



European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) External evaluation of EFSA

Presentation for the Management Board

Parma, 18/10/2012

1 Evaluation objectives, scope, process and approach

2 Main Findings and Recommendations

The evaluation structure

EVALUATION CRITERIA

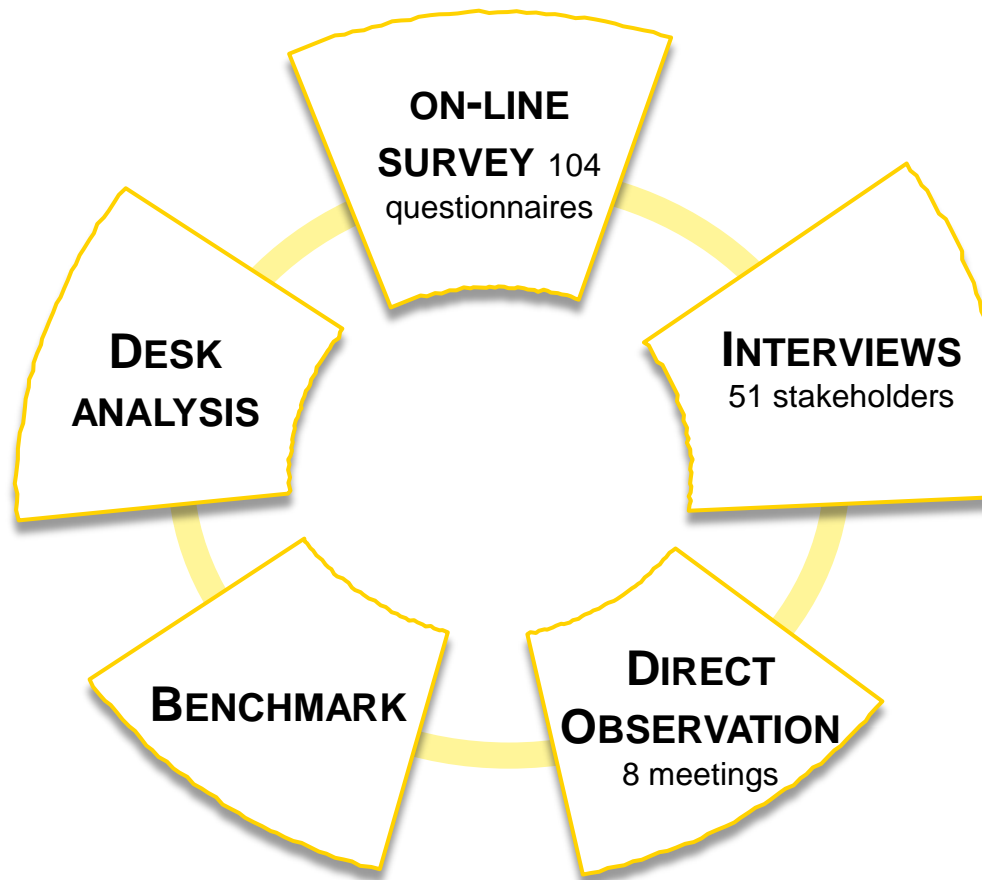
1. EFFECTIVENESS
2. EFFICIENCY
3. SUSTAINABILITY
4. INDEPENDENCE
5. OPENNESS AND
TRANSPARENCY
6. SCIENTIFIC QUALITY
7. VALUE ADDED

THEMATIC AREAS

- Provision of scientific outputs and technical support;
- Data collection;
- Risk communication;
- Cooperation and Networking;
- International role and recognition;
- Organizational structure, operational efficiency and adaptability to change;
- Independence;
- Openness.

The evaluation approach - tools

The evaluation has been conducted through a mix of tools:



The final sample of stakeholders

TARGET GROUPS	STAKEHOLDERS	SELECTION CRITERIA
Institutional Stakeholders	European Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ coverage of MS; ■ coverage of different areas of expertise/ interests/sectors; ■ coverage of key informants; ■ balance between members being Chairs of the Panels and external experts.
	European Parliament	
	National Risk Managers	
	National Risk Assessors	
External Stakeholders	Scientific Org. (Art36)	
	Food Industry Representatives	
	NGOs	
	Consumer Organizations	
	Int. Organizations	
	Media	
EFSA bodies	Management Board	
	Scientific Committee	

- 1 Evaluation objectives, scope, process and approach

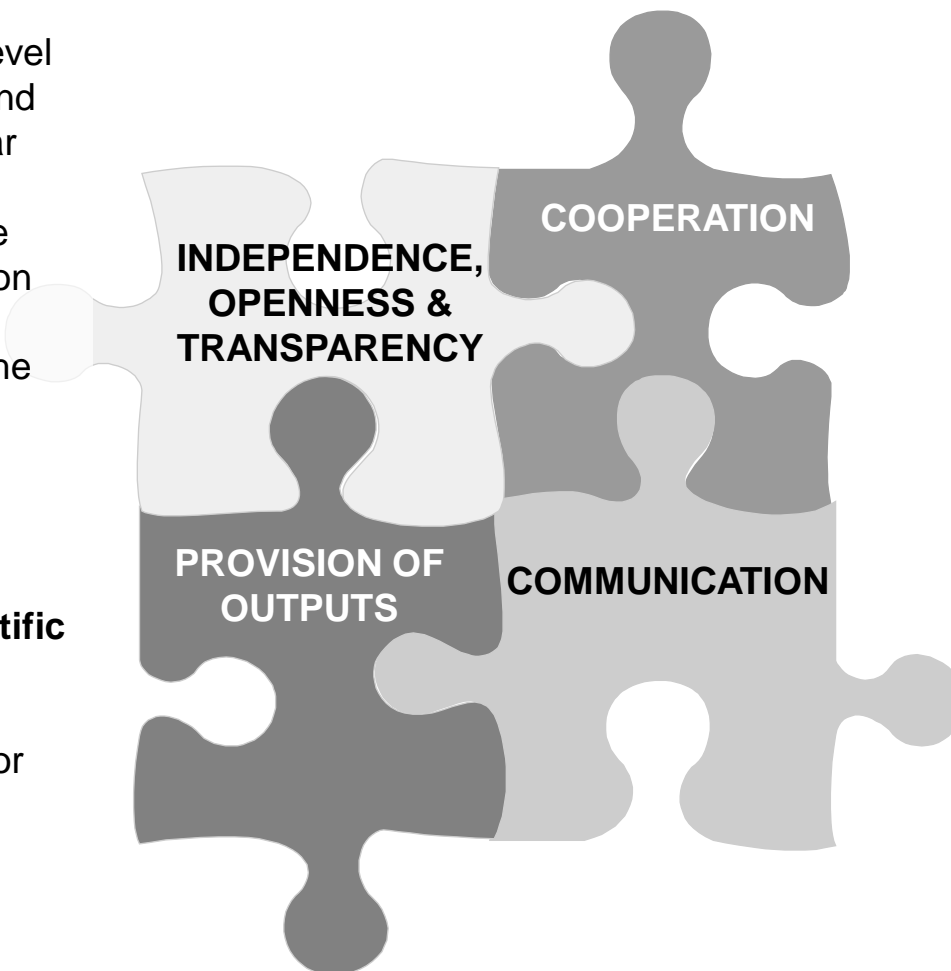
2 Main Findings and Recommendations

Main findings

The Authority is globally delivering its mission...

EFSA has a high level of **transparency** and **openness** going far beyond the requirements of the Founding Regulation and it has a robust system to assure the **impartiality** of its advices.

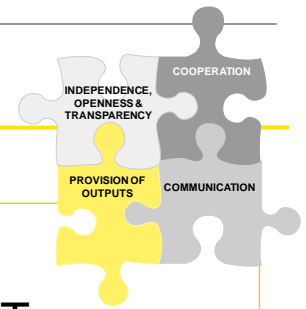
EFSA's process of **provision of scientific outputs** can be considered of good quality and useful for policy making.



The current system of **cooperation** is adequate and allows EFSA to have high quality expertise from different MS.

EFSA's activity in risk **communication** is considered useful and clear enough to inform and support decision making processes.

Provision of scientific outputs



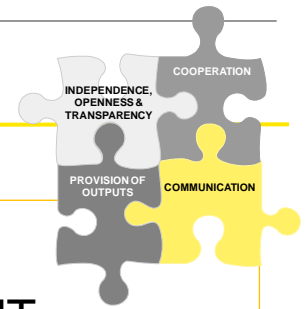
AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT

- EFSA's outputs **meets clients' needs**;
- Globally appreciated **quality, accessibility** and **reliability** of outputs also in emergency situations;
- **Effective standards and procedures**;
- Highly **qualified experts** working for EFSA and ensuring the quality of their outputs;
- Added value through the use of an **integrated approach** and the development of tools to **support risk managers**;
- **Adaptability and flexibility of EFSA's structure** to changes and activity evolution both in terms of structural reorganization and consistent allocation of resources.

STRENGTHS

- Capacity to **anticipate risks** before they become a crisis and to identify future work areas;
- **Internal processes** (namely the monitoring process);
- The large number of **regulatory workflows** (for regulated products) envisaged in the fragmented legislative framework;
- **Allocation of tasks between internal staff and experts**;
- **Matching market needs** and establishing a fruitful relation and exchange of information with the industry;
- **Customization of outputs** to national needs.

Risk Communication



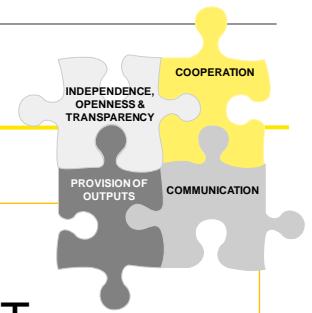
AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT

- **Effectiveness and good quality** of the communication, especially in terms of content, relevance, timing and usefulness to improve knowledge and awareness of existing food-chain risks;
- Abundant **availability of communication tools** (e.g., website, meetings, conferences, workshops, twitter, etc.);
- Positive contribution to the **awareness, trust and reputation** for the overall food safety system and for the Authority itself;
- Positive contribution to the **harmonization and coherence** in risk communication.

STRENGTHS

- **Clarity:** the communication is targeted to a well educated public and hardly accessible, also for language barriers;
- Effectiveness of the existing communication tools (especially the **website**) in terms of matching between information needs of different stakeholders and targeting of messages;
- Role given to EFSA, as defined in the Founding Regulation, in the coordination of **communications during emergencies/crisis**;
- Effectiveness of EFSA's **communication to the general public**.

Cooperation



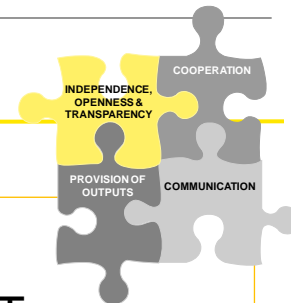
AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT

- Strong **EU positioning**. EFSA is recognized and appreciated at an EU level as an **attractive place to work** and its opinions are widely respected;
- **Good cooperation with the EC**, useful to anticipate future legislative work;
- **Good support provided by MS** agencies to EFSA's work and EFSA's support to them in terms of reduction of expenditures and use of forefront methodologies;
- Wide **portfolio of instruments of cooperation** with Member States (e.g., Advisory Forum, Focal Points, Art. 36 network, etc.).

STRENGTHS

- **Sharing** of responsibilities, priorities and future workloads **with Member States** (and EC);
- **Effectiveness of cooperation instruments**, namely the AF, in satisfying different interests;
- **Contribution to the EU legislation processes** and policies;
- **Harmonization** of methodological approaches and IT systems for **data collection** and poor **quality of data** provided by some MS, namely the smallest ones;
- EFSA's **recognition at an international level** (e.g. limited data exchange with IOs and divergences).

Independence



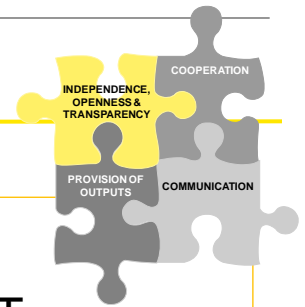
AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT

- **The creation of a robust system** (governance, processes and procedures) also if compared with other EU Agencies and OECD standards;
- The **evolution** of policies and procedures **coherently with new challenges** and work areas;
- The **effectiveness of procedures** in preventing and dealing with conflict of interests.

STRENGTHS

- **Communication** in relation to EFSA's links with industry and industry affiliated bodies and to specific implemented procedures;
- Effectiveness of **actions to mitigate criticisms** towards EFSA's experts independence;
- Relationship with **NGOs**.

Openness and Transparency



AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT

- **Publication of a wider portfolio of documents** than those foreseen in the Founding Regulation;
- Satisfying **level of inclusion of external stakeholders** in EFSA's decision making processes;
- Availability of a **wide mix of instruments of involvement** that globally satisfy stakeholders (i.e., Stakeholder Consultative Platform, Colloquia, workshops, hearing experts; etc.);
- Progressively open attitude (e.g., Pilot project to open up some Panels to external observers).

STRENGTHS

- **Risk assessment processes**, as the majority of Panel meetings are closed to public scrutiny;
- **Time to update opinions** once new evidences or criticisms raise;
- **Clarity** as relates the sources of data, and the use of conflicting data, assumptions, uncertainties, diverging opinions and stakeholders' comments;
- Transparency of the **screening procedures** and decisions on conflicts of interests;
- Transparency of the **data collection process**: provision, use, ownership and accessibility of data.

Strategic recommendations: overview

10 years after its inception EFSA should:

Take in consideration the various stakeholders' needs and their increasing expectations to adequately design a portfolio of services coherently with the new emerging challenges.



PRIORITIZE

Capitalize the expertise collected, take clear strategic decisions on future directions and focus efforts on the most efficient and effective tools and activities.



BE OPEN

Communicate in a transparent way the internal functioning, its independence and the use of information and comments provided by stakeholders.

Strategic recommendations

Overall Conclusion

The Authority (EFSA) continues to demonstrate its value as the cornerstone of risk assessment for food and feed in the EU and fulfils its obligations to operate in an independent manner. Among the main strengths:

- The good quality of EFSA's scientific outputs and risk communication activities;
- The Authority's culture of transparency and the robust systems to ensure the impartiality of its scientific advice.

However the evaluation recommends to:

Recommendations

1. Further strengthen the **cooperation with Member States**, in order to gain in effectiveness and efficiency and enhance EFSA's role in all Member States.
2. Increase **planning and prioritization** capacity.
3. Take into account different stakeholders' needs and better **customize** its services.
4. Increase the capacity to deal with criticism on its **independence**.
5. Further increase the level of **openness/transparency** in some processes.