

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE

EFSA PROGRESS REPORT

The present report refers to the period from 1st June to 30 September, 2014.

Highlights

- EFSA received the mandate from the European Commission on the 'Safety risks arising from the production and consumption of insects as food and feed';
- Scientific colloquium on 'Harmonisation of human and ecological risk assessment of combined exposure to multiple chemicals';
- Public consultation on 'Transformation to an Open EFSA' and ten public consultations launched on draft guidance documents and draft opinions;
- Implementation of electronic submission of applications;
- Meetings with stakeholders: BEUC, COPA-COGECA and eleven industrial federations;
- Meetings with the new Chair of the ENVI Committee, EFSA's liaison MEP and other members of the ENVI committee.

Executive Summary

EFSA adopted the Guidance document on the revised structure of EFSA's opinions and statements and endorsed for public consultations the draft Guidance documents on 'Agronomic and phenotypic characterisation of genetically modified plants' and 'Predicting environmental concentrations of active substances of plant protection products and transformation products of these active substances in soil'.

A total of 81 scientific opinions were adopted in the reporting period, 49 of which in the area of regulated products. Among others, EFSA adopted the opinions on the 'Safety assessment of Carvone', 'Electrical requirements for waterbath stunning equipment', 22 regulated harmful organisms, 'Scrapie situation after 10 years of monitoring and control in sheep and goats', 'Presence of perchlorate in food, in particular fruits and vegetables' and 'Non-target terrestrial plants'. In the area of regulated products, numerous opinions were adopted on the assessment of feed and food additives, health claims, food contact materials and flavouring substances.

EFSA issued four scientific statements, which also include the response to an urgent request of the European Commission on the 'Validity and robustness of the information on iron oxides'. In addition, two scientific reports were issued on the infectivity of Atypical BSE and the prevalence of Listeria monocytogenes in certain ready-to-eat foods.

EFSA produced 31 technical reports, among which the reports of the Scientific Committee on 'Modern methodologies and tools for human hazard assessment of chemicals' and the 'Update of EFSA's Chemical Hazard Database', and the reports issued in collaboration with the ECDC on the 'Multi-country outbreak of *Salmonella* Enteritidis' and the 'Cluster of *Salmonella* Typhimurium'.

EFSA launched eleven public consultations, among which: Acrylamide in food, Dietary reference values for selenium, chromium and folate, the discussion paper 'Transformation to an Open EFSA'.

A total of 25 reasoned opinions were adopted on MRL applications and reviews. Fifteen conclusions on pesticide peer-review were adopted on new active substances, renewal of the approval, and scientific and technical assistance. In addition, EFSA issued 9 internal reports, 14 external reports and an event report.

Among others, with the Advisory Forum EFSA finalised the scientific cooperation roadmap, discussed the procedure for dealing with diverging scientific opinions (Art. 30 of EFSA's Founding Regulation) and shared information of forthcoming risk assessment activities. In December, EFSA will discuss with the Member States around the future operation of the Advisory Forum. Close relations with stakeholders were maintained via the Stakeholder Consultative Platform and at the beginning of October EFSA held bilateral meetings BEUC, COPA-COGECA and eleven industrial federations.

EFSA published 40 news stories and three press releases related to scientific topics and corporate issues. Media coverage amounted to approximately 1,300 articles and almost 170 media queries, the majority of which were on topics such as acrylamide, pesticides, caffeine, GMO and corporate issues (e.g. appointment of new Executive Director, Open EFSA). EFSA's twitter account gained more than 1,089 followers (16% increase on total number of followers). New approach to increase social media activity, produce more engaging tweets, and integrated multimedia content has contributed to this. A new homepage layout was launched and a general restyling took place throughout the site including a topics section revamp. Among the multimedia products, EFSA produced an interactive online brochure, three new animations and four info-graphics. The video on vector-borne diseases, recorded jointly with ECDC, was the first of the new series highlighting international scientific cooperation.

EFSA was very active in the field of institutional and international relations. Among others, EFSA met with the Chair of the ENVI Committee (Giovanni La Via), the liaison MEP with EFSA at the European Parliament (Pilar Ayuso) and other members of the renewed ENVI Committee (Julie Girling and Marit Paulsen). EFSA welcomed the Director General of the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES), as well as delegations from Argentina, Taiwan and Korea. EFSA took over the scientific secretariat of the 'International Food Chemical Safety Liaison Group' (IFCSLG) from the US FDA.

In the field of Quality Management, the External Review Working Group completed the 2014 external evaluation of EFSA's scientific outputs. In addition, an agreement has been reached with SANCO for the customer feedback interviews and work has restarted on the implementation of the ISO9001 compatible quality management system in Department of Resources and Support.

At the end of September, € 58.74 million or 73.77% of the € 79.63 million budget was committed (on target), and € 45.23 million or 56.80% of the € 79.63 million payment appropriations were paid (11% below target). 453 posts were occupied, which represent 94.2% of the establishment plan.

SCIENCE STRATEGY AND COORDINATION (SCISTRAT)

Scientific Committee and Emerging Risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Opinion on the safety assessment of Carvone; ○ Guidance on the revised structure of EFSA's opinions and statements; ○ Technical reports on: 'Modern methodologies and tools for human hazard assessment of chemicals' and 'Further development and update of EFSA's Chemical Hazards Database'; ○ Scientific Colloquium on 'Harmonisation of human and ecological risk assessment of combined exposure to multiple chemicals'; ○ Receipt of a mandate on the 'Safety risks arising from the production and consumption of insects as food and feed: assessment of the microbiological, chemical and environmental risks covering the main steps from production chain up to consumption, including processing.'
Advisory Forum and Scientific Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Among others, at the September meeting the Advisory Forum (AF) finalised the scientific cooperation roadmap, discussed the procedure for dealing with diverging scientific opinions (Art. 30 of EFSA's Founding Regulation) and shared information of forthcoming risk assessment activities. The AF welcomed the arrangement for the new Focal Point (FP) agreement, including an increase of 30% funding for the performance of the additional tasks. Information on the launch of the first call for thematic grants (a new scientific cooperation tool) by the end of the year was received very positively; ○ Pre-Accession Programme: Training on GMO risk assessment (28 experts). Experts from Candidate Countries participated in FP and AF meetings in June; ○ European Neighbourhood Programme (ENP): Coordinators and contact persons were appointed for all 15 ENP Countries.
Stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ At the Stakeholder Consultative Platform (SHP) meeting in June, a dedicated session was held on the review of the Implementing Rules of EFSA's Policy on Independence. Members of the Platform and other representatives of the civil society took part in the discussion. The SHP also discussed around aspects of EFSA's methodological roadmap for selecting and appraising scientific evidence and future needs in research for risk assessment. ○ Contribution has been asked to the SHP on EFSA's discussion paper on the 'Transformation to an open EFSA'; ○ On the 1st and 2nd of October, EFSA met with COPA-COGECA, BEUC and 11 industrial Federations. Attention was put on the initiative on 'Open EFSA', APDESK activities and assessment of regulated products, and opportunities for strengthened communication and collaboration.
International relations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ EFSA took over the scientific secretariat of the 'International Food Chemical Safety Liaison Group' (IFCSLG) from the US FDA. The Authority will coordinate the secretariat for 1-1.5 year. Meetings of this Liaison Group will be organised in close cooperation with DG SANCO to cover issues of relevance for both risk assessment and risk management; ○ Meeting with FAO delegation to prepare a high-level meeting between the two organisations in 2015; ○ Visit of Dr. Emiliano Kakisu of the Argentinian Administration of Drugs, Foods and Medical Devices (ANMAT) to discuss opportunities for scientific cooperation; ○ Visit of Dr. Su-San Chang, Director-General of the Taiwanese Bureau of the Animal and Plant Inspection and Quarantine, Council of Agriculture:

	<p>Discussion around microbial pesticides and risk assessment methodologies on BSE and animal health;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ EFSA participation in conferences on 'Science and diplomacy' and 'Science advice to Governments' (Auckland, New Zealand); ○ EFSA participation in a seminar on BPA organised by the Food Safety Commission of Japan; ○ Conference call with USDA/FSIS to discuss opportunities of scientific cooperation in the area of (emerging) chemical and biological risks; ○ Conference call with USFDA to discuss around possibilities of exchanging data on 3-MCPD; ○ Conference call with the Canadian Global Coalition on Regulatory Science Research to discuss the GSR14 meeting to be held in Canada. The conference call was attended also by the European Medicine Agency; ○ Conference call with the Chilean Food Safety Agency to discuss around opportunities for scientific cooperation; ○ Visit of a delegation from the Korean Food and Drug Administration, The Korean Center for Diseases Control and Prevention and the Korean Fisheries Research & Development Institute. The delegation was interested to receive information from EFSA in the area of food born outbreak monitoring and on the recent microbiological risk assessment activities of the BIOHAZ Panel.
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RISK ASSESSMENT AND SCIENTIFIC ASSISTANCE (RASA)

Animal health and plant health	<p><u>Panel on Animal health and welfare (AHAW)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Opinion on 'Electrical requirements for waterbath stunning equipment'; ○ Public consultation on the 'Draft opinion on the welfare risks related to the farming of sheep for wool, meat and milk production'. <p><u>Panel on Plant health (PLH)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Opinions on 22 regulated harmful organisms. The mandate received from the European Commission includes the assessment of 38 organisms. One opinion was adopted in the previous reporting period, whilst the outstanding 15 are planned for adoption by the end of the year. <p><u>ALPHA Unit</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Event report on 'Technical meetings on tools and approaches being used and developed for influenza surveillance and assessment in human and animal health with the aim of providing scientific coordination on methods of assessing the pandemic potential of animal influenza viruses'; ○ External report on 'Identification, validation and pilot data collection on animal-based measures to create a database for quantitative assessment of the welfare of dairy cows'.
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Biological hazards and contaminants	<p><u>Panel on Biological hazards (BIOHAZ)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Opinions on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 'Scrapie situation in the EU after 10 years of monitoring and control in sheep and goats'; ▪ 'Risks of eggs due to deterioration and pathogens'; ▪ 'Public health risks related to the maintenance of the cold chain during storage and transport of meat. Part 2: minced meat from all species'; ▪ 'Risk posed by pathogens in food of non-animal origin: <i>Salmonella</i> in melons'; ▪ 'Risk posed by pathogens in food of non-animal origin: <i>Salmonella</i> and Norovirus in tomatoes'; ▪ 'Evaluation of molecular typing methods for major food-borne microbiological hazards and their use for attribution modelling, outbreak investigation and scanning surveillance – Part 2'; <p><u>Panel on Contaminants in the food chain (CONTAM)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Opinions on: 'Risks to human and animal health related to the presence of beauvericin and enniatins in food and feed' and 'Risk for public health related to the presence of perchlorate in food, in particular fruits and vegetables'. <p><u>BIOCONTAM Unit</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Scientific report of EFSA to establish a protocol for further laboratory investigations into the distribution of infectivity of Atypical BSE; ○ External scientific reports on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ '<i>Escherichia coli</i> and <i>Enterobacteriaceae</i> counts on pig and ruminant carcasses along the slaughterline, factors influencing the counts and relationship between visual faecal contamination of carcasses and counts: a review'; ▪ 'Usefulness of <i>Escherichia Coli</i> and <i>Enterobacteriaceae</i> as Process Hygiene Criteria in poultry: experimental study'; ▪ '<i>Escherichia coli</i> and <i>Enterobacteriaceae</i> counts on poultry carcasses along the slaughter processing line, factors influencing the counts and relationship between visual faecal contamination of carcasses and counts: a review'; ▪ 'Uncertainties in the EFSA Food of Non-Animal Risk Ranking Tool (EFoNAO-RRT) using the NUSAP approach'. ○ Technical report on 'Multi-country outbreak of <i>Salmonella</i> Enteritidis infections due to consumption of eggs from Germany' (jointly with ECDC); ○ Technical report on 'Cluster of monophasic <i>Salmonella</i> Typhimurium with previously unseen MLVA pattern in the EU/EEA' (jointly with ECDC); ○ Public consultation on the draft scientific opinion on Acrylamide in food.
Assessment and methodological support	<p><u>AMU Unit</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Technical report on 'A small application developed in R for the estimation of the residue intake rate for certain bee species under given conditions: the SHVAL tool'; ○ Scientific reports of EFSA on: 'Analysis of the baseline survey on the prevalence of <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> in certain ready-to-eat foods in the EU, 2010-2011 Part B: analysis of factors related to prevalence and exploring compliance'; 'Tracing of food items in connection to the multinational

	<p>hepatitis A virus outbreak in Europe' and 'Guidance on Expert Knowledge Elicitation in Food and Feed Safety Risk Assessment'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Internal reports for assistance to the FIP, BIOCONTAM and GMO Units on: 'Risks to public health related to the presence of Bisphenol A in foodstuffs'; 'Opinion on risks of eggs due to deterioration and pathogens'; 'Explanatory note to the Guidance of the EFSA Scientific Committee for 90-day study on whole food/feed in rodents'; and 'Statistical support for evaluation of risk assessment of GMO dossiers'.
Evidence management	<p><u>DATA Unit</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ External reports on: 'Electronic transmission of chemical occurrence data in Standard Sample Description (SSD) format' from Bulgaria and Poland and 'Implementation of XML for annual reporting to EFSA of data on zoonoses, antimicrobial resistance and food-borne outbreaks' from Latvia, Sweden and Denmark; ○ Internal reports delivering exposure assessments for the opinions on: 'Safety assessment of Carvone' (Scientific Committee); Risk assessment related to the presence of beauvericin and enniatins in food and feed (CONTAM); and Dietary Reference Values for niacin, selenium and zinc (NUTRI).

SCIENTIFIC EVALUATION OF REGULATED PRODUCTS (REPRO)

Additives and products or substances used in animal feed	<p><u>Panel on Additives and products or substances used in animal feed (FEEDAP)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Opinions on the evaluation of feed additives: technological (4), sensory (1), nutrition (4), zootechnical (7). Of these, four opinions were re-evaluations of feed additives already on the market (i.e. 2 technological, 1 zootechnical and 1 sensory); <u>FEED Unit</u> ○ External Report on the 'Inventory of nanotechnology applications in the agricultural, feed and food sector'.
Food ingredients and packaging	<p><u>Panel on Food additives and nutrient sources added to food (ANS)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Opinions on food additives: 'Colour Indigo Carmine' and 'Propionates E280, E281, E282 and E283'. <p><u>Panel on Food contact materials, enzymes, flavourings and processing aids (CEF)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Opinions on: Food contact materials (4), flavouring substances (4) and enzymes (1). <u>FIP Unit</u> ○ Statements of EFSA on: 'Urgent request for scientific and technical advice on the scientific validity and robustness of the provided information on iron oxides' and 'Quantification of solubility of food additive polyvinyl alcohol (E 1203) in ethanol'; ○ External report on 'Quantification of solubility of food additive polyvinyl alcohol (E 1203) in ethanol'.

Genetically modified organisms	<p><u>Panel on Genetically modified organisms</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Opinion on applications for the placing on the market of insect-resistant genetically modified cotton MON 15985 for food and feed uses, import and processing, and for the renewal of authorisation of existing products produced from cotton MON 15985; ○ Endorsement of the Guidance document for the agronomic and phenotypic characterisation of genetically modified plants and launch of public consultation. <p><u>GMO Unit</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Technical reports on: 'MON 15985', 'Renewal of MON 15985', and 'MON 88302'; ○ Statement of EFSA on an emergency measure notified by France under Article 34 of Regulation (EC) 1829/2003 to prohibit the cultivation of genetically modified maize MON 810.
Dietetic products, nutrition and allergies	<p><u>Panel on Dietetic products, nutrition and allergies (NDA)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Opinions on health claims Art. 13.5 (10) and health claims Art.14 (2); ○ Opinions on: Dietary reference values (DRV) for zinc, selenium, niacin and chromium; 'Follow up formulae'; 'Health benefits of seafood (fish and shellfish)'; 'Safety of astaxanthin-rich ingredients'; and 'Extension of use for DHA and EPA-rich algal oil from <i>Schizochytrium</i>'; ○ Statement on the safety of 'Cetyl Myristoleate Complex' as an ingredient in food supplements. <p><u>NUTRI Unit</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ External Report on an 'Extensive literature search and review of breastmilk composition as preparatory work for the setting of dietary reference values for vitamins and minerals'; ○ Technical reports resulting from public consultations on 'Infant and follow-on formulae' and 'Niacin'; ○ Public consultations on the draft opinions on dietary reference values for selenium, chromium and folate. In addition, public consultation on a discussion paper on the revision of the guidance on the scientific requirements for health claims related to gut and immune function.
Pesticides and plant protection products and their residues	<p><u>Panel on Plant protection products and their residues (PPR)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Opinion on risk assessment for non-target terrestrial plants; ○ Public consultation on the 'Draft guidance document for predicting environmental concentrations of active substances of plant protection products and transformation products of these active substances in soil'. <p><u>PRAS Unit</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 25 Reasoned opinions on MRL application and MRL reviews; ○ 15 Conclusions on Pesticides Peer Review; ○ Reports of EFSA in support to the 46th session of Codex Committee on pesticides residues and on 'Activities of the Pesticide Steering Committee and the EFSA Networking Group on Pesticide Monitoring'; ○ 20 Technical Reports on: 'Basic substance applications in accordance with Article 23 of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009' (10 reports) and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‘Finalisation of the reporting table on confirmatory data’ (10 reports); ○ External reports on: ‘Preparatory work for the update of the Guidance of EFSA on the risk assessment for birds and mammals’ and ‘Development of software models for predicting environmental concentrations of plant protection products in soil’; ○ Public consultations on active substances: Trichoderma atroviride SC1, Thifensulfuron-methyl, Reynoutria Sachalinensis and Famoxadone.
Application Desk	<p><u>APDESK Unit</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Paperless submission of regulated products applications: animal by-product treatments, decontamination substances, feed additives, food contact materials, food additives, food enzymes, flavourings, GMOs, novel foods, nutrient sources, pesticides, scientific substantiation of nutrition and health claims; ○ Receipt of 187 applications and 87 requests via web form; ○ Support to the organisation of the technical meeting with Stakeholders on ‘EFSA Guidance documents on protected crops and soil degradation rate’; ○ Technical report on guidance to applicants for the suitability check by EFSA of applications for food enzymes submitted under Regulation (EC) No 1331/2008; ○ Launch of the survey on Stakeholders’ satisfaction on provided services.

COMMUNICATIONS (COMMS)

- Content overview: 40 news stories and 3 press releases were published in all four EFSA working languages, 27 of which were related to scientific topics and 16 to corporate issues;
- Media coverage amounted to approximately 1,300 articles and almost 170 media queries. This is higher than the previous quarters this year and it can be attributed to an increase in proactive outreach by the Media Relations team coupled with more targeted distribution methods for reaching journalists. Key areas of interest were acrylamide, caffeine, pesticides, GMOs and corporate issues (e.g. appointment of new Executive Director, OpenEFSA). Notable coverage included interview with EFSA’s ED in *EU Food Policy*; interview with Alberto Spagnolli in Italian weekly *Panorama*; and – as part of an initiative to improve community relations - a series of articles in local media with profiles of EFSA staff, an interview with the ED, and information about what EFSA does on a day-to-day basis;
- Social Media: EFSA’s twitter account gained more than 1,089 followers (16% increase on total number of followers). New approach to increase social media activity, produce more engaging tweets, and integrated multimedia content has contributed to this. EFSA’s infographic on vector-borne diseases alone generated 40 re-tweets, the most re-tweets EFSA has received for a multimedia product since its Twitter account was launched. In August, COMMS launched EFSA’s “Virtual Summer School” on Twitter, promoting selected Understanding Science videos on a daily basis. This resulted in an 8.19 applause rate (# of favourite clicks / post) for the summer period;

- Website: Two major milestones: 1) new homepage layout was launched and a general restyling took place throughout the site including a topics section revamp. 2) Website upgrade project on track;
- Conferences: EFSA had a strong presence at the Euroscience Open Forum (ESOF, Copenhagen, 21-26 June 2014), where EFSA scientists hosted the seminar “Science and safe food: the role of risk assessment”. EFSA also had a stand “Science corners” (with animation on ERA, bee health and zoonoses, factsheets) A video “ESOF highlights” was recorded at the conference;
- Publications: Multi-Annual Work Plan 2014-2016 and the Annual Report 2013 were published;
- EFSA logo: In September, EFSA revised its policy on the accessibility of its logo and made it available on the website;
- Multimedia products: “EFSA and the food chain” interactive online brochure, a user-friendly version of EFSA’s corporate brochure; 3 new animations: Establishment of EFSA’s Scientific Committee and Panels, Developing and adopting a scientific opinion, Independent Scientific Decision Making; 4 new infographics: acrylamide, vector-borne diseases and contaminants in the food chain. Video on vector-borne diseases, recorded jointly with ECDC, released in June, was the first of the new series highlighting international scientific cooperation.

CORPORATE – RESOURCES AND SUPPORT

Institutional relations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Director General of the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES) visited Parma on 3 June to discuss several issues relevant to cooperation between the agencies. A plan of future actions was drafted; ○ The ED participated in the meeting of the Heads of agencies organized by the network of Agencies in Brussels on 6 June. At this occasion a parallel meeting was organised between EFSA, EMA, ECDC, EEA and ECHA to discuss the upcoming common event at the European Parliament and other common activities. ○ The ED gave a lecture on “Food Safety in Europe - cooperation between countries” at the safe food conference in Oslo on 17 July. The ED also visited the Director-General of the Department of Public Health at the Norwegian Ministry of Health and Care Services for discussing future cooperation. ○ At the occasion of the start of the new EP legislative term in July 2014, EFSA participated in a series of meetings with newly elected MEPs (mainly from the ENVI Committee), notably to address some specific issues in the area of EFSA’s activities (e.g. novel foods). It was also an opportunity to meet with newly appointed key actors, including the office of the new ENVI Chair, Mr Giovanni La Via. ○ EFSA and DG SANCO held a meeting on 22 September to exchange views on possible approaches for the prioritisation of EFSA’s international scientific cooperation activities.
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Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Quality Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The 2014 external evaluation of EFSA scientific outputs and third party reports has been completed by the ERWG and EFSA is waiting for the report which will be delivered in December; ▪ Agreement has been reached with SANCO for the customer feedback interviews to take place in October and the final report will be available in December; ▪ Work has restarted on implementation of the ISO9001 compatible quality management system in RESU. ○ Document Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All units in Livelink along with their documents have been successfully migrated to the new Opentext system; ▪ Testing of the migration script to move the Units in sciencenet and their documents has been completed; ▪ 300 experts have been trained and EFSA remains on track for the migration of Sciencenet to Open text by end of October.
Data protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The DPO guided EFSA in implementing the EDPS (European Data Protection Supervisor) opinions on internal staff transfers in the interest of the service and on the selection & management of interim workers; ○ Preparation of a new video surveillance policy for EFSA; Organisation of surveys and public consultations; Periodical requests of EU Permanent Representations related to the employment of their nationals at EFSA; On-line access to the Joint Sickness Insurance system; and the introduction of new systems and applications such as DMS and Windows 7.
Court cases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Case T-493/14: With this case the complainant (a former seconded national expert) attempts to oblige EFSA to extend the agreed one year period of secondment. The action is combined with access to documents requests and complaints to the European Ombudsman. EFSA submitted its defence on 12 September 2014. ○ Case C-615/13P: Appeal brought against judgement T-214/11 <i>ClientEarth & PAN Europe v EFSA & European Commission</i>: The EDPS submitted its Intervention in support of EFSA and the Commission on 18 July. On 19 September EFSA informed the Court that all aspects of the case were sufficiently covered during the written procedure and that according to EFSA an oral hearing appears not be necessary. ○ Case T-231/14P: Appeal brought by <i>EMA against the ruling in case F-29/13 Drakeford v EMA</i>: On 25 July 2014 EFSA lodged an application for leave to intervene in the appeal brought by the European Medicines Agency against Mr Drakeford. EFSA seeks to intervene to support EMA in contesting the ruling of the Civil Service.
Ombudsman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Complaint 0397/2014/PMC: Brought by former seconded national expert against EFSA related to the participation of the expert as an observer to the EFSA Staff Committee and the non-extension of the secondment, the Ombudsman closed the case on 16 June 2014. Complaint 1493/2014/PMC: Brought by former seconded national expert (same complainant of 0397/2014/PMC), related to the follow-up of the decision

	<p>of the EFSA Staff Committee linked to the participation of the expert as an observer to the EFSA Staff Committee. The reply to the Ombudsman has been provided.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Complaint 2522/2011/VIK(ck): On 29 August, EFSA communicated to the European Ombudsman the outcome of the review process performed by EFSA's Internal Audit Capability on the screening process of the Dols of the members of the Working Group on the Threshold of Toxicological Concern; ○ Complaint 0622/2010/ANA: On 27 June, EFSA apologised with the complainant Testbiotech that the Authority did not ensure the timely update of the Adol of the former Chair of the GMO Panel due to human error while confirming that no conflict of interest resulted from this minor procedural flaw. ○ Complaint 0952/2014/OV: End of September, EFSA sent its opinion on a complaint filed by GM free-Cymru regarding alleged maladministration regarding the way EFSA consults with the public and interested parties on draft renewal assessment dossiers of pesticides active substances. EFSA had accepted all requests put forward by the complainant to engage in the public consultation and believes it committed no maladministration while reserving to consider a further simplification of its consultation procedures in the context of its Open EFSA initiative; ○ Complaint 684/2012/JF: On 4 July, the Ombudsman proposed to EFSA a friendly solution regarding a complaint of a former staff member regarding certain allowances. On 30 September EFSA provided a preliminary reply to the Ombudsman since the assessment of the documentation is still on-going.
IT systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Windows 7 migration completed on 42% of staff computing devices (100% will be reached by end of year); ○ Awarded €35 million consolidated supply of all IT projects and services through Lot 1 of EFSA IT Open Call for Tender 2014. The Lot was awarded to the consortium Umaine (Unisys as the leading partner). The awarded services resulted in average unit cost reduction of 15% and improved quality through quantitative performance metrics associated with the contract (inclusive of penalties for performance before target).
Outreach and support services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In July, the Fire Brigade officially confirmed the compliance of the building with the fire prevention and safety standard requirements; ○ In the context of enhancing the integration within the local context and confirming its engagement to support a more sustainable mobility in the city, EFSA has participated to the European mobility week organised by the Municipality. EFSA involvement includes the adhesion to the mobility programme through a survey aimed at capturing staff transportation habits. Its results will contribute to develop more sustainable mobility solutions for public transports. ○ The EFSA Scientific Colloquia on genome sequencing of food-borne pathogens for public health protection and on the harmonisation of human and ecological risk assessment of combined exposure to multiple chemicals, as well as for the international scientific workshop organised in the EFSA premises on risk assessment considerations for RNAi-based GM plants were the outreach initiatives for which the satisfaction level expressed by the participants reached about 90%.

Financial management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ At the end of September, € 58.74 million or 73.77% of the € 79.63 million budget was committed (on target), and € 45.23 million or 56.80% of the € 79.63 million payment appropriations were paid (11% below target). Detailed information on the 2014 budget execution is available in document “2014 budget execution and transfers” (mb 23 10 14 item 13 doc 6). 															
Human resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ On 30 September, 453 posts were occupied out of the available 474 posts (all types, Officials, Temporary agents and Contract agents as well as seconded staff to EFSA). The average post occupancy rate (January –September 2014) for the Establishment Plan 2014 (Temporary Agents and Officials) is at 94.6%, while that for Contract Agents is at 92.6% (below the 2014 target of 95% due to a cumulated turnover rate at 3.5% and 10 internal staff being successful in external procedures). This gives an overall weighted average of 94.2%. <div style="margin-top: 10px; border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #e0e0e0; text-align: center;">Staff Categories</th> <th style="background-color: #e0e0e0; text-align: center;">Target 2014</th> <th style="background-color: #e0e0e0; text-align: center;">Total Contracted and accepted</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Temporary Agents and Officials</td> <td style="text-align: center;">344</td> <td style="text-align: center;">332</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Contract Agents</td> <td style="text-align: center;">110</td> <td style="text-align: center;">103</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Seconded National Experts</td> <td style="text-align: center;">20</td> <td style="text-align: center;">18</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Total all staff categories</td> <td style="text-align: center;">474</td> <td style="text-align: center;">453</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </div>	Staff Categories	Target 2014	Total Contracted and accepted	Temporary Agents and Officials	344	332	Contract Agents	110	103	Seconded National Experts	20	18	Total all staff categories	474	453
Staff Categories	Target 2014	Total Contracted and accepted														
Temporary Agents and Officials	344	332														
Contract Agents	110	103														
Seconded National Experts	20	18														
Total all staff categories	474	453														

Glossary

ADoI – Annual Declaration of Interest
AF – EFSA's Advisory Forum
AFCWG – Advisory Forum Communications Working Group
AFSCO – EFSA Unit on Advisory Forum and Scientific Cooperation
ALPHA – EFSA Unit on Animal health and plant health
AHAW – EFSA Panel on Animal health and welfare
AMIU – EFSA Unit on Assessment and methodological support
ANS – EFSA Panel on Food additives and nutrient sources added to food
BIOCONTAM – EFSA Biological hazard and contaminants Unit
BIOHAZ – EFSA Panel on Biological hazards
BPA – bisphenol A
CEF – EFSA Panel on Food contact materials, enzymes, flavourings and processing aids
COMMS – EFSA Department of Communications
CONTAM – EFSA Panel on Contaminants
DATA – EFSA Unit on Evidence management
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
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
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
GMO – EFSA Panel/Unit on Genetically modified organism
HUCAP – EFSA Unit on Human capital and knowledge management
IEP – Information exchange platform
IFCSLG – International Food Chemical Safety Liaison Group
MAP – Multi-Annual Plan
MEP – Member of the European Parliament
MRL – Maximum residue levels
MS – EU Member States
PRAS – EFSA Unit on Pesticides
PPR – EFSA Panel on Plant protection products and their residues
QPS – Qualified Presumption of Safety
RASA – EFSA Department of Risk assessment and scientific assistance
RASFF – Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed
REPRO – EFSA Department of Scientific evaluation of regulated products
RESU – EFSA Department of Resources and Support

SC – EFSA Scientific Committee

SCER – EFSA Scientific Committee and Emerging Risk Unit

SCISTRAT – EFSA Department of Scientific strategy and coordination

SCP – Stakeholders Consultative Platform

SOP – EFSA's Standard Operational Procedure

WG – Working group



EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Progress Indicators

Executive Summary

This document includes: progress of key corporate indicators versus the monthly target (figure 1), details on scientific outputs and supporting publications (figures 2 to 4), analysis of ongoing questions by status and their monthly evolution (figures 5 and 6), indicators on Communication (figures 7 and 8) and on Scientific Grants and Procurements (figures 9 and 10).

All figures and data refer to the period 1/1/14 - 30/09/14.

Overall, in the first 9 months of 2014, 347 scientific outputs (65% of the target for 2014) and 121 supporting publications (82% of the target for 2014) have been adopted, which is ahead of the planned amount to date. Scientific Departments confirm the attainment of the yearly targets.

Communication activities are also on track.

Generally, performance in all areas is in the “green” except for:

- Finance performance in scientific cooperation, where the situation concerning commitments is 8% below the plan, and payments are 32% lower than expected. Nevertheless, the commitments target of EUR 9.48 million for the end of the years is expected to be reached, as well as that for the payments target (for further detailed information, please refer to document mb 23 10 14 item 13 doc 6 – 2014 Budget Execution and Transfer).
- Adoption timeliness in Activity 2 and 3 and publication timeliness.

Progress Indicators 1/1-30/09/2014 - overview

INDICATOR	TRAFFIC LIGHT	COMMENTS
1. Scientific outputs adopted under Activity 1 (Scientific advice and risk assessment)		By September 2014 the global number of outputs adopted under Activity 1, 2 and 3 is above the monthly target (+17%, +2% and +0.1% respectively). For details and comparison with annual targets see Fig. 1, 2 and 3.
2. Scientific outputs adopted under Activity 2 (Evaluation of regulated products)		The total amount of on-going questions as at the end of September (1,304 questions) as well as its monthly evolution is available in Fig. 5 and Fig. 6.
3. Scientific outputs adopted under Activity 3 (Data collection, scientific cooperation and networking)		
4. Supporting publications adopted		Actual number of output in line with monthly target (for details see Fig. 4)
5. Global commitment rate		Commitments slightly below target (EUR 59.1 vs. 59.4 million). For detailed information, please refer to document mb 23 10 14 item 13 doc 6 – 2014 Budget Execution & Transfer.
6. Global payment rate		Payments 11% below target (EUR 45.4 vs. 51.1 millions). For detailed information, please refer to document mb 23 10 14 item 13 doc 6 – 2014 Budget Execution & Transfer
7. Commitment level for scientific cooperation programme		Commitments related to scientific cooperation were 8% below target (EUR 5.6 vs. 6.1 millions). For detailed information, please refer to document mb 23 10 14 item 13 doc 6 – 2014 Budget Execution & Transfer
8. Payment level for scientific cooperation programme		Payments related to scientific cooperation were 32% below target (EUR 4.4 vs. 6.5 millions). For detailed information, please refer to document mb 23 10 14 item 13 doc 6 – 2014 Budget Execution & Transfer
9. Tele-expert-days		Number of tele-expert-days vs. total expert-days above the monthly target (19% vs. 15% for RASA, 16% vs. 15% for REPRO and 13% vs. 8% for SCISTRAT).
10. DOI processes without exceptions		Actual number of DOI processed with no exceptions vs. total DOI in line with 100% target.
11. Scientific outputs under Activity 1 adopted on time		Actual number of outputs adopted on time vs. total number of scientific outputs adopted (98%) in line with monthly target.
12. Scientific outputs under Activity 2 adopted on time (*)		Timeliness indicator for Activity 2 - excluding MRLs - is below target at 82% mainly due to delayed opinion adoptions in the FEED area for which EC was officially informed in advance.
13. Scientific outputs under Activity 3 adopted on time		Timeliness indicator for Activity 3 (79%) is below the monthly target. The result is determined by the late adoption of two scientific reports of EFSA (one by SCER and one by AMU) out of the 9 adopted.
14. Outputs published on time		At the end of September the percentage of outputs published within 15 working days from adoption is 89%. In particular 41 outputs out of 361 were published in more than 15 working days (34 within 6 weeks from adoption and 7 within 8 weeks from adoption).
15. Outputs accompanied by press releases and web stories on time		Actual number of outputs accompanied by press releases and web stories published within 20 working days from adoption vs. total number of outputs accompanied by press releases and web stories published (90%) is in line with target.
16. Web visits		Total number of visits to the EFSA web site is around 1.9 million, in line with target (for monthly evolution see Fig. 7)
17. Number of subscribers to online products and newsletters		Total number of subscribers to online products and newsletters is around 32,800 in line with target (for details see Fig. 8)
18. Statutory Staff occupancy rate		The Statutory Staff occupancy rate in September was 95.8% in line with target
19. Exchange Staff: Volume of END present in EFSA		Year to date number of END (18) in line with target.

(*) For what refers to the reasoned opinions on MRLs, nearly all outputs in 2014 were late. To be noted that this bulk re-evaluation is a one-off exercise with a very high number of small evaluations of individual MRLs related to pesticide active substances, for which the initial legal deadline set by the Commission has long been recognised as overambitious.

This has generated a large stock of questions, which the PRAS Unit is engaged to reduce progressively, while at the same time handling the new evaluation requests received. In the first 9 months of the year the stock of questions related to the MRL evaluations has been reduced by around 25% with respect to the stock at the beginning of the year. For next year EFSA is working on an improved system of planning and reporting on timeliness issues.

Progress indicators: details by activity / unit

SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES

Fig. 1. Provision of scientific opinions and advice & risk assessment approaches (Activity 1) 01.01.2014 – 30.09.2014 vs. Annual Target



Activity 1: 67 outputs adopted as of September 2014 (63% of the total target for 2014):

- 58 Opinions of Scientific Committee/Scientific Panels
- 1 Guidance document
- 6 Scientific Report of EFSA
- 2 Statements of EFSA

BIOCONTAM: targets in terms of output will not be reached as some planned requests have not been sent in 2014 and on-going tasks have been extended to 2015.

FIP: the Unit expects to meet the target of outputs for 2014 if the expected applications on botanicals are submitted to EFSA in the short term.

Fig. 2. Evaluation of products, substances and claims subject to authorisation (Activity 2), 01.01.2014 – 30.09.2014 vs. Annual Target



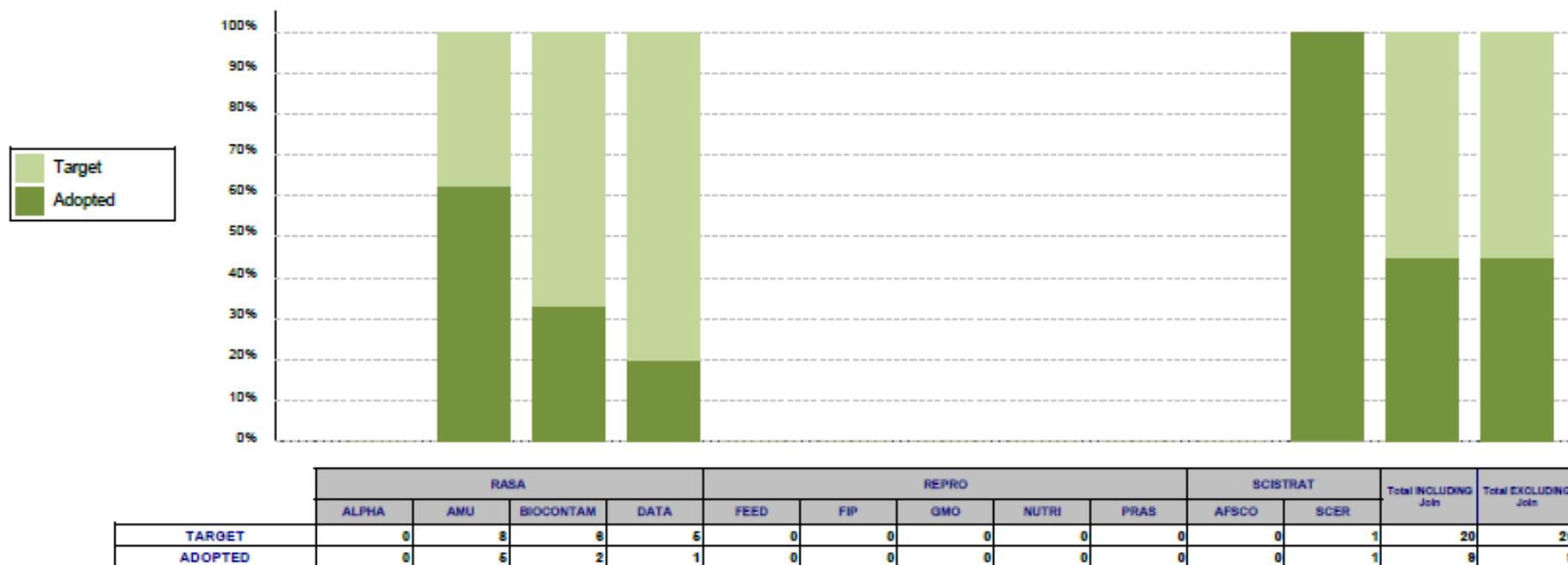
Activity 2: 261 outputs adopted as of September 2014 (65% of the total target for 2014):

- 26 Conclusions on Pesticide Peer Review
- 3 Guidance documents
- 147 Opinions of Scientific Committee/Scientific Panels (1 rasa)
- 65 Reasoned Opinions
- 2 Scientific Reports of EFSA
- 3 Statements of EFSA
- 5 Statement of Scientific Committee/Scientific Panel

BIOCONTAM and DATA will not meet the target of outputs for 2014 as some planned request have not been received.

PRAS will not meet the target number of outputs for 2014 due to the high number of MRL re-evaluations. The Unit is engaged to progressively reduce the stock of questions related to MRLs. In the first 9 months of the year the stock of questions has been reduced by around 25% compared to the beginning of 2014.

Fig. 3. Data Collection, Scientific Cooperation and Networking (Activity 3) 01.01.2014 – 30.09.2014 vs. Annual Target



Activity 3: 9 outputs adopted as of September 2014 (45% of the total target for 2014):

- 1 Guidance document
- 8 Scientific Reports of EFSA

BIOCONTAM will not reach the target for 2014 under activity 3: only one additional guidance document is planned to be adopted by the end of the year.

DATA will not reach the target for 2014 under activity 3: only two additional guidance documents are planned to be adopted by the end of the year.

Fig. 4. Supporting publications, 01.01.2014 – 30.09.2014, vs. Annual Target

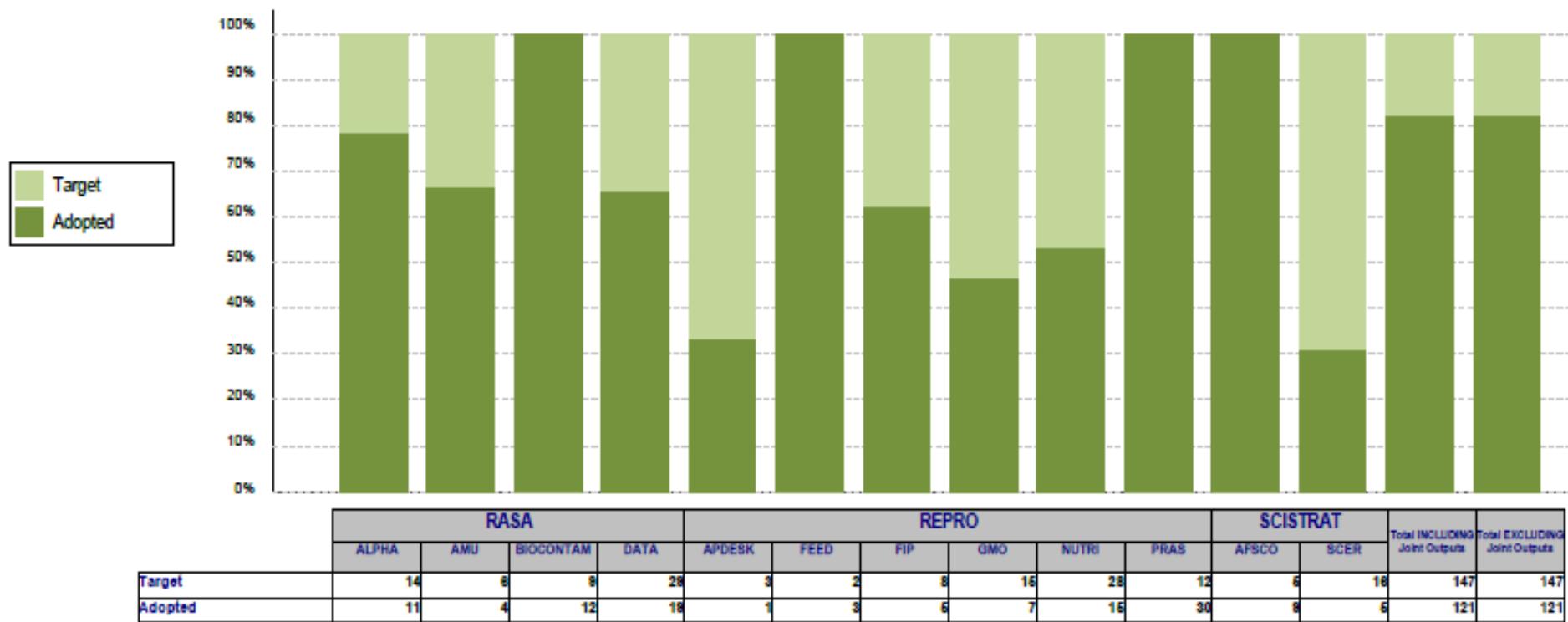
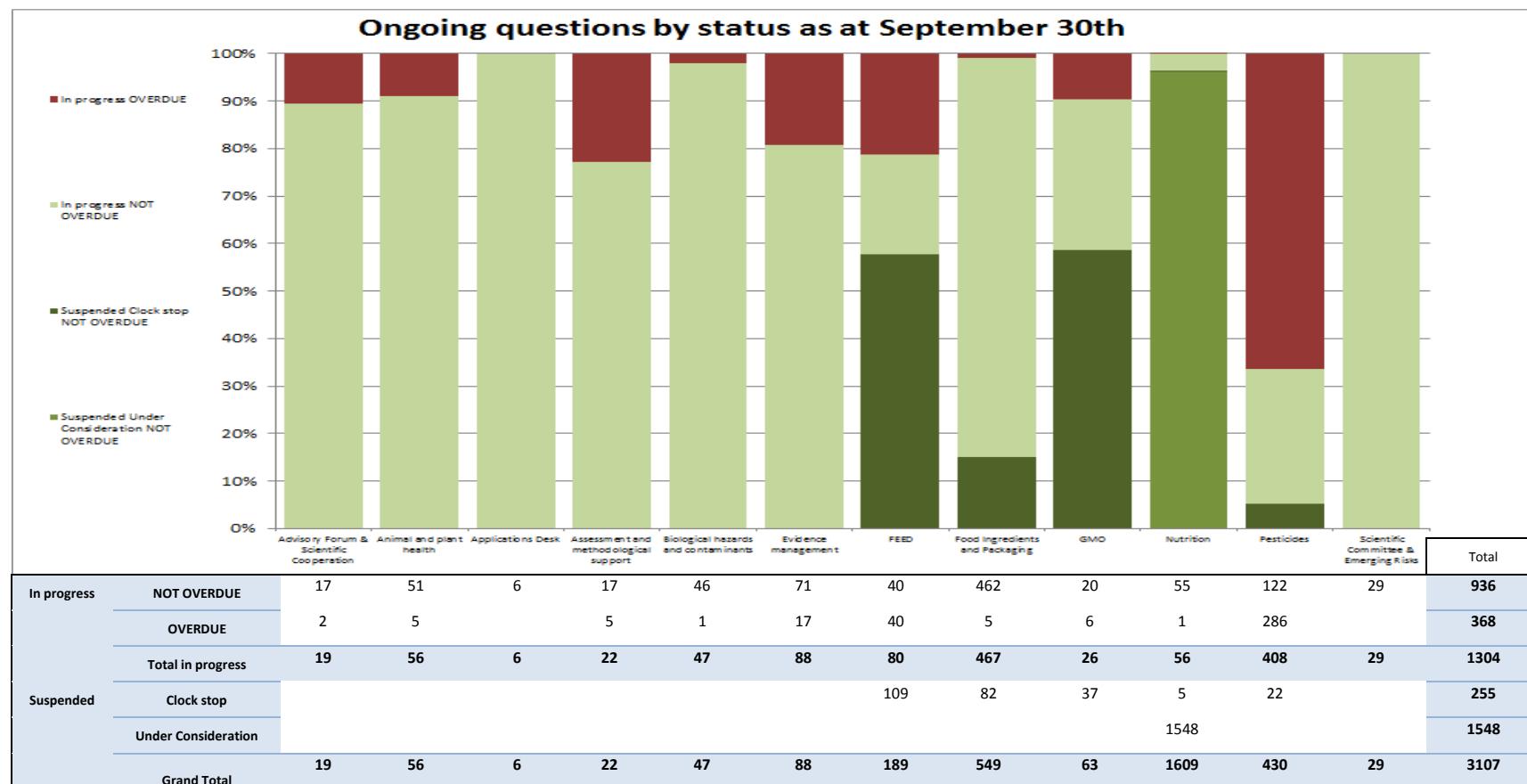


Fig. 5. Ongoing questions by status

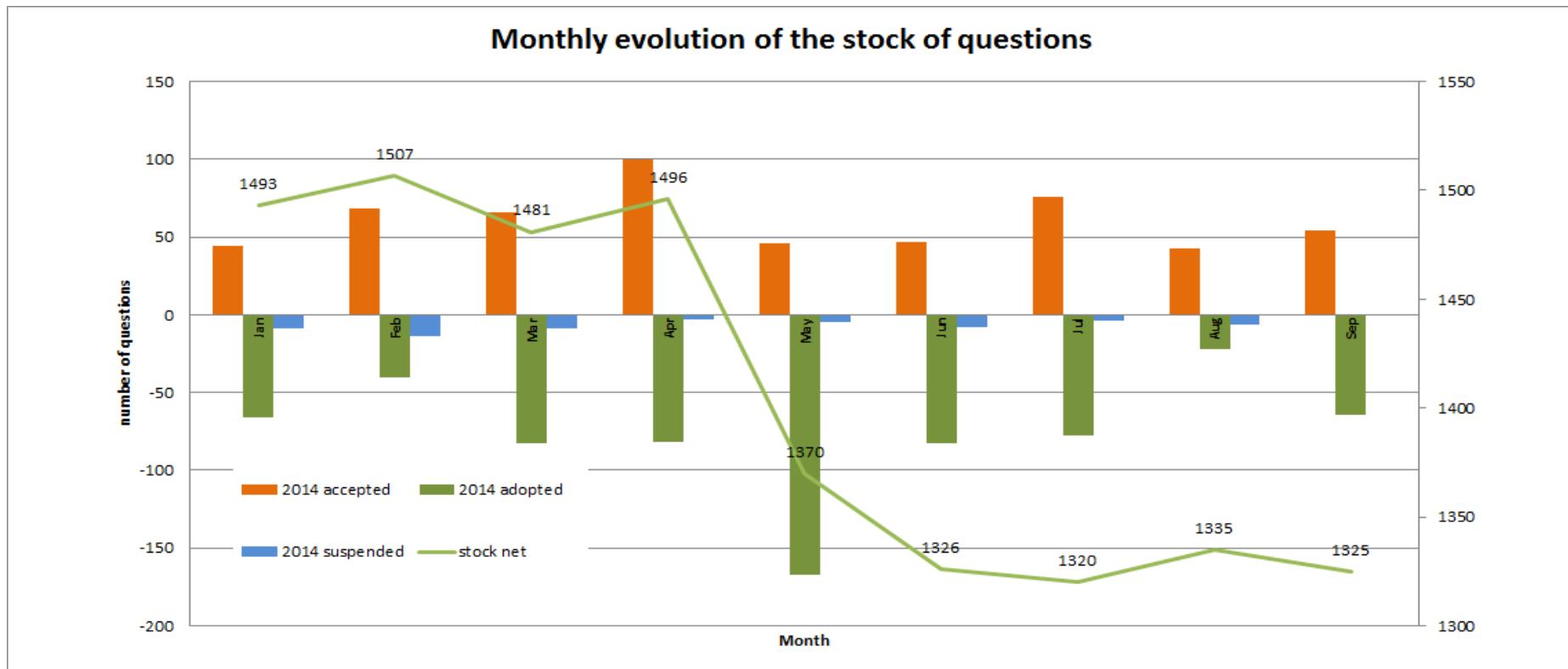


In the Pesticides Unit the number of questions overdue is mainly related to request for reasoned opinions on the review of the existing maximum residue levels of pesticides (MRL) according to Article 12 of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005.

The 1548 questions under consideration refer to health claims pursuant to article 13 of Regulation 1924/2006 on nutrition and health claims made on food.

The questions in clock stop status (255 as of September) had an overall reduction in the last quarter (267 as of June); main changes refer to FEED (reduction from 124 to 109 mainly in Feed additives applications under 1831/2003) and FIP (increase from 67 to 82 in Flavourings and Food contact materials).

Fig. 6. Monthly evolution of the stock of questions



Requests accepted by EFSA until September generated over 540 new accepted questions in the Register of Question system (RAW). In the same period, over 680 questions have been closed with adopted outputs and internal reports.

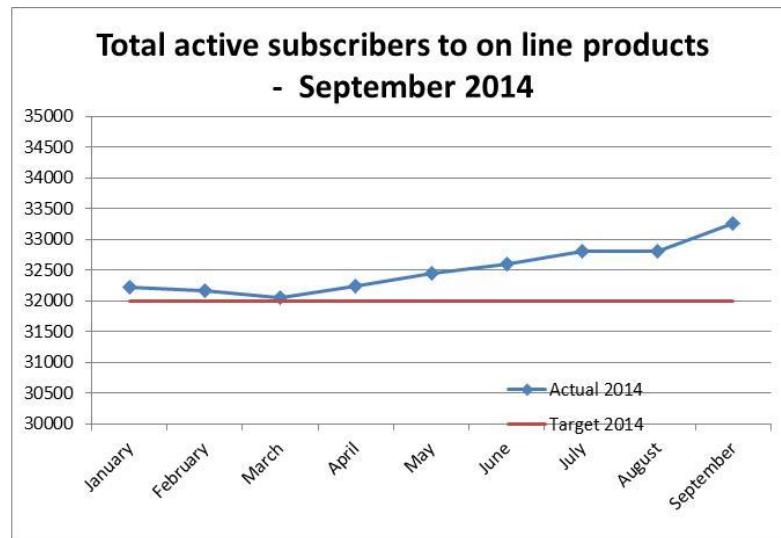
In the same period the stock of on-going questions excluding those suspended (clock stop and request without a deadline) was consequently reduced of around 140 questions (11% of the final stock of questions). The main impact on the reduction of the stock of question is related to the adoption by the CEF Panel of opinions on flavouring substances and in the area of Pesticides (Art 31 – Scientific and technical assistance - Reg. 396/2005 - Art. 43).

COMMUNICATIONS

Fig. 7 Total Web Visits



Fig. 8. Total newsletter subscribers* (Adjusted 2014 annual target)



The number of visits to the EFSA Web Site has been above the monthly target for the most of 2014; in September the number of visits has start growing after the summer period.

For what refers to the active subscribers to on-line products, the number is constantly above the target and a growth trend can be observed from March onwards.