



An Update on the Development of  
***EFSA Science Strategy 2012-2016***

Management Board meeting  
Parma, 20 October 2011

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| 2008/09           | Strategy Plan 2009-2013   |
| Nov'10            | Report Tony Hardy: "What is EFSA today and where should it go"  |
| Dec'10            | Draft key objectives & initiatives                              |
| Jan'11            | Internal Science Strategy Workshop                              |
| Apr-Jun'11        | Consultation of EFSA Staff, SC and AF                           |
| Jun'11            | Discussion in MB ( <i>cf. reflection paper on EFSA portal</i> ) |
| July-Aug          | Drafting the Science Strategy                                   |
| <i>Sep/Oct'11</i> | <i>Consultation of EFSA staff, SC, AF and MB</i>                |
| <i>Oct'11</i>     | <i>Launch of Public Consultation &amp; Discussion in MB</i>     |
| <i>Dec'11</i>     | <i>Discussion and possible adoption by MB</i>                   |

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*EFSA provides the best scientific advice that  
enables timely decision-making to protect  
European consumers from food-related risks  
and support healthy diets*

# Where is EFSA today?

- ❑ EFSA has first created scientific structure: **Scientific Committee and Scientific Panels** comprising **independent scientific experts** to deliver scientific opinions.
- ❑ EFSA has developed **internal scientific support** structures for scientific data/information collection and analysis.
- ❑ EFSA has developed **guidance on methodologies for risk assessment and risk monitoring, procedures** e.g. for handling requests for emergency advice, put in place a **quality assurance system** for its scientific outputs, and has started developing processes to **identify emerging risks**.
- ❑ Through the Advisory Forum, EFSA has established **cooperation activities throughout Europe** and with organisations in **third countries** and **international organisations** with mandates similar to EFSA's.
- ❑ EFSA has built **dialogue with its stakeholders and consults** on key scientific opinions.
- ❑ EFSA has published over **2,500 scientific outputs** to underpin measures on e.g. food and feed additives, pesticides, zoonoses and health claims.

## ❑ **Evolving European food policy context**

- E.U. 2020 Agenda: sustainable innovation
- External challenges: international trade in food

## ❑ **Nature and volume of scientific work**

- Regulated products with many sectorial regulations
- Public health and emerging issues
- Nature and complexity of advice: novel technologies, marked broadening of the scientific discourse (environmental impact, occupational health, post-market monitoring, etc...)

## ❑ **Resources**

- Budget to remain around existing levels
- Receiving fees associated to evaluation of regulated products ??

# FOUR Strategic Objectives

1. Further develop EFSA's scientific excellence and its other core values.
2. Optimise the use of risk assessment capacity across the EU.
3. Develop and harmonise methodologies and approaches to assess risks associated with the food chain.
4. Strengthen the evidence basis for risk assessment and risk monitoring.

## 1. Further develop EFSA's scientific excellence and its other core values

### Scientific excellence

- Quality of its scientific advice. To implement a fully integrated Quality Management system by 2016
- Integrated advice. Ensure and enhance multidisciplinary membership of Scientific Panels/Working Groups
- Priorities and emerging issues. To identify and evaluate in cooperation with European, national and international organisations emerging issues (e.g. new technologies)

### Other core values

- Independence. Policy under review
- Openness and Transparency. Ensure that EFSA's processes and the basis for its opinions are understood and that EFSA's scientific outputs are understandable to its stakeholders, target audiences and the general public
- Responsiveness. Close communication with risk managers. Streamline and simplify the process for submission and review



## 2. Optimise the use of risk assessment capacity across the EU

- ❑ **Scientific experts in Scientific Panels and Scientific Committee.** New role.
- ❑ **Internal Scientific expertise.** EFSA to focus on building and utilising better the internal scientific expertise among EFSA's scientific staff. Need for enhanced developmental training on risk assessment for the staff
- ❑ **Cooperation with other scientific organisations.** Duplication of work to be avoided. Collaboration with EU agencies, national agencies and research institutes and international partners to share and outsource work
- ❑ **Dialogue with stakeholders and risk managers on priorities**
  - Reviewing priorities
  - Vital dialogue with risk managers on the workload to enable EFSA to identify appropriate resources and specific expertise available
  - To improve the procedures for the evaluation of regulated substances

## 3. Take the lead in the development and harmonisation of methodologies and approaches to assess risks associated with the food chain

### Harmonisation

- Need for further harmonisation between various domains within EFSA, with the Member States, with other EU agencies as well as at the international level (e.g. risk assessment terminology)
- Implement further cross-cutting guidance—ensure uptake of guidance documents from the Scientific Committee on general risk assessment approaches

### New methodologies and approaches

- Involved in the development of new methodologies and new technologies
- To provide assistance and advice to risk managers

## 4. Strengthen the scientific basis for risk assessment and risk monitoring

- Data collection.** Setting priorities for data collection in order to obtain data of adequate quality (multi-annual programmes, develop protocols for data collection, shared databases).
- Scientific literature.** Ensuring efficient access to and processing of information from literature and unpublished scientific studies.
- Emerging issues.** Identify research needs

**Sep/Oct'11 Consultation of EFSA staff, Scientific Committee, Advisory Forum and Management Board**

**Oct'11 Launch of Public Consultation & Discussion in Management Board**

**Dec'11 Discussion and possible adoption by Management Board**