panel – Panel on animal health and welfare
AMRGs – Antimicrobial resistance marker genes
AMU – Assessment Methodology Unit
ANS – Panel on Food Additives and Nutrient Sources Added to Food
ARM – Antimicrobial resistant marker
BIOHAZ Panel – Panel on biological hazards
BMD – Benchmark dose
CDC – Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (US)
CEF – Panel on Contact Materials, Enzymes, Flavourings and Processing Aids
CONT – Control committee
CONTAM Panel – Panel on contaminants in the food chain
COPA - European agricultural union
COPHS - Chief Officers of Plant Health Services
DATEX – Data Collection and Exposure Unit
DG ENV – Directorate General Environment
DG SANCO – Directorate General for Health and Consumers
DOI – Declaration of Interest
ECDC – European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
EDPS – *European Data Protection Supervisor*
EEA – European Environment Agency
EMA – European Medicines Agency
EMIDA - Coordination of European Research on Emerging and Major Infectious Diseases of Livestock
ENP – European Neighbourhood Policy
EP – European Parliament
EPA – Environmental Protection Agency
EPPO - European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization
ESCO – EFSA Scientific Cooperation projects
EUFMD - European Commission for the control of Foot-and-Mouth disease
ENP – European neighbourhood policy
FAO – Food and Agriculture Organization
FAQ – frequently asked questions
FDA – Food and Drug Administration (US)
FEEDAP Panel – Panel on Additives and Products or Substances Used in Animal Feed
GD – Guidance Document
GMO Panel – Panel on Genetically Modified Organisms
HoU – Head of Unit
HR – Human resources
IPA - Pre-accession Assistance
JECFA – Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives
JRC – Joint Research Centre of the European Commission
LPA – Legal and Policy Affairs (EFSA)
MRSA – Meticillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*

MRL – Maximum residue levels
MEP – member of Parliament
MS – EU Member States
NDA Panel – Panel on Dietetic Products, Nutrition and Allergies
OIE – Office International des Epizooties
OJ – Official Journal
PLH – Panel on Plant Health
PPR Panel – Panel on Plant Protection Products and Their Residues
PRA – Pest risk assessment
PRAPeR – Pesticides Risk Assessment Peer Review Unit
QMRA – Quantitative Microbiological Risk Assessment
QPS – Qualified Presumption of Safety
RASFF – Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed
SC – Scientific Committee
SCA – EFSA Scientific Cooperation & Assistance Directorate
SCAR – standing committee on agricultural research
SCO – EFSA Scientific Cooperation Unit
SCOFAH – Standing Committee on Food Chain and Animal Health
TDI – Tolerable daily intake
TSE – Transmissible spongiform encephalopathy
TTC – Threshold of toxicological concern
WTO – World Trade Organization