

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE**

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## EFSA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PROGRESS REPORT

### Executive Summary

The present report refers to the period from 1<sup>st</sup> March to 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2012.

#### **Science Strategy and Coordination (SCISTRAT):**

The Scientific Committee adopted the Opinions on Risk assessment terminology and Threshold of toxicological concern (TTC). The Scientific Committee also approved the publication of the new version of the Compendium of Botanicals, as well as the mandate for the maintenance and further development of the Compendium itself. A mandate for the creation of a standing Working group on emerging risks was also approved.

Two Technical reports on emerging risks identification were finalised and the Annual report on crisis preparedness, which includes the lessons learnt from the 2011 *E. coli* outbreak, was published.

Strategic discussion with the Member States centred on EFSA's policy on independence and scientific decision-making processes, with Member States sharing experience from their national perspectives. The 2011 Annual report of the Focal Point activities was published. With reference to the Pre-Accession Programme, 56 experts participated in 11 EFSA meetings. The 18<sup>th</sup> Stakeholder Consultative Platform meeting was held in Parma on 20-21 March. In response to the call for the renewal of the Platform, EFSA received 57 applications.

**Risk Assessment and Scientific Assistance (RASA):** RASA has adopted 22 Opinions, four Statements, three Scientific reports and one Guidance document. In addition, six Technical reports and four External scientific reports have been finalised. Upon the European Commission request to receive data on the possible risks for animal and public health caused by the "Schmallenberg" virus (SBV), two Technical reports were produced on the analysis of the epidemiological data collected in the Member States. The Opinion on public health hazards to be covered by inspection of meat (poultry) is the second of a series of six that has been finalised. Also the Opinions on the evaluation of TSE diagnostic tests and on mineral oil hydrocarbons in food have been adopted. In addition, EFSA issued a Scientific report on harmonised monitoring and reporting of antimicrobial resistance in *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter* and indicator *E. coli* and *Enterococcus* bacteria transmitted through food.

The AHAW Scientific Network held a technical meeting to discuss the possible risks for animal and public health caused by the SBV, and two Scientific Network meetings were organised on microbiological risk assessment and on risk assessment in plant health. A general meeting of the Task Force on zoonoses data collection took place, as well as two specific Task Force meetings on antimicrobial resistance and on food-borne outbreaks.

**Scientific Evaluation of Regulated Products (REPRO):** REPRO has adopted 69 Scientific Opinions, two Guidance documents, four Scientific statements, two Technical reports, 32 Reasoned Opinions on MRL, and five Conclusions on pesticide peer review. The re-evaluation of feed additives remains one of the main working areas of the FEEDAP Panel, with 60 Opinions to be adopted in the next twelve months. The re-evaluation of food additives remains among the main priorities of the ANS Panel. The CEF Panel will start adopting Opinions on applications for recycling processes, while continuing the work on the evaluation of active and intelligent packaging processes and the re-evaluation of flavouring substances. The GMO Panel will focus on the assessment of new GM plant applications and safeguard clause measures. In the reporting period the NDA Panel adopted 18 Opinions related to Article 13 health claims which were eligible for reassessment. The Application Desk received 78 written requests via the online web form. All questions were answered within a timeframe of 15 working days.

**Communications (COMMS):** EFSA has communicated widely on Independence, GMOs, Pesticides, Chemicals in food and Innovation. From 9 to 13 May EFSA was actively involved in the organisation of the “Festa per l’Europa” together with local partners and associations. EFSA highlighted its role in the framework of the EU food safety system through a scientific event jointly organised with the Italian Ministry of Health and by opening its doors to the local community during its first “Porte Aperte” at its new seat. EFSA dealt with 215 media queries and organised 53 interviews with the Executive Director, EFSA’s experts and EFSA staff with various media across Europe. EFSA published seven press releases, nine web-stories, 11 videos of the series “Understanding Science”, the newsletters *EFSAnews* and *EFSA In Focus*. The Advisory Forum Communications Working Group held its 35<sup>th</sup> meeting in April.

**Budget and human resources:** On 15 May, EUR 32.68 million or 41.75% of the EUR 78.28 million budget was committed. EUR 22.20 million or 29.45% of the EUR 75.38 payment appropriations were paid. On 31 May, 441 posts were occupied and 10 job offers have been sent to the selected candidates bringing the total to 451 posts filled out of the planned 494 posts.

**Corporate:** A delegation of the European parliament committee on Environment, public health and food safety (ENVI Committee) visited EFSA on 2-3 May. Focus was on EFSA’s extensive scientific work programme, with particular attention on nutrition, new technologies, GMOs, pesticides and animal health and welfare. The ENVI Committee delegation was led by its Chair, Matthias Groote (S&D, Germany), and benefited from the presence of the recently appointed liaison-MEP with EFSA from the ENVI Committee, Pilar Ayuso (PPE-DE, Spain). Strong support for EFSA’s work was expressed by the Chair.

On 10 May the EU Parliament postponed the discharge of EFSA’s budget for the year 2010 because of concerns related mainly to the handling of conflicts of interests. The discharge procedure will resume in September and the vote of the Parliament is expected in October this year.

The Balanced Scorecard (BSC) project was initiated under the e<sup>3</sup> – efficiency programme to develop and implement a strategic performance management tool. The work has been conducted under the steering of a Task Force including representatives of the various directorates, coordinated by the Executive Office (EXO).

EFSA adopted the Quality Roadmap for 2012, which includes in particular the preparation of the new Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the organisation.

The mandate for the Expert Review Working Group, which carries out the external review part of the INEX quality evaluation process, was renewed in March. The evaluation of the re-applications of the current members was completed in April along with the selection of outputs for the evaluation.

Internal consultation has begun on the development of the new Document Management Policy of the organisation with the objective of finalising this to support the start of the new tool implementation in July 2012. The selection of the new Document Management System IT tool was completed in April.

## EFSA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PROGRESS REPORT

### SCIENCE STRATEGY AND COORDINATION

#### Scientific Committee (SCOM)

The Scientific Committee adopted the Opinions on Risk assessment terminology and Threshold of toxicological concern (TTC). The Committee also approved the publication of the new version of the Compendium of Botanicals, as well as the mandate for the maintenance and further development of the Compendium itself. A mandate for the creation of a standing Working group on emerging risks was also approved. The Committee discussed a draft EFSA Statement providing an update on the state of play of animal cloning, which finalisation is expected by the end of June.

#### Emerging Risks Unit (EMRISK)

The EMRISK Unit finalised two Technical reports on emerging risks identification: a Report on food commodity prices, and the Annual report of the Network on emerging risks. The Annual report on crisis preparedness was published, which includes lessons learnt from the 2011 *E. coli* outbreak in France and Germany. The update of the urgent response procedures was finalised, and an Editorial on EFSA’s experience in providing urgent advice was published in EFSA’s Journal. One new internal mandate has been accepted, aiming to summarise studies conducted in EFSA on bees and to review the work done outside EFSA in order to identify cross-cutting issues and further research needs for a more integrated approach on the evaluation of risks to bees and their ecosystem services.

#### Advisory Forum and Scientific Cooperation Unit (AFSCO)

Strategic discussion on EFSA’s work with the Member States (MS) centred on EFSA’s policy on independence and scientific decision-making processes, with MS sharing examples and experience of independence from national perspectives. The 2011 Annual report on the Focal Point activities was published. The number of scientific experts into EFSA’s Expert Database grew to over 3,200. With reference to the Pre-Accession programme, 56 experts participated in 11 EFSA meetings, and EFSA agreed to prolong the existing Pre-Accession programme until June 2014. The first Special Issue on “EFSA’s scientific achievements since 2002” is being prepared for publication in a dedicated section of the EFSA Journal. Its publication is planned for October in the context of EFSA’s 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

#### Cooperation with Stakeholders

The 18<sup>th</sup> Stakeholder Consultative Platform (SCP) meeting was held in Parma on 20-21 March. The SCP members were provided with updated information on the implementing rules of EFSA’s Independence Policy, the renewal of EFSA’s Scientific Panels, “Schmallenberg” virus, EFSA’s risk communication activities, EFSA’s work in the area of meat inspection, and EFSA’s services related to applications of regulated products. In response of the Call for expression of interest related to the renewal of the SCP, EFSA received 57 applications.

#### International relations

EFSA regularly exchanges information with the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) involving EFSA and FDA’s liaison officers. In two meetings with delegations from the Republic of Korea, views were exchanged aiming to foster future cooperation with the Korean Food and Drug Administration (KFDA) and the National Institute of Food and Drug Safety Evaluation. The possibility to conclude a cooperation agreement between KFDA and EFSA was also discussed.

## RISK ASSESSMENT AND SCIENTIFIC ASSISTANCE

### Panel on animal health and welfare (AHAW)

The AHAW Panel adopted five Opinions on: Swine vesicular disease and vesicular stomatitis; Foot-and-mouth disease in Thrace; Electrical requirements for water bath stunning equipment; an update of the Opinions concerning the welfare of cattle kept for beef production and the welfare of intensive calf farming systems, and the animal health and welfare Appendix of the Opinion on public health hazards to be covered by inspection of meat (poultry). The Panel also adopted a Statement on welfare indicators, and issued comments on the zoonoses summary report 2009 and 2010. The Panel is finalising Opinions on the: Use of animal based measures to assess the welfare of broilers; Animal health risk migration treatments as regards imports of animal casings; Use of a gamma interferon test for the diagnosis of bovine tuberculosis; and Infectious salmon anaemia. New mandates have been received in relation to the risk of introduction and spread of Rift Valley Fever in the EU neighbouring countries of the Mediterranean region (North Africa and the Middle East), and to small hive beetle (*Aethina tumida*).

Responding to the European Commission enquire on the possible risks for animal and public health caused by the "Schmallenberg" virus (SBV), the AHAW Unit, in collaboration with the SAS Unit, produced two supporting Technical reports on the analysis of the epidemiological data collected in Members States with regard to SBV. The 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the AHAW Scientific Network focused on the possible risks for animal and public health caused by SBV.

### Panel on biological hazards (BIOHAZ)

The BIOHAZ Panel adopted nine Opinions: three in the areas of food-borne zoonoses (Review of the EU Summary Report on zoonoses and food-borne outbreaks in 2009; Experience and lesson learnt from modelling on biological hazards; and Estimate of the public health impact of setting a new target for the reduction of *Salmonella* in turkeys, which was published together with an External scientific report on source attribution model for *Salmonella* in turkeys), one in the area of animal by-products (Biomation - application for evaluation of an alternative method of treatment of animal by-product), four in the area of food hygiene (Evaluation of the efficacy of the substance Cecure<sup>®</sup> for the removal of microbial surface contamination of raw poultry products; Evaluation of the safety and efficacy of Listex<sup>™</sup> P100 for the removal of *Listeria monocytogenes* surface contamination of raw fish; Public health risks represented by certain composite products containing food of animal origin; and Development of risk ranking tool on biological hazards) and one on Evaluation of TSE diagnostic tests.

The Panel also adopted three Opinions on: Public health hazards to be covered by inspection of meat - poultry (jointly with the CONTAM and AHAW Panels); Minimum hygiene criteria to be applied to clean seawater (jointly with the CONTAM Panel); and Public health risks and hygiene criteria for bottled seawater intended for domestic use (jointly with the CONTAM Panel). The Statement on the assessment of the scientific elements supporting the prohibition of the placement in the market of the GM potato EH92-527-1 for cultivation purposes in Austria was adopted jointly with the GMO Panel.

The 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Network on microbiological risk assessment was held in Brussels on 20-21 March.

In the coming months the BIOHAZ Panel will continue working on meat inspection of cattle, small ruminants, farmed game and solipeds, the Opinions of which are due for adoption in 2013.

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

The CONTAM Panel adopted four Opinions on: Citrinin in food and feed; Brominated phenols and their derivatives in food; Re-evaluation of acceptable previous cargoes for edible fats and oils – Part II of III; and Mineral oil hydrocarbons in food. Jointly with the AHAW and BIOHAZ Panels, the CONTAM Panel adopted an Opinion on the chemical risks to be covered by meat inspection - poultry.

Three External scientific reports have been approved: Experimental study on the uptake of coccidiostats in vegetables; Alkanes in hepatic microsomes from humans and rats; and Toxicokinetics, toxicity and allergenicity data on substances to be evaluated as acceptable previous cargoes for edible fats and oils.

In the coming months the CONTAM Panel will work on Ergot alkaloids, Emerging brominated flame retardants in food, and Reference points for action.

### Panel on plant health (PLH)

The PLH Panel adopted the Guidance document on Risk reduction options and an Opinion on the Risk to plant health of European *versus* non-European potato cyst nematodes. The External scientific report on the literature search conducted for the latter Opinion was published. The Panel also adopted two Scientific Statements: a clarification request concerning the Opinion on *Agrilus planipennis*, and a request for additional information regarding the taxonomy of the apple island snail *Pomacea insularum*.

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The PLH Scientific Network held its 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, and a scientific workshop was organised to discuss the draft final report of the Art. 36 project “Prima Phacie” (Pest risk assessment for the European Community plant health: a comparative approach with case studies). The workshop was attended by the members of the PLH Panel and Network, as well as by other interested parties including the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO).

In the coming months the Panel will focus on the following mandates: Pest categorisation of 23 Tospoviruses; Pest risk assessment on *Tomato Spotted Wilt virus*; Risk to plant health on *Bemisia tabaci*; and Risk to plant health in the EU territory for a number of pathogens.

### Scientific assessment support Unit (SAS)

Two Scientific reports were completed and published: Assessment of different monitoring strategies for early detection of foot-and-mouth disease incursion in a free wild boar population area: a simulation modelling approach; and Assessing risk of introduction via import (Swine vesicular disease).

The SAS Unit provided hands-on methodological and modelling support to AHAW, EMRISK, PLH, NUTRI, GMO, PESTICIDES, BIOHAZ and FEED.

With the support of the SAS Unit, the AHAW Unit issued two Technical reports on the analysis of the epidemiological data collected in Member States with regard to the “Schmallenberg” virus.

In the coming months the Unit will prepare a Guidance document for statistical reporting in dossiers submitted to EFSA and launch a procurement procedure on post market environmental monitoring of the agricultural environment and environmental risk assessments. The Unit also launched a procurement procedure for a four-year framework contract on scientific services to support EFSA systematic reviews.

### Dietary and chemical monitoring Unit (DCM)

The DCM Unit has provided assistance in exposure assessment and data collection to ANS, CONTAM and GMO.

In the coming months, the Unit will continue working on two pilot studies to develop procedures and tools to collect food consumption data for adolescents, adults, elderly and children, and to collect the data and evaluate procedures and tools for a pan-European dietary survey. DCM will continue to coordinate the pan-European food consumption survey *What’s on the Menu in Europe?*

### Biological monitoring Unit (BIOMO)

The BIOMO Unit adopted a Scientific report on harmonised monitoring and reporting of antimicrobial resistance in *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter* and indicator *E. coli* and *Enterococcus* bacteria transmitted through food. The Unit also issued four Technical reports to support the Member States in their annual reporting. These include reporting manuals for zoonoses, antimicrobial resistance and food-borne outbreak data. In addition, new data models and a user manual were provided regarding the use of more automatic data transfer tools, such as XML.

A general meeting of the Task Force on zoonoses data collection took place, as well as two specific Task Force meetings on antimicrobial resistance and food-borne outbreaks.

The BIOMO Unit received an extended mandate on antimicrobial resistance concerning harmonised monitoring and reporting specifications for Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) transmitted through food. The reporting period for Member States finished end of May and the BIOMO Unit will start to analyse the data and prepare the EU Summary reports on zoonoses, food-borne outbreaks and antimicrobial resistance. The Unit will also continue to work on the epidemiological indicators for meat inspection of cattle, farmed game and solipeds, and will assist the BIOHAZ Panel in analysing the data of pathogens posing risks in foods of non-animal origin. In addition the analyses of the EU wide baseline survey on *Listeria monocytogenes* in ready-to-eat foods will start in autumn.

## SCIENTIFIC EVALUATION OF REGULATED PRODUCTS

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

The FEEDAP Panel adopted 21 Opinions on the authorisation of feed additives belonging to the following categories: technological (3), sensory (4), nutritional (8) and zootechnical (6). Twelve applications for the re-evaluation of feed additives were combined with requests for a new use of the additive, mainly use in water. Additionally the Guidance document on the safety assessment of *Enterococcus faecium* in animal nutrition was adopted.

The re-evaluation of feed additives remains one of the main working areas of the Panel. In the next 6-12 months, the Panel will work on 60 Opinions, which include mandates related with flavourings, silage additives and other technological feed additives, as well as vitamins, colourings, amino acids, trace elements and zootechnical additives.

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### Food ingredients and packaging (FIP)

The ANS Panel adopted two Opinions on: Stigmasterol-rich plant sterols, and Sucrose esters of fatty acids (exposure assessment).

The CEF Panel adopted 13 Opinions: two on Smoke flavourings; the first two Opinions on Applications for active packaging, three Opinions on Food contact material (FCM) substances, and six Opinions on the re-evaluation of flavouring substances. In addition, the Panel updated an Opinion representative flavouring substances to be tested for genotoxicity.

The FIP Unit has issued an EFSA statement on the Revised exposure assessment for ethyl lauroyl arginate for the proposed uses as a food additive. The Unit contributed to the scientific discussion in international meetings with stakeholders and informed them on the ongoing revision of the FCM guidelines. The Unit also presented the work of EFSA on Bisphenol A (BPA).

In the coming months, the ANS Panel will focus mainly on the re-evaluation of food additives. In addition, the Panel will continue assessing the safety of new food additive applications and the safety assessment of nutrient sources, including those for the fortification of food that are subject to national derogations.

The CEF Panel will focus on the re-evaluation of flavouring substances, mainly based on submission of genotoxicity data. The Panel will also start the adoption of Opinions on applications for recycling processes, and will continue the evaluation of active and intelligent packaging processes.

EFSA has assigned a self-task mandate to the CEF Panel to update the risk assessment of Bisphenol A (BPA) by May 2013. Two Working Groups have been set up, one for toxicology of BPA and one for exposure assessment (including non-food sources). A tender has been prepared for a survey of literature on occurrence and migration of BPA into food.

### Panel on genetically modified organisms (GMO)

The GMO Panel adopted three Opinions on: 2010 Post market environmental monitoring report on MON810; the French safeguard clause on GM maize MON 810; and the GM Cotton MON 531 x MON 1445 under Regulation (EC) 1829/2003 and its renewal. The GMO Unit published two Technical reports related to adopted application Opinions, and the 2011 Annual Report on the GMO Network. In the context of safeguard clauses, the GMO Panel adopted one statement on the Austrian safeguard clause on GM potato EH92-527-1.

In June the Board will be updated on the scientific outputs adopted by the GMO Panel at its 30-31 May plenary meeting.

In the coming months the GMO Panel will continue its work on New Techniques focusing in the near future on Zinkfinger-3 technology, as well as on the assessment of new GM plant applications and safeguard clause measures. In cooperation with Austria and Norway, the GMO Unit organised a workshop on Allergens and compositional analysis in the allergenicity assessment of GM plants in connection to an OECD task force meeting. The GMO Unit also held the Third meeting with Member State experts of the EFSA Network on risk assessment of GMOs.

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

With reference to the health claims applications the NDA Panel adopted: seven Opinions related to Art 13.5; one Opinion related to Art 14; one Opinion related to Art 19; and 18 Opinions related to Article 13, which were eligible for reassessment. To date EFSA has received 365 applications, for which the NDA Panel has issued 136 Opinions covering 143 applications. The assessment of 16 applications is in progress, whilst 147 applications have been withdrawn.

In addition, the Panel adopted one Opinion on a novel food application (safety of bovine lactoferrin), and one Statement on the safety of the conjugated linoleic acid (CLA)-rich oils Clarinol® and Tonalin TG 80 as novel food ingredients. Furthermore, the Panel adopted a Guidance document on the scientific requirements for health claims related to bone, joints, oral health and connective tissue, and endorsed a related technical report summarising the outcome of a preceding public consultation. In the coming months the Panel will work on the evaluation of novel food applications, as well as on the evaluation of 73 Article 13 claims which were eligible for reassessment. In addition, the Panel will focus on the Opinions related to Tolerable upper intake levels for vitamins and minerals and on Dietary reference values.

### Panel on plant protection products and their residues (PPR) and Pesticide Unit (PRAS)

On MRL applications, 19 Reasoned Opinions in response to 22 MRL applications and 11 Reasoned Opinions reviewing the existing MRLs were published. In addition, two Reasoned Opinions in response to urgent requests were also published.

The PPR Panel adopted two Opinions on: Clustering and ranking of emissions of plant protection products from protected crops, and Science behind the development of a risk assessment of plant protection products on bees.

Five pesticide peer review Conclusions and an EFSA Statement on exposure of bees to neonicotinoids were adopted. A Guidance document on Dermal absorption and a Technical report on the public consultation on Clustering and ranking of emissions from protected crops were published.

In 2012, the peer review programmes will continue for both new active substances and the remaining 23 active substances of the review programme.

### Application Desk (APDESK)

In the reporting period the APDESK Unit received 78 written requests for information via the online web form. All questions were registered and answered individually within an estimated timeframe of 15 working days. The APDESK Unit is centralising and processing the initial administrative steps of all applications received by EFSA for the FIP, GMO and NUTRI Units. The Unit is currently initiating to centralise the applications for the FEED and PESTICIDE Units too.

In 2012, the APDESK Unit will support EFSA’s Units in organising dedicated meetings with applicants and will develop an “EFSA policy paper for interactions with applicants”. To review all past and planned meetings with applicants, an internal EFSA database will be developed.

## COMMUNICATIONS

### COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES / MAIN HIGHLIGHTS

#### 10<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY:

Work continued on the 10 year anniversary brochure with new feature stories finalised on consumer trust, animal health and welfare, and meat inspection to add to the substantial body of work already prepared in Q1 2012.

A poster illustrating key milestones from the past ten years was produced. This product was put to use at the EFSA premises, providing visitors with a visual representation of EFSA’s history, and on the EFSA website. Content and visuals will be integrated in corporate publications later this year.

#### THEMATIC:

‘In focus’ campaigns were introduced on the EFSA website. For selected outputs in key thematic areas, these campaigns give users direct access from the homepage to all the relevant content available online. The strong visual style and use of multimedia products - such as Understanding Science videos - contributed to the success of the ‘In focus’ on topics such as Antimicrobial Resistance, Food contact materials and Independence.

**GMOs** – EFSA published two web news stories on GMO-related scientific outputs between March and May. The first announced the publication of a scientific opinion on the assessment of the post-market environmental monitoring (PMEM) report for MON810 in the 2010 cultivation season; and the second, a Panel statement on the scientific basis for the French request to prohibit cultivation MON810 in Europe (safeguard clause). Work also continued on the development of the GMO web topic.

**Pesticides** – EFSA published a web news story announcing the Authority’s imminent response to the publication of new studies linking the neonicotinoid pesticide thiamethoxam to bee colony collapse, and the establishment of a cross-cutting task force to coordinate EFSA’s work on bees.

**Chemicals in food** – various plans for thematic communications in this area were implemented and additional plans were developed for future outputs in this broad area. In particular, two ‘Understanding Science’ videos were recorded in March and published in April together with a web news story on the launch of EFSA’s new risk assessment of bisphenol A. An ‘In focus’ campaign on food contact materials running from mid April to early May helped raise the profile of this story and the June scientific Colloquium on low dose effects in chemicals Risk assessment. A third video looking at low dose effects was recorded in early May for further awareness raising on this topic. Plans for the next quarter include development of new topics on process contaminants, recycling processes for plastics used in food contact materials.

**Independence** – EFSA held an information session on 5 March 2012 in Brussels to present the Implementing Rules of its Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes. It was attended by around 150 participants. The Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes integrates in one document the wide range of initiatives EFSA has put in place to uphold its core values of scientific excellence, openness, independence and transparency.

In terms of media activities at the event, EFSA met media in Brussels for an informal briefing to discuss the implementing rules for EFSA’s independence policy published that day; a comprehensive Q&A and briefings were produced ahead of the encounter.

In May, EFSA undertook significant media relations activities to ensure the provision of accurate information following the decision of the former Chair of EFSA’s Management Board, Diána Bánáti, to take up a professional position at the International Life Sciences Institute (ILSI).

## COOPERATION AND OUTREACH:

### MEMBER STATES

**AFCWG** – 3-4 April, Copenhagen – 35<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Forum Communications Working Group (AFCWG). Key agenda issues of this meeting included: update on finalised version of the Risk Communications Guidelines; update on the state of play of the new joint initiative Glossary of Food Safety Terminology, debate on Independence of Scientific Advice with feedback from the Advisory Forum and national perspectives (Germany, UK, Sweden). Members also discussed EFSA’s 10-year anniversary activities and an update was given regarding EFSA and Member States’ initiatives on social media.

### FESTA DELL’EUROPA

**Festa dell’Europa** To increase awareness and understanding of EFSA as well as Europe and European values among local and regional citizens, EFSA, the Parma Council, Europass, Parma Province, University of Parma and the EC Representation in Milan organised for the fifth year the “Festa dell’Europa”. This year the Festa featured over 30 events from 9 to 13 May and actively involved local partners and associations. EFSA supported the “Festa dell’Europa” through the creation of a dedicated Twitter account @FestaEuropa2012, the production of a leaflet, and other promotional material. EFSA focused on highlighting its role in the framework of the EU food safety system through a scientific event jointly organised with the Italian Ministry of Health, and by opening its doors for the local community during its first Porte Aperte (see below) at its new seat. The joint event on 11 May with the Italian Ministry explored the topic of meat inspection from both the EU and national perspective. There were 157 registered participants to this event. Media Relations arranged interviews with local media (*Gazzetta di Parma* and *Teleducato*) with Professor Alberto Mantovani, a member of the FEEDAP Panel.

**Porte Aperte** On Saturday 12 May, EFSA opened its doors to the public. Over 400 visitors from the local community used this opportunity to learn more about EFSA’s work, to view the new seat, and to meet EFSA staff. A special 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary 4-page brochure was produced for the occasion.

To help promote the event, Media Relations organised three radio interviews with *Radio Parma* and *Radio Bruno* in the two weeks leading up to the day. Porte Aperte was one of the most tweeted topics on the Festa twitter account.

National and local media (*RAI-regionale TV*, *TV Parma*, *Telesanterno TV* and *Gazzetta di Parma*) were present during the day and gave coverage of the event. *Gazzetta di Parma* issued two articles on the Open Doors, the first was a full-page devoted to interviews with EFSA’s scientific experts flagging the Porte Aperte event of the same day; the second report recorded positive feedback from visitors on the day and quoted the Director of Communications explaining the initiative.

### COHERENCE

EFSA’s corporate PowerPoint presentation, compiling key facts about the organisation, its achievements and future challenges, has been updated and distributed among staff. This will help ensure coherence in external communications during meetings and presentations.

In addition, a dedicated 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary presentation was prepared, highlighting EFSA’s key achievements and milestones. It will be used throughout the year to promote EFSA’s work.

### OTHER MEDIA RELATIONS

**Media activities** – Between March and May, the Media Relations team dealt with 215 media queries and organised 53 interviews with the Executive Director, EFSA’s experts and EFSA staff with various media across the EU, including French daily *Le Parisien*, *BBC Radio* in the UK, German radio *Bayerischer Rundfunk*, Belgian daily *La Libre Belgique*, Italian TV *RAI 3* for the programme ‘*Report*’ on aspartame and Dutch national TV for the documentary ‘*Keuringsdienst van Waarde*’ on the EHEC outbreak. Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle gave an exclusive interview to specialised publication *EU foodpolicy* to mark the 10 years of EFSA.

Following Diána Bánáti’s resignation from EFSA’s Management Board, Media Relations arranged an interview with EFSA’s Executive Director and the French daily *Le Monde*. Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle was also interviewed by the *Nature* journal on the resignation and the postponement of the 2010 budget discharge by the European Parliament.

On the occasion of *Cibus*, which took place from 7 to 10 May in Parma, Media Relations organised an interview with Professor Vittorio Silano and the specialised Indian publication *Food and Bev Asia* about food additives.

**EFSA’s Twitter** – Tweets were sent out regularly at an average of one per week to announce relevant news and outputs. The number of users following EFSA’s Twitter account is increasing steadily and reached over 800 at the beginning of May.

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### OTHER ONLINE COMMUNICATIONS

An ‘Errata’ publishing workflow was released for the EFSA Journal. This ensures that website users as well as bibliographical databases are clearly informed when a scientific update is updated after publication.

In the area of multimedia, new video and photo galleries have been launched. The video gallery gives access to all Understanding science video series, while in the photo gallery media contacts can download high-resolution images.

### MONITORING AND EVALUATION

An integrated monthly report on communications activities - covering editorial outputs, media relations work and key online communications indexes - was introduced.

### COMMUNICATIONS OUTPUTS:

#### **Press Releases (7):**

- EFSA Management Board Chair resigns (9 May)
- Dal 9 al 13 maggio a Parma è di nuovo Festa dell’Europa (23 April)
- EFSA and EU Member States work together to tackle Schmallenberg virus (2 April)
- EFSA and ECDC joint report on antimicrobial resistance in zoonotic bacteria affecting humans, animals and food (14 March)
- EFSA and ECDC zoonoses report: Salmonella in humans continues to decrease, Campylobacter increasing (8 March)
- EFSA opens up scientific meetings to Observers in pilot project (7 March)
- EFSA publishes Implementing Rules for Independence Policy (5 March)

#### **Web News Stories (9):**

- Bisphenol A: EFSA launches full re-evaluation focussing on exposure and possible low dose effects (24 April)
- Bernhard Url appointed Director of Risk Assessment and Scientific Assistance (16 April)
- Reduction targets for Salmonella in turkeys to further reduce human cases, says EFSA (13 April)
- EFSA assesses 2010 Post-Market Environmental Monitoring report for MON810 maize (11 April)
- Assessing the safety of genotoxic and carcinogenic impurities: the Margin of Exposure approach (30 March)
- Bee health: How EFSA is helping to protect our pollinators (30 March)
- EFSA’s Management Board supports list of candidates for renewal of Scientific Committee and eight Panels, adopts preliminary 2013 Management Plan (15 March)
- EFSA proposes harmonised default values for use in its risk assessment (7 March)
- Information Session on Implementing Rules of Independence Policy (5 March)

#### **Multimedia:**

- **Understanding Science videos (11):**
  - Chemical contaminants in the food chain (4 April)
  - Safety of chemicals in food: (4 April)
  - What are pesticides and how do they get into our food? (4 April)
  - What are GM plants? (22 March)
  - What are GM animals? (22 March)
  - What is Campylobacter? (14 March)
  - What is antimicrobial resistance? (14 March)
  - What is Salmonella? (8 March)
  - What are non-food-borne zoonotic diseases? (8 March)
  - What are food-borne zoonotic pathogens? (8 March)
  - Independent science (5 March)
- 2011 Scientific Output DVD and leaflet (March)

#### **Other publications (06):**

- EFSA In Focus 10 (31 May)
- Newsletters: EFSAnews 25 (10 April)

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- Annual Activity Report 2011 (3 April)
- Preliminary Budget and Establishment Plan 2013 (3 April)
- Preliminary Annual Management Plan 2013 (3 April)
- Work Plan 2012 (6 March)

### **CORPORATE – RESOURCES AND SUPPORT**

#### Institutional relations

On 2-3 May 2012, a delegation of the European Parliament Committee on Environment, public health and food safety (ENVI Committee) visited EFSA. Focus was on EFSA’s extensive scientific work programme, with particular attention on nutrition, new technologies, GMOs, pesticides and animal health and welfare. The ENVI Committee delegation was led by its Chair, Matthias Groote (S&D, Germany), and benefited of the presence of the recently appointed liaison-MEP with EFSA from the ENVI Committee, Pilar Ayuso (PPE-DE, Spain). Strong support for EFSA’s work was expressed by the Chair, who will report to all members of the ENVI Committee.

#### Quality

Quality Management System (QMS): In March EFSA adopted the Quality Roadmap for 2012, which includes in particular the preparation of the new Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the organisation. These are planned to be completed by July this year. The second element of checking alignment of the system with ISO 9001 will be completed in August and December 2012.

External Review: The mandate for the Expert Review Working Group, which carries out the external review part of the INEX quality evaluation process, was renewed in March. The evaluation of the re-applications of the current members was completed in April along with the selection of outputs for the evaluation.

Document Management: March saw the development of the organisation’s filing plan which was adopted by the scientific Units in April. Individual units filing plans were completed in May and internal consultation has begun on the development of the Document Management Policy with the objective of finalising this to support the start of the new tool implementation in July 2012. The selection of the new Document Management System IT tool was completed in April.

#### Planning and monitoring

The Balanced Scorecard (BSC) project was initiated under the e<sup>3</sup> – efficiency programme to develop and implement a strategic performance management tool. The work has been conducted under the steering of a Task Force including representatives of the various directorates, coordinated by the Executive Office (EXO). EXO is coordinating efforts in identifying the tool to be used to allow production of the BSC at EFSA and directorate levels.

#### Data protection (DP)

Besides the submission of a notification for the European Data Protection Supervisor’s (EDPS) opinion regarding staff obligations in the context of termination of EFSA employment, follow-up was prepared and implemented to EDPS recommendations on various matters: anti-harassment informal proceedings, administrative inquiries and disciplinary proceedings, management of staff leave, and staff training policy. The video-surveillance CCTV system of the EFSA building was audited and corresponding feedback prepared for EDPS submission. The DPO attended the DPO Network meeting hosted at ECHA (Helsinki) on 29-30 March 2012.

#### Court cases

On 28 March, in Case T-214/11 concerning access to documents and environmental information, EFSA received a letter from the Registrar of the General Court informing that the written procedure was closed following the submission of ClientEarth and PAN Europe’s observations on the EFSA’s Rejoinder. EFSA received the observations on 11 April which contest EFSA’s position that following disclosure of the documents, the case has become devoid of purpose as EFSA did not disclose the names of the experts in the requested documents. The Applicants claim that the names per se are already public and therefore EFSA’s decision to partially reject the request for access to documents for what concerns those names is in breach of Article 4 of the Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 on public access to documents and as such the case is not devoid of purpose.

On 27 March, EFSA was invited to attend to the hearing in Cases T-339/10 and T-532/10 that took place on 8 May in Luxembourg. The two cases, joined by the General Court, have been submitted by the Applicant against EFSA in the frame of an alleged infringement of the public procurement procedure governed by the Financial Regulation in the award of a

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contract public service. In addition the Applicant claims that, in the same procedure, EFSA infringed the Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 on public access to documents not providing access to the commercial offer of the winning tender.

### IT and Operations

A number of new functionalities and improvement to existing IT tools have been deployed in the reference period on various operational and organisational tools developed and deployed by EFSA to support its scientific and non-scientific activities.

### Corporate Centralised Support Services

Travel management has been transferred from the Finance Unit to the Corporate Services (CORSER) Unit and since April 2012 the logistical aspects of prepaid tickets for both scientific experts and staff have been centralised.

Continuous support was provided to EFSA’s Units in all activities falling under CORSER’s responsibility: site management, event organisation and translation and proofreading. CORSER provided support for the organisation of the Festa dell’Europa, and helped EFSA’s scientific staff with their participation in the 6<sup>th</sup> SETAC World Congress in Berlin.

### Financial management

As of 15 May 2012,

- EUR 32.68 million or **41.75%** of the EUR 78.28 million budget was committed. This commitment level stands 2% below the target set for the month of April. Under Title I, commitments and payments levels are essentially driven by the staff expenditure with 98% of the payments made so far being staff remuneration. Under Title II Infrastructure, the budget is already at 55% committed in view of the quarterly pattern of the expenditures related to building and infrastructure and the conclusion of maintenance and purchase contracts. Under Title III Operations, the execution rate reached 35% mainly triggered by scientific meetings (EUR 5.60 million), scientific cooperation (EUR 1.06 million) and Operational support (EUR 2.42 million).
- EUR 22.20 million or **29.45%** of the EUR 75.38 payment appropriations were paid, essentially corresponding to the staff and infrastructure expenditure and, under Title III, scientific cooperation (EUR 1.73 million) and scientific meetings (EUR 2.15 million). This overall payment level stands however 8% below the target for the month of April.

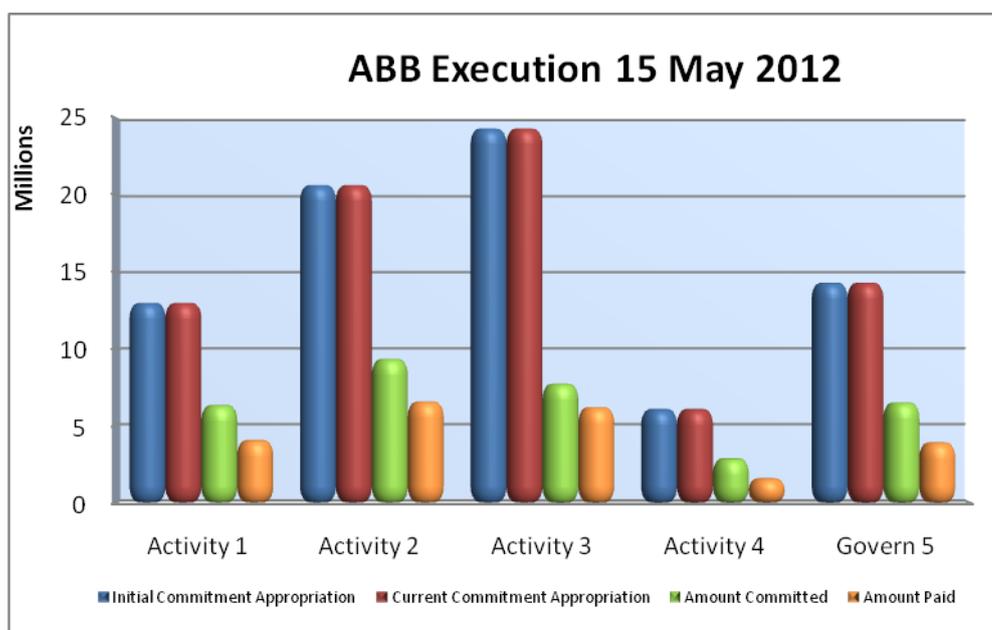
Title	Initial Commitment Appropriation	Current Commitment Appropriation	Δ	Amount Committed	%	Payment Appropriation	Amount Paid	%
<b>PERSONNEL</b>	39,359,000	39,249,000	-0.28%	16,674,105	42.48%	39,249,000	14,940,156	38.07%
<b>INFRASTRUCTURE</b>	10,222,000	10,332,000	1.08%	5,716,910	55.33%	10,332,000	2,193,057	21.23%
<b>OPERATIONS</b>	28,698,000	28,698,000	0.00%	10,289,396	35.85%	25,805,090	5,067,547	19.64%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>78,279,000</b>	<b>78,279,000</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>32,680,412</b>	<b>41.75%</b>	<b>75,386,090</b>	<b>22,200,761</b>	<b>29.45%</b>



The following table and chart report the budget appropriations and executions along with the four operational activities and governance & administration functions (Activity Based Budgeting):

- Activity 1. Provision of scientific opinions and advice and risk assessment approaches
- Activity 2. Evaluation of products, substances and claims subject to authorisation
- Activity 3. Data collection, scientific cooperation and networking
- Activity 4. Communication and dialogue
- Govern 5. Governance and administration functions

In EUR	Initial Commitment Appropriation	Current Commitment Appropriation	Δ	Amount Committed	%	Payment Appropriation	Amount Paid	%
<b>Activity 1</b>	12,975,953	12,975,953	0.00%	6,317,278	48.68%	12,975,953	4,039,112	31.71%
<b>Activity 2</b>	20,639,449	20,639,449	0.00%	9,321,248	45.16%	20,639,449	6,549,367	33.88%
<b>Activity 3</b>	24,316,214	24,316,214	0.00%	7,707,808	31.70%	21,423,304	6,175,505	26.91%
<b>Activity 4</b>	6,064,386	6,064,386	0.00%	2,848,568	46.97%	6,064,386	1,548,709	25.45%
<b>Govern 5</b>	14,282,999	14,282,999	0.00%	6,485,509	45.41%	14,282,999	3,888,067	27.22%
<b>Total</b>	<b>78,279,000</b>	<b>78,279,000</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>32,680,412</b>	<b>41.75%</b>	<b>75,386,090</b>	<b>22,200,761</b>	<b>29.45%</b>



The commitment level reached by the different activities is mainly made of staff and infrastructure expenditure (70%). The commitments under the operational budgets (30%) are essentially related to Activity 1 and 2 (scientific meetings, scientific cooperation and IT operational developments). All activities except Activity 3 are in line with the targets set for the month. The operational budget of Activity 3 is at 12% committed or 27% below the initial forecast of the scientific cooperation programme. The operational budget of Activity 4 is at 39% committed, in line with the target.

#### Year on Year

Year on year, the commitments increased by EUR 3.2 million, which represents a 10.79% increase. Payments also increased by EUR 3.1 million or 16.18% compared to last year. On commitment side, the increase is mainly due to infrastructure whereas the increase in payment is mainly due to staff, scientific meetings and scientific cooperation.

Title	Commitments 15 May 2012	Commitments 15 May 2011	Increase	Payments 15 May 2012	Payments 15 May 2011	Increase
<b>PERSONNEL</b>	16,674,105	15,755,018	5.83%	14,940,156	12,585,551	18.71%
<b>INFRASTRUCTURE</b>	5,716,910	4,729,589	20.88%	2,193,057	2,077,359	5.57%
<b>OPERATIONS</b>	10,289,396	9,014,014	14.15%	5,067,547	4,446,535	13.97%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>32,680,412</b>	<b>29,498,621</b>	<b>10.79%</b>	<b>22,200,761</b>	<b>19,109,445</b>	<b>16.18%</b>

#### Budget Execution versus Target

Year-end targets related to budget execution were set in the framework of the Annual Management Plan. In order to monitor during the year adherence or deviation from these targets and take the appropriate corrective actions, monthly targets were built up. The targets mirror the commitment or payment patterns of the various expenditure as well as the timeline agreed on for the scientific cooperation programme and projects conducted.

In April commitments were 2% below the target. The target for payments (differentiated and non-differentiated appropriations) was not reached in April (-8%), mainly for delays observed in RASA, SCISTRAT and COMMS Directorates. The overall deviation recorded in April is over 5%.

#### Discharge budget 2010

On 10 May the EU Parliament postponed the discharge of EFSA’s budget for the year 2010, because of concerns related mainly to the handling of conflicts of interests and to the cost of Management Board meetings. EFSA has been asked to

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provide elements and explanations to reassure the Parliament that the concerns raised will be addressed. The discharge procedure will resume in September and the vote of the Parliament is expected in October this year.

### Accounts

In the reporting period, more than 3,300 payments were executed.

The Court of Auditor’s audit mission on the 2011 provisional annual accounts was performed in the third week of April and informal indications from the Court of Auditors give assurance that their preliminary observations shall not lead to any issues regarding the legality and regularity of the 2011 accounts.

### Human Resources

<b>Staff Categories</b>	<b>End 2011</b>	<b>Target 2012</b>	<b>Total Contracted and Offered</b>
<b>Temporary Agents and Officials</b>			
<i>Managers &amp; Officers (AD)</i>	199	225	208
<i>Assistants functions (AST)</i>	133	130	129
<b>Total</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>337</b>
<b>Contract Agents</b>			
<i>Officers functions (CA FG IV)</i>	40	60	45
<i>Assistants functions (CA FG I, II, III)</i>	50	50	49
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>Seconded National Experts</b>	14	29	20
<b>Total all staff categories</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>451</b>

On 31<sup>st</sup> May 2012, 441 posts were occupied and 10 job offers sent to the selected candidates bringing the total to 451 posts filled-in out of the planned 494 posts. The Recruitment execution rate for the Establishment Plan 2012 (Temporary Agents and Officials) is at 95%.

## **Glossary**

**AF** – EFSA’s Advisory Forum  
**AFCWG** – Advisory Forum Communications Working Group  
**AFSCO** – EFSA Unit on Advisory Forum and Scientific Cooperation  
**AHAW** – EFSA Panel/Unit on Animal health and welfare  
**ANS** – EFSA Panel on Food additives and nutrient sources added to food  
**BIOHAZ** – Biological Hazard Panel/Unit of EFSA  
**BIOMO** – EFSA Unit on Biological monitoring  
**BPA** – bisphenol A  
**BSE-TSE** - Bovine and Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies  
**CEF** – EFSA Panel on Food contact materials, enzymes, flavourings and processing aids  
**COMMS** – EFSA Directorate of Communications  
**CONTAM** – EFSA Panel/Unit on Contaminants  
**DCM** – EFSA Unit on Dietary and chemical monitoring  
**DG COMM** – Directorate General for Communication  
**DG SANCO** – Directorate General for Health and Consumers  
**DOI** – Declaration of Interest  
**DPO** – EFSA Data Protection Officer  
**EC** – European Commission  
**ECDC** – European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control  
**ED** – EFSA Executive Director  
**EDB** – EFSA Expert Database  
**EDPS** – European Data Protection Supervisor  
**EMA** – European Medicine Agency  
**EMRISK** – Emerging Risk Unit of EFSA  
**ENVI Committee** – Environment, public health and food safety committee at the European Parliament  
**EP** – European Parliament  
**ERA** – Environmental risk assessment  
**ESCO** – EFSA Scientific cooperation project  
**EU** – European Union  
**EXO** – EFSA’s Executive Office Unit  
**FAQ** – Frequently asked questions  
**FDA** – Food and Drug Administration of the United States  
**FEED** – EFSA Unit on Feeds  
**FEEDAP**- EFSA Panel on Additives and products or substances used in animal feed  
**FIP** – EFSA Unit on Food ingredients and packaging  
**FMD** – Foot and mouth disease  
**FP** – EFSA Focal Points  
**GMM** – Genetically Modified Micro-organism  
**GMO** – EFSA Panel/Unit on Genetically modified organism  
**HUCAP** – EFSA Unit on Human capital and knowledge management  
**IEP** – Information exchange platform  
**KFDA** – Korean Food and Drug Administration  
**MEP** – Member of the European Parliament  
**MoU** – Memorandum of understanding  
**MRL** – Maximum residue levels  
**MS** – EU Member States  
**PLH** – EFSA Panel/Unit on Plant health  
**PMEM** – Post-market environmental monitoring  
**PRAS** – EFSA Unit on Pesticides  
**PPR** – EFSA Panel on Plant protection products and their residues  
**RASA** – EFSA Directorate of Risk assessment and scientific assistance  
**REPRO** – EFSA Directorate of Scientific evaluation of regulated products

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**RESU** – EFSA Directorate of Resources and Support

**SAS** – EFSA Unit on Scientific assessment support

**SBV** – “Schmallenberg” virus

**SC** – EFSA Scientific Committee

**SCISTRAT** – EFSA Directorate of Scientific strategy and coordination

**SCoFAH** – Standing committee on food chain and animal health of the European Commission

**SCOM** – EFSA Unit on the Scientific Committee

**SCP** – Stakeholders Consultative Platform

**STEC** – Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli*

**SVD** – Swine vesicular disease

**TTC** – Threshold of toxicological concern

**VS** – Vesicular Stomatitis

**VTEC** – Verotoxin-producing *E. coli*

**WG** – Working group