

Management Board
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Office of the Executive Director and the Management Board

EFSA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PROGRESS REPORT

Executive Summary

The present report refers to the period from December 1, 2010 to February 28, 2011.

In **Risk Assessment**, EFSA has adopted more than 60 scientific opinions covering almost all the scientific fields under its remit, as well as 351 Art. 13.1 health claims to be clustered in appropriate opinions. Three Guidance Documents were adopted in the areas of nutrition, feed additives and pesticides.

EFSA is working on the numerous applications received and is preparing to process the new batches of applications announced for 2011: 577 "non-botanical" claims are planned to be finalised by June; the re-evaluation of 458 feed additives is ongoing; 85 applications are expected for the evaluation of plastics recycling processes; and hundreds of flavouring substances are expected for re-evaluation.

The **Scientific Cooperation and Assistance Directorate** continued to provide support for the Risk Assessment units and published scientific reports, Guidance of EFSA and technical reports in the areas of assessment methodology, data collection and Zoonoses. A total of 18 conclusions on pesticide peer reviews and 17 reasoned opinions were adopted. In addition, three urgent requests were received: two under Art. 43 of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 and one from the EC on nicotine in herbal tea and infusions. EFSA's 2nd Scientific Expert Satisfaction Survey was launched in February.

The latest update of the procedures for dealing with urgent requests was published, and the EFSA Network on Emerging Risks held its second meeting. Agreements have been signed with the Focal Points to renew collaboration in 2011. A report on the Art. 36 activities carried out in 2010 was prepared and the Expert Database grew to almost 3050 submitted applications.

The **Scientific Committee** held the first meeting of the Network for Risk Assessment of Nanotechnologies in Food and Feed and published for public consultation the draft Guidance on risk assessment concerning potential risks arising from applications of nanoscience and nanotechnologies to food and feed. A training workshop was also organised on the use of dose-response modelling software for applying the benchmark dose approach in risk assessment.

In the **Communication Directorate**, the Press Office dealt with more than 120 media queries and 16 interviews. Two press releases and 9 web-stories were published. The Eurobarometer factsheets for each MS are available online in the corresponding official languages. The new definitions for scientific outputs were rolled out and the link between scientific outputs on the website and the Register of Questions was enhanced.

EFSA continued to receive several institutional visits (including that of the President of the European Council, the Vice-President of the European Commission and Commissioner for Enterprise and Industry and the Vice-Chair of the European Parliament AGRI Committee) and EFSA's Executive Director participated in a number of meetings, conferences and round tables.

EFSA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PROGRESS REPORT

RISK ASSESSMENT

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

The ANS Panel adopted five opinions (four in the field of food additives and one in the field of nutrient sources) and one scientific statement (on two recent scientific articles on the safety of artificial sweeteners). In addition, the ANS contributed to an EFSA statement (revised exposure assessment for steviol glycosides) and a technical report (submission of data on E 104, E 110 and E 124 in relation to the call for data for the 74th JECFA Meeting).

In the coming months, the Panel will mainly focus on the re-evaluation of food additives in line with 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, it will continue the safety assessment of new food additive applications, safety assessment of nutrient sources, including nutritional substances for use in fortified food that are subject to national derogations according to Regulation (EC) No 1925/2006.

The Panel is also developing a technical guidance to explain the technical, exposure and toxicological data required to establish the safety of food additives proposed for use in the EU, which is anticipated to be finalised within 2011.

Panel on animal health and welfare (AHAW)

The AHAW Panel adopted two scientific opinions concerning (1) the welfare of animals during transport and (2) monitoring for emergence of possible new pandemic influenza strains. A technical report on the public consultation held on the practice of harvesting feathers from live geese and an external scientific report on animal welfare risks related to housing and management were also published.

The Panel will continue to work on the meat inspection mandate, completing assessment for swine and initiating other species. A new mandate was received from the Commission on the risk of introduction of epizootic ulcerative syndrome. In the coming six months, the following mandates are expected: animal-based indicators of welfare for pigs, update of the opinion on welfare of beef cattle, *Histomonas meleagridis*, vesicular stomatitis, swine vesicular disease, and definition of "useable area" for broilers.

Panel on biological hazards (BIOHAZ)

The BIOHAZ Panel adopted five opinions, three on transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE), one on animal by-products (ABP) and one on microbiology. Seven new mandates were received.

The annual reports of the Scientific Network on MRA and the Scientific Network on BSE-TSE were published.

Over the next 12 months, the BIOHAZ Panel will continue to work on advice on modernising meat inspection for all food-producing animal species, antimicrobial microbial resistance, foodborne viruses and Quantitative MRA on *Salmonella*. The Panel will continue advising the Commission on BSE/TSE, especially in the framework of the newly-published Roadmap 2.

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

CEF and BIOHAZ drafted a joint statement on food irradiation, which summarises the conclusions and recommendations from the scientific opinions of the two respective Panels. The statement is planned to be published with the two opinions by the end of March.

On plastics recycling, the Panel adopted the first opinion on polypropylene crates. In addition, the Panel evaluated 20 applications (FCM & flavourings) and published a statement on an approach to evaluate flavouring substances.

The Panel is finalising the evaluation of all the genotoxicity studies submitted in 2010 with regard to the re-evaluation of flavourings substances already on the market for which there were safety concerns in the evaluation programme. However, the Panel considered that the data submitted were not adequate for 70 % of the substances.

In 2011, the CEF Panel will have two major tasks: (1) the evaluation of plastics recycling processes (85 applications: new processes with a 6 months deadline and processes already running with a deadline till end 2013) and (2) the re-evaluation of hundreds of flavouring substances of the evaluation programme for which the Panel considered that additional data are needed. Besides, the evaluation of FCM substances is continuing at a steady speed. The first applications for active packaging are being submitted.

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The ESCO Working Group in the area of non-plastic FCM (paper & board, rubber, silicones, etc.) participated in a workshop with stakeholders: the preparation of the final report will be an important task for the ESCO WG in the first half of 2011.

Panel on contaminants in the food chain (CONTAM)

The CONTAM Panel has adopted one opinion on abiotic risk from biodiesel production and two statements (nitrate in vegetables-children, tolerable weekly intake for cadmium).

In the next six months, 10 opinions are expected to be adopted: Brominated flame retardants in food (2 opinions), endosulfan toxicity, dioxins in sheep liver, mycotoxins in food and feed (4 opinions), morphine in poppy seeds, and meat inspection and contaminants swine opinion.

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

The FEEDAP Panel adopted twelve opinions on the authorisation of feed additives, and two statements on the use of feed additives in water and on the assessment of the safety of cylactin. In addition, a Guidance Document on the assessment of additives intended to be used in pets and other non food-producing animals was issued.

The re-evaluation of feed additives will keep the Panel's workload high in the coming years, as there are currently 458 on-going applications to be processed. EFSA is collaborating with the EC and the EU Reference Laboratory (EURL) to find out the most efficient way to process the high number of applications received for the re-evaluation of feed additives.

Panel on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO)

Public comments were received and analyzed for two draft Guidance Documents after public consultation (one on risk assessment of GM microorganisms and one on the choice of comparators). The external scientific report on Defining Environmental Risk Assessment Criteria for GM Mammals and Birds was published.

Seven new applications were received: five for GM plants, one for renewal of maize GT73(2) and two for feed additives produced from GM bacteria. Three internal mandates were approved: (1) for evaluating trial descriptions of strains of *Bacillus licheniformis* and *Aspergillus niger* genetically modified with alpha-amylase gene(s), (2) for using a mathematical model to update the ERA for GM maize 1507 and (3) regarding EFSA approaches to risk assessment in the area of antimicrobial resistance.

Two mandates were received from the EC: (1) to update the Panels opinion on Post-Market Environmental Monitoring (PMEM), (2) to perform a complementary environmental risk assessment of GM maize Bt11 for cultivation.

Panel on dietetic products, nutrition and allergies (NDA)

The Panel adopted one Art. 13.5 and three Art. 14 opinions and 351 Article 13.1 health claims to be clustered in appropriate opinions. In addition, following up on the outcomes of a public consultation and a scientific meeting held on 2 Dec. 2010, the Panel adopted a Guidance Document on scientific requirements for health claims related to gut and immune function.

As for health claims, the NDA Panel has received to date 315 applications of which 101 opinions have been adopted covering 108 applications; 114 applications have been withdrawn, and 18 applications are in progress. As for Art. 13.1 health claims list, EFSA aims to finalise the assessment of the remaining "non-botanical" claims (577 claims) by June 2011. Three more series of Article 13.1 claims publication are foreseen (April, June and September 2011).

In the area of dietary reference values for micronutrients two calls for tender for preparatory work have been awarded and contracts have been signed in mid Dec. 2010.

Panel on Plant Health (PLH)

The document 'EFSA Actions on the Guidelines for EC Coordination of Pest Risk Analysis Process' was published with the associated report on the public consultation carried out with respect to this document.

Preparations are underway for the 16th Scientific Colloquium on Emerging Issues in Plant Health to be held in Parma on 9-10 June 2011.

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In the next 6-12 months the following outputs are expected to be adopted: (1) Guidance Document for the assessment of Environmental Risk; (2) Scientific opinions on *Phytophthora ramorum*, Solanaceous pospiviroids, *Monolinia fructicola*, *Agrilus planipennis* and Florida citrus fruit. The Panel has commenced work on a new Guidance Document on methodology for evaluation of the effectiveness of options to reduce the risk of introduction and spread of organisms harmful to plants in the EU territory.

Panel on plant protection products and their residues (PPR)

Two external scientific reports have been published, (1) on the emissions of plant protection products from protected crops in Southern Europe and (2) on the activities carried out in 2010 within the Service Level Agreement between JRC and EFSA and supporting the FATE and Ecoregions working groups of the PPR Panel.

A Public Consultation report on a draft Guidance Document related to the persistence of pesticides in soil and the exposure assessment of soil organisms was also published, together with the Guidance Document of the PPR Panel for the determination of the half-time degradation (DegT50) values of plant protection products in soil.

In the coming months, the PPR Panel will continue to develop scientific opinions and Guidance Documents, including risk assessment methodologies in the areas of toxicology, ecotoxicology and environment taking into account priorities identified by the Pesticide Steering Committee.

SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE

Assessment Methodology Unit (AMU)

AMU published 2 scientific reports: (1) on Model-based assessment of Microbiological Criteria on Salmonella in poultry meat; and (2) on Comparison of the Approaches Taken by EFSA and JECFA to Establish a HBGV for Cadmium.

In addition, a Guidance of EFSA on the submission of scientific peer-reviewed open literature in view of the approval of pesticide active substances under the new Regulation concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market and a technical report on a public consultation on the EFSA Guidance on submission of scientific peer-reviewed open literature for the approval of pesticide active substance were published.

Data Collection and Exposure Unit (DATEX)

A scientific report on perfluoroalkylated substances in food and a technical report evaluating the data collection procedure for veterinary drug residues were published. An external (interim) report on statistical modelling of usual food intake provided a first result from this grant project managed by RIVM. The report documenting the findings and recommendations of the colloquium on food classification was circulated to stakeholders. Guidance for the use of comprehensive food consumption data was published, together with the aggregated statistics for each study.

Agreements were signed for two further initial activities in the EU Menu project covering the use of the EPIC-Soft tool for collecting food consumption information and the adult pilot project developing detailed methodology and procedures for food consumption data collection in adults. Kick-off meetings were held for the 3rd round of data transmission projects with MSs and for the review of existing laboratory information management systems with the JRC.

Emerging Risks Unit (EMRISK)

EMRISK published the latest update of the procedures for dealing with urgent requests. The report on EFSA's 15th Scientific Colloquium on Emerging Risks in Food was also published.

An internal mandate for a chemical hazards database to hold summarised data for all chemicals assessed by EFSA was received, and a draft mandate drafted concerning collection of consumption data on energy drinks for specific subpopulations, to be funded most probably through procurement, was shared with the Commission for their comments.

Pesticide Risk Assessment Peer Review (PRAPeR)

18 Conclusions were adopted following the pesticide peer review of 18 active substances.

In 2011 it is anticipated that Conclusions for the final 7 re-submitted active substances will be adopted, and the peer review programmes will commence for the new active substances and the 58 active substances of stage 4 of the

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review programme, which are included in Annex I to Directive 91/414/EEC and for which EFSA should deliver its view by 31/12/2012.

The Unit received requests for 10 routine MRL (Maximum Residue Levels) applications and 2 urgent requests under Article 43 of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005; 17 Reasoned Opinions were adopted, assessing in total 63 MRL requests. In addition, EFSA issued a Reasoned Opinion in response to the urgent request from the EC on nicotine in herbal infusions and tea. The finalisation of the 2009 Annual Report on Pesticide Residues is anticipated for May/June.

Regarding the work under Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 EFSA expects to adopt an additional 60-80 reasoned opinions in response to routine MRL applications. In the review programme under Article 12 it is expected that between 64 and 120 reasoned opinions will be adopted in 2011, depending on the feedback of the MSs on the draft reasoned opinions. In addition, EFSA will have to prepare reports in response to urgent requests of the EC (e.g. scientific support for preparing the EU position in the 43rd meeting of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR)).

Scientific Cooperation (SCO)

Focal Point (FP) agreements have been renewed for 2011. The report on FP Activities in 2010 has been endorsed by the FP. One of the key topics of the 10th FP meeting in Feb. 2011 was the medium-term planning. The report on medium-term planning was published and a related leaflet is currently under development.

A report on the Art. 36 activities carried out in 2010 was prepared, proposing improvements to the grant and procurement schemes. The evaluation of the Information Exchange Platform (IEP) confirmed that it is a valuable tool to exchange information amongst MSs and with EFSA. The Expert Database (EDB) grew to almost 3050 submitted applications. The summary report of EFSA's 15th Scientific Colloquium, concerning emerging risks, has been published. EFSA's 2nd Scientific Expert Satisfaction Survey was launched in Feb. 2011; about 1700 scientific experts that collaborated with EFSA in the period 2008 – 2010 were invited to fill out an on-line questionnaire.

Animal Diseases Transmissible to Humans Unit (ZOOZOSES)

Two EFSA scientific reports were adopted: (1) the EU Summary Report on zoonoses and food-borne outbreaks in 2009, which was prepared in collaboration with the ECDC, and (2) the report on analyses of the EU-wide baseline survey regarding factors associated with *Salmonella* contamination of broiler carcasses. In addition, an external report on survey methods for food-borne pathogens in food was issued.

The EU Summary Report on antimicrobial resistance in 2009 and the report on risk factors in the EU-wide baseline survey on Salmonella in breeding pigs will be finalised and issued within the next two months. In addition, a report on revised reporting specification for food-borne outbreaks is to be issued in March. The reporting period for 2010 zoonoses, food-borne outbreaks and antimicrobial resistance data will open in April for the MSs and will be supported by the issuing of three reporting manuals. Related to this, a pilot for electronic submission of isolate-based antimicrobial resistance data, using an automated XML tool, is to be carried out. The unit continues its work with identification of epidemiological indicators for meat inspection of swine and other slaughter animals.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE & ADVISORY FORUM

Scientific Committee (SC)

In December 2010 and February 2011 the SC held its 46th and 47th plenary meetings.

The SC endorsed a Draft Guidance on Risk Assessment Concerning Potential Risks Arising from Applications of Nanoscience and Nanotechnologies to Food and Feed, which was published for public consultation until the 25th of February. The finalisation of the guidance is scheduled before the summer.

The first meeting of the Scientific Network for Risk Assessment of Nanotechnologies in Food and Feed which was held in February discussed the work plan and activities of the network and cooperation and information sharing.

The WG on genotoxicity testing strategies will present the Draft Opinion for endorsement for public consultation to the SC plenary in April, and the TTC WG will present the Draft Opinion for endorsement for public consultation to the SC plenary in June.

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The SC organised a training workshop on the use of dose-response modelling software for applying the benchmark dose approach in Risk Assessment. A technical report summarising the discussion and recommendations, and providing the tutorial material was produced after the workshop and published on the EFSA website.

Advisory Forum (AF)

EFSA shared, on a confidential basis, the shortlist of suitable candidates for the renewal of the ANS and CEF Panels and the reserve list of the SC and Panels with the AF. The comments received from the AF members regarding the candidates were taken into consideration for drawing up the final shortlist.

COMMUNICATIONS

Communication activities:

- 1-2 December, Vienna: meeting of the Advisory Forum Communications Working Group (AFCWG). Key issues on the agenda of this meeting included a debate on communicating about independence, an update on DG Research Priorities, an overview of EFSA's communications on upcoming scientific issues, an update on cooperation in communications, and a presentation of the results of the web user survey. The agenda also included emerging issues in MSs and presentations on the assessment of risks related to dietary weight-loss practices in France, a case study on the Hungarian toxic sludge incident and a case study on nanosilica in food given by the Netherlands.
- 27 January, Berlin: media lunch with German journalists. Four journalists working for key German dailies attended the lunch with EFSA's ED, where they discussed critical issues such as conflict of interests, as well as the quality of EFSA's scientific outputs.
- 31 January – 3 Feb., Brussels: the EU Agencies Exhibition in the European Parliament successfully demonstrated how the EU Agencies' work impacts and is relevant to the life of European citizens. EFSA was active in two themes: Health, Safety, Environment and Education, business and innovation for growth. It presented its role and mandate via key-messages, power point presentations and with active participation in a round-table discussion led by BBC journalist.
- The Press Office dealt with a total of 128 media queries; sixteen media interviews were organised with the EFSA's ED and other scientific staff / experts with media across Europe and beyond, e.g. France 5 (French national TV), ARD (German national TV), Der Tageszeitung (German national daily) and the Canadian national Radio.

Press Releases:

- EFSA assesses welfare risks to animals during transport (12 Jan)
- EFSA launches public consultation on guidance for the risk assessment of nanomaterials in food and feed (14 Jan)

Web News Stories:

- EFSA reviews BSE/TSE infectivity in small ruminant tissues (2 Dec)
- EFSA and industry exchange views on guidance on gut and immune function health claims (6 Dec)
- EFSA assesses possible health risk for children from nitrate in leafy vegetables (9 Dec)
- EFSA's Management Board endorses work plan and budget for 2011 (16 Dec)
- Scientific Network for Plant Health Risk Assessment meets in Parma (22 Dec)
- EFSA and ECDC review scientific evidence on possible links between TSEs in animals and humans (19 Jan)
- EFSA engages in open debate on GMOs in the European Parliament (19 Jan)
- EFSA revises assessment of consumer exposure to steviol glycosides (26 Jan)
- EFSA to issue statement on two studies on safety of artificial sweeteners (7 Feb)

Publications

Various scientific and corporate publications have been produced. These include:

- The Eurobarometer report and summary report in EFSA's four working languages and the corresponding country factsheets for each MS (in English as well as the corresponding official languages) were all available online in Dec.

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- The EFSAnews, Moving Together and EFSA in focus (Plants, Animals, Food) newsletters were published online in Jan.
- The annual DVD of EFSA's scientific outputs was made available in Feb.
- Printed copies of the Scientific Colloquium Report #14 on food classification were delivered in Jan.
- The French/ German and Italian versions of the corporate video on the risk assessment workflow were published on EFSA's website in Feb.

Web

The new definitions for scientific outputs were rolled out on the website, and the EFSA Journal was fully integrated into the website, eliminating duplication of scientific information. Linking between scientific outputs on the website and related information the Register of Questions (RoQ) was enhanced.

A new A-Z Topic on the Modernisation of Meat inspection was published, and the following A-Z Topics were updated: Qualified presumption of safety (QPS); Metals as contaminants in food; Food additives; Aspartame; Plant health; GMO; Feed; Nanotechnology; BSE; and Animal welfare. Website information for claims applicants was improved.

The webcast of NDA's meeting with stakeholders on gut and immune function related health claims generated 9,838 views. The corporate video was made available as a download in the four working languages. The EFSA Highlights newsletter was sent out weekly, reaching over 25 000 subscribers per issue.

An audit of EFSA's visibility in external search engines was launched, as well as a website evaluation based primarily on user testing. An accessibility audit, focusing on accessibility for users with disabilities and special needs, was concluded. EFSA's RSS feeds were promoted on the SANCO website.

ADMINISTRATION/CORPORATE

Institutional and stakeholder relations

- 2 December, Bordeaux: EFSA's ED participated in the 25th anniversary of "Conseil National d'Alimentation" to present EFSA's activities and work priorities. This meeting was attended by representatives from the various competent Ministries, the French ANSES and representatives from the food chain interested parties.
- 2-3 December, Parma: the Vice-Chair of the European Parliament AGRI Committee Mrs Marit Paulsen (Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe - ALDE, Sweden) visited EFSA with a delegation from the ALDE group. Different sessions were organised on this two-day meetings, notably one interactive dialogue on animal health and animal welfare.
- 9-10 Dec., Brussels: within the framework of the EFSA Stakeholder Consultative Platform, EFSA held its plenary meeting where inter alia a discussion took place on the draft reflection paper on the engagement of the stakeholders on EFSA's activities.
- 10 December, Bonn: EFSA's ED met at the German State Secretary for the Environment, J. Becker, President of the Federal Environment Agency J. Flasbarth, President of the Federal Nature Conservation Agency B. Jessel and the President of the Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (EFSA's Advisory Forum member), A. Hensel. Discussions focussed on contaminants, pesticides and GMO environmental risk assessment as well as on ways for further strengthening co-operation between the competent authorities in Germany and EFSA.
- 20 December, Parma: at the initiative of the EU Belgian Presidency and the Belgian General Consul in Milan, François Cornet D'Elzius, EFSA's ED welcomed a delegation of General Consuls from several EU Member States (Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Greece, Lithuania, Poland and Spain based in Milan). The meeting allowed EFSA's representatives to present its mission, priorities and the challenges it faces. Discussions focused in particular on scientific cooperation and networking with MSs and communication on risks associated to food.
- 12 January, Parma: the President of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy exchanged views with EFSA's ED and EFSA's senior managers on the priorities for 2011 and the contribution to the EU 2020 innovation agenda.
- 12 January, Brussels: EFSA participated in an open debate on the risk assessment of genetically modified plants (GMOs) organised by the European Parliament taking thus the opportunity to explain how EFSA's rigorous risk assessment approach was anchored in its core values of independence, scientific excellence and transparency.

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- 24 Jan., Parma: Vice-President of the EC, Commissioner for Enterprise and Industry Antonio Tajani visited EFSA for a bilateral discussion with EFSA's ED on EFSA's activities, in particular with regards to the evaluation of regulated substances, but also in the areas of public health, such as dioxins. Innovation, the EU 2020 strategy and the High Level Forum on Competitiveness were also part of the discussions.
- 27 January, Berlin: EFSA's ED visited the "Internationale Grüne Woche" and met with Minister of German Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (BMELV), Mrs Ilse Aigner, the Director General for Nutrition, Food Safety and Animal Health, (BMELV), Bernhard Kühnle, the President of the Federal Institute for risk Assessment, A. Hensel (BfR), and the Member of EFSA 's Management Board M. Horst.
- 28 January, Paris: EFSA's ED visited the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety (ANSES) to discuss scientific co-operation and risk assessment, implementation of the medium term planning as well as co-operation with Art. 36 of competent organisations.
- 31 January, Brussels: EFSA's ED met Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy John Dalli.
- 31 January - 4 February, Brussels: EU Agencies held an exhibition at the EP in Brussels to raise awareness among MEPs of the role of the agencies within the EU institutional framework. EFSA contributed to two thematic clusters respectively dedicated to health, safety and environment on the one hand and, on the other hand, to education, business and innovation.
- 2 February, Brussels: EFSA participated in the meeting of the Heads of EU Agencies meeting in Brussels. The main topic for discussion was the contribution from the Agencies to the work of the Inter-institutional Working Group on the future governance framework for EU Agencies. Equally, budget and discharge matters were in the agenda of the meeting that counted on the participation of EC Vice-President, Maros Secofvic and Vice-Chair of the Budget Committee MEP Jutta Haug.
- 4 February, Brussels: an EFSA delegation led by EFSA's ED met representatives from the Belgian Federal Public Service for Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment and from the Belgian food safety agency (AFSCA) to discuss scientific co-operation and the medium term planning and scientific co-operation under Art. 36.
- 15 February, Parma: EFSA's ED held with SANCO's DG Paola Testori-Coggi the regular video-bilateral meeting where topics such as food additives, tools for medium-term planning and botanicals were discussed.

International Relations

- 8 December, Parma: EFSA gave presentations on animal cloning and EFSA's role in GMO risk assessment to a Japanese delegation composed of representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the Baragi University and the mission of Japan to the EU.
- 23 February, Parma: EFSA welcomed a delegation from China (AQSIQ) and presented EFSA's role in risk assessment and risk communication, emerging risks and EFSA's role in RASFF, and EFSA's risk assessment procedures of genetically modified food and feed.
- Within the framework of the Pre-Accession Programme for Candidate and Potential Candidate Countries, experts from the beneficiary countries attended in total 3 EFSA meetings: AFCWG, Stakeholder Consultative Platform, and EFSA Network for Risk Assessment of Nanotechnologies.

Data Protection (DP)

The DPO (Data Protection Officer) provided advice and support to ensure compliance with the DP Regulation with respect to disciplinary proceedings and administrative inquiries, video surveillance, and selection of SC and Scientific Panel members. For those matters notifications for prior check were sent to the EDPS (European Data Protection Supervisor). On 28 Jan. 2011 (the European Data Protection Day) a DP intranet page was launched. The page links to a DP workspace, containing the register of EFSA data processing operations and other general information on the subject.

IT and Operations

The ITOP Unit completed the migration to a new telecommunication provider (voice and data) in December.

The pilot phase for the new Meeting Organisation System (MOS) has been initiated and the deployment of a new automated tool is scheduled for the first half of 2011. During the reporting period additional functionalities of the RAW, the Website and the EFSA Journal have also been released and a new version of the expert database will be available to include the expertise of EFSA staff. Detailed feasibility studies for a corporate-wide search engine and a document management tool have also been completed.

The framework contract for the acquisition of security services was awarded and new open calls for tenders for building maintenance, insurance services and furniture acquisition have been or are about to be published.

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Final Seat

In December EFSA communicated its settlement plan to the Authority STU. The settlement was developed taking into account the need for open spaces to foster cooperation among the staff members and to enhance flexibility in the use of the space.

Supported by an external law cabinet, EFSA has drafted the 'preliminary purchase agreement' fixing the terms and conditions to be subsequently finalised and implemented in the final purchase agreement. The preliminary agreement is currently being discussed with the Authority STU.

The eventual financial conditions of the agreement are subject to the outcome of a tender procedure aimed at selecting the financial institution which will propose the financial terms for the purchase of the receivable owed by EFSA to the STU. Provisionally, the publication of the call is planned on 30 March with a deadline for the submission of offers on 20 June.

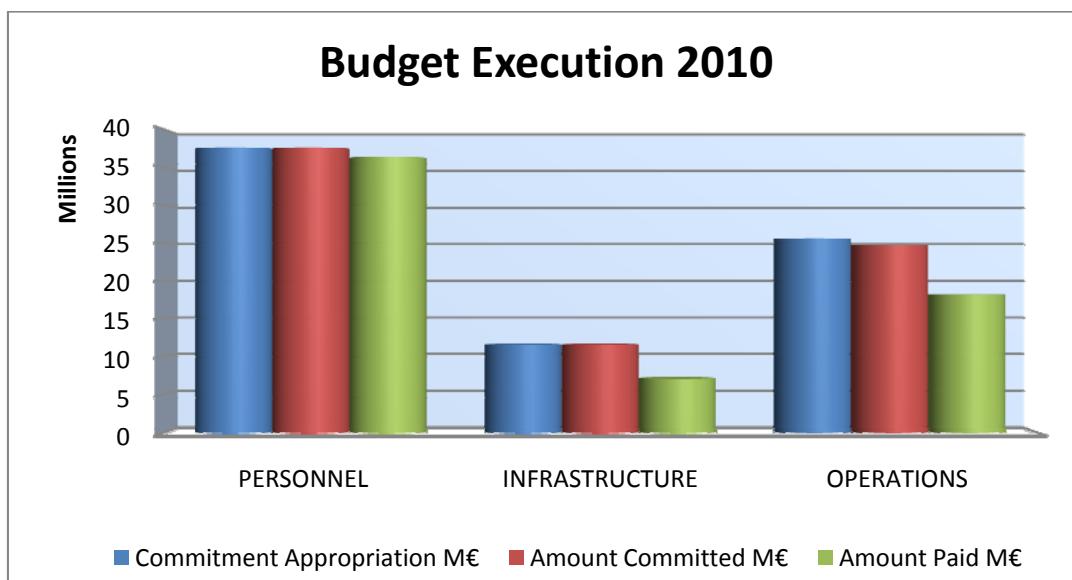
Financial management

1. Budget execution

In 2010,

- EUR 73.8 million or 98.8 % of the EUR 74.72 million budget (after integration of the EFTA contribution to EFSA budget) was committed. The commitment level stands at the target set for the year (EUR 74.0 million). Under Title I Personnel and Title II Infrastructure, the budget was fully executed. Under Title III Operations, the execution rate reached 96.5 % with, in particular, the commitments under the scientific cooperation programme having reached 95.3 % of the EUR 8.2 million appropriations available.
- EUR 61.6 million or 83.5 % of the EUR 73.78 payment appropriations (after global transfer and EFTA contribution to EFSA budget) were paid. This payment level stands 11 % below the target (EUR 68.7 million) for the following main reasons:
 - Major data processing and IT operational support projects were initiated in Nov. 2010 and will therefore trigger payments for an amount of EUR 4.3 million in 2011.
 - Delays in contracting the Scientific Cooperation Activities and lower payment levels under the existing grant & procurement program lead to an under-use of the related differentiated payment credits amounting to EUR 1.3 million.
 - Payments for an amount of EUR 1.1 million under specific projects in Administration and Communication were postponed to 2011 because the commitments were done close to the year end.

Title	Commitment Appropriation	Amount Committed	% Committed	Payment Appropriation	Amount Paid	% Paid	RAL
PERSONNEL	37,573,452	37,570,152	100.0%	37,573,452	36,350,027	96.74%	1,220,125
INFRASTRUCTURE	11,538,018	11,537,644	100.0%	11,538,018	7,070,946	61.28%	4,466,698
OPERATIONS	25,603,650	24,700,316	96.5%	24,670,130	18,195,968	73.76%	6,504,348
Total:	74,715,120	73,808,112	98.8%	73,781,600	61,616,941	83.51%	12,191,171



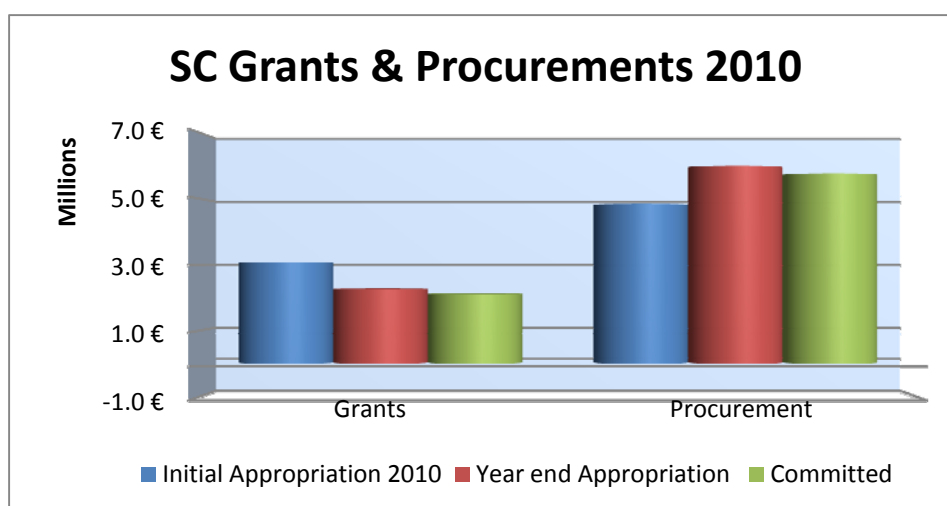
2. Year on year

Year on year, the budget execution increased by EUR 5.2 million in 2010, which represents a 4 % progress. The payments increased by EUR 8.4 million compared to 2009, which represents a 15 % progress.

Title	Commitment 2010	Commitment 2009	Increase	Payments 2010	Payments 2009	Increase
PERSONNEL	37,570,152	33,813,425	11.11%	36,350,027	33,123,524	9.74%
INFRASTRUCTURE	11,537,644	10,693,242	7.90%	7,070,946	6,297,081	12.29%
OPERATIONS	24,700,316	24,070,453	2.62%	18,195,968	13,818,097	31.68%
Total:	73,808,112	68,577,120	7.63%	61,616,941	53,238,702	15.74%

3. Scientific Cooperation programme

The year-end commitments stood at EUR 7.86 million or 99.57 % of the initial EUR 7.9 million programme (95.3 % of the EUR 8.2 million available appropriation at year end).



In terms of payment appropriations under the grant & procurement programme, EUR 6.0 million was paid out of the EUR 7.3 million available (82 %). Under the Grants, 89 % of the payment appropriations were consumed; 80 % under procurement.

The evolution over years of the scientific cooperation programme shows that the initial budget allocated from 2008 onwards, while increasing, needs reinforcement during the year or is fully consumed which mirrors the need perceived for increased allocation of resources to that instrument.

Scientific Cooperation	2007	2008	2009	2010
INITIAL BUDGET	3,345,862	6,387,000	7,473,000	7,900,000
COMMITTED	2,817,150	6,785,755	7,854,295	7,843,852
% COMMITTED	84%	106% *	105% *	99%

* The percentage of committed amount results higher than 100% because the initial budget was increased during the year.

Accounting

Between Dec. 2010 and Feb. 2011, more than 3 500 payments have been executed. The second phase of migrating EFSA financial database (bank accounts/legal entities) towards the Commission database is ongoing and is foreseen to be completed by September 2011.

The Court of Auditors' audit mission on the 2010 provisional accounts is scheduled on the 7th of March 2011.

EFSA provisional annual accounts were established and all documents needed to be presented to the Court of Auditors have been prepared.

Human Resources

Staff Categories	Target 2011	Total Contracted and Offered
Temporary Agents and Officials		
Executives, Managers & Officers (AD)	213	205
Assistants functions (AST)	142	142
Total	355	347
Contract Agents		
Officers functions (CA FG IV)	51	39
Assistants functions (CA FG I, II, III)	59	51
Total	110	90
Seconded National Experts	29	12
Total all staff categories	494	449

Glossary

ABP – Animal by-products
AFCWG – Advisory Forum Communications Working Group
ALDE - Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
ANSES - Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety, France
BfR – Federal Institute for Risk Assessment, Germany
BSE-TSE - Bovine and Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies
CCPR – Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues
DegT50 – Half-time Degradation
DG SANCO – Directorate General for Health and Consumers
DOI – Declaration of Interest
DPO – Data Protection Officer
EC – European Commission
ECDC – European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
EDB – EFSA Expert Database
EDPS - European Data Protection Supervisor
EP – European Parliament
ERA – Environmental Risk Assessment
ESCO – EFSA Scientific Cooperation projects
EURL – European Union Reference Laboratory
FCM – Food Contact Materials
FP – Focal Point
HR – Human resources
IEP – Information exchange platform
ITOP – IT& Operations Unit, EFSA
JEFCA – Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives
JRC – Joint Research Centre of the European Commission
MB – Management Board
MEP – Member of the European Parliament
MOS – Meeting Organisation System
MRA – Microbiological Risk Assessment
MRL – Maximum residue levels
MS – EU Member States
PMEM – Post Market Environmental Monitoring
QPS – Qualified Presumption of Safety
RA – EFSA Risk Assessment Directorate
RASFF – Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed
RAW – Risk Assessment Workflow
RoQ – EFSA Register of Questions
SC – Scientific Committee
SCA – EFSA Scientific Cooperation & Assistance Directorate
SCO – EFSA Scientific Cooperation Unit
SP – Scientific Panel
TSE – Transmissible spongiform encephalopathy
TTC – Threshold of toxicological concern
WG – Working Group