



*PROGRESS REPORT*

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**Management Board meeting  
Parma, 20 October 2011**

## Panel on animal health and welfare (AHAW)

- 3 opinions adopted:
  - Epizootic Ulcerative Syndrome (EUS)
  - Meat inspection of swine (Co-adoption with BIOHAZ-CONTAM)
- 3 external reports related to procurement (animal-based indicators for welfare and meat inspection)



## Panel on biological hazards (BIOHAZ)

- 6 opinions adopted:
  - 2 on Food hygiene
  - 2 on Food-born zoonoses
  - Hatchery waste as animal by-products



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

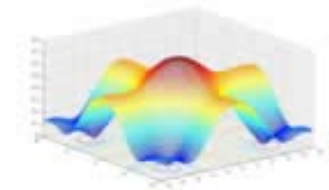
- 3 opinions adopted:
  - hexabromocyclododecanes in food
  - dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs in liver from sheep and deer
- 1 external report related to Article 36 grants (toxicity of 3-MCPD esters)

## Panel on plant health (PLH)

- 1 opinion adopted on: -solanaceous pospiviroids
- Public consultation of: -draft guidance document endorsed on environmental risk assessment of plant pests

## Scientific assessment support (SAS)

- Support the STEC crisis: -data collection, organisation and analysis of tracing information in the food supply chain  
-contributions to the drafting of STEC technical and scientific reports



## Dietary and chemical monitoring (DCM)

- 1 scientific report on monitoring of furan levels in food
- 1 external report related to Art.36 grants (transmission of chemical occurrence data – Austria)

## Biological monitoring (BIOMO)

- 2 scientific reports on:
  - Temporal and spatial trends of zoonotic agents in animals and food
  - Epidemiological indicators on meat inspection of swine
- A technical report on: Shiga toxin/verotoxin-producing *Escherichia coli* in humans, food and animals in the EU/EEA, with special reference to the German outbreak strain STEC O104
- 2 external reports related to procurement (statistical analyses methods on antimicrobial resistance data and estimation of the relative contribution of different food and animal sources to human *Salmonella* infections in EU)



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

- 1 opinion: - Calcium Carbonate and E320
- 2 statements: - Calcium Lignosulfonate  
- Sunset Yellow FCF



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

- 15 opinions: - food contact materials (4)  
- flavouring substances (8)
  - smoke flavouring (2)
  - recycled plastics used in food contact (1)
- 1 report: - non-plastic food contact materials (ESCO WG)



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

- 24 opinions on feed additives



## **Panel on genetically modified organisms (GMO)**

- 7 opinions: GMO applications
- 7 technical reports:
  - Post-Market Environmental Monitoring MON810
  - Outcome public consultations (2)
  - Evaluation of trial GM microorganism application
- 1 guidance document: Post-Market Environmental Monitoring
- 1 public consultation: draft guidance for the risk assessment of food and feed from GM animals, including animal health and welfare aspects (August - September 2011)

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

- 92 opinions adopted:
  - 78 opinions covering 571 health claims under Art.13
    - health claims (9), novel food (1)
    - exemptions for labelling of substances (3)
- 1 statement: « toothkind » juice drinks
- 1 guidance document: draft guidance health claims
- 4 technical reports: responses to comments on substantiation health claims
- 1 public consultation: draft opinion on dietary values for protein (launched in July 2011)



## Panel on protection products and their residues (PPR) and Pesticides (PRAS)

- 32 reasoned opinions on questions maximum residue level (MRL)
- 8 conclusions adopted on 8 actives substances
- 1 opinion on Dermal Absorption
- 3 reports on:
  - validity of CXL proposals for 22 pesticides
  - public consultation on Dermal Absorption
  - applicability of QSAR analysis for dietary risk assessment (external report)



## **Scientific Committee (SC)**

- Opinions adopted: Statistical Significance and Biological Relevance; Genotoxicity testing strategies
- Endorsed for public consultation: draft Guidance on repeated-dose 90-day study; draft Guidance on Default Values, draft Opinion on Threshold of Toxicological Concern.

## **Emerging risks (EMRISK)**

Publication of technical reports on: crisis preparedness and response; emerging risk identification; strategies for data collection for emerging risk identification; and Stakeholder activities on emerging risks.

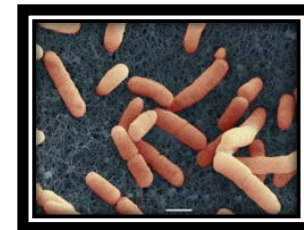
## **Advisory Forum and Scientific cooperation (AFSCO)**

- 41<sup>st</sup> Advisory Forum meeting. Discussions on: Science Strategy; data collection; risk communication guidelines; work of Scientific Committee; and lessons learnt from the E. coli outbreak.
- New pre-accession programme (Sept. 2011 – Sept. 2013) signed.
- 16<sup>th</sup> Scientific Colloquium - Emerging Risks in Plant Health: from plant pest interactions to global change took place in June with over 100 participants from 31 countries.



- **GERMANY** reported an ongoing outbreak of STEC O104:H4 (**21 May**):
  - 3126 cases of diarrhoeal disease (including **17 deaths**),
  - 773 cases of Haemolytic Uraemic Syndrome (including **29 deaths**),
  - A further 119 cases and 4 deaths also suspected as being linked to this outbreak
- **FRANCE** reported a cluster of patients with bloody diarrhoea (**24 June**):
  - 2 cases of diarrhoeal disease (and 4 suspected)
  - 9 cases of HUS
  - 11 of these patients attending the same event
  - Infection with *E.coli* O104:H4 confirmed in 12 patients
- **CAUSATIVE MICROORGANISM:** **Shiga-toxin producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) serotype O104:H4**

- Isolates from French outbreak  
**indistinguishable** from German one



- **German outbreak.** EFSA supported EC and Germany
  - **Scientific Report of EFSA.** Urgent advice on the public health risk of Shiga-toxin producing *Escherichia coli* in fresh vegetables and **Joint EFSA/ECDC Technical Report** on Shiga toxin/verotoxin-producing *Escherichia coli* in humans, food and animals in the EU/EEA, with special reference to the German outbreak strain STEC O104 (**both published 9 June 2011**).
- **French outbreak.** EFSA set up a **Task Force** composed of experts from European Commission, concerned MS, WHO, ECDC and FAO
  - **Technical Report of EFSA.** Tracing seeds, in particular fenugreek seeds, in relation to the Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* (STEC) O104:H4 2011 Outbreaks in Germany and France (**5 July 2011**).
  - **Scientific Report of EFSA.** Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* (STEC) O104:H4 2011 outbreaks in Europe: Taking Stock (**3 October 2011**).

- The trace-back and trace-forward studies established one common link between all 41 of the German clusters and the French cluster: Import of **fenugreek seeds from Egypt** through a single importer in Germany.
- Lot 48088 of fenugreek seeds imported from Egypt was the common link for both outbreaks. Possible implication of other lots not discarded.
- **Commission implementing decision, 2011/402/EU (6<sup>th</sup> July 2011):**
  - Withdrawal from the EU market of all lots of fenugreek seeds imported from Egypt (2009-2011) and mentioned in the RASFF.
  - Temporary prohibition of all seeds and beans originated from Egypt.
- **Consumer advice (3 October, EFSA website)**
  - After tracing activities across the food chain have been completed, EFSA no longer advises *"not to grow sprouts for their own consumption and also not to eat sprouts or sprouted seeds unless they have been cooked thoroughly"* and recommends that consumers refer to national food safety agencies for any specific advice regarding sprout consumption.

- Public consultation on draft endorsed by MB:
  - 25 contributors from stakeholders and civil society
  - 86 comments
- Stakeholder Workshop on 12 October:
  - Approx. 150 participants registered
  - Members of the European Parliament, Commissioner, national competent authorities, international partners, stakeholders actively participating
- Amended draft to the Board for discussion-adoption in December – implementation from 2012

## France-Soir

Aliments : Plus de  
2.000 étiquettes  
mensongères débusquées



Uncertainties remain on  
safety of smoke flavour: EFSA



EU investigation  
into possible link  
between E.coli  
outbreaks



EFSA seeks comments on risk  
assessment of GE animals



AGES informiert zu  
europaweit andauernden  
Erhebungen der EHEC-  
Task Force der EFSA



EFSA - toughened  
environmental monitoring  
requirements




Public health :  
EFSA to re-assess  
aspartame  
by July 2012

Süddeutsche Zeitung  
EU-Experten:  
EHEC-Vermeidung  
beginnt vor der Ernte




EFSA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
AGRICULTURE MINISTER NAYDENOV MEET

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### Highlights






**E. coli: EFSA confirms link to Egyptian fenugreek seeds**  
05/07/2011  
The European Food Safety Authority recommends preventing consumer exposure to the suspect seeds and carrying out a tracing in all countries which may have received the seeds from the concerned lots.



**Commission proposes revising EU macro-financial assistance**  
04/07/2011  
The regulation would speed up the provision of assistance to neighbouring countries that have balance-of-payments problems and make the aid more effective.



European Commission  
**Poland heads the Council of the European Union**   
04/07/2011  
Focus for the second half of 2011 is on economic growth, a more secure

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EFSA *E. coli* press release top news on the Europa website thanks to cooperation between EFSA and DG COMM.



# Publications & Events

## Engaging in dialogue with the scientific community...

- Scientific Colloquium # 16 on Emerging Risks in Plant Health – From plant pest interactions to global change | 9-10 June
- SafePork 2011 – 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on the Epidemiology and Control of Biological, Chemical and Physical Hazards in Pigs and Pork | 19-22 June
- Dioxin 2011 – 31<sup>st</sup> International Symposium on Halogenated Persistent Pollutants | 21-25 August



## Visibility for EFSA's achievements

- Annual Report 2010
- Summary of Annual Report 2010



## ...and new editions of newsletters

- Moving Together
- EFSA in focus (Animals, Food, Plants)

## Cooperating within the EU and beyond...

- Scientific Cooperation between EFSA and Member States
- Food safety cooperation beyond borders (4 languages)



- EPPO
- Bulgarian Food Safety Agency (BFSA)
- Asia-Pacific Weeks (Berlin)
- Polish Presidency
- International Dairy Federation Summit 2011



## At mid September

- Budget execution:           68.22% committed  
  52.08% paid
- New financial system ABAC implemented as of 19 September
- EFSA staff: 441
- Reorganisation on track

## Recent milestones reached:

- 05 August – Signature of 'Preliminary Purchase Agreement'
- 30 August – Approval of both Acts by Parma City Council
- 30 September – Main building operations finished





## Next milestones:

- 19 December 2011- Signature of the 'Final Purchase Agreement'
- 22 December 2011 – Targeted date of the move
- 05 January 2012 – EFSA starts operating from its new home
- 29 February 2012 – Release of current premises

## Key achievements:

- Cost of the building within the ceiling cleared by EU Budgetary Authorities (38.6 M€)
- Legal framework of the purchase agreed among all parties
- EFSA procurement procedures in line with timeschedule
- Date for EFSA operating from its new seat on track (05/01/12)