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## Office of the Executive Director and the Management Board

### RISK ASSESSMENT

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

ANS held three Working Group meetings and one Plenary.

The ANS Panel has adopted four opinions during its Plenary meeting in November 2009 (Resorcinol, Natamycin, Polyglycitol syrup and Ferric Sodium EDTA).

Three public calls for scientific data were launched (Preservatives and antioxidants; Miscellaneous waxes; Emulsifiers, stabilisers and gelling agents). The calls for tender “Data collection on metabolites, degradation products and other related compounds of food additives selected by EFSA from those currently permitted in the European Union”, was launched. Two calls for service contracts for the preparation of pre-evaluation documents to support the re-evaluation of various food additives permitted in the European Union were launched in November.

After completion of the food supplements, the ANS Panel is now mainly dealing with food additives. The focus will be on the re-evaluation of food colours, the evaluation of new applications for food additives and the preparation of a new guidance document on food additives.

#### Panel on animal health and welfare (AHAW)

AHAW held one plenary and seven Working Group meetings.

The report ‘Fostering harmonised risk assessments approaches on animal health and welfare issues in the Member States’ was published. The EFSA report on a public call for data on health and welfare aspects of genetic selection of commercial broilers, and housing and management of grand parent and parent stocks raised and kept for breeding purposes was published in November.

The presentation of the Final Report of the Article 36 Project “Animal Welfare Risk Assessment Guidelines on Transport” was held in November at EFSA Premises. The Article 36 call concerning “Animal Welfare Risk Assessment Guidelines on Housing and Management” was sent to the awarded consortium to be signed by the end of November. The call on data collection and evaluation for the mandate on the impact of genetic selection on welfare of broiler chickens was also published and a grant signed.

The grant concerning the epidemiology of different agents causing disease in aquatic animals has delivered its final report. The scientific review on Tuberculosis in wildlife was published and the two reports on Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease and Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever will be published before the end of November.

A new self-mandate for a panel statement on Bovine Brucellosis has been initiated with a deadline of March 2010.

A mandate for a scientific opinion on the pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza virus in animals has been received from the Commission with a deadline of September 2010. The terms of reference are currently being considered at EFSA.

#### Panel on biological hazards (BIOHAZ)

The BIOHAZ Panel held one Plenary meeting. Working Group meetings were held on Joint Mandate on Antimicrobial Resistance, *Salmonella* in laying hens, Australian monitoring programme for carcasses, analytical TSE tests, bovine

intestines, irradiation of food, animal by-products, *Salmonella* criteria, *Salmonella* in pigs, TSE testing, *Campylobacter* source attribution, *Campylobacter* control options, fish parasites.  
The BSE-TSE Network met in October 2009. A meeting was held with the European Livestock And Meat Trading Union (UECBV).

The BIOHAZ Panel adopted three opinions during the reporting period: Technical assistance related to the EFSA opinion on transformation of animal by-products into biogas and compost, Genetic TSE resistance in goats in all Member States and at the request of the EC. In addition, EFSA produced a joint opinion with EMEA, ECDC and the Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks (SCENIHR) on trends of antimicrobial resistance in zoonotic infections.

Work on a quantitative microbiological risk assessment of *Campylobacter* in broiler meat production began when the contract was signed in October.

New mandates were received on the use of recycled hot water as a decontamination technique for carcasses; and foodborne viruses

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

The CEF Panel held in total five working group meetings: in October on flavourings and in November on food contact materials, on recycling of plastics, on Bisphenol A (BPA) and on flavourings. Furthermore a teleconference among toxicologists concerning the evaluation of isoeugenol was organised.

In the November Plenary the following opinions have been adopted: Ten on flavourings, three on food contact materials and three on smoke flavourings. A statement on the interpretation of the margin of safety (MoS) for smoke flavourings has been adopted.

Guidelines on evaluation of flavourings were placed on the EFSA webpage for public consultation. A negotiated procedure for a flavourings data base has been launched.

A request was received to evaluate a study of Bisphenol A in rats and its implication for hazard and risk assessment of Bisphenol A to humans. Six applications have been received for recycling and ToR for seventeen flavouring substances.

#### Panel on contaminants in the food chain (CONTAM)

The CONTAM Panel held one Plenary meeting and twelve working group and audio conference meetings related to requests on marine biotoxins, lead in food, evaluation of previous cargoes, melamine in food and feed and brominated flame retardants.

Three opinions have been adopted by CONTAM panel (marine biotoxin- palytoxins, evaluation of previous cargoes and arsenic in food)

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

In the reference period the FEEDAP Panel held two Plenary meetings and eleven Working Group meetings on microorganisms, enzymes, coccidiostats, trace elements, silage additives and flavourings.

The FEEDAP Panel has adopted six opinions regarding the authorisation of feed additives and one guidance for the preparation of dossiers on sensory additives.

A grant on a bibliographic review on the potential of micro-organisms, microbial products and enzymes to induce respiratory sensitisation was published. The final report for the grant on mycotoxin detoxifying agents was received.

#### Panel on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO)

The GMO Panel held one plenary session and two web conferences in preparation of the December plenary. Sixteen working group meetings were held on the following topics: food/feed safety, the environmental risk assessment, molecular characterisations and GM microorganisms. For self tasks and generic mandates, meeting were held for non-target organisms, for updating the environmental guidance and for statistics related to updating the environmental guidance.

Furthermore, meetings for the development of guidance for GM animals and for comparators for risk assessment were held. Technical assistance was provided to DG SANCO during two SCFCAH meetings with Member States regarding five of the panels' adopted opinions and the updated Food and Feed guidance. EFSA organised a one day technical meeting with the Dutch Competent Authority to discuss their initial report on environmental risk assessment of an application. GMO Panel members met experts from environmental NGOs.

One opinion under regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 on feed additive FINASE EC was adopted. A report on the safety assessment of maize1507, and The GMO panel statement regarding gene flow in rice were adopted.

Three applications for authorisation under Reg. (EC) No 1829/2003 were received: oilseed rape Ms8xRf3xGT73 and soybean MON87769 for food and feed use, yeast cream pAK1214 for feed use. One internal mandate on development of an administrative guidance to applicants on the preparation and presentation of applications was received.

#### Panel on dietetic products, nutrition and allergies (NDA)

The NDA Panel held ten Working Group meetings, one Plenary meeting, one Technical meeting with the Member States and the European Commission on Article 13 health claims list and one Scientific Colloquium - 'What's new on Novel Foods'

A draft briefing document for Member States and European Commission on the evaluation of Article 13.1 health claims served as a basis for discussion at the Technical meeting with the Member States and the European Commission. Document has been revised according to the comments received, and published on 18 November 2009.

In order to receive early input from stakeholders for the revision of an EFSA guidance document on the preparation and presentation of Novel Foods applications in the light of the proposed revision of the Novel Foods Regulation, EFSA organised a scientific colloquium with over 100 participants

The NDA Panel adopted the following opinions: four opinions related to Article 14 health claims referring to children's health and development, two opinions related to Article 14 health claims referring to disease risk reduction, two opinions related to Article 13 (5) claim (claims based on newly developed scientific evidence and/or for which protection of proprietary data is requested) and one opinion on Request for an EFSA opinion on Barley Beta-Amylase - for permanent exemption from labelling

The NDA also adopted additional Article 13.1 health claims (over 200 claims), which will be clustered and published together with additional claims to be adopted in the NDA Plenary meeting of December 2009 in the beginning of 2010 .

#### Panel on Plant health (PLH)

The PLH Panel held one Plenary Meeting in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Work continued on the mandates *Dryocosmus kuriphilus*, *Gibberella circinata* and *Tilletia indica* and together with the working group on the guidance document on a harmonised framework accounted for 9 working group in this reference period.

Submissions for the Article 36 call Pest risk assessment for the European Community Plant Health – A comparative approach with case studies are currently subject to evaluation.

Two new mandates for urgent advice have been received the Commission. One concerns a derogation request from the United States concerning cold treatment of strawberry plants to eliminate *Bemisia tabaci*. The other concerns the Pinewood Nematode.

#### Panel on plant protection products and their residues (PPR)

The PPR Panel held one plenary meeting and thirteen Working Group Meetings in the area of toxicology, residues, ecotoxicology and fate/behaviour as well as one teleconference. Presentations were given at the SCFCAH meeting on 2 October, on 26-27 November and at the Pesticide Steering Committee meeting on 12-13 November. A workshop on Pesticide Emissions from Protected Crops (PROTEA) took place in Parma from 17-19 November with 60 participants.

. During the October Plenary no opinions were adopted.

Six external reports from procurement on a literature review have been published as well as a scientific report on the outcome of the public consultation on the existing Guidance Documents on Aquatic and Terrestrial Ecotoxicology. The mandate requesting the preparation of the revised Guidance Document on Risk Assessment for birds and mammals was finalized and submitted to the SCFCAH for taking note. A negotiated procedure to award a specific contract on "Data entry of pesticide ecotoxicology Tier 1 study endpoints in a XML schema-database" under the AMU multiple framework contract was launched.

A contract regarding the procurement on "Data collection for protected crop" has been signed in December 2009. An opinion related to the GD on persistence in soil and one on the new GD for pesticide exposure assessment for workers, operators, bystanders and residents is planned to be adopted in 16-17 December Plenary and a report from the related public consultation will be published. The final revised GD on risk assessment for birds and mammals will be published by end of 2009.

## SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE

#### Scientific Cooperation Unit (SCO)

Focal Points (FP) have sent their annual activity reports to the SCO which is currently compiling the overall Focal Point Activity report for 2009. The renewal of the Focal Point contracts is under preparation.

Focal Points in Romania, Estonia and Greece organised events with interested stakeholders such as Article 36 Organisations and scientific experts to raise visibility of the European risk assessment activities in the area of food and feed in Member States and by EFSA. Focal Points also reported training activities taking place in their countries. This is currently compiled into a report on training possibilities within the EU.

The access to the Information Exchange Platform was broadened to Panel members to access the information on national risk assessment activities. More than 400 documents are currently available on that platform.

The expert database now includes nearly 2000 experts from 57 countries. A user survey was carried out and results are currently being analysed. Cooperation with national and international organisations continues to further promote the database.

Following the approval of the 2010 Work Programme on grants and contracts, the planning to launch calls has started. A survey within EFSA and Article 36 Organisations to assess the grants and procurement scheme has been initiated and the results are under evaluation. The two IT tools to improve cooperation possibilities (database of Article 36 organisations and extranet space for Article 36 Organisations) have been further developed and are planned to be launched by the end of the year.

The final report of the ESCO Working Group on risks and benefits of folic acid which also includes the outcome of the scientific event in Uppsala in January 2009, has been published.

A Scientific Colloquium on Novel Foods took place on 19/20 November in Amsterdam. It was attended by over 100 experts from 25 countries and provided useful input for the preparation of an EFSA Guidance for applicants. The Colloquium discussed traditional foods from countries outside the EU, history of (safe) use, toxicological data requirements, allergenicity, intake assessment, and nanotechnology.

On 16 November the Editorial Board of the EFSA Journal met the first time in Brussels to discuss the editorial policy and possible further developments of the Journal. The meeting was chaired by the Editor-in-Chief (V. Silano). The new web area for the EFSA Journal has been further developed. The Scientific Committee and Advisory Forum were updated on the project at their meetings in November. The launch of the EFSA Journal is planned for December 2009.

#### Assessment Methodology Unit (AMU)

The Assessment Methodology unit organized meetings for the working group (WG) on model based assessment of microbiological criteria on Salmonella in poultry meat, a meeting of the ESCO WG on the hazard characterisation of use of dietary isoflavones and isolated isoflavones from soy or red clover in food supplements and a meeting of the systematic review methodology WG. In addition AMU participated and contributed to various WG meetings of SCAF, BIOHAZ, ZONOSSES, PLH and AHAW.

The two ongoing article 36 projects ('colony collapse disorder in bees in Europe' and 'systematic review of pest risk models using climatic data and plant phenology') were finalized and the reports published.

A multiple framework contract on toxicology has been signed and is now active and applicable for all panels and units. The unit launched a call under this framework contract to support the isoflavones ESCO WG and launched a negotiated procedure for an 'inventory of data sources relevant for the identification of emerging diseases in the European aquaculture population'.

#### Data Collection and Exposure Unit (DATEX)

Results on comprehensive food consumption information for adults were received from all 20 collaborating Member States and quality assurance checks will be run.

A draft report for 2008 on the results from the monitoring of veterinary medicine product residues in food of animal origin in the Member States was presented to the EC Standing Committee on Food Chain and Animal Health. The report on dioxins, furans and dioxin-like PCBs was finalised and published.

A report on non-dioxin like PCBs was initiated. A Working Group on food classification and description system for exposure assessment (FOODEX) was initiated.

In the reference period DATEX organised the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Expert Group on Food Consumption Data on 14-15 October 2009 in Parma. The possibility of carrying out a pan-European dietary survey was discussed and all participants fully supported EFSA the initiatives in this direction.

An EFSA Guideline document on the general principles for the collection of national food consumption data in the view of a Pan-European dietary survey was discussed and endorsed by the Expert Group on Food Consumption Data. In the same line, an overall plan for the first pan-European food consumption survey to be carried out in the EU called "What's on the Menu in Europe? (EUMENU)" was produced. The added value of this data collection is the use of methodology to produce comparable and enough detailed information on food consumption suitable for risk assessment from all countries and regions in the EU.

Successful applications were identified for the following art. 36 Call for proposals: "Electronic Transmission of Chemical Occurrence Data", "Pilot study in the view of a Pan-European dietary survey - Infants and children",

“Probabilistic tool to estimate usual intake distribution in the Comprehensive Food Consumption Database”, and the Call for tenders “Computational service for exposure assessment”.

#### Pesticide Risk Assessment Peer Review (PRAPeR)

The PRAPeR Unit organised a meeting of the Pesticide Steering Committee to discuss the management and scheduling of the pesticide peer review programme, and held four bilateral teleconferences with the Commission to monitor progress, both on the peer review and the activities regarding setting/reviewing MRLs. In addition, PRAPeR held six teleconferences with the Commission and the relevant rapporteur Member States (RMS) to agree on the scope of the peer review for six active substances (five substances resubmitted under Regulation 33/2008; one substance for which the Annex I inclusion is to be renewed under Regulation 737/2007), and held two scientific meetings and four teleconferences with experts from the Member States to discuss scientific issues for specific active substances.

Eight conclusion reports were issued concerning the pesticide peer review of the risk assessment of eight active substances. Public consultation periods on the assessment reports submitted by the RMS for nine active substances were launched.

In the second half of 2009 and early 2010 the PRAPeR Unit will receive a further 76 assessment reports from the RMS concerning active substances that have been resubmitted according to Commission Regulation (EC) No. 33/2008, of which approximately 70% are expected to be submitted in the period September – December. In addition, PRAPeR has received seven assessment reports for Annex I renewal of existing active substances, and expects to receive a further assessment report in 2010. Draft Assessment Reports for two further new active substances have also been received.

In the field of MRL activities, EFSA organised the first network group meeting on pesticide monitoring in which 25 Member States, EEA countries and observers from Switzerland participated.

Thirteen reasoned opinions were adopted regarding routine MRL applications. In one of these reasoned opinions the MRL assessment for a routine MRL application was combined with an overall review of all existing MRLs as established in Article 12(2) of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005. EFSA was informed by plant protection industry that for 2010 it intends to forward *ca.* 100 applications regarding amendment or setting of MRLs. Based on pre-notifications received from Member States still some 10 to 20 applications are expected in 2009.

A contract was signed for technical and scientific assistance on the drafting of the 2008 Annual Report on Pesticide Residues. In addition, a call for contract is under preparation for the *ad hoc* collection of CXLs and other information essential for a European risk assessment and for Scientific and technical assistance on the review of the existing MRLs pursuant to Article 12 of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005.

The PRAPeR Unit held one technical meeting with stakeholders on pesticides, and participated in three meetings of the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health.

#### Emerging Risks Unit (EMRISK)

EFSA's network on emerging risks is being further developed most recently through meetings with WHO and the International Food Chemical Safety Liaison group. The "Crisis simulation exercise 2009" was held jointly with MS and EC on 30 November.

A technical report on the assessment of media monitoring systems for the identification of emerging risks has been published in November.

An article 36 call on the predicted impact of climate change and the development of aflatoxin B1 in EU was published in October and the proposals evaluated in November with a view to awarding the contract before end of the year.

The Discussion Group on Emerging Issues, chaired by the EC and comprising representatives from other EU Agencies including EMRISK on behalf of EFSA and EC services, presented its draft document on “A common approach to the identification of emerging risks” at the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Chairs and Secretariats of EU Commission and Agency Scientific Committees and Panels involved in risk assessment. DG SANCO proposed to send a mandate to EFSA to coordinate a working group of European Agencies to address pan-European collaboration in the area of emerging risks.

#### Animal Diseases Transmissible to Humans Unit (ZOOLOSES)

During the reference period one network meeting of the Task Force on Zoonoses Data Collection was organised focusing on the analyses of the zoonoses and food-borne outbreaks data from 2008 as well as on the draft reports on monitoring of verotoxigenic *E.coli* (VTEC) and trend analyses. Furthermore, three working groups meetings took place, two on analyses of the EU-wide baseline surveys and one on revision on reporting guidelines for food-borne outbreaks.

Five scientific reports were finalised in October-November. Two of them provide technical specifications for monitoring and reporting of the two food-borne pathogens, VTEC and *Yersinia enterocolitica*, in animals and food in order to guide the EU Member States in their surveillance activities. Two other reports published the results from the EU-wide baseline surveys of methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and *Salmonella* in breeding pigs revealing that both pathogens are commonly detected in some EU Member States. The fifth report covered the analyses of trends in antimicrobial resistance in food and animals over the years 2004-2007.

In November two new procurement calls on assistance in statistical and spatial analyses of antimicrobial resistance data and on assistance in IT helpdesk activities and data validation and management were published. In addition, the contract on analyses of the Member States' antimicrobial resistance data from the year 2008 was started and the analyses should be finished in beginning of 2010.

To further analyse the results from the baseline surveys of MRSA and *Salmonella* in breeding pigs and *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* in broiler meat, three new working groups were established. These analyses will specifically cover the factors potentially associated with the infections/contamination.

### **SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE & ADVISORY FORUM**

#### Scientific Committee (SC)

The Scientific Committee (SC) had its 39<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting in November. It endorsed two new mandates from the Commission: the development of a protocol for 90-day feeding trials with whole food/feed and a mandate for providing more specific guidance for the risk assessment of applications of nanoscience and nanotechnologies in the area of food, feed and pesticides.

The meeting of the International Food Chemicals Safety Liaison Group was organised in Parma. Representatives of food safety authorities from Australia, New Zealand, Japan, US FDA, Canada, the European Commission and several EU Member States discussed trends and developments on various subjects in the area of food chemical safety.

A delegation of WHO visited EFSA in October to discuss each other's work programmes in the area of risk assessment and risk communication and to explore possibilities for future cooperation and data sharing.

The Scientific Committee Working Group on Risk Benefit Assessment (RBA) met in Brussels. The stepwise approach for risk benefit assessment is currently being tested with two examples (selenium and fish). The draft guidance will be proposed for endorsement to the SC in 2010 for public consultation.



A workshop on safety assessment of botanicals and botanical preparations was organised in Athens. The purpose was to present the approach proposed by the Scientific Committee for the safety assessment (guidance document, compendium of botanicals and ESCO reports) that was published in September. The workshop was attended by representatives of the food industry, the Member States' competent authorities, EMEA

A contract was signed with FERA - UK for a project on Terminology in Risk Assessment. The contractor will provide EFSA with the final report in September 2010.

A negotiated procedure has also been launched for the preparation of a report on the applicability of physicochemical data QSARs and read across in Threshold of Toxicological Concern (TTC) Assessment. The project will last one year and the outcome of the work will be considered by the WG on TTC.

#### Advisory Forum(AF)

The 2<sup>nd</sup> special AF meeting on plant health was held in Parma in October. The opinions and current activities of EFSA's plant health panel as well as EFSA's role in the field of plant health were presented. Discussions focused mainly on cooperation to facilitate Pest Risk Assessment at the EU level and responding to emerging risks.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Steering Group on Cooperation meeting was held in Dublin in October. It addressed the ongoing work on isoflavones, food classification, data handling as well as medium term planning as a means to enhance risk assessment capacity.

The 34<sup>th</sup> AF meeting was held in Athens in November. It included a presentation and discussion of the 7<sup>th</sup> framework programme of DG Research, follow up on emerging issues raised by Member States, cooperation in the FEEDAP area, scientific networks, ESCO working groups, regulatory aspects of data collection and sharing, Pan-European food consumption survey, influenza A H1N1, and the EFSA journal.

The Executive Director of the French food safety agency (AFSSA), Marc Mortureux, visited EFSA on 9<sup>th</sup> December. This visit is part of the regular liaison programme between national agencies and EFSA to strengthen current cooperation and discuss opportunities for the future. Visits of Executive Directors of the German Federal Risk Assessment Institute (BfR) and of the UK Food Standards Agency (FSA) are scheduled for early 2010.

## COMMUNICATIONS

#### Communications activities:

- 2 October – EFSA met environmental NGOs - Friends of Earth, Greenpeace and Global 2000 in Parma to discuss the latest scientific issues regarding GMOs
- 5 October – at the occasion of Executive Director's Parliamentary hearing with the ENVI Committee press office organised an interview for *EU Observer* (pan-EU publication). The interview focused on GMOs and projects ahead such as pan-EU food consumption database.
- 19 October – meeting of the Advisory Group on Risk Communication in Parma.
- 21-22 October – meeting of the Advisory Forum Communications Working Group in Prague, hosted by the Czech Ministry of Agriculture.
- 11-12 November, Meeting of Web Managers of EU Agencies in Parma. 57 participants from EU Agencies web departments, members of AF Working group on Communication, EFSA staff and external experts.
- 12 November - Media lunch in Milano – Executive Director met with a number of Italian journalists and discussed a wide range of food safety issues.

- 23-24 November, Joint event EFSA-Greek Food Safety Authority in Athens. 100 participants including risk assessors, risk managers, stakeholders and press.
- 25-27 November, EU Agencies and IPA Beneficiaries High Level Conference in Sintra (PT). Participants from IPA beneficiary countries. EFSA gave a presentation and had a stand there.

In the reporting period EFSA received 120 media queries and organized 21 media interviews.

Press Releases:

1. EFSA delivers its first series of opinions on 'general function' health claims (1 Oct)
2. EFSA updates safety advice on six food colours (12 Nov)
3. Better surveillance needed to fight spread of antimicrobial resistance in zoonotic infections (16 Nov)

Following the publication of a press release on the first series of Art 13 health claims, over 200 articles were published in Europe (especially the UK, Ireland) and beyond (US, Canada). Coverage was largely factual, explaining that EFSA had "approved" around a third of the first series of claims, explaining the reasons behind the negative outcomes, strong focus on the 'rejection' of probiotics. 13 interviews were arranged (e.g. Reuters, BBC, Irish RTE radio) and over 60 queries from journalists answered. Press release posted on EFSA website was viewed by more than 8,000 people, with more than 3,000 visits only on the first two days.

Web News Stories:

- GMO conference in Brussels
- corporate issues (e.g. EFSA's meeting with NGOs, appointment of new Stakeholder platform)
- animal welfare aspects of genetic selection in broilers and broiler breeders
- arsenic in food
- food flavourings
- folic acid (ESCO WG report on risks and benefits of folic acid fortification)
- breeding goats for TSE resistance

Web

During the reporting period, the bulk of Web Team resources have been dedicated to supporting the EFSA Journal project, and towards content publication such as the 94 Health Claims opinions. New content produced for the website include better information about all Panels in four languages, upgraded information about SCO activities, the Focal Points, the Consultative Platform, EU enlargement, and GMO MS meetings. Increased visibility has been given to information on Article 36 cooperation. Topics sections which were updated include botanicals, nutrition and health claims, metals as contaminants in food, BSE/TSE, food additives, and flavourings.

In the area of outreach, a Good Practice Guide has been presented to the Focal Point network, and an online communications workshop has been arranged for over 50 web professionals from the EU Agencies' Network and the Advisory Forum Communications Working Group.

Site integrity has been improved through better use of Cascading Style Sheets (CSS), a new manual for the web publishers. In addition, research has been conducted in the area of using multimedia as a platform for better interactivity with the public, and in the area of internal search engine improvement.

Publications

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

- The 2008 annual report has been printed in all 23 EU languages.
- The meeting report from the GMO conference was published on EFSA website in November.
- 1 corporate and 2 scientific posters were printed.

## ADMINISTRATION

### Coordination of EU Agencies network

Since 1<sup>st</sup> March 2009 EFSA is co-ordinating the network of EU decentralized Agencies. In this context, the Heads of EU Agencies gathered together on 21-22 October in Parma to discuss, among other topics, the draft report on the evaluation of EU Agencies commissioned by the European Commission to an external evaluator. Equally, Heads of Administration/resources met on that occasion to discuss common topics of interests, mainly financial and human resource-related matters. EFSA co-ordinated the input of Agencies on the external evaluation of agencies (draft report) and together with other members of the Troika met key EU-institutional partners in Brussels in November.

### Scuola per l'Europa

Following the approval of a dedicated law creating a new derogatory legal basis for the Scuola per l'Europa, the Italian national authority confirmed working on the implementation of implementing provisions that would allow the launch of international teaching staff recruitment early 2010 on comparable financial basis than the one offered of the European Schools system.

The Italian authority made available ground and 20 m€ financing to build new premises for the Scuola per l'Europa they plan to deliver for academic year 2011/12.

### Institutional and stakeholder relations

On 16-17 October, Commissioner for Health Androulla Vassiliou visited EFSA. Exchanges with EFSA and members of the Scientific Committee focused mainly on new technologies. The Commissioner also addressed EFSA staff, visited the Scuola per l'Europa and laid the first foundation stone of EFSA's final seat building which is due to be completed mid 2011.

The EFSA Executive Director presented on 5 October, the EFSA activities and work programme to the newly elected Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety of the European Parliament (ENVI).

The renewed EFSA Stakeholder Consultative Platform met for the first time of the new mandate on 1/2 December in Parma. The agenda included issues raised by EFSA and the stakeholders such as Health claims, GMOs, Nanotechnology, EFSA's approach on emerging risks.

### International Collaboration

EFSA is in the process to prioritise activities for implementing its international strategy in order to identify mid-term actions beginning of next year in line with the EU international needs and the available resources

Since September, EFSA liaison officer in the FDA is operational in Washington. The FDA liaison officer did not yet join EFSA.

On 26 October, a WHO delegation visited EFSA to discuss respective work programmes. The identification of operational contact points was agreed.

On 7 December, EFSA received a Japanese delegation from Food Safety Commission, led by Dr. Takeshi Mikami, Deputy Chairperson and former Chairperson in order to sign a Memorandum of Co-operation.

EFSA was as well approached by Canada and Australia to deepen scientific collaboration while contacts with New Zealand continued.

A *Pre-Accession Seminar* on "EFSA and the EU Food Safety system" for 35 experts from the 5 Potential Candidate countries was organised in Budva, Montenegro on 4/5 November. During the reporting period experts from the *Candidate countries* took part in 8 EFSA experts.

#### Financial management

EFSA kept progressing in committing its subvention to the purposes defined in MP 2009. Tendering operations for Scientific Cooperation's grants and contract progressed and should for some be completed only during December.

A total of 65 science contracts/grants were issued since the beginning of the year including a total of 11 since the last Management Board.

EFSA target for use of its 2009 subvention at year end is updated to 97 %

EFSA pays its provider in average in 18 calendar days since year start. Well within the 30 regulatory target. EFSA has executed 13.600 payments till end November.

#### Human Resources Management

A total of 25 staff took functions since last management board bringing the total to 407 since year start.

Promotion based on performance 2007 and 2008 were granted to 23 staff (12,5 of eligible staff).

9 notifications on HR processes were finalized in compliance with the European Personal Data Controller requirements.

6 Implementing rules for staff regulations were adopted in line with Commission opinion since year start.

Execution rate of staffing plan in line with 2009 budget reserve ceilings is at end November 2009 at 91%. Execution rate including 13 pending offer letters already sent out is at 94%.

## Glossary

**AF** – Advisory Forum

**AFC Panel** – Panel on food additives, flavourings, processing aids and materials in contact with food

**AGES** – Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety

**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

**BfR** – Federal Institute for Risk Assessment, Germany

**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 RTD**- Research Directorate General

**DG SANCO** – Directorate General for Health and Consumers

**DHoU** – Deputy Head of Unit

**DOI** – Declaration of Interest

**EC** – European Commission

**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

**FP** – Focal Point

**GD** – Guidance Document

**GMO Panel** – Panel on Genetically Modified Organisms

**HoU** – Head of Unit

**HR** – Human resources

**IPA** - Pre-accession Assistance

**ITOP** – IT& Operations Unit, EFSA

**JECFA** – Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives

**JRC** – Joint Research Centre of the European Commission

**LPA** – Legal and Policy Affairs (EFSA)

**MB** – Management Board

**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  
**RMS** – Rapporteur Member States  
**SC** – Scientific Committee  
**SCA** – EFSA Scientific Cooperation & Assistance Directorate  
**SCAR** – standing committee on agricultural research  
**SCO** – EFSA Scientific Cooperation Unit  
**SCOFAH / SCFAH**– 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