

Management Board
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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)

During the reference period, the Scientific Panel on food additives and nutrient sources added to food (ANS) adopted seven scientific opinions (food additives: Amaranth, Glycerol Esters of Gum Rosin, Neutral Methacrylate Copolymer, Anionic Methacrylate Copolymer and Lutein; nutrient sources: Monomethylsilanetriol) and two scientific statements (food additives: Lycopene and Erythritol).

The ANS Panel will focus mainly on the re-evaluation of all food additives according to Commission Regulation (EU) No 257/2010 setting up a programme for the re-evaluation of approved food additives in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1333/2008. In addition, the Panel will assist the Commission in establishing a common authorisation procedure in accordance with Commission Regulation (EC) No 1331/2008. Furthermore, the Panel is currently developing a guidance on the submission of food additive evaluations which will be finalised in mid-2011.

Panel on animal health and welfare (AHAW)

During the reference period, the Panel adopted five scientific opinions on: i) the impact of the selection of broiler breeder birds; ii) housing and management of the grand-parent and parent stocks raised and kept for breeding purposes; iii) ticks as vectors of African swine fever (ASF) and Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF); iv) the geographical distribution of ticks and tick-borne diseases in Europe and the Mediterranean basin; and v) potential implications of the current H1N1 pandemic influenza for animal health.

A public consultation was held on the draft scientific opinion on welfare aspects of practice of harvesting feathers from live geese for down production (July – August). The final report on the outcomes of the Stakeholder and Public consultations on the Health and Welfare aspects of genetic selection in broilers was published in July.

A new mandate was received from the Commission on the use of animal-based measures to assess the welfare of dairy cows.

Panel on biological hazards (BIOHAZ)

During the reference period, the Panel adopted seven opinions during the reporting period. Opinions were adopted on *Salmonella typhimurium*-like strains; the Use of recycled hot water as a decontamination technique for carcasses; Irradiation of food (efficacy and microbiological safety); and the Results of the EU survey for Chronic Wasting Disease in cervids.

Three opinions relating to Animal by-products (ABP) were adopted: Alternative method from the European Lime Association; Format for applications for new alternative methods; and Neste Oil Application for new alternative method of disposal or use of ABP.

The external report produced by the contractor on Quantitative microbiological risk assessment (QMRA) of *Campylobacter* in broiler meat production was received by EFSA.

The BIOHAZ network on microbiological risk assessment met in June 2010.

Six new mandates were received:

- Estimation of the public health impact of setting a new target for the reduction of *Salmonella* in turkeys
- Noroviruses in oysters: methods, limits and control options

mb 21 10 10 item 4 doc 2 - ED progress report

- Possible use of casings for manufacturing sausages made from the intestines of bovine animals
- Risk for human and animal health related to the revision of the BSE monitoring regime in some Member States
- Evaluation of a new processing method for fishery products according to the ABP (animal by-product) regulation
- Capacity of oleochemical processes to inactivate possible risks linked to transmissible spongiform encephalopathies in ABPs not intended for human consumption

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

During the reference period, the Panel adopted 13 opinions: 12 on applications (9 on flavourings substances and 3 on food contact materials) and one generic opinion on toxicity of Bisphenol A.

The 3rd meeting of the ESCO WG on non-Plastic Food Contact Materials took place in Brussels in July.

EFSA has received 80 requests for the evaluation of recycling processes for plastics intended for contact with food. Most of them concern the recycling of PET (polyethylene terephthalate). A new guidance document specific to PET recycling will be prepared as an addendum to the general guidance document on recycling.

A new guidance document for evaluation of substances for food contact materials will also be prepared to take into account the evolutions in science and the experience accumulated from the evaluations performed over the last 10 years.

Many data for the re-evaluation of flavouring substances are currently submitted by industry. A new WG to evaluate data on the genotoxicity of flavourings has been created to evaluate the large number of dossiers announced by industry.

Following an internal mandate, EFSA is launching contracts with Member States to collect evaluations of food enzymes. A mandate is given to the CEF WG on Enzymes to produce a technical report of EFSA after examination of trial dossiers presented by industry.

Panel on contaminants in the food chain (CONTAM)

During the reference period, the Panel met in two plenary meetings and adopted two opinions (marine biotoxins in shellfish–Emerging toxins: Brevetoxin group; polybrominated biphenyls) one statement (reassessment of consumption figure of shellfish meat based on new consumption data) and one co-adopted chapter with BIOHAZ (abiotic risks in safety and efficacy of hot water decontamination).

Twenty new mandates were received from the European Commission relating to risk assessments in the area of mycotoxins in food and feed (9 requests), plant toxicants in food and feed (5 requests), heavy metals in food (1 request), persistent organic pollutants in food and feed (2 requests) and the risks for children of nitrate in vegetables.

These requests include the evaluation of approx. 100 substances currently on the EU list of acceptable previous cargoes for edible fats and oils. In addition, the Panel is involved with the meat inspection mandate. The organisation of the work programme and the establishment of working groups for the various mandates was initiated.

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

During the reference period, the Panel held two Plenary meetings and 34 Working Group meetings. The Panel adopted six opinions on the authorisation of feed additives and two statements (one dealing with the “assessment of herbs, essential oils and other plant products as additives for use in animal nutrition” and the other on “specific guidelines for the authorisation of additives belonging to the new functional group of substances for reduction of the contamination of feed by mycotoxins”). The final report for the Article 36 grant “Bibliographic review on the potential of microorganisms, microbial products and enzymes to induce respiratory sensitization” was received.

One technical meeting with experts from industry was organised to present and discuss the FEEDAP proposal on Guidance for “substances for the reduction of contamination of feed by mycotoxins”.

mb 21 10 10 item 4 doc 2 - ED progress report

The Panel started the work on the update of the technical guidance documents and also on the drafting of a guidance for the assessment of biomass for use in animal nutrition.

Panel on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO)

During the reference period, the GMO Panel adopted two opinions on GM maize under 1829/2003/EC during the Plenary in September 2010 and one generic opinion on the assessment of allergenicity of GM plants and microorganisms and derived food and feed, during the Plenary in June. The report on the outcome of the public consultation of the latter was published on 29 July. Two external reports from procurement contracts, one on Defining environmental risk assessment criteria for genetically modified fishes and another on Defining environmental risk assessment criteria for GM insects, were evaluated and published in July and September, respectively.

As requested in the Mandate for updated Environmental Risk Assessment Guidance, scientific consultations took place: one meeting with Member States on 17 June which was webcast live; one with applicants on 28 September 2010; and one with NGOs on 29 September 2010.

The GMO Unit received eight applications on GM plants, one re-evaluation of a feed additive produced from GM bacteria, and a new general mandate to review the scientific basis of a counter-opinion on Bt Maize 1507 produced by the executive director of the NGO Testbiotech. Mandates to update the Post-Market Environmental Monitoring (PMEM) guidance and to review the scientific quality of PMEM reports of marketed GMOs are expected. 23 EU Member States and Norway provided nominations for the newly established GMO network. One call for contract was launched for establishing a database on non-target arthropods and two calls for contracts in the area of statistical support for evaluation of GMO dossiers.

Panel on dietetic products, nutrition and allergies (NDA)

During the reference period, eleven working groups and two Plenary meetings were held and the following 83 opinions adopted, covering: 67 Article 13 claims opinions, 5 novel food (NF) opinions (Phosphated di-starch phosphate, Lentinus edodes, Sardine Peptide, Chitin-glucan and Cetyl Myristoleate), 3 generic opinions [Ambrosia (co-adoption with PLH & CONTAM) , azocolours and lactose intolerance], 3 Article 13.5 and 5 Art 14 opinions. A third series of Article 13 claims opinions will be published mid October 2010.

On 1 June 2010, a stakeholder meeting on claims was held in Parma with around 400 participants. At the end of September, NDA launched a public consultation for a draft guidance document on the scientific requirements for health claims related to gut and immune function and opened registration for a scientific meeting to be held on 2 December in Amsterdam to discuss the guidance document together with the comments received during the public consultation.

For health claim applications, the NDA Panel has received to date 310 applications of which 93 opinions have been adopted covering 100 applications, 55 applications have been withdrawn, and 21 applications are in progress.

Panel on Plant health (PLH)

During the reference period, the PLH Panel has adopted two scientific opinions: one relating to a composting method proposed by Portugal to eliminate the pine wood nematode and the second opinion concerning a request submitted by the Japanese authorities seeking a derogation from the EU import requirements for bonsai and topiary trees that are host plants for the organism *Anoplophora chinensis*. Both requests were urgent and both were adopted within a month of acceptance by EFSA. In the same period, the public consultation on the EFSA Actions on the "Guidelines for EC Coordination of Pest Risk Analysis Process" was launched and completed.

A scientific conference was held in Norway following the 27th Plenary meeting, jointly organised by EFSA and the Norwegian Food Safety Authority. Arrangements for the first meeting of the EFSA scientific network for risk assessment in Plant Health are being finalised and the meeting will take place in October 2010

New mandates have been accepted by EFSA to provide scientific opinions on *solanaceous pospiviroids*, *Monilinia fructicola* and *Plum pox virus*. A call has been launched to issue a contract to review data quality on pest occurrence and distribution in the EU and its influence on uncertainty for risk assessment.

mb 21 10 10 item 4 doc 2 - ED progress report

Panel on plant protection products and their residues (PPR)

During the reference period, two opinions related to the environmental risk assessment of plant protection products were adopted in September: one was the second opinion of the Ecoregions mandate and the other related to Protection Goals. One external report from a contractor was published on the outsourced preparatory work in support of the revision of the guidance document "Persistence in Soil".

The PPR stakeholder workshop report on protection goals (held in Parma 15-16 April 2010) was also published. Two scientific reports were published, one on scenarios for exposure of soil organisms to Plant Protection Products and one on modelling approaches to estimate emissions from protected crop systems in Mediterranean countries.

A public consultation was carried out on a "Draft Guidance on the use of Probabilistic Methodology for modelling dietary exposure to pesticide residues (part one: single active substances exposure assessment)".

The PPR unit participated in two Pesticide Steering Committee meetings and presented the compiled proposals from MS regarding guidance documents to be updated or developed in the future.

A new mandate regarding the Compilation of a Database of ecotoxicological properties of active substances and plant protection products was received from the EC.

SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE

Assessment Methodology Unit (AMU)

Two reports were issued in June. The scientific report "Model-based comparative assessment of the Australian and European hygiene monitoring programmes for meat production" and the Technical report of EFSA on "Quantitative pathway analysis of the exposure of the wheat production area with *Tilletia indica* M. teliospores one year after importation of US wheat for grain into the EU and desert durum wheat into Italy".

Three assistance requests were completed in the reporting period (ANS, ZONNOSES and PLH).

AMU launched one Article 36 "Commodity based hazard identification protocol for emerging diseases in plants and animals" in July and one procurement "Implementation of systematic reviews in EFSA scientific outputs workflow" in September.

Data Collection and Exposure Unit (DATEX)

Two scientific reports were published during the period: "Update of the results on furan levels in food"; and "Results of the monitoring of non dioxin-like PCBs in food and feed." The unit also contributed to the exposure section to the first brominated flame retardant (PBB) opinion recently approved by the CONTAM Panel.

EFSA's 14th scientific colloquium on "Food Classification: Unambiguous ambiguity – the challenge of describing food" was organised under the auspices of the unit. In June, approx. 90 scientists and stakeholders from 33 countries participated in this EFSA Scientific Colloquium. More information is available at: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/colloque100420.htm>.

During the period the Commission provided the mandate for continuous data collection of hazardous or beneficial chemicals in food and feed covering close to 35 compounds or compound groups. Bi-annual reporting is requested for individual compounds or groupings of related compounds. One grant and one contract were signed during the period covering pilot testing of contaminant data transfers by four Member State organisations and food market intelligence, respectively.

Emerging Risks Unit (EMRISK)

The network on emerging risks was established and will meet for the first time in November. An internal mandate to establish a working group to advice on the methodology for the identification of emerging risks has been accepted. The WG will meet for the first time on 18th November.

mb 21 10 10 item 4 doc 2 - ED progress report

An Article 36 call concerning the identification of exposure scenarios and collection of consumption data for energy drinks is being drafted. An internal mandate on producing an inventory of EFSA's chemical hazard characterisation databases has been drafted.

Pesticide Risk Assessment Peer Review (PRAPeR)

The PRAPeR Unit received requests for 42 routine MRL applications; in addition, the European Commission submitted two urgent requests for MRL evaluation for which short deadlines were agreed. During the reporting period, seventeen Reasoned Opinions were adopted in response to twenty routine MRL applications. In total, 95 individual MRLs were assessed. 31 conclusions were adopted following the pesticide peer review of 29 resubmitted active substances, one active substance for consideration of renewal of Annex I inclusion, and 1 new active substance. A further 29 EFSA Conclusions should be finalised in the next three months. Mandates to undertake the peer review for a further four active substances are expected in the final quarter of 2010.

Scientific Cooperation (SCO)

On 22 Sept 2010, EFSA signed a Focal Point Agreement with the Norwegian Scientific Committee for Food Safety.

The IEP evaluation report is due to be completed by December 2010. The draft 2011 work-programme for Article 36 grants and procurement was prepared. The Expert Database grew now to 2800 applications. The Training Working Group on principles and methods of food safety risk assessment held its first meeting in September in Parma. The EFSA Journal is now indexed in bibliographic databases Food Science and Technology Abstracts (FSTA) relevant to EFSA's work.

In the context of medium-term planning, the SCO Unit prepared a report on Scientific Cooperation between EFSA and Member States: Taking stock and looking ahead, including a draft Medium-term Activities Plan 2011-2013, which were presented and endorsed by the Advisory Forum.

Animal Diseases Transmissible to Humans Unit (ZOOZOSES)

The unit issued a Community Summary Report on antimicrobial resistance in zoonotic bacteria from food and animals in 2008 and another scientific report on the risk factors associated with *Campylobacter* contamination of broiler carcasses in an EU-wide baseline survey.

Two working groups were established with new mandates: a working group to prepare specifications for the analysis and reporting of data on antimicrobial resistance at the Community level and a working group to contribute to the meat inspection mandate received from the Commission. This working group will suggest human health epidemiological criteria for adaptations in meat inspection methods for pigs.

In addition, four procurement calls were launched: one on analyses of microbiological contaminants in food in 2004-2009; two calls on assistance in analyses and search of data for the meat inspection mandate; and one call on assistance in data management and IT helpdesk.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE & ADVISORY FORUM

Scientific Committee (SC)

The Scientific Committee had its plenary meetings in June and September 2010, respectively. The SC adopted a guidance document on human health risk-benefit assessment of foods in June 2010. The proposed approach was also presented in July 2010 during a dedicated session on risk-benefit assessment of the 2010 annual meeting of the International Association on Food Protection.

At its September plenary meeting, the SC discussed and endorsed a Statement of EFSA providing an update on the state of play of animal cloning. The task force on endocrine active substances (EAS) delivered a draft report, the conclusions and recommendations of which were endorsed by the SC. The task force on environmental risk assessment (ERA) delivered a draft working paper which was also discussed at the September meeting.

mb 21 10 10 item 4 doc 2 - ED progress report

The SC Working Group on Statistical Approaches is expected to produce a first brief guidance document in February 2011. The work of the SC Working Groups on Threshold of Toxicological Concern (TTC) and Genotoxicity Testing Strategies is ongoing. The aim is to present the draft opinions for endorsement for public consultation to the SC plenary in April 2011.

EFSA co-organised the FAO International Conference on Food and Agriculture Applications of Nanotechnologies held on 20-25 June 2010 (Sao Pedro, Brazil).

The SC has started to organise a training workshop on benchmark dose for EFSA Panels' Experts and EFSA Staff. The workshop will take place in Parma in December 2010.

The SC working group on Risk Assessment Terminology will have its kick-off meeting in October 2010. The outsourced project to review 220 opinions issued by EFSA between 2008 and 2009 has been finalised. The technical report has been submitted to EFSA and will be published by the end of the year.

The SC initiated a new activity aiming to harmonise default values used by EFSA Panels and units when doing risk assessments. The opinion should be adopted by end 2011 at the latest.

Advisory Forum (AF)

The 37th Advisory Forum meeting was held in Malta in September, 2010. The main discussion at the meeting was on Medium Term Planning, with members of the forum endorsing the draft Project Report on Scientific Cooperation between EFSA and the Member States. It was agreed that in order to progress, Member States will be requested to identify practical ways to forward Cooperation as detailed in the report.

During the afternoon session of the meeting, there was an exchange of views between Members of the AF and the European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy, John Dalli. Members presented discussion topics which included Data collection activities (in relation to the work on food classification), Pesticides, Emerging Risk activities, Handling Food Safety Crises (using the example of dioxin in Irish Pork), and Risk Communication.

The AF agreed to the drafting of Terms of reference for a Working Group or Network on endocrine active substances for approval by the SC and AF. Following a presentation on Emerging risks relating to bitter taste in pine nuts and energy drinks, the AF agreed to seek further information on available data on consumption of energy drinks in combination with alcohol and to share information on increased levels of progesterone hormones in food supplements.

COMMUNICATIONS

Communications activities:

- 1 June, Parma - Technical meeting with stakeholders on recent developments related to health claims. 400 participants attended representing the food industry, NGOs and EU decision makers. Journalists from two Italian specialised publications attended the meeting. Press office published a web news story which was sent to a selected group of journalists and organised phone interviews with NDA Chair Albert Flynn with Dow Jones and EU Food Policy on the day of the conference and later with Danish daily Politiken, French specialised magazine LSA, and the Pan-European website NutraIngredients.
- 17 June, Berlin - EFSA Technical meeting with MS competent authority experts and experts from the EFSA GMO Panel and its working groups. The meeting was webcast; a written report and a video recording were published on EFSA's website after the meeting. Press office organised interviews with EU Food Law, Reuters and ANSA. The live webcast of the 17 June meeting with EFSA and Member States experts on environmental risk assessment of GM plants generated great interest. To date, over 3,300 views have been registered for the live and on-demand video.
- 19 – 23 July, Barcelona – EFSA had an information stand at the XII International Congress of Toxicology & EuroTox in Barcelona. 2500 European and international toxicologists attended.

mb 21 10 10 item 4 doc 2 - ED progress report

- 22 June, Parma – Premio Ricerca (in collaboration with Europass) – press office wrote a joint press release with the Province of Parma press office.
- 22-23 June, Brussels - EU Food Law Conference – press office organised phone interviews with Albert Flynn and TV ARTE programme Globalmag, Reuters and EFE Agro.
- 23-24 June, Parma – 14th Scientific Colloquium on 'Food Classification: Unambiguous ambiguity – the challenge of describing food' was held in Parma. The event was attended by 120 topic relevant scientists and stakeholders from 33 countries, including EU Member States, the USA and Australia.

In the reporting period EFSA received 242 media queries and organised 42 media interviews.

Press Releases (3):

- EFSA invites NGOs to discuss welcomed draft GMO Environmental Risk Assessment Guidelines (6 July)
- EFSA publishes its second annual report on pesticide residues in food (12 July)
- EFSA looks at the welfare of broiler chickens and their breeding (28 July)

Web News Stories (16):

- EFSA engages in further dialogue with stakeholders on health claims (2 June)
- EFSA evaluates factors contributing to MRSA in pigs (3 June)
- EFSA provides scientific advice on the spread of common ragweed (10 June)
- EFSA invites scientific experts to join its Scientific Committee and Panels (10 June)
- EFSA delivers advice on pine pitch canker and the oriental chestnut gall wasp (17 June)
- EFSA Management Board builds on stakeholder support (17 June)
- EFSA evaluates wheat disease fungus (18 June)
- Seven members appointed to EFSA Management Board (28 June)
- EFSA initiates re-evaluation of feed additives (9 July)
- EFSA considers more than 800 studies on BPA, to finalise opinion in September (13 July)
- EFSA delivers new scientific opinion on assessing the possible allergenicity of GMOs (29 July)
- EFSA lowers ADI on amaranth, completing its re-evaluation of azo dye food colours (26 July)
- EFSA publishes data on levels of PCBs in food (30 July)
- EFSA updates data on furan in food (30 July)
- EFSA evaluates factors contributing to Campylobacter in chicken (5 August)
- EFSA reviews most recent research on animal cloning (17 September)

Web

RSS feeds were launched, adding an increasingly important subscription product to the website. Another project which significantly increased the usability of the website was the addition of over 18,000 dynamically generated links, connecting related content horizontally across the website, as well as between the website and the Register of Questions.

The EFSA Journal was improved by making the names of Panel members searchable, and by adding Digital Object Identifiers to all scientific outputs published before September 2009. Additional developments include several projects supporting site integrity and sound content management.

In the area of outreach and networking, a significant contribution was made to the EU Agencies network through the management of a network-wide benchmarking survey for online communications.

In the area of content, new A-Z Topics were created on genetically modified animals and food colours. Updated Topics include GMOs; antimicrobial resistance; nutrition and health claims; cloning; aspartame; and flavourings. Corporate events covered include the visit from the European Parliament's Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety; Shanghai Expo 2010; and EFSA's contribution to the Croatian Food Agency's 5th anniversary conference. In addition, information on GMO, BIOHAZ and EMRISK networks was published.

Publications

mb 21 10 10 item 4 doc 2 - ED progress report

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

- The English version 2009 Annual report and summary was published in June, and in all other EU languages in September.
- The corporate brochure was printed in Chinese for the Shanghai Expo in June and in Dutch in September for the Belgian presidency (French and German versions already exist).
- 13th Scientific Colloquium Report on novel foods was printed in July.
- EFSA news 22 was published in June.
- Moving Together 6 was published in July.
- EFSA in focus 7: Animals, Plants and Food were published in July.

ADMINISTRATION/CORPORATE

Institutional and stakeholder relations

On 10 June, EFSA participated in the 5-year ceremony of the Croatian Food Safety Agency (HAH) in Osijek, Croatia where a Conference on food safety and scientific cooperation was organized.

On 24 June, a delegation of the EP's Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI), consisting of 7 MEPs and chaired by the ENVI chair, MEP Mr Jo Leinen, visited EFSA with the aim of being updated on EFSA's work (Scientific Committee and Panels) and recent activities. Views were exchanged on topics of a general nature, notably including EFSA's independence, selection of scientific experts, engagement with stakeholders and cooperation with Member States, and on more specific issues such as health claims, genetically modified organisms (GMOs), Bisphenol A, and pesticides. Afterwards, Mr Leinen addressed EFSA staff. The members of the ENVI delegation and EFSA's Executive Director also visited the Associated European School "Scuola per l'Europa di Parma" where they met with the Regional Director for Education, representatives from the school, and local authorities.

On 28 June, as part of the regular meeting between EFSA and the country holding the EU Presidency, EFSA's Executive Director met representatives from the Ministry of Health and the Belgian Food Safety Agency (AFSCA) to exchange views on nanotechnology, GMOs, animal health and animal welfare, and novel foods.

On 2 September, within the Troika of the network of EU Agencies (EFSA, EU OSHA, ECHA) EFSA's Executive Director participated in meetings with representatives from the EP and Council that are part of the Inter-Institutional working group (IWG) that is discussing the future regulatory framework for EU Agencies. On this occasion, the Troika met representatives from the EP and the Belgian Presidency. Meetings with key EC representatives are scheduled in October.

On 10 September, EFSA's Executive Director attended the Conference organized by the Italian authorities, Istituto Superiore di Sanità, to discuss scientific cooperation and ways to further improve cooperation between EFSA and Member States, in particular in relation to Article 36 projects and data collection.

On 20 September, EFSA's Executive Director and the Director General DG SANCO had their regular videoconference bilateral meeting discussing *inter alia* Antimicrobial treatment, Flavouring substances, EFSA 2011 external evaluation and the Novel Food Regulation.

The Stakeholder Platform held its plenary meeting on 22 June in Parma to discuss, among other items, endocrine disruptors, risk assessment of food additives and the work carried out by the assessment methodology unit. Following a brainstorming session with the whole Platform to reflect on how to better engage stakeholders, the first meeting of the Working Group on the engagement of the stakeholders on EFSA's activities was organised on 10 September, with the aim of developing a reflection paper to be presented at the February Platform plenary meeting.

International Relations

EFSA gave presentations at various meetings in Shanghai related to the EU's participation in EXPO 2010 "Better city, Better life" including the Seminar on Research for healthy life Conference on 5 June and the Sino-European Food Safety Cooperation Forum from 6 to 11 June.

mb 21 10 10 item 4 doc 2 - ED progress report

On 9 September, EFSA had a videoconference meeting with the Health Canada Food Directorate to exchange information and views on Bisphenol-A and Health Claims.

Within the framework of the Pre-Accession Programme for Candidate and Potential Candidate Countries, two seminars were organised: one on 23/24 June in Parma on "Handling food crises: Tasks and responsibilities of the risk assessor" and one on 22/23 September in Parma on "Dietary Reference values, Nutrition and Health Claims" both with around 30 experts from the 3 Candidate countries and the 5 Potential Candidate countries. Experts from the 3 Candidate countries (Croatia, Turkey and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) attended a total of 7 EFSA meetings (such as the Technical meeting with stakeholders on recent developments related to health claims, the Microbiological Risk Assessment Network, and the 20th meeting of the task force on zoonoses data collection), as well as the Scientific Colloquium on Food Classification.

Data Protection

EFSA DPO provided advice and support to ensure compliance with the Data Protection Regulation with respect to various policies such as EFSA Training Policy, EFSA Policy on the use of ICT resources, disciplinary proceedings and administrative inquiries, video surveillance, events organisation and pictures database, CDAC appraisal process, staff recruitment, EFSA intranet portal, and data protection aspects of EFSA Public Consultations.

Final seat

The implementing act integrating the Agreement signed with the Municipality in 2005 and endorsed by the Management Board was signed on 13 July 2010, setting out the alternative modalities for the payment of the purchase price of the building and the possibility for EFSA to do an advance payment.

Financial management

- EUR 50.70 million or **69.5 %** of the EUR 73.00 million budget was committed. The commitment level stands 11 % below the target set for September (EUR 56.80 million) mainly due to postponement in launching and thereby committing data collection, scientific cooperation and networking activities (Activity 3). Whereas the launch of the grants and procurements is back on track, this does not reflect yet at commitment level. Out of the EUR 8.2 million scientific cooperation program, EUR 1.8 million was committed to date.
- EUR 41.26 million or **55.8 %** of the total payment appropriations were paid. This payment level stands 18 % below the target (EUR 50.24 million) for the reason mentioned hereinabove.

Year on year, the budget execution increased by EUR 8.93 million over the same period which represents an increase of 21 % (while the budget itself has increased by 7 % from EUR 68.5 million last year to EUR 73.0 million this year). The payments increased by EUR 4.23 million compared to last year which represents a 11 % increase.

EUR	Commitment Sept 2010	Commitment Sept 2009	Increase	Payments Sept 2010	Payments Sept 2009	Increase
PERSONNEL	27.738.337	25.944.258	6,92%	26.376.251	24.664.019	6,94%
INFRASTRUCTURE	7.373.022	6.722.751	9,67%	4.765.522	4.427.833	7,63%
OPERATIONS	15.590.922	13.954.469	11,73%	10.114.524	7.931.839	27,52%
TOTAL	50.702.281	41.766.492	21,39%	41.256.296	37.023.692	11,43%

Accounting

EFSA's 2009 provisional accounts were sent to EC accounting officer and Court of Auditors. The audit on EFSA's 2009 provisional accounts were performed by the Court of Auditors in April 2010.

EFSA has executed more than 3700 payments between March and May 2010.

mb 21 10 10 item 4 doc 2 - ED progress report

Human Resources

HR - Staffing Progress Report - 30/09/2010

Staff Categories	End 2009	2010 Authorised as per SP.2010 EP	on 30 September 2010			Recruitment since year start	Departures since year start
			Total Contracted + Offered	Contracted Staff	Contracts Offered	Number of New Contracts	Departures
Temporary Agents and Officials							
<i>Executives, Managers & Officers (AD)</i>	183	203	194	191	3	15	5
<i>Assistants functions (AST)</i>	143	152	142	140	2	14	8
Total	326	355	336	331	5	29	13
Contract Agents							
<i>Officers functions (CA FG IV)</i>	34	40	39	33	6	1	2
<i>Assistants functions (CA FG I, II, III)</i>	35	45	52	51	1	18	0
Total	69	85	91	84	7	19	2
Seconded National Experts	12	20	15	12	3	5	5
Total all staff categories	407	460	442	427	15	53	20

Glossary

ABP – Animal by-products
AMRGs – Antimicrobial resistance marker genes
ARM – Antimicrobial resistant marker
BfR – Federal Institute for Risk Assessment, Germany
BMD – Benchmark dose
CDC – Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (US)
CONT – Control committee
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
DPO - Data Protection Officer
DNT- Development neuro-toxicity
EC – European Commission
ECDC – European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
EP – European Parliament
ESCO – EFSA Scientific Cooperation projects
FAO – Food and Agriculture Organization
FAQ – frequently asked questions
FDA – Food and Drug Administration (US)
FP – Focal Point
GD – Guidance Document
HoU – Head of Unit
HR – Human resources
IEP – Information exchange platform
IPA - Pre-accession Assistance
ITOP – IT& Operations Unit, EFSA
JRC – Joint Research Centre of the European Commission
LPA – Legal and Policy Affairs (EFSA)
MB – Management Board
MRL – Maximum residue levels
MEP – Member of Parliament
MS – EU Member States
OJ – Official Journal
PCB - Polychlorinated biphenyl (organic pollutants contaminating foods through the environment)
PRA – Pest risk assessment
QPS – Qualified Presumption of Safety
RASFF – Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed
SC – Scientific Committee
SCA – EFSA Scientific Cooperation & Assistance Directorate
SCO – EFSA Scientific Cooperation Unit
SCOFCAH / SCFCAH– Standing Committee on Food Chain and Animal Health
TDI – Tolerable daily intake
TSE – Transmissible spongiform encephalopathy
TTC – Threshold of toxicological concern
WG – Working Group
WTO – World Trade Organization