

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

**Management Board
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EFSA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PROGRESS REPORT

Executive Summary

The present report refers to the period from 1st January to 28th February, 2013.

Highlights:

- Launch of the Transparency Initiative and publication of all data on GM maize NK603 (14 January);
- Risks to bees from neonicotinoids (16 January);
- EFSA’s ED and the EU Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy, Mr Tonio Borg, met on 24 January;
- EFSA and DG Health and Consumers met with NGO networks (30 January);
- EFSA and DG AGRI brainstormed on the research programme “Horizon 2020” (31 January);
- Public consultation on the draft Opinion on the re-evaluation of aspartame (8 January – 15 February 2013);
- Opinion on the human health risks of endocrine disruptors (27 February);
- Horsemeat contamination of the EU food chain.

Following the recent contamination of the EU food chain with horsemeat, EFSA is closely monitoring the situation with respect to possible impact for human health in liaison with the European Commission, the European Medicines Agency, and national food safety agencies. EFSA has set up a Task Force with members of CONTAM, DCM and EMRISK Units for collecting and assessing the data on residues of veterinary medicines in horse meat.

Science Strategy and Coordination (SCISTRAT):

The Scientific Committee adopted an Opinion on the human health risks of endocrine disruptors, which will be presented to the public during a press briefing and stakeholder meeting on 20 March. Among others, the Scientific Committee is working on emerging risks; the multi-annual programme for the review and development of EFSA’s guidance documents; and two self-tasking mandates on botanicals. The Scientific Committee also discussed: the mandate to harmonise overarching elements of environmental risk assessment; the draft scientific report on chemical mixtures; harmonised timelines within the stop-the-clock mechanisms; and a framework for EFSA’s scientific cooperation. The Emerging Risk Unit (EMRISK) published an External Report on the outcomes of the 2012 crisis training and finalised the 2012 Technical report on crisis preparedness and urgent response. EMRISK also produced a report on EFSA’s research priorities in the context of Horizon 2020. The annual reports of the Focal Points (2012) were evaluated and the 2013 agreements were signed. The training courses framed in the programme “Better Training for Safer Food” were actively supported by EFSA and the feedback received from participants was very positive. On 30 January, EFSA and DG SANCO met with 19 non-governmental civil society organisations (NGOs) for an exchange of views on some key challenges in front of EFSA and the European food safety system. EFSA welcomed delegations from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and the Chinese State Food and Drug Administration.

Risk Assessment and Scientific Assistance (RASA):

RASA adopted two Opinions on the “Risk of introduction and spread of the small hive beetle (*Aethina tumida*) and *Tropilaelaps* in the EU”, and the “Risk of transmission of scrapie via *in vivo* derived embryo transfer in ovine animal”. In addition, EFSA issued the “EU summary report on trends and sources of zoonoses, zoonotic agents and food-borne outbreaks in 2011” and the “Revision of the annual monitoring programme for BSE from Norway”. Among others, in the coming months EFSA will work on: Meat inspection of bovines, solipeds, farmed game and small ruminant species; the risk of introduction and spread of Rift Valley Fever; the list of QPS recommended biological agents intentionally added to food and feed; the Guidance on methodological principles establishing reference points for action; the Guidance on the

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environmental risk assessment on the use of the invasive organism *Pomacea insularum*; and the risk assessment of acrylamide in food. The “EU summary report on antimicrobial resistance in 2011” is being finalised.

Scientific Evaluation of Regulated Products (REPRO):

REPRO adopted 28 Opinions, three Statements, one External scientific report, four Technical reports, 14 Reasoned Opinions on MRL and four Conclusions on pesticide peer review. An Event Report on the meeting with the Member States on bisphenol A was published. The public consultation on the draft Opinion on aspartame was launched on 8 January and closed on 15 February (the final Opinion is expected by May, 2013). The re-evaluation of feed additives remains one of the main working areas of the FEEDAP Panel, with 80 Opinions to be adopted in the coming months, which include mandates related to silage, flavourings, amino acids, colourings and trace elements. The NDA Panel is currently assessing 53 applications on health claims, seven novel food applications and is working on Dietary Reference Values for 29 micronutrients. The main priorities of the ANS Panel include the re-evaluation of food additives and the assessment of new food additive applications, as well as 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 405 flavouring substances, mainly based on submission of genotoxicity data. In addition, the evaluation of active and intelligent packaging processes will continue. The PRAS Unit will work on the remaining 46 MRL applications submitted, as well as the 325 MRL reviews which are on the agenda. The peer review on the risk to bees posed by Fipronil is ongoing.

Communications (COMMS):

EFSA has communicated widely on chemicals in food, GMO, food-borne diseases and animal welfare, GMO, innovation, and pesticides/bees. As part of the initiative to enhance transparency in EFSA’s risk assessment work, a press release was published in conjunction with the launch of an initiative on public access to the data related to the GM maize NK603. EFSA received 17 media enquiries and facilitated five interviews relating to the Opinion on the safety of neonicotinoids for bees. EFSA also dealt with increased media interest regarding the cases of horsemeat contamination in the EU food chain, mostly requiring clarification on EFSA’s role in the EU food safety system. The Authority issued three press releases, five web news-stories, one news in brief and two multimedia science videos. The corporate brochure ‘*Science protecting consumers from field to fork*’ was published in the languages of all Member States, EEA and pre-accession countries. Key agenda issues of the meeting of the Advisory Forum Communications Working Group (AFCWG) included: the review of the communications strategy 2010-2013 and planning for the new strategy (2014 onwards); discussion of the AFCWG’s Terms of Reference; and discussions on social media.

Budget and human resources:

On 26 February 2013, € 14.40 million or 18.45% of the € 78.08 million budget was committed, and € 6.85 million or 9.07% of the € 75.52 million payment appropriations were paid. On 28 February 2013, 455 posts were occupied and 4 job offers sent to the selected candidates bringing the total to 459 posts filled-in out of the planned 481 posts.

EFSA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PROGRESS REPORT

SCIENCE STRATEGY AND COORDINATION (SCISTRAT)

Scientific Committee (SCOM)

The Scientific Committee adopted an Opinion on the human health risks of endocrine disruptors. It concerns the hazard assessment of endocrine disruptors with particular emphasis on scientific criteria for their identification and appropriateness of existing testing methods for human health and the environment. The Opinion will be presented during a press briefing and stakeholder meeting on 20 March. The Scientific Committee is working on emerging risks, as well as on a multi-annual programme for the prioritisation of activities aimed to review and develop EFSA’s guidance documents. The Scientific Committee has also started working on two self-tasking mandates on botanicals. Among the subjects discussed at the two plenary meetings in February are worth of note: the mandate to harmonise overarching elements of environmental risk assessment; the draft scientific report on chemical mixtures; harmonised timelines for submitting information to EFSA within the stop-the-clock mechanisms; and a framework for EFSA’s scientific cooperation with EU agencies, third countries and international organisations.

Emerging Risks Unit (EMRISK)

EMRISK published an External Report summarising the outcome of the 2012 crisis training and updating the multi-annual crisis training plan. The annual Technical Report on crisis preparedness and urgent response 2012 was also finalised. An External Report summarising the outcome of a study on consumption of energy drinks in 15 Member States was published. A report on EFSA’s research priorities in the context of Horizon 2020 was finalised. Since January 2013 the task to plan EFSA’s colloquia has passed to the EMRISK Unit. The next colloquium is scheduled to take place in May and will focus on holistic approaches to the risk assessment of multiple stressors in bees.

Advisory Forum and Scientific Cooperation Unit (AFSCO)

The 2012 annual reports from all 29 Focal Points (FP) were technically evaluated and financially screened, showing an overall budget execution of 99%. The 2013 FP Agreements were signed. The 16th FP meeting focussed on a review of scientific cooperation, a five-year review of the FP network, as well as the review of the Article 36 list. The Expert Database (EDB) further grew including over 3,360 experts. The training courses framed in the programme “Better Training for Safer Food” (BTSF) were actively supported by EFSA and the feedback received from participants was very positive. An internal Task Force was set up to reflect on the format of scientific outputs in order to better explain uncertainties, methods and materials. The Task Force will report to the Editorial Board of EFSA’s Journal.

Cooperation with Stakeholders

On 30 January, EFSA and DG SANCO met 19 non-governmental civil society organisations for an exchange of views on some key challenges in front of EFSA and the European food safety system. The Chair and Vice-Chairs of EFSA’s Management Board were also present. EFSA received requests to further enhance the transparency of the Authority’s risk assessment. The European Commissions addressed questions on the future of EU’s food safety system.

International relations

On 11 February, EFSA welcomed Dr. Catherine Italiano of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency: Meetings with the FEED, CONTAM and GMO Units provided the opportunity for a reciprocal update on latest trends and developments in the area of animal feed safety. On 26 February, EFSA welcomed a delegation of the Chinese State Food and Drug Administration for a discussion on food ingredients, nutrition and botanicals.

RISK ASSESSMENT AND SCIENTIFIC ASSISTANCE (RASA)

Panel on animal health and welfare (AHAW)

The AHAW Panel adopted one Opinion on the Risk of introduction and spread of the small hive beetle (*Aethina tumida*) and *Tropilaelaps* in the EU. In January, the AHAW Unit organised two stakeholder meetings on “*Histomonosis*” and “Practices in slaughterhouses of broilers”.

In collaboration with the BIOHAZ and CONTAM Panels, and the support of the BIOMO Unit, the AHAW Panel will work on the Opinions on meat Inspection of bovines, solipeds, farmed game and small ruminant species (adoption foreseen in June 2013). In addition, the Panel will finalise the Opinions on the “Risk of introduction and spread of Rift Valley Fever” and the “Possible risks posed by the Influenza A (H3N2) virus for animal health”. To assist the AHAW Panel in the context of the mandate on monitoring slaughterhouse procedures, EFSA procured an Expert Knowledge Elicitation (EKE).

Panel on biological hazards (BIOHAZ)

The BIOHAZ Panel adopted one Opinion on the “Risk of transmission of scrapie via *in vivo* derived embryo transfer in ovine animals”. The Panel also endorsed a Scientific Report on the “Revision of the annual monitoring programme for BSE from Norway”. Among others, in the coming months the BIOHAZ Panel will work on: meat inspection for bovines, small ruminants, farmed game and solipeds; the maintenance of the list of QPS recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed; the seropathotype concept and scientific criteria regarding pathogenicity assessment of VTEC strains; the scrapie situation in the EU after 10 years of monitoring and control in sheep and goats; and the assessment of the public health risks related to the different types of mechanically separated meat and the parameters, their values and their measure to distinguish between these. The Panel will continue working on Part 2 of an Opinion on the risk posed by pathogens in food of non-animal origin. Activities will continue also in the framework of the self-task mandates on: the development of a risk ranking toolbox; evaluation of molecular typing methods for major food-borne microbiological hazards; and *Carbapenem* resistance in food animal ecosystems.

Panel on contaminants in the food chain (CONTAM)

The CONTAM Panel has endorsed the chapters of two Opinions on bovine and domestic sheep and goats related to the mandate on meat inspection. These will have to be adopted by the BIOHAZ Panel too.

In the coming months the Panel will finalise three Opinions on Mycotoxins (sterigmatocystin, nivalenol, and tropane alkaloids) and the “Guidance on methodological principles and scientific methods when establishing reference points for action”. As well, the Panel will continue working on the estimation of risks to human health caused by the presence of nickel in food. Work has started for the risk assessment of acrylamide in food.

Panel on plant health (PLH)

The PLH Panel will complete the Opinion on “Pest risk assessment for the EU territory of *Bemisia tabaci*”, as well as the reply to the Portuguese comments on *Pinus pinea* as host plant of pine wood nematode. Work has started on a self-task to test the Panel’s “Guidance on environmental risk assessment using the invasive organism *Pomacea insularum*”, the apple island snail. The PLH Panel has received new mandates to assess the risks on plant health caused by: Arabis mosaic virus, Raspberry ringspot virus, Strawberry latent ringspot virus, Tomato black ring virus, *Eutetranychus orientalis*, *Parasaissetia nigra*, *Didymella ligulicola* and *Phytophthora fragariae*. In response to derogation requests from third countries, the PLH Panel is preparing pest risk assessments for the EU territory on the organisms *Guignardia citricarpa* (Citrus Black Spot) and *Xanthomonas campestris* (all strains pathogenic to Citrus).

Scientific assessment support Unit (SAS)

The SAS Unit provided hands-on methodological and modelling support to the AHAW Opinion on risks related to the introduction and spread of the small hive beetle (*Aethina tumida*) and *Tropilaelaps* in the EU. In the coming months the Unit will provide support to the AHAW Unit for the mandate on public health hazards to be covered by meat inspection of bovine, as well as the mandate for the preparation of a data collection system of welfare indicators in EU broilers' slaughterhouses.

Activities will continue on the “Guidance for statistical reporting in dossiers submitted to EFSA and the identification of monitoring networks suitable to provide datasets to support post-market environmental monitoring (PMEM) of GMOs” and the “Guidance on methods for expert knowledge elicitation”. The SAS and AHAW Units will keep collecting epidemiological data in Member States on the “Schmallenberg” virus (SBV).

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Dietary and chemical monitoring Unit (DCM)

The DCM Unit provided support to CONTAM, FIP and PRAS within the context of data collection and dietary exposure. The Unit will continue working on two Scientific Reports on the monitoring of occurrence and dietary exposure to arsenic and deoxynivalenol. In addition, work will continue on the development of: a Raw agricultural commodity database; the extension of the Standard sample description; a model to harmonise the collection of occurrence data; the implementation of the new food classification system FoodEx2; and the post-market monitoring of food additives. The DCM Unit keeps co-ordinating the activities of the pan-European Food Consumption Survey “What’s on the Menu in Europe?” (EU Menu project).

Biological monitoring Unit (BIOMO)

The BIOMO Unit issued the “EU summary report on trends and sources of zoonoses, zoonotic agents and food-borne outbreaks in 2011”, which was prepared in collaboration with the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). The Report highlights the increase of human infection cases with *Campylobacter* and verotoxigenic *Escherichia coli*, while the number of *Salmonella* infections are declining both in humans and poultry in the EU. In February, the Task Force on zoonoses data collection met to discuss on IT issues related to data reporting.

The BIOMO Unit is finalising the EU summary report on antimicrobial resistance in 2011. Work continues on the analysis of the EU-wide baseline survey on *Listeria monocytogenes* in ready-to-eat foods. As well, continues the work on the harmonised epidemiological indicators for meat inspection. In collaboration with the EU reference laboratories and ECDC, EFSA established a working group for the collection of molecular typing data from food-borne pathogens. The BIOMO Unit also set up new working groups for the revision of food-borne outbreak reporting specifications, and for the classification of analytical methods for food-borne pathogens.

SCIENTIFIC EVALUATION OF REGULATED PRODUCTS (REPRO)

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

The FEEDAP Panel adopted 12 Opinions on the authorisation of feed additives, belonging to the following categories: technological (1), sensory (1), nutritional (6), zootechnical (3) and coccidiostats (1). Eight of these Opinions were re-evaluations of additives already on the market. In the case of Iodine-compounds, the Panel recommended reducing the maximum levels authorised in feed for certain animal categories.

The re-evaluation of feed additives remains one of the main working areas of the Panel. In the coming months the FEEDAP Panel will focus on 80 Opinions, which include mainly mandates related to silage, flavourings, amino acids, colourings and trace elements.

Food ingredients and packaging (FIP)

The Panel on Food contact materials, enzymes, flavourings and processing aids (CEF) adopted seven Opinions: four on food contact materials (three recycling plastic - RECYC001, RECYC009, RECYC076 - and one substance on Polyacrylic acid, sodium salt, crosslinked) and three on flavourings (FGE.06Rev4, FGE.224Rev1 and FGE.23Rev4). The Panel on Food additives and nutrient sources added to food (ANS) adopted three Statements on Ethyl esters of iodized fatty acids, Erithriol and Lactylates.

An event report on the meeting with Member State Experts on bisphenol A was published.

The ANS Panel will continue focusing on the re-evaluation of food additives, as well as the evaluation of new food additives and the safety assessment of nutrient sources (including nutrient sources for the fortification of food that are subject to national derogations). A public consultation on the draft Opinion on aspartame was launched on 8 January and closed on 15 February, 2013. The comments received will be reviewed and taken into account for the finalisation of the Opinion in May 2013.

The CEF Panel will put focus on the re-evaluation of 405 flavouring substances, mainly based on submission of genotoxicity data. In addition, the CEF Panel will continue working on the evaluation of active and intelligent packaging processes (16 applications under evaluation).

Panel on genetically modified organisms (GMO)

The GMO Panel adopted one Opinion for the placing on the market of genetically modified herbicide tolerant oilseed rape GT73 for food produced from or containing ingredients produced from oilseed rape GT73. The GMO Unit also published 2 Technical Reports related to opinions adopted in December 2012 and January 2013, as well as a Technical Report on the activities of the GMO Network in 2012.

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One new application was received on GM maize MON 89034 x 1507 x NK603 x DAS-40278-9. The GMO Unit also received one mandate on high oleic MON87705 soybean and one mandate on veterinary medicinal product Apex-PD. In addition, the GMO Unit received one mandate on safeguard clauses invoked by Greece on Amflora potato and four mandates on safeguard clauses invoked by Austria on MON 863 maize, GT73 and Ms8/Rf3 oilseed rapes and Amflora potato.

The ongoing work on approximately 60 applications related to GM plants will continue. The work on the Guidance document for environmental risk assessment for GM animals was resumed in December 2012.

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. The Opinion on Dietary Reference Values for energy was published.

To date EFSA has received 396 health claims applications, for which the NDA Panel has adopted 169 Opinions covering 178 applications. The assessment of 10 applications is in progress, 155 applications have been withdrawn and 53 applications are under validation process. In addition, the NDA Panel is currently evaluating seven novel food applications, and is working on Dietary Reference Values for 29 micronutrients and one Opinion on allergenic foods for labelling purposes. EFSA has received a new mandate on the safety assessment of caffeine. The NDA Panel will prepare an output on the risks and benefits consumption of fish/seafood as regards methyl mercury.

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

Four pesticide peer review conclusions were issued. The peer review on the risk to bees posed by Fipronil is ongoing, and new mandates have been received to deliver conclusions on confirmatory data for a number of active substances.

Fourteen MRL Reasoned Opinions were issued: nine in response to eleven MRL applications, and five reviewing existing MRLs. In addition, the 2010 EU Report on Pesticide residues in food has been finalised.

An External Scientific report was published on the analysis of toxicological data to support grouping of pesticide active substances for cumulative risk assessment of effects on the nervous system, on liver (including biliary system) and on reproduction and development.

The PPR Panel adopted an Opinion on the 2009 report of the FOCUS Groundwater working group.

The PRAS Unit will continue working on the remaining 46 MRL applications submitted so far, as well as the 325 MRL reviews which are currently on the agenda. The work for the 2011 and 2012 Annual Report on Pesticide Residues will continue.

Application Desk (APDESK)

The APDESK Unit received 98 applications. Since January 1st, 35 new written requests via web were received and answered individually. APDESK contributed to the organisation of EFSA Information Sessions on applications, food enzymes, and technical meeting with applicants.

In the framework of the call for tender on EFSA’s stakeholders’ needs, qualitative interviews were carried out and the research entered the second phase of consultation via quantitative survey.

APDESK will continue supporting EFSA’s Units in organising dedicated “EFSA Information Sessions on Applications”. The Applications Desk Unit will work for the development of a potential future small and medium-sized enterprises office (SME office) and the creation of dedicated tools and material to support SMEs in preparing and submitting applications for regulated products.

COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES

CORPORATE:

The 2013 Annual Management Plan and the 2013 Work Plan were published. As part of the initiative to enhance transparency in EFSA’s risk assessment work, a press release was published in conjunction with the launch of an initiative on public access to scientific data. In line with this announcement, there was a feature story focusing on the open sessions of the Scientific Committee and Panels attended by observers.

The corporate brochure ‘*Science protecting consumers from field to fork*’ was released in 27 languages, in addition to the English, French, German and Italian versions already published last autumn. These languages cover all Member States, as well as EEA and pre-accession countries.

THEMATIC:

Chemicals in food – two new ‘Understanding Science’ videos (“Feed safety and the food chain” and “Chemical mixtures and food safety”) were published in January. A press release on aspartame (and updated Frequently Asked Questions) was published to inform users about EFSA’s public consultation on its draft Opinion. There were ‘In focus’ campaigns on EFSA’s website on aspartame and food enzymes, the latter including a new topic on food enzymes. Other stories focused on energy drinks and colours used in food and feed.

Food-borne disease/Animal welfare – A web story on health risks from foods of non-animal origin drew attention to this new aspect of EFSA’s work in the area of food-borne diseases (i.e. non-zoonotic). A story was published on EFSA’s meeting with stakeholders to discuss monitoring of animal welfare at slaughterhouses.

GMO – A new FAQ was produced on the inserted fragment of a viral gene in GM plants, following publication of a research by Patrick du Jardin (GMO Panel Vice-Chair) and former EFSA scientific officer, Nancy Podevin. The FAQ responded to erroneous reporting following the paper publication.

Innovation – An ‘Understanding Science’ video on “EFSA’s role in modernising meat inspection” was published.

Nutrition – A news story was published on the NDA Opinion that set average requirements for energy intake, which is part of the series of opinions on Dietary Reference Values (DRV).

Pesticides/bees – A press release publicised three pesticide conclusions that identified risks to bees from neonicotinoids. A story was published, promoting EFSA’s Scientific Colloquium on bees (May 2013) and the technical meeting on bees and pesticides (September 2013).

COOPERATION AND OUTREACH:

MEMBER STATES

Advisory Forum Communications Working Group (AFCWG) meeting – Key agenda items of this meeting included: the review of the communications strategy 2010-2013 and planning for the new strategy (2014 onwards); discussion of the AFCWG’s Terms of Reference; discussions on social media, with updates on national experiences and projects; discussion on the outcome of the first meeting between Focal Points and the AFCWG on cooperation in communications. The AFCWG members took the opportunity to share experiences in relation to the contamination of beef products with horsemeat in the EU food chain.

MEDIA RELATIONS

Media encounters – The Media Relation team launched a programme of in-house media training, focusing on thematic areas and areas of high public interest, and is organising day-long training sessions for chairs and vice-chairs of Panels/Scientific Committee and EFSA’s senior scientific officers. These sessions are aimed at preparing staff and experts to assist with the Authority’s media outreach by taking part in interviews and will also be useful for stakeholder and other meetings. Two separate sessions were held on EFSA’s draft Opinion on the safety of aspartame, and two on independence. Other sessions in the first two months included endocrine active substances and zoonoses in support of communications on key forthcoming scientific outputs.

Media relations/enquiries – EFSA received 17 media enquiries and facilitated five interviews relating to the Opinion on the safety of neonicotinoids for bees. EFSA also dealt with increased media interest regarding the cases of horsemeat contamination in the EU food chain, mostly requiring clarification on EFSA’s role in the EU food safety system.

EFSA on Twitter – During the reporting period, tweets were sent out regularly on the basis of relevant news and/or new features on EFSA’s website: 24 tweets, 228 re-tweets, 9.50 average number of re-tweets for EFSA’s tweets, a high average in comparison to the average of 4.9 re-tweets for all of last year.

ONLINE COMMUNICATIONS

The **search engine** project which EFSA started in 2011 was finalised at the beginning of February 2013. While during the first phase, released in 2012, search results were improved by indexing all html content, now, the search engine allows users to retrieve all content uploaded to the EFSA website including text within PDF and XLS files. For the EFSA Journal this full text search is a key feature.

The **video gallery** was improved both in terms of design and features. The new design is better integrated into the style of the website. By linking the gallery to YouTube, the management of the website section has been simplified.

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Subtitles for the four official languages were added to all Understanding science videos, both on EFSA’s YouTube channel and its website.

A new section on **negotiated procedures** was released on the website to comply with regulations and give more visibility ex-ante to negotiated procedures.

SCIENTIFIC OUTPUTS AS PRINT-ON-DEMAND

EFSA made selected scientific outputs available as print-on-demand in addition to the online versions accessible on the online EFSA Journal. Interested people can now order printed copies from the EU Bookshop (<http://bookshop.europa.eu>) for a small fee. In 2012, the EU Summary Reports on zoonoses and antimicrobial resistance in 2010 were the first scientific outputs to be published as print-on-demand. Following the success of this pilot project, 50 of EFSA’s most relevant guidance documents have been made available as print-on-demand in February 2013.

COMMUNICATIONS OUTPUTS

In the reporting period, the following outputs were issued: three press releases, five web news-stories, one news in brief, 2 multimedia science videos, EFSA Work Plan 2013 and the translation of the corporate brochure.

CORPORATE – RESOURCES AND SUPPORT

Institutional relations

On 24 January, EFSA’s Executive Director had a meeting with the EU Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy, Mr Tonio Borg, for a first exchange of views on several current key topics. On the same day, she participated in a hearing organised by the Committee on Budgetary Control of the European Parliament, which was framed in the 2011 budgetary discharge procedure for the EU Agencies. The hearing gave to EFSA the opportunity to present to MEPs all recent achievements regarding the implementation of its policy on independence and scientific decision-making processes.

On 31 January, an EFSA senior manager met with representatives of DG AGRI to discuss the opportunities for EFSA to contribute to the research programme “Horizon 2020”.

EFSA senior scientific staff was involved in a series of events organised by the European Parliament which focused, among others, on the impact of pesticides on bee health, endocrine disruptors and public health, health effects of probiotics, and horsemeat contamination in the EU food chain.

Quality

Quality Management System: The system has been assessed for its compatibility with the ISO 9001:2008 quality management standard and revealed to be over 80% compliant.

External Review: The activities of the External Review Working Group (ERWG) were completed finding that, in 2012, EFSA had only 3% of “D” scores, which exceeds the KPI target of 5% maximum. The overall conclusions were that most outputs are of high quality, but the level of editorial mistakes remains a concern. The recommendations of the ERWG are being implemented.

Document Management: The implementation across EFSA of a document management system is in progress.

Data protection (DP)

Awareness raising activities took place on the occasion of the Data Protection Day (28 January), with informal initiatives for all EFSA staff and short workshops targeted to staff in charge of the building security, access control and communications. Concerning the data protection notification process, EFSA’s Video Surveillance Policy and the use of access badging information were notified to the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS).

Court cases

In Case T-457/07, *European Dynamics v EFSA*, the judgement of the General Court was pronounced on 12 December 2012 ruling in favour of the Applicant and annulling the contested EFSA decision, concerning the award of a procurement procedure. In joined Cases T-339/10 and T-532/10, *Cosepuri v. EFSA*, regarding procurement and access to documents, the General Court upheld EFSA’s defences and ordered the applicant to pay the costs of the proceedings. In Cases T-107/11, *ETF v Schuerings* and T-108/11 *ETF v Vandeuken*, concerning the dismissal of two temporary agents with an indefinite contract, EFSA received the invitation to the hearing which will take place on 14

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March. In Case T-334/12, *Plantavis & NEM v Commission & EFSA*, where the applicant is seeking the annulment of the Nutrition and Health Claims Regulation, the Tribunal allowed the European Parliament and the Council to intervene in support of the Commission and EFSA, and the applicants submitted their rejoinder.

Access to documents

Over the reporting period, EFSA processed 12 public access requests under Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001, doubling the number of requests received during the same period last year. The majority of requests were submitted by journalists and NGOs, followed by food business operators.

IT systems

A number of new functionalities and improvements to existing IT tools have been deployed on various operational and organizational tools developed by EFSA to support its scientific and administrative activities. In particular should be highlighted: the Search Engine on the EFSA Website is now able to search contents in pdf format; electronic feeding of scientific outputs data published in the EFSA Journal to the main bibliographic databases (AGRIS, DOAJ, DTU, FSTA,IPFSAPH); multiple payments for group of experts via one single payment in the European Commission system (ABAC); new structure of reports and management of subscriptions for Focal Points in the Information Exchange Platform.

Corporate Centralised Support Services

The pilot phase for the centralisation of logistic support to the organisation of meetings ended in December 2012. Among the main advantages of the centralisation it is worth mentioning: the enhanced budget monitoring and better allocation of financial resources; more structured and standardised communication with experts; specialisation of staff with a harmonised approach to guidelines; and enhanced customer orientation. At February 1st, 35% of the logistic activities related to EFSA meetings had been centralised.

Financial management

On 26 February 2013, € 14.40 million or 18.45% of the € 78.05 million budget was committed, and € 6.85 million or 9.07% of the € 75.52 million payment appropriations were paid. Detailed information on the 2013 budget execution is available in document “2013 budget execution and transfers” ([mb 14 03 13 item 11 doc 11](#)).

Human Resources

Staff Categories	End 2012	Target 2013	Total Contracted and Offered
Temporary Agents and Officials			
Executives, Managers & Officers (AD)	215	231	211
Assistants functions (AST)	127	120	127
Total	342	351	338
Contract Agents			
Officers functions (CA FG IV)	55	60	55
Assistants functions (CA FG I, II, III)	51	50	51
Total	106	110	106
Seconded National Experts	18	20	15
Total all staff categories	466	481	459

On 28 February, 455 posts were occupied and four job offers sent to the selected candidates bringing the total to 459 posts filled-in out of the planned 481. The recruitment execution rate for the Establishment Plan 2013 (Temporary Agents and Officials) is at 96.3%, while that for Contract Agents is at 96.4%. This gives an overall weighted average of 96.3%.

Glossary

AMR – Antimicrobial resistance
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
BSC – Balanced scorecards
BSE-TSE – Bovine and Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies
BTSF – Better Training for Safer Food
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 SANCO – Directorate General for Health and Consumers
DOI – Declaration of Interest
DPO – EFSA Data Protection Officer
EC – European Commission
ECA – European Court of Auditors
ECDC – European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
ED – EFSA Executive Director
EDPS – European Data Protection Supervisor
EMA – European Medicines Agency
EMRISK – Emerging Risk Unit of EFSA
EP – European Parliament
ERA – Environmental risk assessment
ERWG – EFSA’s External Review Working Group
EU – European Union
EXO – EFSA’s Executive Office Unit
FAQ – Frequently asked questions
FDA – US Food and Drug Administration
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
FP – EFSA Focal Points
FSA – UK Food Standard Agency
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
MAP – Multi-Annual Plan
MEP – Member of the European Parliament
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

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QPS – Qualified Presumption of Safety

RASA – EFSA Directorate of Risk assessment and scientific assistance

RASFF – Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed

REPRO – EFSA Directorate of Scientific evaluation of regulated products

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

SCOM – EFSA Unit on the Scientific Committee

SCP – Stakeholders Consultative Platform

SME – Small and medium enterprises

SOP – EFSA’s Standard Operational Procedure

STEC – Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli*

TTC – Threshold of toxicological concern

VTEC – Verotoxin-producing *E. coli*

WG – Working group