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Office of the Executive Director and the Management Board

RISK ASSESSMENT

Panel on food additives and nutrient sources added to food (ANS)

The Panel adopted eight scientific opinions on nutrient sources and one scientific statement.

The Panel will focus mainly on the re-evaluation of all food additives according to Commission Regulation (EU) No 257/2010 setting up a programme for the re-evaluation of approved food additives in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1333/2008 and on the development of a new guidance document for food additive evaluations.

Currently, the Panel has 26 open questions with a 2010 deadline (three questions on nutrient sources and 23 questions on food additives, out of which fourteen are related to the re-evaluation of food colours). In addition, the Panel is considering different scientific issues related to the safety assessment of sixteen additional food colours with a deadline of December 2015.

Panel on animal health and welfare (AHAW)

The Panel adopted scientific opinions on African Swine Fever (ASF) and Q-fever.

The final report of the Article 36 Project "toward an information system on broiler welfare: genetic selection aspects" was published. An external review of previous AHAW opinions concerning the application of quantitative tools was published as a separate report linked to the AHAW Panel guidance on "Good Practice in Conducting Scientific Assessments in Animal Health Using Modelling".

A public consultation was held on the draft scientific opinion on welfare aspects of genetic selection in broilers.

New mandates were received from the Commission on: animal health and welfare aspects of GM-animals, and risk-based meat inspection in slaughterhouses, taking into account implications for animal health and welfare.

Panel on biological hazards (BIOHAZ)

The Panel adopted seven opinions during the reporting period.

The opinion on Revision of the joint AFC/BIOHAZ guidance document on the submission of data for the evaluation of safety and efficacy of substances for the removal of microbial surface contamination of food of animal origin intended for human consumption was published with the public consultation report.

Opinions were also adopted on Quantitative estimation of the public health impact of setting a new target for the reduction of Salmonella in laying hens; Parasites in fishery products; and Analytical sensitivity of approved TSE rapid tests – new data for assessment of two rapid tests

An opinion on food safety aspects of Q fever was adopted.

The outsourced report on Food safety considerations of novel H1N1 influenza virus infections in humans was approved by EFSA.

Three new mandates were received, Resistance caused by bacterial strains producing extended-spectrum cephalosporinases in food and food-producing animals, Evaluation of the results of the EU survey for Chronic Wasting Disease in cervids and Public health hazards to be covered by inspection of meat. The outsourced contract on QMRA on Salmonella in broiler meat was signed in April.

Panel on food contact materials, enzymes, flavourings and processing aids (CEF)

The Panel adopted four opinions: Two application opinions (one on flavourings substances and one on food contact materials), one generic opinion on melamine in co-adoption with the CONTAM Panel and one guidance document on data required for the risk assessment of flavouring substance.

Planned opinions on food contact materials and flavourings were postponed due to discussions on Bisphenol A.

Following the public consultation on the flavouring guidelines a workshop was organised in Brussels involving stakeholders from industry and other organisations. CEF invited Experts from European Member States to express their views on March 26th on the draft opinion on a developmental neurotoxicity study (DNT) on Bisphenol A.

The 2nd meeting of the ESCO WG on non-Plastic Food Contact Materials took place in Parma with experts from thirteen Member States plus one from Norway and Switzerland. CEF unit members and Panel members contributed to the Seminar on Food Additives and Flavourings organised by EFSA in Zagreb.

An opinion summarising the literature since 2006 on BPA is under development. A decision was taken to publish this opinion together with the one on the DNT (Development neuro-toxicity) study. The opinion will be discussed and adopted at the next CEF Plenary. Many data for the re-evaluation of flavouring substances are currently submitted by industry. The creation of a new WG to evaluate data on genotoxicity of flavourings has been decided. 76 applications for plastic recycling processes have been received.

Panel on contaminants in the food chain (CONTAM)

Five opinions and one statement were adopted by the Panel during the plenary meetings. The outputs relate to lead in food, melamine in food and feed (co-adopted with CEF Panel), Ambrosia seeds in feed (co-adopted with NDA and PLH Panel), two emerging marine biotoxins (ciguatoxins and cyclic imines), and an evaluation of new scientific information with regards to ochratoxin A in food.

Furthermore, the CONTAM unit was involved in an urgent request related to the risks to public and animal health in the European Union posed by possible contamination of the feed and food chain due to ash-fall following the eruption of the Eyjafjallajökull volcano in Iceland.

A new mandate has been received from the European Commission asking for a risk assessment related to mineral hydrocarbons in food and a WG for this request was established.

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

In the reference period the Panel held three Plenary meetings and 22 Working Group meetings. The Panel adopted twelve opinions regarding the authorisation of feed additives. The Panel also endorsed a draft update of the "Guidance for the preparation of dossiers for technological additives" to include the requirements for the assessment of the new functional group of additives "substances for the reduction of contamination of feed by mycotoxins". A technical meeting with industry will take place to seek input on this proposal.

The final reports of an Article 36 grant ("Selected trace and ultra trace elements: biological role, content in feed and requirements in animal nutrition. Elements for risk assessment") and two procurements ("Pre-assessment of environmental impact of zinc and copper used in animal nutrition" and "Electronic submission of dossiers: review of existing IT tools") were received and are now in the final stage of verification.

The Panel received a mandate for the evaluation of the safety of Hemp as animal feed. It also started work on the Technical Guidance on the safety of use of Bacillus species in animal nutrition.

Panel on genetically modified organisms (GMO)

Two opinions on GM maize were adopted by the Panel during the Plenary in March 2010: one application for food/feed use under 1829/2003/EC and one renewal application for existing food/feed products under 1829/2003/EC.

One generic opinion on the revised molecular characterisation of Rf3 oilseed rape received under Directive 2001/18/EC was adopted.

mb 17 06 10 item 3 doc 2 - ED progress report

Three opinions on GM maize (applications for food/feed use under 1829/2003/EC) were adopted by the GMO Panel during the Plenary in April 2010.

One opinion on GM cotton (application for food/feed use under 1829/2003/EC) was adopted by the GMO Panel during the Plenary in May 2010.

Three new applications were received on GM plants (food/feed use under 1829/2003/EC) and three new applications on enzymes produced from GM bacteria (feed additives under 1831/2003/EC).

Panel on dietetic products, nutrition and allergies (NDA)

Twelve working groups and one Plenary meeting held and the following opinions adopted: Two application opinions related to the safety on Conjugated Linoleic Acid as a novel food ingredient, seven pinions related to Article 13.5 health claims application (based on new scientific evidence and/or including protection of proprietary data), one opinion related to conditions of use for Calcium and Vitamin D and bone health related claims.

One draft briefing document for stakeholders on the evaluation of health claims was issued for public consultation and will serve as a basis for a stakeholder meeting on claims, which will be held on 1 June 2010

For health claims applications the EFSA NDA Panel has received date 303 applications of which 85 opinions have been adopted covering 92 applications; 47 applications have been withdrawn; 20 applications are in progress. EFSA is expecting to receive a substantial number of new Article 13.5 applications in the context of a possible resubmission of those Article 13 health claims for which the Panel already issued an opinion and concluded that the food constituent was not sufficiently characterised.

In March 2010 EFSA received an addendum to the Article 13 general function claims list (452 claims, mainly botanicals). The final list which is now published covers 4637 claims. To date 1080 claims have been adopted and 298 claims have been withdrawn. EFSA will continue to adopt and publish claims opinion in series and it is planned that the next series of opinions will be published in September 2010. EFSA aims to finalise the Article 13 list claims by December 2011.

NDA launched a call for tender for Data collection, collation and analysis related to specific preparatory work in the establishment of Dietary reference Values (deadline for submissions is 15 July 2010).

Panel on plant health (PLH)

The Panel adopted three scientific opinions: Two pest risk assessments (including the evaluation of risk management options) for the organisms *Gibberella circinata* and *Dryocosmus kuriphilus* and a Quantitative Pathway Analysis on U.S. wheat for the EU territory for the organism *Tilletia indica*. The Panel also contributed to a CONTAM scientific opinion by evaluating the effect on the environment of further distribution of *Ambrosia* spp. in the EU.

The kick off meeting for the Art.36 project "Prima Phacie" – Pest risk assessment for the European Community Plant Health: A comparative approach with case studies - was held in Parma and was attended by the consortium representatives from this project.

The PLH unit has responded to the paper produced by the Working Group of Chief Officers of Plant Health by drafting the document 'EFSA Actions on the "Guidelines for EC coordination of Pest Risk Analysis Process" '. This EFSA document is subject to a public consultation

Panel on plant protection products and their residues (PPR)

The first opinion related to the new "Guidance Document on emissions from protected crop systems (greenhouses and cultivations grown under cover)" was adopted and another was adopted as the first opinion of the Ecoregions mandate regarding litter layer.

Two reports from procurement and two from grants have been published on the outsourced preparatory work for the "Revision of the Guidance Document for dermal absorption"; on "Applicability of QSAR analysis to the evaluation of the toxicological relevance of metabolites and degradates of pesticide active substances for dietary risk assessment"; on "The impact of metabolic and degradation processes on the toxicological properties of residues in food

commodities”, and on “The applicability of thresholds of toxicological concern in the dietary risk assessment of metabolites, degradation and reaction products of active substances of plant protection products”.

The PPR stakeholder Workshop on “Protection goals for environmental risk assessment of pesticide” gathered 81 participants from 23 countries in Parma on 15-16 April.

A new public consultation has been launched on a “Draft Guidance on the use of Probabilistic Methodology for modelling dietary exposure to pesticide residues (part one: single active substances exposure assessment)”.

SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE

Scientific Cooperation (SCO)

The new Working Group on the Information Exchange Platform (IEP), established in March, held its first meeting. Its main tasks are to support EFSA in drafting an evaluation report on the IEP and to provide input to improve the IT tool. The IEP was also one of the main topics on the agenda of the 8th Focal Point Meeting on 5-6 May 2010 in Madrid. Other key topics of the meeting were the newly developed tools for Article 36, namely the Extranet space and the electronic database to facilitate the management of the Article 36 list of organisations and to foster networking activities.

The first consultation on the draft 2011 work-programme for Article 36 grants and procurement with the Advisory Forum took place in May.

By the end of April an important upgrade was made to the Expert Database, which received nearly 2540 applications from 66 countries since its creation. The improvements include its performance, user-friendliness and better integration with the Dol database.

In March SCO discussed possibilities of indexation of EFSA scientific outputs published in the EFSA Journal with two bibliographic databases. The feedback was very positive and promising. A quality check of scientific outputs in the EFSA Journal was performed in May; the findings and related recommendations are summarised in a report based on which quality assurance measures will be proposed.

The outcome of the 13th Scientific Colloquium ‘What’s new on Novel Foods’ was published on the EFSA website.

Assessment Methodology Unit (AMU)

Four EFSA outputs and two assistance requests to scientific opinions have been completed in the reporting period and five technical reports were completed.

One guidance of EFSA “Application of systematic review methodology into the food and feed safety assessments to support decision making” was completed.

Two requests for contributions to scientific opinions (Foodborne zoonosis (BIOHAZ) and Q-fever (AHAW)) were completed.

AMU will further contribute to the following activities: Meat inspection mandate, Review of statistics in health claims, Bisphenol A opinions, internal task force on endocrine disruptors, Scientific Committee statistics WG.

Data Collection and Exposure Unit (DATEX)

The Data Collection and Exposure Unit published three reports covering diverse topics such as left-censoring of data, veterinary medicine residues and acrylamide.

A working group outlined recommendations, including the use of appropriate statistical tests, to handle left-censored distributions of chemical contaminant data in the context of exposure assessment. As part of the Commission annual reporting to the European Parliament on the testing of veterinary medicine residues, the Unit analysed 707,058 targeted samples covering the 2008 monitoring and found 1,923 non-compliant results or 0.27 %.

Although several food groups exhibited lower acrylamide levels in 2008 compared to 2007, this was far from consistent across all food categories. An exposure assessment will be carried out next year to determine the biological relevance of any change in acrylamide levels over the three years analysed. The Unit also approved and published four outputs from an Article 36 project involving a consortium of organisations in twelve European countries. The reports cover long-term dietary exposure of young children to lead, chromium, selenium and food colours.

A scientific colloquium will take place towards the end of June to discuss food classification.

Pesticide Risk Assessment Peer Review (PRAPeR)

Eleven conclusions were adopted on the pesticide peer review of six resubmitted active substances according to Commission Regulation (EC) No. 33/2008 (bringing the total number of conclusions finalised so far in this work programme to seventeen), and five active substances for consideration of renewal of Annex I inclusion according to Commission Regulation (EC) No. 737/2007 and Art. 5(5) of Council Directive 91/414/EEC.

In the meantime, new mandates were received to conduct a peer review for further resubmitted active substances, bringing the number currently ongoing in the peer review to 56, from which fifteen conclusions should be finalised in the next three months. One Annex I renewal is also currently ongoing in the peer review.

During the reporting period, eighteen reasoned opinions were adopted in response to 21 routine MRL applications.

The PRAPeR Unit also provided *ad hoc* assistance to the EC by means of a technical report regarding Codex MRLs and a statement of EFSA regarding the presence of chlormequat in Indian grapes. In the meantime, additional MRL applications were received, out of which 21 need to be finalised within the three coming months.

The PRAPeR Unit was also requested by the EC to perform a risk assessment for the existing CXL of three active substances. Mandates to undertake the peer review for a further 15 resubmissions and 2 Annex I renewals are expected in 2010.

Emerging Risks Unit (EMRISK)

A technical report on the collection and routine analysis of import surveillance data with a view to identification of emerging risks was published in March.

The EFSA Colloquium on emerging risks anticipated to be held in June has been rescheduled to October due to disruption of the volcanic ash.

An internal mandate for the establishment of a WG on data sources for emerging risks was published. A mandate for the establishment of a network on emerging risks was endorsed by the Advisory Forum at the Limassol meeting (19-20 May).

The Stakeholder Consultative Group on Emerging Risks which is drawn from nominations made by the Stakeholders Consultative Platform i.e. consists of representatives from industry and consumer organisations will meet for the first time on 4 June.

An internal mandate to establish a working group to advise on methodology for the identification of emerging risks is being drafted.

Animal Diseases Transmissible to Humans Unit (ZOOLOSES)

The unit published a Community Summary Report analysing the occurrence of antimicrobial resistance in zoonotic bacteria from food and animals in 2004-2007. Also two other data collection reports were issued; one on the analyses of the EU-wide baseline survey on *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella* in broilers and broiler carcasses and another on the analyses of risk factors associated with breeding pigs holdings contaminated with methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*.

The analysis of the annual data was enhanced by the publication of a report giving specifications on monitoring of Community trends in zoonotic agents over the years. The annual reporting period for Member States started in April and this reporting was supported by issuing three updated reporting manuals and a fully revised web application.

mb 17 06 10 item 3 doc 2 - ED progress report

Also an external report on harmonised monitoring and reporting of Q fever in animals was issued as an outcome of an Article 36 grant project and it was published together with AHAW's opinion on Q fever.

In addition, two procurement calls were launched: One on assistance in analyses and reporting of annual zoonoses and food-borne outbreak data and one on *Salmonella* source attribution analyses.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE & ADVISORY FORUM

Scientific Committee (SC)

The Scientific Committee had its 42nd plenary meeting in April 2010.

The SC Working Group on Risk-Benefit Assessment reviewed the 200 comments submitted by eighteen interested parties during the public consultation of the guidance for human health risk benefit assessment of foods. The updated guidance document will be submitted for adoption by the Scientific Committee in June 2010.

The SC Working Group on Statistical Approaches has been formed and will have its first meeting in May 2010. Two task forces (TF) with internal mandates have been formed for endocrine active substances (EAS) and environmental risk assessment (EAS), respectively. The EAS TF has delivered a draft working document and a draft technical report is scheduled for discussion at the September plenary. The ERA TF will deliver its first draft working document at the September plenary.

The work of the SC Working Groups on Threshold of Toxicological Concern (TTC) and Genotoxicity Testing Strategies is ongoing.

A new WG on Risk Assessment Terminology is currently being established and the kick-off meeting is expected to be held in September 2010. EFSA has received a request from the European Commission for an update on the state of play of animal cloning (SCNT). The assessment will follow the EFSA statement published in July 2009 and the EFSA opinion of January 2008.

Advisory Forum (AF)

The 36th AF meeting was held in Limassol, Cyprus in May, 2010.

The Strategic Discussion on EFSA's work with Member States (MS) was engaging, with the work plans of EFSA, the Commission and MS considered in terms of medium term planning. There was consensus on the need for cooperation and maximising use of resources. It was recognised that the Steering Group on Cooperation had laid the ground work for cooperation on risk assessment and it was agreed to establish a Working Group to develop proposals for future working.

The AF welcomed the Target Audience research survey and in particular raised questions on the possibility and practicality of open panel meetings which was one of the main findings of this survey. There was great interest in the development of Impact Assessment Indicators and a request for closer work and engagement with national authorities in future in this area. The AF members were presented with the preliminary management plan for 2011, the communication strategy 2010-2013 and the work programme on grants and procurement for 2011.

The AF noted and welcomed the preparatory work of the internal task force on endocrine active substances and the progress on establishing the network on emerging risks, seeking clarification on the role of the AF in raising and discussing emerging risks. MS raised items for discussion on pine nuts, energy drinks, blood concentration of PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) and inorganic arsenic in rice flour for use in infant food, which will be discussed further in the future.

COMMUNICATIONS

Communications activities:

10-12 March - An information stand during the World Health Organisation's 5th Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health. The stand informed conference delegates about EFSA's mandate.

12 March - Commissioner John Dalli's visit to EFSA – Press Office organised a press point attended by the following local media: *Gazzetta di Parma*, *l'Informazione*, *La Repubblica* and *TV Teleducato*.

13 April - Media breakfast in Brussels. Brussels press correspondents and journalists from the main press agencies i.e. *AFP* (France), *DPA* (Germany), *EFE* (Spain) and *AP* (US) were present. Prior to the media breakfast, EFSA's Executive Director was interviewed by *Bulgarian national TV* on EFSA's work on GMOs. The interview was included in a documentary broadcast on 8 May and published on the TV website.

15 April - Media lunch in Warsaw. During her visit to Poland, EFSA's Executive Director met selected Polish journalists from the press agency *PAP*, the national daily *Rzeczpospolita* and the food-safety bimonthly *Bezpieczeństwo i Higiena Żywności*. Following the meeting, the Polish press agency published a very positive and comprehensive article about EFSA, which was immediately published by the main daily *Gazeta Wyborcza*. The specialised publication *Bezpieczeństwo i Higiena Żywności* will publish an article in their next issue.

21 April - EFSA-Europass Regional School Competition award ceremony. The competition this year was entitled "Riprendi il gusto giusto" and high-school students were asked to prepare an audiovisual project on health and food. The three winning high-school classes were invited to Palazzo Ducale where EFSA's Director of Administration addressed them and explained the role and mission of EFSA.

4 May - Media lunch in Paris. Six journalists who cover health/science issues and had already reported on EFSA attended the event. These included: *Le Figaro*, *La Recherche*, *L'Expansion*, *Challenges*, *AFP* and *Dow Jones*. *Challenges* conducted a separate interview with EFSA's Executive Director. The journalists focused their questions on health claims and other issues such as transparency and DOIs. Following the media lunch, *Challenges* published an article about health claims and *Dow Jones* reported that EFSA might begin to charge fees.

9-16 May - Festa dell'Europa. In order to celebrate Schuman Day and to increase the awareness and understanding of EFSA's remit but also of Europe and European values among local and regional citizens and decision makers, EFSA, Comune di Parma, Europass, Provincia di Parma and EC Representation in Milan organised for the third year the Festa dell'Europa. During the week over 30 events, which took place in 12 different venues, were jointly organised by EFSA with fourteen local partners.

10-13 May – Cibus exhibition and EFSA conference. The press office published an announcement inviting local media to attend the conference organised by EFSA, held a joint press release, and organised interviews with EFSA's Executive Director and *Il Sole 24 Ore* and *TV Parma*. Italian newswires and local media reported on the event. An EFSA stand at the Cibus International Food Fair was organized from 10 – 13 May which was visited by 500 people.

11 May - Media lunch in Parma. As part of the activities organised during the Festa dell'Europa EFSA's Executive Director and the Director of the Administration met local media for an informal lunch on a variety of issues, including the relationship between the Authority and Parma and its territory.

26-27 May - meeting of the Advisory Forum Communications Working Group in Madrid.

In the reporting period EFSA received 209 media queries and organised 38 media interviews.

Press Releases (4):

- EFSA publishes survey on Campylobacter and Salmonella in chicken in the EU (17 Mar)
- EFSA assesses risk of Salmonella from pig meat (19 Apr)
- L'Europa sei anche tu Festeggiamo insieme la Festa dell'Europa (7 May) (joint press release with Comune of Parma, Province of Parma, EC representation in Milan, Europass)
- Science and innovation for a more sustainable food chain (10 May) (joint press release with DG SANCO, under the auspices of the Italian Council presidency)

Web News Stories (24):

- Launch of public consultation on guidance for environmental risk assessment of GM plants (5 Mar)
- Management Board supports public consultation launch of communications strategy for 2010-2013 (18 Mar)
- Meeting of national experts on bisphenol A (26 Mar)
- EFSA sets European dietary reference values for nutrient intakes (26 Mar)
- Further consultation on animal welfare implications of genetic selection in chickens (30 Mar)
- EFSA Journal: EFSA science at your fingertips (31 Mar)
- Consultation of European and international partners on bisphenol A (31 Mar)
- Publication European overview of dioxin levels in food and feed (31 Mar)
- Reduces tolerable intake level for melamine (13 Apr)
- Evaluation the safety of steviol glycosides (14 Apr)
- Evaluation of parasites in fish (14 Apr)
- Technical report on veterinary drug residues in animals and food (19 Apr)
- Health implications of lead in food (20 Apr)
- Possible reduction of Salmonella in laying hens (21 Apr)
- Scientific advice on possible food safety and animal health risks following potential Iceland volcano ashfall (21 Apr)
- Safety assessments of three food colours (21 Apr)
- Possible risks from the pesticide chlormequat in grapes (23 Apr)
- Scientific advice on short-term risks for food and feed safety in the EU following Iceland volcano eruption (26 Apr)
- Cooperation with its Stakeholder Platform (27 Apr)
- Antimicrobial resistance in zoonotic bacteria over 2004-2007 (27 Apr)
- Model for the assessment of the impact of GM crops on non-target organisms (28 Apr)
- Review of data collection activities (11 May)
- Scientific advice on Q fever (12 May)
- Overview of acrylamide levels in 2008 (18 May)

Web

During the reporting period, the new website design was launched, including upgrades to the navigation model and the homepage. Significant usability improvements were also implemented through short and memorable URLs for documents (including all scientific documents); through better page titles; and through enhanced control over navigation text and page headings. Search engine optimization was supported through a collaboration project with DG COMM, where 23 new content entries and links on EFSA related issues were added to the EUROPA A-Z Topics pages in all the official languages.

In the area of content, a new Topics was created on Qualified Presumption of Safety. Existing Topics which were updated include GMOs; Dietary reference values and dietary guidelines; Antimicrobial resistance; and Food-borne diseases. Web pages on the work of the NDA Panel and the EMRISK unit were updated. Corporate events covered on the website included the visits of Commissioner Dalli and President Barroso. A new integrated legal notice – covering a range of issues including data protection, copyright, linking, confidentiality and liability – was published in all four working languages.

Publications

Since the last MB meeting various scientific and corporate publications have been produced. These include:

- The 2010 Work plan was made available in all 23 languages in May.
- An EU agency brochure including general information and presenting the 27 EU Agencies was made available in print in April and sent to all EU Agencies, all MEPs and Commissioners.
- Products to promote the EFSA Journal – posters, postcards, A4 flyers, and bookmarks - were printed in April and May.
- A promotional leaflet explaining EFSA's work with pre-accession countries was printed in April.
- 2 scientific posters and the corporate poster explaining EFSA's work and role in the EU food safety system for the Cibus conference in Parma were printed.
- Meeting Summary Report No. 3 on folic acid was printed in April.
- The PPR guidance document on birds and mammals was printed in April.
- EFSA supplement in the International Journal of Food Microbiology and article in the Proceedings of the Royal Society.

ADMINISTRATION/CORPORATE

Institutional and stakeholder relations

Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection John Dalli visited EFSA on 12 March and addressed all staff.

The President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso visited the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) on Monday 12 April. At EFSA Mr. Barroso met Executive Director Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle. Afterwards he addressed EFSA staff. While in Parma President Barroso also delivered a *Lectio Magistralis* on the Commission's 2020 strategy on invitation of the Collegio Europeo.

An EFSA delegation led by EFSA's Executive Director, Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle, met representatives from the European Consumers' Organisation (BEUC) and the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) at their premises in Brussels on 13th April. The agenda included discussions on topics such as engagement of stakeholders, nutrition, new technologies and data collection, to mention but a few.

On 10 May, the biannual Cibus international exhibition took place in Parma. The exhibition has seen the participation of buyers, industry representatives, experts and was attended by numerous Italian authorities. On the opening day of the fair, EFSA held the Conference "Can science and innovation build a more sustainable food chain", under the auspices of the Italian Government. The conference focused on the possible contribution of science and innovation in building up a more sustainable food chain. Commissioner Dalli delivered a keynote address entitled "Can innovation in the EU food industry meet the demands of EU consumers?".

EFSA participated in a series of European Parliament events such as the LUFPIG (Land Use and Food Policy Intergroup) conference on the application of the precautionary principle in the area of GMOs on 11 May.

The Stakeholder Platform held its plenary meeting on the 13th and 14th April in Brussels.

International Relations

On 10 March EFSA's Executive Director delivered a keynote speech "Engaging Stakeholders: the EFSA perspective" at the World Health Organisation's Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health "Protecting children's health in a changing environment" in Parma. In this context, EFSA jointly organised with WHO a side-event on 11 March focusing on the theme of "Seafood safety: Delivering the benefits of a healthy diet and reducing risks from environmental contamination".

On 11 March, EFSA received a delegation from the Canadian Ministry of Agriculture where EFSA's work programme and priorities were presented and views were exchanged on nutrition, health claims, genetically modified plants, and risk communication.

mb 17 06 10 item 3 doc 2 - ED progress report

On 27 April, EFSA received a delegation from the National Veterinary Institute of Norway to discuss risk assessment on animal health, feed additives and contaminants.

Within the framework of the Pre-Accession Programme for Candidate and Potential Candidate Countries, two Seminars were organised: one on 14/15 April in Turkey on “different approaches in Risk Analysis in Food Safety in the EU” and the other one on 11/12 May in Croatia on “Food Additives and Flavourings”; and experts from the 3 Candidate countries (Croatia, Turkey and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)) attended in total 7 EFSA meetings. EFSA also organised a Study Tour to the Spanish Food Safety Agency (AESAN) for 16 experts from Turkey and FYROM.

EFSA jointly organised with Commission’s services, the second EU seminar on food safety for the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) countries on 28/29 April in Ukraine focusing on “Handling food emergencies/crises in the food chain”.

Data Protection

EFSA DPO provided advice and support to ensure compliance with the Data Protection Regulation with respect to various policies such as EFSA Training Policy, EFSA Policy on the use of ICT resources, disciplinary proceedings and administrative inquiries, video surveillance at EFSA, etc.

Financial management

EUR 27.75 million or 38.0% of the EUR 73.00 million budget was committed. The commitment level stands 12 % below the target set for May (EUR 31.50 million) mainly due to postponement in launching and thereby committing data collection, scientific cooperation and networking activities (Activity 3). The delays incurred in launching these activities are expected to be absorbed during summer.

EUR 20.37 million or 27.5 % of the total appropriations were paid. This payment level stands 16 % above the target (EUR 17.50 million) due to close monitoring of the payment delays and earlier than expected financial closing of scientific meetings and scientific cooperation projects launched last year.

Year on year, the budget execution increased by EUR 4.12 million over the same period which represents an increase of 17 % (while the budget itself has increased by 7 % from EUR 68.5 million last year to EUR 73.0 million this year). The payments increased by EUR 4.97 million compared to last year which represents a noticeable 32% increase.

EUR	Commitment May 2010	Commitment May 2009	Increase	Payments May 2010	Payments May 2009	Increase
PERSONNEL	15.290.674	11.764.899	29,97%	13.826.537	10.521.118	31,42%
INFRASTRUCTURE	3.871.016	3.763.723	2,85%	1.980.152	1.858.608	6,54%
OPERATIONS	8.584.270	8.093.203	6,07%	4.563.346	3.018.281	51,19%
TOTAL	27.745.960	23.621.826	17,46%	20.370.035	15.398.007	32,29%

Accounting

EFSA’s 2009 provisional accounts were sent to EC accounting officer and Court of Auditors. The audit on EFSA’s 2009 provisional accounts were performed by the Court of Auditors in April 2010.

EFSA has executed more than 3700 payments between March and May 2010.

Human Resources

The level of external turn over from January 2010 to end-May 2010 was at 2.4%

55 training instances were organized since year start. This translates into 2.8 training days per staff member from January 2010

Staff Categories	End 2009	2010 Authorised EP	on 31 May 2010			Recruitment since year start	Departures since year start
			Total Contracted + Offered	Contracted Staff	Contracts Offered	Number of New Contracts	Departures
Temporary Agents and Officials							
<i>Executives, Managers & Officers (AD)</i>	183	203	193	189	4	11	3
<i>Assistants functions (AST)</i>	143	152	146	142	4	4	3
Total	326	355	339	331	8	15	6
Contract Agents			0				
<i>Officers functions (CA FG IV)</i>	34	40	29	29	0	2	1
<i>Assistants functions (CA FG I, II, III)</i>	35	45	49	45	4	6	0
Total	69	85	78	74	4	8	1
Seconded National Experts	12	20	13	13	0	4	3
Total all staff categories	407	460	430	418	12	27	10

Glossary

AF – Advisory Forum
AFC Panel – Panel on food additives, flavourings, processing aids and materials in contact with food
AMRGs – Antimicrobial resistance marker genes
ARM – Antimicrobial resistant marker
BfR – Federal Institute for Risk Assessment, Germany
BMD – Benchmark dose
CDC – Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (US)
CONT – Control committee
DG ENV – Directorate General Environment
DG RTD- Research Directorate General
DG SANCO – Directorate General for Health and Consumers
DHoU – Deputy Head of Unit
DOI – Declaration of Interest
DPO - Data Protection Officer
DNT- Development neuro-toxicity
EC – European Commission
ECDC – European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
EP – European Parliament
ESCO – EFSA Scientific Cooperation projects
FAO – Food and Agriculture Organization
FAQ – frequently asked questions
FDA – Food and Drug Administration (US)
FP – Focal Point
GD – Guidance Document
HoU – Head of Unit
HR – Human resources
IPA - Pre-accession Assistance
ITOP – IT& Operations Unit, EFSA
JRC – Joint Research Centre of the European Commission
LPA – Legal and Policy Affairs (EFSA)
MB – Management Board
MRL – Maximum residue levels
MEP – Member of Parliament
MS – EU Member States
OJ – Official Journal
PCB - Polychlorinated biphenyl (organic pollutants contaminating foods through the environment)
PRA – Pest risk assessment
QPS – Qualified Presumption of Safety
RASFF – Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed
SC – Scientific Committee
SCA – EFSA Scientific Cooperation & Assistance Directorate
SCO – EFSA Scientific Cooperation Unit
SCOFCAH / SCFCAH– Standing Committee on Food Chain and Animal Health
TDI – Tolerable daily intake
TSE – Transmissible spongiform encephalopathy
TTC – Threshold of toxicological concern
WG – Working Group
WTO – World Trade Organization