

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

62<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of EFSA's Management Board  
Minutes of the Public Session  
Parma, 23 October 2014, 9.30 – 15.30h

**Members of the Management Board present**

Sue Davies (Chair)	Raymond O'Rourke
Piergiuseppe Facelli (Vice-Chair)	Jiri Ruprich
Jaana Husu-Kallio (Vice-Chair)	András Székács
Iñaki Eguileor	Robert van Gorcom
Stella Michaelidou-Canna	Piet Vanthemsche
Ladislav Miko	Tadeusz Wijaszka
Jan Mousing	

Apologies: Radu Roatiş Chețan

**Staff of the European Food Safety Authority present**

Bernhard Url (Executive Director)	Marta Hugas
Per Bergman	Juliane Kleiner
Gian Luca Bonduri	James Ramsay
Peter De Pauw	Olivier Ramsayer
Dirk Detken	Alberto Spagnolli

**Also attending:**

Anthony Hardy, Chair of EFSA's Scientific Committee

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## SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

- The Management Board confirmed Sue Davies for a second term as the Chair of the Board and elected Piergiuseppe Facelli and Jaana Husu-Kallio as Vice-Chairs for the next two years.
- The Management Board nominated the new Audit Committee, which is composed of the following members: Robert van Gorcom (Chair), Raymond O'Rourke (Vice-Chair), Jaana Husu-Kallio, Tadeusz Wijaszka and Radu Roatiș Chețan.

### The Board adopted:

- The amendment of the EFSA budget 2014;
- The amendments to the Art. 36 list of organisations.

### The Board noted:

- EFSA's progress report and the progress indicators and congratulated the Executive Director, EFSA's experts and staff for the work carried out in the reporting period;
- The report from the Chair of the Scientific Committee, which presented on-going and future activities of the Committee;
- EFSA presentation of the continuous improvement initiatives on Quality Management, PaRMa and PROMETHEUS;
- The update on the procedure for the renewal of the Scientific Committee and eight Scientific Panels;
- The feedback from the Chair of the previous Audit Committee;
- The update on the on-going changes in the organisation of the DG SANCO;
- EFSA's 2014 budget execution and transfers;
- EFSA's assessment of the PAN Europe report "Missed and Dismissed".

### In addition the Chair:

- Gave a short feedback on the Board away-day held on the previous day;
- Informed the audience that in 2015 the Board will meet in the following dates:
  - 18-19 March
  - 17-18 June
  - 30 September – 1<sup>st</sup> October
  - 9-10 December
- Thanked Per Bergman (Head of the Department for Risk Assessment of Regulated Products) for his valuable contribution to the growth of EFSA over the past six years and wished him all the best for his new career at the Swedish National Food Agency.

Item 1: Opening of the meeting

1. The meeting was opened by the representative of the European Commission, who chaired it until the election of the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Board.
2. He opened the public session of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Management Board meeting by welcoming the Board members, Executive Director, Chair of the Scientific Committee, EFSA Management Team and staff members. In particular, he welcomed Iñaki Eguileor, András Székács and Robert van Gorcom, who participated in the meeting of the Management Board for the first time following their nomination as members of the Board as of the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2014 (decision of the Council of the European Union dated 16 June 2014). The Chair invited them to briefly introduce themselves.
3. The Chair invited the Board members to declare possible interests in addition to those already declared with their Annual Declaration of Interests. Piet Vanthemsche informed the meeting that we had been nominated Vice-Chair of the World Farmers Organisation. He will update his Declaration of Interests in the following days.

Item 2: Election of the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Board

4. The Chair invited Dirk Detken (Head of the Legal and Regulatory Affairs Unit) to describe the procedure for the election of the Chair and Vice-Chairs in accordance with the provisions of the Management Board Rules of Procedure ([available on EFSA's website](#)).
5. The Board nominated Dirk Detken and Alberto Spagnolli as tellers for the voting procedure.
6. The Chair informed the meeting that the previous day, during the private session of the Board meeting, the Board did not reach the unanimity on the decision to waive the secrecy of the vote (see art. 2(2) of the Management Board Rules of Procedure. Hence, the Chair and Vice-Chairs were elected by secret ballots.
7. The Chair also informed the audience that Radu Roatiş Chețan, who could not be present at the meeting, had delegated Tadeusz Wijaska to vote on his behalf. Hence, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, Tadeusz Wijaska voted in proxy for Radu Roatiş Chețan.
8. The Chair asked to the fellow members to put forward their candidatures for the position of Chair of the Management Board. A Board member proposed Sue Davies for a second term. No other candidature was proposed. Sue Davies said that she would be honoured to continue serving as the Chair of the Management Board and accepted the candidature.
9. The Chair opened the vote procedure for the election of the Chair. Sue Davies was elected by unanimity as Chair of the Management Board for an additional term. Sue Davies accepted her election as the Chair of the Board and thanked the fellow members for the confidence they expressed on her capacities. The mandate of Sue Davies will last until the end of her mandate as member of the Management Board (end of June, 2016).
10. The Chair asked to the fellow members to put forward their candidatures for the positions of Vice-Chairs of the Management Board. Proposed candidates were Jaana Husu-Kallio, Piergiuseppe Facelli, Raymond O'Rourke and András Székács. They all accepted the candidature.
11. The Chair opened the vote procedure for the election of the first Vice-Chair. Piergiuseppe Facelli was elected by qualified majority as Vice-Chair of the Management Board following three rounds of votes. Piergiuseppe Facelli accepted his election as Vice-Chair of the Board. The mandate of Piergiuseppe Facelli will last until the end of his mandate as member of the Management Board (end of June, 2016).
12. The Chair opened the vote procedure for the election of the second Vice-Chair. Jaana Husu-Kallio was elected by unanimity as Vice-Chair of the Management Board following two rounds of votes. Jaana Husu-Kallio accepted her election as Vice-Chair of the Board. The mandate of Jaana Husu-Kallio will last until the following election of the Management Board Chair and Vice-Chairs (2016).
13. Sue Davies took over the chairmanship of the Management Board meeting.

Item 3: Nomination of the Audit Committee

14. The Chair thanked Piet Vanthemsche, Jan Mousing and Jiri Ruprich (respectively Chair, Vice-Chair and Member of the Audit Committee) for their contribution to the functioning of the Committee over the last four

years. She reminded the audience that in accordance with the Charter of the Audit Committee, a Board member cannot serve more than two terms in the Committee. Hence, the above-mentioned members were not eligible for a new mandate as members of the Audit Committee.

15. The Chair asked to the members to put forward their candidatures for the position of member of the Audit Committee. The following Board members were proposed as members of the Audit Committee: Jaana Husu-Kallio, Robert van Gorcom, Raymond O'Rourke, Radu Roatiş Chețan and Tadeusz Wijaszka. They all accepted to become members of the Audit Committee. Since Radu Roatiş Chețan was absent, at a later stage he was asked if he accepted his nomination, which he did. Upon request from the Board, Robert van Gorcom and Raymond O'Rourke accepted to respectively cover the role of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Audit Committee. The mandate of the renewed Audit Committee will last until the following renewal in 2016.

Item 4: Adoption of the agenda

16. The agenda was adopted with the addition of the following items under Any Other Business: (1) EFSA assessment of the PAN Europe report “Missed and Dismissed” and (2) Feedback from the Chair on the Management Board away day.

Item 5: EFSA progress report

17. The Executive Director, supported by the members of the Management Team, gave an overview of the activities carried out from the 1<sup>st</sup> of June to the 30<sup>th</sup> of September, 2014. In particular, he highlighted: the receipt of a mandate on the use of insects in food and feed; the Scientific Colloquium on Combined exposure to multiple chemicals; the public consultation on the discussion paper on Open EFSA; the launch of the system for the electronic submission of applications; the finalisation of the EFSA scientific cooperation Roadmap; the meetings with the Chair and members of the ENVI Committee; EFSA's visit to the European Environment Agency; and the meetings with stakeholders (BEUC, COPA-COGECA and industrial federations).
18. Among others, EFSA's Heads of Department drew the Board attention to the adoption of the Guidance document on the revised structure of EFSA's opinions and statements, and the endorsement for public consultations of 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. A separate PowerPoint presentation is available online for a detailed description.
19. Questions and comments were received on:
  - The deadline by which EFSA answers the requests received from applicants via the web-form;
  - The results of the stakeholders satisfaction survey;
  - Whether at the meeting with the industry associations EFSA had the opportunity to address the criticism they expressed with reference to the outcomes of the Authority's scientific risk assessment process. It was asked if the report from that meeting could be circulated among the Board members;
  - The new grant agreement with the Focal Points which, requiring their inclusion in the Art. 36 list of organisations, could potentially create some difficulties to certain Member States;
  - The activities that EFSA had carried out on the potential risk of infection by the Ebola virus through the consumption of bush meat;
  - If food and feed risk assessment was among the areas covered by the Transatlantic Trade Investment Partnership and whether that could have any implications for EFSA.
20. The Executive Director said that the industry associations had asked to possibly apply a process that would allow stakeholders to be involved in a consultation phase when the European Commission elaborates and

sends mandates to EFSA, in particular when the subject of the mandates relate to Guidance Documents. EFSA will follow up on this request in close relation with the European Commission. He explained that the industry associations did not raise the issue of the quality of EFSA's scientific outputs. Hence, he believed that they consider EFSA's work reliable in terms of soundness and quality. The report on the meeting that EFSA held with the industry associations on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of Oct. will be shared with the Board members closely after the meeting. Per Bergman (Risk Assessment of Regulated Products) explained that the APDESK Unit is bound to reply to the applicants' requests within 15 working days. He also clarified that the analysis of the stakeholders satisfaction survey was being finalised and that the results will be made available around mid-November. Juliane Kleiner (Science Strategy and Coordination) said that 25 Focal Points had already been included in the Art. 36 list and that the remaining three were expected to be included by the end of the year. Marta Hugas (Risk Assessment and Scientific Assistance) informed the meeting that EFSA was about to publish a scientific advice on the potential risk of infection by the Ebola virus through the consumption of bush meat, which includes analysis on the survival of the virus in meat also in presence of chemical treatment. She added that the European Commission asked to EFSA to also investigate the potentials of spill over of the virus to the ecological system, but that EFSA will need more time to address this part of the mandate. The Commission representative clarified that food and feed risk assessment is not among the subjects framed in the negotiations around the Transatlantic Trade Investment Partnership.

21. Additional questions and comments were received with reference to the Progress Indicators annexed to the EFSA Progress Report:
  - Further explanation on the meaning of the “applause rate” indicator in communications;
  - Appreciations for the overall reduction of the number of dossier in the status of stop-the-clock. However, further information was required for the increase of stop-the-clock cases in the areas of feed and food ingredients and packaging;
  - Explanation on the discrepancy between the planned and actual number of outputs produced in the BIOCONTAM area was required;
  - By when EFSA expects to address the backlog of MRL re-assessments;
22. James Ramsay (Communications) explained that the “applause rate” is a quantitative indicator aimed at measuring the number of activities generated by social media, regardless the tone of those activities, which could be favourable, neutral or critical to EFSA's work. Per Bergman said that EFSA is committed to a continuous improvement of its Guidance documents and is engaged in activities that ultimately aim at increasing the quality of the dossiers that are submitted by the applicants, meaning a plausible decrease of files in stop-the-clock. As for the assessment of MRLs, EFSA is planning to increase the resources allocated to the Pesticide Unit, with a plan to address the backlog in two or three year-time. Marta Hugas said that EFSA expects that the level of achievement of the output target in the area of BIOCONTAM will improve by the end of the year, but that some discrepancies could remain due to some re-prioritisations agreed with the Commission and the fact that EFSA received from the Commission a lower number of mandates than those indicated in the Medium Term Plan agreed with the European Commission.
23. The Board noted EFSA's progress report and asked the Executive Director to convey their gratitude to EFSA's scientific experts and staff for the excellent work they performed in the reporting period.

Item 6: Report from the Scientific Committee

24. The Chair of the Scientific Committee gave a short overview of the activities carried out by the Committee over the past years and presented the work planned to be developed in the coming future. Stressing that the Scientific Committee aims at providing robust, transparent, open and evidence-based risk assessments, the Chair shortly presented the outcomes achieved in some scientific areas. For example, just to mention some, the adoption of opinions (e.g. carvone and endocrine disruptors), guidance documents (e.g. botanicals qualified presumption of safety) and methodologies (e.g. environmental risk assessment and benchmark dose). He highlighted the work carried out in preparation of scientific outputs, among which: non-monotonic dose response, chemical mixtures, stressors on bees, etc. In the coming future, the Scientific Committee will be involved in cross-cutting scientific projects aimed at promoting methods for evidence use in science, as well as in the development of overarching guidance documents, among which: analysis of uncertainty, weight of evidence and biological relevance. The Chair of the Scientific Committee underlined the importance of working

in close collaboration with EFSA's sister agencies, the Member States, non-food Committees of the European Commission and international bodies. He anticipated that prior to the adoption of the above-mentioned scientific outputs EFSA will organise public consultations and that, around 2017, there would be a plan to hold an international workshop aimed at reviewing the results achieved with the adoption of those outputs. A separate PowerPoint presentation is available online for a detailed description.

25. Questions and comments were received on:

- The role of EFSA in carrying out risk assessments of the endocrine disruptors following the conclusions of the Scientific Committee opinion issued in 2013. In particular, the approach that EFSA will take in carrying out assessments in a scientific field where the level of uncertainties and data gaps are still remarkable and where a conclusive definition of what is an endocrine disruptor seems not to be available yet. A question was raised on the position an role of EFSA in relation to endocrine-disrupting pesticides and the relevant hazard-based restrictions of the Pesticide Regulation 2009;
- Whether the work of the Scientific Committee, aimed at reviewing fundamental concepts around the way how risk assessment is carried out, could potentially suggest that the assessments performed up to date should be reviewed in application of the new concepts;
- What are the activities that EFSA plans to carry out in the coming future in the scientific area of nutrition;
- Whether the activities around the risk assessment of chemical mixtures could be expanded with the inclusion of chemicals other than pesticides, and whether those assessments could be combined with the activities in the area of animal health and welfare and biological risk assessment;
- Whether the assessment of the neonicotinoids as a risk factor for the bee health combines the results of other studies focused on different causes of stress for the bee colonies;
- Whether the recent opinion on risks and benefits of consumption of fish had been issued involving both scientific Panels dealing with contaminants and nutrition;

26. With reference to the endocrine disruptors, the Chair of the Scientific Committee clarified that EFSA's opinion issued in 2013 acknowledges the lack of data in certain fields, but also that a full risk assessment is carried out when sufficient data are available. Reminding the audience that EFSA is called to perform risk assessments in the scientific subjects proposed by the mandates received from the risk managers, he said that a certain concern exists among some experts with regard to the actual capability of performing hazard characterisations of the endocrine disruptors. He concluded on this subject by saying that it would not be in EFSA's remit the task to provide the absolute definition of endocrine disruptors, but it is EFSA's duty to provide information to the international scientific community that could contribute to that definition. With regard to the work that is planned to be carried out in the next years on scientific methodological areas, the Chair of the Scientific Committee said that he would not expect as a result a 'step-change' in risk assessment, but rather the implementation of an evolutionary process, which won't have the effect of diminishing the soundness and robustness of the risk assessments carried out until now. He agreed that the risk assessment of cumulative chemical mixtures should not only include pesticides, and that came out quite clearly also during the recent colloquium held in Edinburgh on this matter. He confirmed that the opinion on risks and benefits of the consumption of fish resulted from the close cooperation of the scientific Panels on contaminants and nutrition. In addition, he agreed that the collapse of bee colonies needs to be analysed in application of a multifactorial approach, which combines the effects of pesticides with other environmental and biological factors.

27. With regards to the nutrition area, the Executive Director clarified that EFSA has a limited mandate on this scientific field, and activities in this area are principally carried out upon request from the European Commission. The Chair of the Management Board suggested that the Board should have a deeper look onto the way EFSA interprets and applies the regulatory framework with regards to its competence in the nutrition area.

28. The Board noted the update provided by the Chair of the Scientific Committee and thanked him for the comprehensive and clear presentation.

Item 7: Continuous improvement initiatives

29. Alberto Spagnoli and Marta Hugas introduced the item briefly presenting the projects on Quality Management (QM), Project and Resource Management (PaRMa) and Promoting Methods for Evidence Use in Science (PROMETHEUS).

30. Objective of the QM project is to have a comprehensive and coherent set of documented policies and procedures guiding EFSA business process. By the end of 2016, EFSA aims at establishing an ISO 9001 compatible QM system covering science, management, administration and communications. Work is already well advanced in the fields of science and management, whilst activities in the areas of administration and communications had been kicked-off only recently in 2014. Among others, in the next future EFSA will: refine the functioning of the External Review working group, enhance the administrative and training systems, review the top-level processes and design the key processes in administration and communication.
31. Scope of the PaRMa project is to implement a project and resource management approach for all EFSA's activities and resources. With that, EFSA aims at pursuing a simplified governance model, higher transparency and flexibility in resource allocation, better prioritisation of work and increased efficiency. The project is in a well advanced phase of implementation: a project coordination office has become operative towards the end of last year, in 2014 EFSA had the first portfolio cycle that represented the starting point for the 2015 baseline (i.e. 1 programme, 52 projects and 112 processes), enhanced the internal competencies in project/process management, and selected an IT professional tool for project and resource management (SCIFORMA). In the coming months, EFSA will work on the gradual implementation of SCIFORMA and the training of its staff on the application of the new approach.
32. The PROMETHEUS project contributes to further develop and improve methods for dealing with evidence in scientific assessment and increases consistency and harmonisation across EFSA methods for dealing with evidence. The project is an important component for bringing forward the EFSA Transparency initiative. The initial activities were kicked-off in mid-2014 and the final outcomes are expected by the end of 2016, resulting in three scientific reports: Guiding principles for scientific assessments and process for dealing with evidence in scientific assessment; Gap and Impact Analysis of scientific methods to fulfil the guiding principles and; Analysis of fulfilment of guiding principles in the field of regulated products. A separate PowerPoint presentation is available online for a detailed description.
33. Questions and comments were received on:
  - The need to provide the Board with practical examples on how EFSA intends to achieve the goals of the described projects;
  - The need to ensure that these projects are developed in line with the principles set by EFSA's IT strategy;
  - The request to receive further information on the review of the ERWG way of working.
34. The Board noted the information on the described continuous improvement initiatives and the Chair invited EFSA to plan further discussion on those in a following meeting.

Item 8: Update on the procedure for the renewal of the Scientific Committee and eight Scientific Panel

35. Juliane Kleiner provided a short update informing the audience that EFSA had received 935 applications (representing an increase by 7.3% compared to the previous call in 2012), of which 807 resulted eligible (1% increase compared to 2012). 85% of the total number of applications was received from experts holding the nationality of the EU Countries. The majority of applications were received from Italy, Spain, United Kingdom, France and Germany, whilst no application was received from Malta, Estonia and Lithuania. Statistics show that two thirds of applicants are men and one third women. The great majority of applicants knew about the call for the renewal of the Scientific Committee and Scientific Panels via the EFSA staff and experts, EFSA's website and newsletters. Only 20% of them got information from advertisements in leading scientific journals, the Official Journal, social media and the wider scientific society. The internal and external evaluation of the candidates run in parallel until the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October. On the 7<sup>th</sup> of November, internal and external evaluators will meet to discuss the scoring results. At that meeting will be also present observers representing the European Commission and the Management Board. The screening of the Declarations of Interest of the retained candidates (who obtained an overall score equal or above 67 points on 100) will be carried out in January 2015 and at the beginning of February the Advisory Forum will be consulted on the list of experts selected as Panel members. Hence, in March 2015, EFSA will submit to the Management Board a proposal for the nomination of the Panel members. In July 2015, the renewed Scientific Committee and eight Scientific Panels will hold their first meeting and appoint their Chairs and Vice-Chairs.

36. Questions and comments were received on:
  - The need to stimulate applications from experts holding the nationality of the 'newer Member States';
  - The actual number of vacancies for the position of Scientific Committee and Panel member.
37. Juliane Kleiner explained that the Focal Points had been actively involved in the promotion campaign for the call for experts and that in certain cases EFSA staff members and/or experts participated in the promotional events organised by the Focal Points. Finally, she said that the renewal of the Scientific Committee and the eight Scientific Panels will consist in the nomination of max. 174 experts.
38. The Board noted the update on the procedure for the renewal of the Scientific Committee and eight Scientific Panels.

Item 9: Amendment of the EFSA budget 2014

39. Olivier Ramsayer (Resources and Support) explained that with the application of the revised Financial Regulation (in force as of January 2014), the interests generated in EFSA's bank account and originated from funds received by the European Commission shall become a general revenue to be inscribed in the Authority's budget. This was not the case before 2014, when the interests had to be transferred to the European Commission. Hence, the Board was asked to amend EFSA's budget 2014 with the inclusion of the amount generated with the bank interests (up to the 30<sup>th</sup> of Sept. 2014). This amount will be used to anticipate the purchase of EFSA's seat.
40. The Board adopted the decision for the inclusion of the bank interests in EFSA's budget 2014.

Item 10: Amendments to the Art. 36 list of organisations

41. Juliane Kleiner informed the meeting of EFSA's proposal to add 8 new organisations, based in Croatia (1), Estonia (1), Poland (1), Slovakia (1), Slovenia (1), Spain (1), and the United Kingdom (2) to the list of organisations capable of assisting the Authority in performing its tasks (Art. 36 of EFSA's Founding Regulation). Finally, she also drew the Board's attention to the technical changes adopted with the decision of the Executive Director dated 9 September, 2014.
42. A Board member noted that the names of several Dutch organisations were not correct and suggested to contact the Focal Point to address the issue. Another member noted that some organisations decided not to submit their application for inclusion in the Art. 36 list because of the complexity of the application form. Juliane Kleiner acknowledged the complexity of the application form, which was designed, however, to ensure that the applicant organisations fulfil all the requirements foreseen by the regulatory framework. She added, however, that EFSA will work for the simplification of the application form.
43. The Board adopted the amended Art. 36 list of organisations.

Item 11: Feedback from the previous Audit Committee

44. The Chair of the previous Audit Committee updated the Board on the outcomes of the meeting held on the 21st of October. He briefly summarised the issue around the case before the European Ombudsman on the composition of the TTC working group. He informed the meeting that the Executive Director had asked to the Internal Auditor to review the assessment of the Declarations of Interests of the members of the TTC working group. That review revealed some weaknesses in the screening process. However, they would not have impacted on the composition of the TTC working group. Also, the Internal Audit Capability didn't identify any undue influence on the scientific decision making process. In addition, the Audit Committee discussed around the report of the Internal Audit Capability on the validation of the access rights granted to EFSA's financial and accounting system (ABAC). The report highlighted some weaknesses in managing the access rights and in the control process guaranteeing the proper follow up of the rights assigned. The Audit Committee asked EFSA to urgently implement corrective measures to address the identified weaknesses. The Audit Committee also noted the report of the Internal Audit Service (IAS) of the European Commission on EFSA's reporting blocks of assurance. The report, which covered the year 2013 and the declaration of assurance issued by the Executive Director, says that EFSA's control system provides reasonable assurance, except for the management of the delegations in the financial and accounting system (see above). As well, the Audit Committee noted the update

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on the roll-out of EFSA's new Document Management System. Finally, the Audit Committee asked EFSA to provide an update on the implementation of the multiannual IT strategy at the following meeting.

45. The Board noted the feedback from the previous Audit Committee.

### **Item 12: Update on the changes in DG SANCO**

46. Ladislav Miko gave a short update on the changes going on in the Directorate General for Health and Consumers. He informed the audience that following the resignation of Paola Testori Coggi, he will take over the position of acting Director General of DG SANCO as of the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October, 2014. He recalled that job growth and investments are among the main priorities of the Commission led by President Junker. In his mission letter to Commissioner Andriukaitis, President Junker said that Europe has a developed food safety policy supported by a mature legal framework, which however should be simplified and modernised over the coming years. For example, he anticipated that the GMO authorisation process will be reviewed in the following six months. Emphasis is also put on transparency and higher engagement with the citizens, as well as on a stricter collaboration with the Member States. From an organisational point of view, DG SANCO is probably going to change name in DG Santé, since the Directorate dealing with consumers will move to the DG Justice. As well, the files on medical devices will be transferred to DG Enterprise, whilst the matters around pharmaceutical products (including the European Medicine Agency) should remain within the remit of DG SANCO (to be confirmed). New competencies will be acquired: the dossiers on biocides and food waste will be transferred to DG SANCO from DG Environment. Concluding, Ladislav Miko informed the Board that Commissioner Andriukaitis expressed the wish to visit EFSA closely after the start of his mandate.
47. A Board member asked if the move of the portfolio on biocides to DG SANCO will mean a better harmonisation of legislation between those and the pesticides. The Commission representative said that that kind of consideration was a bit premature and that it will be needed to wait until Commissioner Andriukaitis takes over his duties.
48. The Board noted the update on the organisational changes in DG SANCO.

### **Item 13: 2014 Budget execution and transfers**

49. Olivier Ramsayer informed the meeting that at the end of September, EFSA had committed 73.77% of its € 79.63 million budget, which is in line with the target for this time of the year. In terms of payments, EFSA had executed 56.8% of its payment appropriations, which is 11% below the target for this time of the year. However, no critical element of concern was identified and EFSA is confident that the target will be achieved at the end of the year. Olivier Ramsayer also referred to the decision of the Council of the EU on the salary indexation for the years 2011 and 2012, which resulted in savings under Title I of approx. € 1.5 million. That amount will be used to anticipate the payments for the purchase of EFSA's seat, hence contributing to decrease the amount that EFSA will have to pay for bank interests. In addition, he informed the Board that EFSA had implemented actions that made possible the achievement of the objectives under Title III (Operations) with a saving of approx. 10% of the amount initially allocated to this Title (+/- € 1 million). This amount could be used to anticipate the grants and procurement calls that are planned in the framework of the scientific cooperation programme for the year 2015. Lastly, he said that the overall amount transferred by the Executive Director between budget Titles and Chapters represents 1.07% of EFSA's overall budget, which is within the limits foreseen by the financial regulation.
50. The Commission representative stressed the importance of a full execution of the payment appropriations.
51. The Board noted the presentation on EFSA's budget execution and transfers 2014.

### **Item 14: Any other business**

#### **Letter from PAN Europe**

52. The Executive Director informed the audience that at the end of September the Pesticide Active Network (PAN) Europe sent to EFSA and its Management Board a letter notifying their report "Missed and Dismissed", which is critical on the way EFSA implements its work in the field of pesticides. The report had been carefully analysed by EFSA's Pesticide Unit that produced, as a result, a concise technical report. PAN Europe report covers relevant aspects on the use of scientific literature to perform pesticide risk assessment, but comes to

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conclusions that are not fully in line with EFSA's view. PAN Europe investigated seven active substances and alleged shortcomings in their assessment and the peer-review process that involves the Member States. EFSA believes that the regulatory system on the assessment of pesticides is transparent and open, and offers several opportunities for third parties to submit information. The Executive Director said that EFSA will engage more with the scientific community to bring forward the value of public consultations. He also underlined that frequently EFSA receives mandates from the European Commission asking for the re-assessment of already approved substances, which are based on newly published scientific evidence. EFSA has drafted a reply letter to PAN Europe that is based on the findings of the above-mentioned technical report. That report was shared with the Board members for their possible comments by the end of the following week.

### Management Board away day

53. The Chair informed the audience that on the previous day the Board held an away day during which its members discussed around two main issues: (1) The way how the Board works and opportunities for improving its effectiveness, in particular in terms of having the right balance between strategic and operational discussions; (2) Provide early input in EFSA's strategy 2020.
54. The Chair suggested to the Vice-Chairs to hold a tele-conference closely after the meeting in order to formulate proposals following up the outcomes of the away day.

### Meeting of the Management Board in 2015

55. The Chair informed the audience that the Management Board will meet in 2015 in the following dates:
  - 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of March
  - 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of June
  - 30<sup>th</sup> of September and 1<sup>st</sup> of October
  - 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of December
56. Before closing the meeting, the Chair wished to thank Per Bergman for his valuable contribution to the work of EFSA over the last six years, and on behalf of the Board wished him all possible success in his new career at the Swedish National Food Agency.
57. The Chair closed the meeting thanking the Board members, Executive Director, EFSA management, Chair of the Scientific Committee, EFSA staff and technicians. She informed the audience that the following meeting will be held on 18 December 2014 in Parma.

END

### **Actions Arising**

Meeting reference	Action	Deadline	Status
October 23, 2014	Piet Vanthemsche to update his Declaration of Interests.	ASAP	Done
October 23, 2014	EFSA to provide the Board with the report of the meeting held on 2 Oct. with the industry associations.	ASAP	Done
October 23, 2014	Inform the Management Board of the availability of the scientific advice on the potential risks of infection by Ebola virus as soon as it is published.	ASAP	Done
October 23, 2014	The Board to have a deeper look onto the way EFSA interprets and applies the regulatory framework with reference to its role in the area of nutrition.	MB meeting December 2014	Done
October 23, 2014	EFSA to include in the agenda of a following Board meeting further discussion around the continuous improvement initiatives by providing additional details on the practical achievement of the project goals.	March/June 2015	Done

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October 23, 2014	EFSA to liaise with the Focal Point in the Netherlands to correct the name of the Dutch organisations included in the Art. 36 list.	ASAP	Done
October 23, 2014	Management Board members to provide EFSA with comments on the short technical report produced on the PAN Europe report "Missed and dismissed".	31 October, 2014	Done
October 23, 2014	The Board Chair and Vice-Chairs to hold a tele-conference closely after the meeting in order to formulate proposals following up the outcomes of the away day.	End of October	Done