

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

**50th Meeting of the EFSA Management Board
Minutes of the Public Session
Parma, 20 October 2011, 09.00 h**

Members of the Management Board present

Diána Bánáti (Chair)	Jan Mousing
Sue Davies (Vice-Chair)	Milan Pogačnik
Manuel Barreto Dias	Jiri Ruprich
Marianne Elvander	Sinikka Turunen
Matthias Horst	Bernhard Url
Milan Kováč	Pieter Vanthemsche
Stella Michaelidou-Canna	Paola Testori Coggi (DG Health and Consumers)

Apologies: Piergiuseppe Facelli (Vice-Chair)

Staff of the European Food Safety Authority present

Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle (Executive Director)	Dirk Detken
Per Bergman	Anne-Laure Gassin
Gian Luca Bonduri	Claudia Heppner
David Caira	Olivier Ramsayer
Hubert Deluyker	Alberto Spagnolli

Also attending:

Vittorio Silano, Chair of EFSA's Scientific Committee

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SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

The Management Board:

- Adopted the agenda unchanged
- Adopted the revised Management Board Rules of Procedure
- The Board endorsed the process for the renewal of the Platform and extended the mandate of the current Platform until the end of June 2012
- Adopted EFSA's new budget structure (from 2012 onwards)
- Adopted the amendment to the Art.36 list of organisations

The Management Board also:

- Noted EFSA's Executive Director progress report and congratulated the EFSA executive and staff on their achievements
- Agreed on the publication of the Draft Science Strategy 2012-2016 for public consultation subject to revisions in accordance with the discussion held
- Noted the discussion paper on cooperation with the Member States
- Noted the update on EFSA's activities on emerging risks
- Noted the revision of the number of EFSA scientific outputs in 2011
- Postponed the revision of the decision on access to documents until the adoption of the new Regulation by the European legislator
- Noted the budget execution and year-end forecast 2011
- Noted the transfers in EFSA budget 2011
- Noted the update from the Audit Committee
- Noted the update from the Committee on EFSA's 2011 External Evaluation

Item 1: Welcome by the Chair

1. The Chair opened the Public Session of the 50th Management Board meeting by welcoming the Board members, EFSA Executive Director, EFSA Management Team members, Chair of the Scientific Committee, audience in Parma and online, stakeholders, experts and staff members. She introduced to the meeting: Hubert Deluyker, appointed as Director of Science Strategy and Coordination; Claudia Heppner, appointed as interim Director of Risk Assessment and Scientific Assistance; Per Bergman, appointed as interim Director of Scientific Evaluation of Regulated Products; and Alberto Spagnoli, appointed as Head of the Executive Office Unit.
2. Apologies were received from Piergiuseppe Facelli.
3. Milan Kovač informed the Board of his resignation as member of the ILSI Board of Directors and the ILSI Board of Trustees. His updated Declaration of Interest is available on EFSA's website.
4. Sue Davies wished to clarify that her organisation (*Which?*) is a member of the European Consumers' Organisation (BEUC), which is a member of EFSA Stakeholder Consultative Platform.
5. Jiri Ruprich announced that he resigned from EFSA's networks and working groups following up on the Board's recommendations. His updated Declaration of Interest is available on EFSA's website.
6. Matthias Horst informed the Board that in July he was appointed as a member of the Strategy Board of the Hamburg School of Science.
7. Diána Bánáti informed the meeting again that she holds the position of Commissioner for Food Safety and International Scientific Cooperation at the Hungarian Ministry of Rural Development and that she maintains her part-time position at the Centre for Food Research Institute.

Item 2: Adoption of the draft agenda

8. The agenda of the meeting was adopted unchanged.

Item 3: Adoption of the minutes of the 49th Management Board meeting

9. The minutes of the 49th Management Board meeting were adopted unchanged.

Item 4: Executive Director's progress report

10. The Chair invited the Executive Director to present her progress report.
11. The Executive Director gave an overview of the scientific activities carried out by EFSA over the previous four months highlighting, among others, the first scientific opinion on meat inspection (swine); the guidance document on environmental risk assessment of plant pests; the activities in the field of zoonoses carried out in cooperation with the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC); the report of the EFSA Scientific Cooperation working group on non-plastic food contact materials; the completion of the assessment of health claims, with the exception of those on botanicals; and the Scientific Committee guidance documents on repeated-dose 90-day study, and threshold of toxicological concern. She briefly informed the meeting on the public consultation on EFSA's *Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision Making Processes*; and EFSA's institutional activities, highlighting the cooperation with the European Plant Protection Organisation (EPPO). Concluding, she informed the Board on the latest activities regarding the planned move of EFSA to its final seat in December. A separate PowerPoint presentation is available online for a detailed description.
12. Questions and comments were received on: EFSA's crisis exercises; the stakeholders consultative workshop on independence held on 12 October; the number of health claims assessed by EFSA thus far; the signature of the final purchase agreement of EFSA's new seat; the forthcoming inauguration of EFSA's Applications Desk; and the need to draw lessons from the E. coli (STEC) crisis.
13. The Executive Director informed the Board that EFSA published a technical report on crisis preparedness and response which proved to be particularly useful during the period of the E. coli outbreak, and that periodically EFSA carries out crisis exercises with the national agencies and the European Commission. She agreed on the need to draw lessons from the experience on the management of the E. coli crisis, and thanked the Commission for the organisation, in November 2011, of a meeting with the Member States, EFSA and ECDC,

which will provide an opportunity to reflect on the management of that crisis and elaborate on improvements in case of future crises. The final purchase agreement of EFSA's new seat is planned to be signed on 19 December, and the move to the new building will be carried out during the Christmas break in order not to disrupt EFSA's operations. The Executive Director said that the consultative workshop on independence was very fruitful and allowed an open and constructive debate on EFSA's independence policy and scientific decision making processes. EFSA will revise its draft policy on independence following the recommendations received, and plans to submit the policy document to the Board for adoption in December. She agreed on the importance of this event and acknowledged the Board suggestion to periodically organise similar meetings. Per Bergman (Scientific Evaluation of Regulated Products) informed the meeting that, since 2009, the NDA Panel addressed a total of 2,758 health claims. He added that from the 1st of November EFSA will have an Applications Desk, which is aimed to be the front desk for interested parties in EFSA's application processes. I

14. Additional questions and comments were received on the number and type of queries that EFSA receives via its website Ask EFSA service, and the feedback from stakeholders regarding the adoption of the communications thematic approach.
15. Anne-Laure Gassin (Communications) replied that EFSA is receiving an increasing number of queries via the Ask EFSA service, which can be generically classified as: questions related to the application processes; questions on scientific aspects; media queries; and questions related to the management of risks. The latter, being outside of EFSA's remit, are forwarded to the Commission services. She informed the Board that the communications thematic approach is a regular item of discussion with the Advisory Forum Communications Working Group, and that in June EFSA presented it to the Stakeholder Platform. She said that comments from the Member States and stakeholders have been generally very positive.
16. To conclude, the Chair summarised the main points of discussion and asked the Executive Director to convey the Board's gratitude to the scientific experts and her staff in EFSA for the excellent work they are performing.

Item 5: EFSA's science strategy

17. The Chair invited Hubert Deluyker (Scientific Strategy and Coordination) to introduce the agenda item.
18. Hubert Deluyker explained that the strategy document is in line with EFSA's *Strategic Plan 2009-2013*. It includes comments from the Scientific Committee and the Advisory Forum, as well as contributions from EFSA's staff. He described the strategic vision; the activities already carried out to support it; the drivers for progress and change; and the strategic objectives of the strategy. Following a public consultation, EFSA would plan to submit the strategy for adoption of the Board in December 2011. A separate PowerPoint presentation is available online for a detailed description.
19. The Chair passed the floor to Vittorio Silano (Chair of the Scientific Committee), who underlined the importance of the Science Strategy for the future work of EFSA's Scientific Committee and Scientific Panels. He commented on the considerable amount of work carried out by EFSA in the field of "emerging risks" and stressed that activities in that area, if intended in the broadest sense, could potentially imply the assessment and monitoring of an enormous amount of data. Concluding, Vittorio Silano asked the Board to share its views on how to perform future activities in the emerging risks area.
20. Questions and comments were received on: [what was meant by integrating the present risk assessment system with a greater reliance on EFSA staff for the evaluation of applications and concern that this would undermine the transparency and multi-disciplinary approach of the Panel system](#); whether and how EFSA would plan to increase the number of staff with a scientific background; how to strengthen EFSA's autonomous data collection capacity and the identification of priorities in data collection; the structure and functioning of the Scientific Committee's working groups; the balance of EFSA's workload between public health issues and the evaluation of regulated products; the need to avoid duplication of work with other EU agencies or international institutions; with reference to emerging risks, how EFSA can contribute to the mitigation of the potential risks coming from innovation; and the need to fully explain uncertainties in scientific opinions and reports. Information was also requested on the status of the impact study related to the possible adoption of a fee system in EFSA.

21. Hubert Deluyker suggested to postpone the discussion on emerging risks until the following agenda item number 7. Stressing that EFSA needs to attract the best scientific experts for its Panels and working groups, he said that it would try to reduce their involvement in purely procedural and routinely activities, with greater involvement of its staff for these activities. Therefore, while experts would continue developing guidance documents on the evaluation of products and testing them on real cases, EFSA's staff would support them in performing the routinely procedural evaluation activities clearly identified by the guidance documents. A similar approach has been tested and is working well in the pesticide review area. He agreed that the issue of data collection raises important considerations on the quality of data, and explained that the Science Strategy aims to establish the basis for the development of multi-annual work programmes focused on filling data gaps and setting priorities for data collection. Regarding the inter-agency risk assessment approach, Hubert Deluyker said that EFSA is cooperating with the European Medicines Agency and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. He mentioned that EFSA is already active in the risk assessment of innovative products, and drew the Board's attention to the Scientific Committee activities carried out in the field of nanotechnology. Addressing the comment on scientific uncertainties, he referred to the Guidance Documents developed by the Scientific Committee and welcomed any contribution from the Board to make clearer that aspect in the Science Strategy.
22. The Chair of the Scientific Committee, Vittorio Silano, explained that the Scientific Committee working groups are established to prepare guidance documents on prioritised scientific issues. The composition of the working groups varies depending on the scientific subject in their mandate, and they are chaired by one of the six members of the Scientific Committee not chairing a Scientific Panel.
23. The Commission updated the Board on the status of the impact assessment study related to the possible adoption of a fee system for EFSA, saying that it plans to submit by February 2012 the study to the Commission's Impact Assessment Board that will assess its quality. Based on its opinion, the Commission will be able to submit a proposal to the EU legislator on the possible amendment to EFSA's Founding Regulation.
24. The Board suggested: as far as the vision is concerned, to focus mainly on the food safety aspects without limiting EFSA's role to the protection of European consumers only; to highlight the Science Strategy's links with the Europe 2020 agenda for innovation and sustainable growth; to stress that EFSA contributes to the functioning of a highly regulated market; to give more visibility to EFSA's work in assessing the risk of products produced with the support of new technologies (i.e. biotechnologies and nanotechnologies); to emphasise the role played by the independent experts in the Scientific Committee and Scientific Panels; to include an action plan in the Science Strategy; to streamline the document and make it more concise; to reflect on the appropriateness of the document name; to ensure integration and/or streamlining of EFSA's multiple strategic documents; to make reference to EFSA and not to its Units; and to correct mistakes on the abbreviation of some institutions' name.
25. Hubert Deluyker thanked the Board for the comments and said that they will be taken into consideration for the revision of the strategy. He informed the meeting that the Scientific Committee expressed a negative opinion on the inclusion of an action plan in a document that they would see as primarily focused on strategic elements, but said that EFSA would work on a possible compromise solution.
26. The Executive Director elaborated on EFSA's need for a document clarifying the inter-connection and complementarities of all EFSA strategies, and proposed to prepare a multi-annual work plan for the Board's adoption in 2012
27. The Board agreed on the publication of the Science Strategy for public consultation subject to its revision in accordance with the discussion held.

Item 6: Cooperation with the Member States – Discussion paper

28. The Chair invited Hubert Deluyker (Scientific Strategy and Coordination) to introduce the agenda item.
29. Hubert Deluyker described the main actions discussed at the meeting between the Management Board and the Advisory Forum on 16 March 2011: the need for risk assessment to be taken into account both at European and national level, and the need to ensure continued and adequate research; the need for dialogue with risk managers in order to set priorities for risk assessment; optimise the use of resources; ensure the best use of

mechanisms and tools for scientific cooperation; share best practices on independence and transparency; reinforce data collection activities; reinforce the European voice in crisis situations and contribute to risk assessment on a global level; invest in simpler and more relevant communications and greater outreach in the Member States. A separate PowerPoint presentation is available online for a detailed description.

30. Questions and comments were received on: the cooperation between EFSA and the DG Research, and the involvement of EFSA in the identification of research priorities; the role that certain mechanisms and tools (i.e. Information Exchange Platform, Art.36 calls, networks, etc.) play in supporting an effective scientific cooperation between EFSA and the Member States; the existence of indicators measuring the progress in scientific cooperation between EFSA and the Member States over the years; and the role of EFSA in providing guidance to the Member States for the performance of national dietary studies.
31. Hubert Deluyker agreed on the essential role played by the Focal Points in supporting the scientific cooperation of EFSA with the Member States, and mentioned their contributions to the Information Exchange Platform and their role in promoting EFSA's Art.36 grant programme. Among the achievements of the scientific cooperation with the Member States, he mentioned the food consumption database (one of the most comprehensive databases in the world) and the cooperation in the area of GMOs. The Executive Director added the importance of the ESCO (scientific cooperation projects led by the Member States) and reminded the meeting that EFSA's impact assessment study will elaborate on indicators related to EFSA's cooperation with the Member States. With reference to dietary studies, Hubert Deluyker commented on the cooperation with the Member States in the framework of the EU Menu project.
32. The Chair suggested reviewing, in 2012, progress in the field of scientific cooperation with the Member States.

Item 7: Update on EFSA activities on Emerging Risks

33. The Chair invited Hubert Deluyker (Scientific Strategy and Coordination) to introduce the agenda item.
34. Hubert Deluyker reminded the meeting that article 34 of the Founding Regulation mandates EFSA to establish monitoring procedures for collection, collation and analysis of data with a view to identifying emerging risks in food and feed safety. He acknowledged the fundamental role of the Scientific Committee in creating the EFSA Unit dedicated to emerging risks, and briefly introduced the tasks performed by the working groups on data sources for emerging risk identification, the methodology for emerging risk identification, and the Emerging Risks Exchange Network. He shared with the meeting the lessons learnt since the establishment of the Emerging Risks Unit and described the future developments. A separate PowerPoint presentation is available online for a detailed description.
35. Vittorio Silano (Chair of the Scientific Committee) said that the Scientific Committee fulfilled a very challenging task with the elaboration of the definition of emerging risk: a definition that now represents the reference point for all groups working in this area. He explained that an emerging risk could be either a risk identified at the early inception, or an unknown risk already existing which is subsequently identified as such. Stressing the difficulties for the elaboration of a methodology to assess emerging risks, he highlighted the need to identify mechanisms to ensure the best use of the available data.
36. Questions and comments were received on: the scientific cooperation with other international organisations in the area of emerging risks; the engagement of EFSA in the risk assessment of synthetic biology; the need to improve communication with regard to the work that EFSA carries out in the area of emerging risks; and how risk perception influences EFSA's emerging risk activities.
37. On networking, Hubert Deluyker said that EFSA is applying a gradual approach that would firstly see the establishment of solid cooperation with the EU institutions which would then be expanded to other international organisations. Vittorio Silano commented on the need to develop collaborations on highly selected segments of information. He clarified that EFSA's work in the emerging risk area does not include the assessment of risk perception, and Anne-Laure Gassin (Communications) reminded the meeting of the work carried out by the Eurobarometer surveys on risk perception. She also added information on the communication activities carried out by EFSA in the area of emerging risks.

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38. Summarising the main elements of discussion, the Chair invited EFSA to periodically update the Board on its activities in the emerging risk area.

Item 8: Revision of the EFSA Management Board Rules of Procedure

39. The Chair invited Dirk Detken (Legal and Regulatory Affairs) to introduce the agenda item.
40. Dirk Detken explained that the revision of the Board's Rule of Procedure follows on the adoption of the Board's Code of Conduct with which the Board members decided to voluntarily commit to high ethical standards while performing their tasks. Amongst others, the Code of Conduct refers to the principle of independence, which involves aspects related to the handling of conflicts of interest and the perception of potential conflicts. Therefore, the revised Rules of Procedure suggest that the full Board (i.e. not only the Chair and Vice-Chairs) be involved in discussions regarding the independence or perceived independence of its members. In addition, the revised Rules of Procedure incorporate the principles of the Board's statement dated 21 October 2010 (<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/press/news/corporate101021.htm>). A separate PowerPoint presentation is available online for a detailed description.
41. Two members stated their objection to the inclusion, under art.2(2) of the Rules of Procedure, of the sentence: *"In order to avoid any misperceptions of its role, the Chair and Vice Chairs may not have a management role or other influential roles in organisation representing interests of the food chain, other than public interest"*. A member said that the sentence may be considered as introducing a discrimination of the Board members having their background in organisations representing interests in the food chain. Another member suggested the inclusion of that sentence in the minutes of the meeting instead of the Board's Rules of Procedure.
42. Comments were received on the interpretation of art.12(2) regarding the reimbursement of expenses, and the Executive Director clarified that the mentioned indemnity shall be understood as paid on a daily basis. A member suggested to clarify that the indemnity may also not be claimed by the Board members.
43. The Chair asked the Board to vote on the adoption of the revised Board's Rules of Procedure. With eleven votes in favour and three abstentions, the meeting adopted the Boards' Rules of Procedure as tabled.

Item 9: Renewal of the stakeholder consultative platform

44. The Chair invited Olivier Ramsayer (Resources and Support) to introduce the agenda item.
45. Olivier Ramsayer reminded the meeting that the Stakeholder Consultative Platform was established in 2005 and it is a permanent forum of discussion with representative stakeholders of the food chain bearing an interest in EFSA's work. It is composed of 24 members, its current composition results from an open call published in 2009, and its mandate expires on 31 December 2011. In view of the preparation of the call for the renewal of the Platform, EFSA recommended to the Board to consider that, over the years, the Authority broadened its competences, and suggested that the Platform composition should reflect the evolution of EFSA's work. Concluding, Olivier Ramsayer asked the Board to endorse the proposed process for the renewal of the Platform and, in order to prepare the open call in accordance with the suggested approach, to extend the mandate of the current Platform until the end of June 2012. A separate PowerPoint presentation is available online for a detailed description.
46. Comments were received on the need to ensure a balanced representation in the Platform and avoiding the creation of any imbalance towards a particular interest to the detriment of another.
47. The Board endorsed the process for the renewal of the Platform and adopted the decision to extend the mandate of the current Platform until the end of June 2012.

Item 10: Revision of 2011 Management Plan

48. The Chair invited the Executive Director to brief the Board on the needs to revise the 2011 Management Plan.
49. The Executive Director informed the meeting that, this year, EFSA will likely deliver approximately 150 scientific outputs less than the number indicated in the Management Plan 2011, which would represent approximately 18% of the estimated total. Most of these outputs relate to the areas of pesticides and food and feed additives.

The main reasons for a lower number of outputs are: the late publication of a Regulation that affected the assessment of a number of applications; a different grouping of the mandates in agreement with the Commission; and the need for additional data on a number of applications, which triggered the application of the so called “stop-the-clock” procedure.

50. Questions and comments were received on: the need to maintain planning documents unchanged and to periodically inform the Board on possible delays and/or obstacles in achieving the planned outcomes; whether the number of applications in the status of “stop-the-clock” would affect EFSA’s activity plan in 2012; and how EFSA’s resources had been reallocated.
51. The Executive Director acknowledged the Board’s arguments for not revising EFSA’s 2011 Management Plan, and said that, for transparency reasons, it was important that the Board was informed on the constraints affecting the number of scientific outputs in 2011. She commented on the complexity of the “stop-the-clock” mechanism, which requires the allocation of consistent resources for the communication and follow up activities with the applicants, and informed the meeting that Per Bergman (Scientific Evaluation of Regulated Products) is reviewing the different processes for the evaluation of products to see whether these can be streamlined and ensure that the “stop-the-clock” mechanism is not misused.
52. The Chair concluded the discussion by asking EFSA to report on progress indicators at each meeting.

Item 11: Revision of the decision concerning access to documents

53. The Chair invited Dirk Detken (Legal and Regulatory Affairs) to introduce the item on the revision of the Board’s decision concerning public access to documents and asked him to inform the Board of the main changes proposed by the tabled document.
54. Dirk Detken explained that the decision currently regulating access to EFSA’s documents was adopted by the Board in 2003. Since then a number of European Court of Justice’s cases contributed to the interpretation of the EU Regulation which provides the basis for EFSA’s decision, in particular considering exceptional the cases when access to documents is restricted, and putting on public institutions the burden of proof on the existence of such exceptions. In addition, the Lisbon Treaty has extended the principle of public access to documents to the EU Agencies and has consolidated the principle of public access to documents as a fundamental right in the EU. He concluded saying that there is no imminent urgency for the revision of the document, and that it was tabled as part of the regular activities to legally review the governance decisions of EFSA.
55. The Commission representative informed the meeting that the Council and the Parliament are presently considering a Commission proposal for the revision of Regulation 1049/2001 (which provides the legal framework for EFSA’s decision dated 2003), and suggested to the Board to postpone the adoption of a revised decision on public access to documents until the adoption of the new Regulation.
56. The Board agreed on the Commission representative’s suggestion and the Chair asked EFSA to keep the Board informed of progress related to the adoption of the new Regulation by the EU legislator.

Item 12: Adaptation of EFSA’s budget structure 2012

57. The Chair invited Olivier Ramsayer (Resources and Support) to introduce the agenda item and explain the needs for changing EFSA’s budget structure.
58. Olivier Ramsayer explained that the revised structure of EFSA’s budget would: reflect the evolution of EFSA’s activities and associated costs; align the budget structure to EFSA’s new organisational chart; and provide EFSA’s budget with a simpler and more transparent structure. The revision would only concern Title III (Operations), whilst Title I (Personnel) and Title II (Infrastructure) would not change as requested by Commission’s DG BUDGET. Concluding, Olivier Ramsayer said that the new structure would be implemented starting with the budget 2012.
59. The Board adopted EFSA’s new budget structure.

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Item 13: Amendments to the Art.36 list of organisations

60. Upon the Chair's invitation, Hubert Deluyker (Science Strategy and Coordination) briefly introduced the amendments to the Article 36 list of organisations, which proposed the inclusion in that list of a new institution.
61. The Board adopted the new list of Article 36 competent organisations which may assist EFSA with its mission.

Item 14: Budget execution and year end forecast 2011

62. The Chair invited Olivier Ramsayer (Resources and Support) to introduce the agenda item.
63. Olivier Ramsayer updated the Board on the execution level of EFSA's 2011 budget. At 30 September, EFSA committed 74.42% of its budget, which would mark a progress compared to the level reached in the same period in 2010. Nonetheless, the commitment level in the fields of scientific cooperation and networking remained below the target set for September 2011. In terms of payments, 53.98% of the payment appropriations were executed. The level of payments is below the target set for September 2011, mainly due to the delayed tender procedure for the purchase of the furniture for the final seat, and delays with scientific cooperation procurement procedures. A separate PowerPoint presentation is available online for a detailed description.
64. The Commission asked EFSA to adopt the necessary measures to improve the performance with regard to the execution of the payment appropriations and suggested to check with the Commission's services the total amount of payment credits.
65. The Board noted the document on the budget execution and year end forecast.

Item 15: Transfers in the EFSA budget 2011

66. The Chair invited Olivier Ramsayer (Resources and Support) to introduce the agenda item.
67. Olivier Ramsayer informed that transfers executed by the Executive Director in 2011 represented 3.52% of the budget appropriations, which respects the limits imposed by the Financial Regulations on the Executive Director's capacity to make transfers between titles. Transfers addressed needs related to the reorganisation of EFSA's structure and the reinforcement of resources allocated to the scientific meetings.
68. The Board noted the document on the budget execution and year-end forecast.

Item 16: Update from the Audit Committee

69. The Chair invited the Chair of the Audit Committee (Pieter Vanthemsche) to update the Board on the activities of the committee.
70. Pieter Vanthemsche informed the Board that, during the meeting held on the previous day, the Audit Committee: discussed the results of the stress-test that the European Banking Authority conducted on the bank managing EFSA's deposits; was provided with a simulation of the booking foreseen for the purchase of EFSA's new seat; approved the revision of the 2011 Internal Audit Plan to integrate the audit on management of conflict of interests commissioned by the European Court of Auditors, and approved an increase in the resources dedicated to the audit activities related to EFSA's new seat; reviewed two recommendations on the implementation of the Policy on sensitive functions (foreseen by June 2012), and the policy on filing and archiving (foreseen for January 2012).
71. The Board noted the update and thanked the Chair and the Members of the Audit Committee.

Item 17: Update on the external evaluation of EFSA

72. The Chair invited the Chair of the Committee for EFSA's 2011 External Evaluation (Sue Davies) to update the Board on the activities of the committee.
73. In summing the outcomes of the meeting held on the previous day, Sue Davies informed the Board that the Committee reviewed the interim report of the external consultants, which sets out the methodologies for carrying out interviews and elaborating questionnaires. She said that the Committee commented on the way

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that stakeholders are going to be approached, and the balance of questionnaires and interviews that will be conducted. The Committee asked the consultants to revise their proposal taking a more comprehensive approach in terms of the stakeholders that will be consulted. The revision of the interim report could imply a slight delay of the evaluation activities, and the Committee will keep the Board informed on the future activities and respect of the planned timetable.

74. The Board noted the update and thanked the Chair and the Members of the EFSA's 2011 External Evaluation Committee.

Item 18: Any Other Business

75. In closing the meeting, the Chair thanked Board members, EFSA's Executive Director, Members of her Management Team, Chair of the Scientific Committee, EFSA staff, the experts working in EFSA Panels and Scientific Committee, the audience in Parma and those listening to via webstreaming, the technicians and the interpreters.

END

Actions Arising

Meeting reference	Action	Deadline	Status
October 20, 2011	Publication of EFSA's Draft Science Strategy 2012-2016 for public consultation subject to its revision in accordance with the discussion held.	November 2011	Done
October 20, 2011	Review progress in the field of scientific cooperation with the Member States.	December 2012	Open
October 20, 2011	Check with the Commission's services the total amount of EFSA's payment credits.	October 2011	Done