



*PROGRESS REPORT*

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**Stakeholders Consultative Platform meeting  
Brussels 17-18th November 2011**

## Panel on animal health and welfare (AHAW)

- 6 opinions adopted:
  - Epizootic Ulcerative Syndrome (EUS)
  - Meat inspection of swine (Co-adoption with BIOHAZ-CONTAM)
- 3 external reports related to procurement (animal-based indicators for welfare and meat inspection)



## Panel on biological hazards (BIOHAZ)

- 10 opinions adopted:
  - 2 on Food hygiene
  - 2 on Food-born zoonoses
  - Hatchery waste as animal by-products
  - Scientific Opinion on the risk posed by Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli (STEC) and other pathogenic bacteria in seeds and sprouted seeds (published on the 15<sup>th</sup> November)



## Panel on contaminants in the food chain (CONTAM)

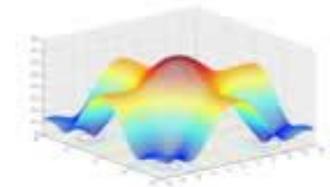
- 4 opinions adopted:
  - hexabromocyclododecanes in food
  - dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs in liver from sheep and deer
- 1 external report related to Article 36 grants (toxicity of 3-MCPD esters)

## Panel on plant health (PLH)

- 1 opinion adopted on: -solanaceous pospiviroids
- Public consultation of: -draft guidance document endorsed on environmental risk assessment of plant pests

## Scientific assessment support (SAS)

- Support the STEC crisis: -data collection, organisation and analysis of tracing information in the food supply chain  
-contributions to the drafting of STEC technical and scientific reports

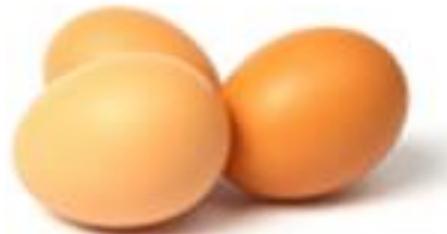


## Dietary and chemical monitoring (DCM)

- 1 scientific report on monitoring of furan levels in food
- 1 external report related to Art.36 grants (transmission of chemical occurrence data – Austria)

## Biological monitoring (BIOMO)

- 2 scientific reports on:
  - Temporal and spatial trends of zoonotic agents in animals and food
  - Epidemiological indicators on meat inspection of swine
- A technical report on: Shiga toxin/verotoxin-producing *Escherichia coli* in humans, food and animals in the EU/EEA, with special reference to the German outbreak strain STEC O104
- 2 external reports related to procurement (statistical analyses methods on antimicrobial resistance data and estimation of the relative contribution of different food and animal sources to human *Salmonella* infections in EU)



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

- 1 opinion:
  - Calcium Carbonate and E320
- 2 statements:
  - Calcium Lignosulfonate
  - Sunset Yellow FCF



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

- 16 opinions:
  - food contact materials (4)
  - flavouring substances (8)
  - smoke flavouring (2)
  - recycled plastics used in food contact (1)
- 1 report:
  - non-plastic food contact materials (ESCO WG)



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

- 33 opinions on feed additives



## Panel on genetically modified organisms (GMO)

- 2 opinions: GMO applications
- 7 technical reports:
  - Post-Market Environmental Monitoring MON810
  - Outcome public consultations (2)
  - Evaluation of trial GM microorganism application
- 1 guidance document: Post-Market Environmental Monitoring
- Scientific Opinion on GM insect resistant and herbicide tolerant maize MON 88017 for cultivation Scientific
- Statement on the safety of MON810 maize pollen occurring in or as food published on the 11<sup>th</sup> November
- Technical annual meeting between EFSA and NGOs on GMOs organized on the 29<sup>th</sup> November

# Scientific Evaluation of Regulated Products

## Panel on dietetic products, nutrition and allergies (NDA)

- 92 opinions adopted:
  - 78 opinions covering 571 health claims under Art.13
    - health claims (9), novel food (1)
    - exemptions for labelling of substances (3)
- 1 statement: « toothkind » juice drinks
- 1 guidance document: draft guidance health claims
- 4 technical reports: responses to comments on substantiation health claims
- 1 public consultation: draft opinion on dietary values for protein (launched in July 2011)



## Panel on protection products and their residues (PPR) and Pesticides (PRAS)

- 42 reasoned opinions on questions maximum residue level (MRL)
- 8 conclusions adopted on 8 actives substances
- 1 opinion on Dermal Absorption
- 3 reports on:
  - validity of CXL proposals for 22 pesticides
  - public consultation on Dermal Absorption
  - applicability of QSAR analysis for dietary risk assessment (external report)



## **51<sup>st</sup> Plenary meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC)**

- Discussions on the Science Strategy
- Overview of the procedures currently used at EFSA for the assessment of dietary exposure to the different chemical substances
- Draft Guidance on repeated-dose 90-day oral toxicity on all food and feed in rodents

## **Emerging risks (EMRISK)**

Publication of technical reports on: crisis preparedness and response; emerging risk identification; strategies for data collection for emerging risk identification; and Stakeholder activities on emerging risks.

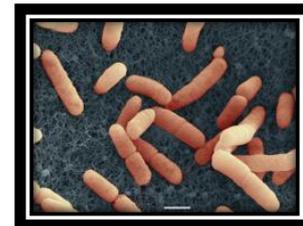
## **Advisory Forum and Scientific cooperation (AFSCO)**

- 41st Advisory Forum meeting. Discussions on: Science Strategy; data collection; risk communication guidelines; work of Scientific Committee; and lessons learnt from the E. coli outbreak.
- New pre-accession programme (Sept. 2011 – Sept. 2013) signed.
- 16<sup>th</sup> Scientific Colloquium - Emerging Risks in Plant Health: from plant pest interactions to global change took place in June with over 100 participants from 31 countries.

# STEC O104:H4 outbreaks

- **GERMANY** reported an ongoing outbreak of STEC O104:H4 (**21 May**):
  - 3126 cases of diarrhoeal disease (including **17 deaths**),
  - 773 cases of Haemolytic Uraemic Syndrome (including **29 deaths**),
  - A further 119 cases and 4 deaths also suspected as being linked to this outbreak
- **FRANCE** reported a cluster of patients with bloody diarrhoea (**24 June**):
  - 2 cases of diarrhoeal disease (and 4 suspected)
  - 9 cases of HUS
  - 11 of these patients attending the same event
  - Infection with *E.coli* O104:H4 confirmed in 12 patients
- **CAUSATIVE MICROORGANISM:** **Shiga-toxin producing**  
***Escherichia coli* (STEC) serotype O104:H4**

- Isolates from French outbreak  
**indistinguishable** from German one

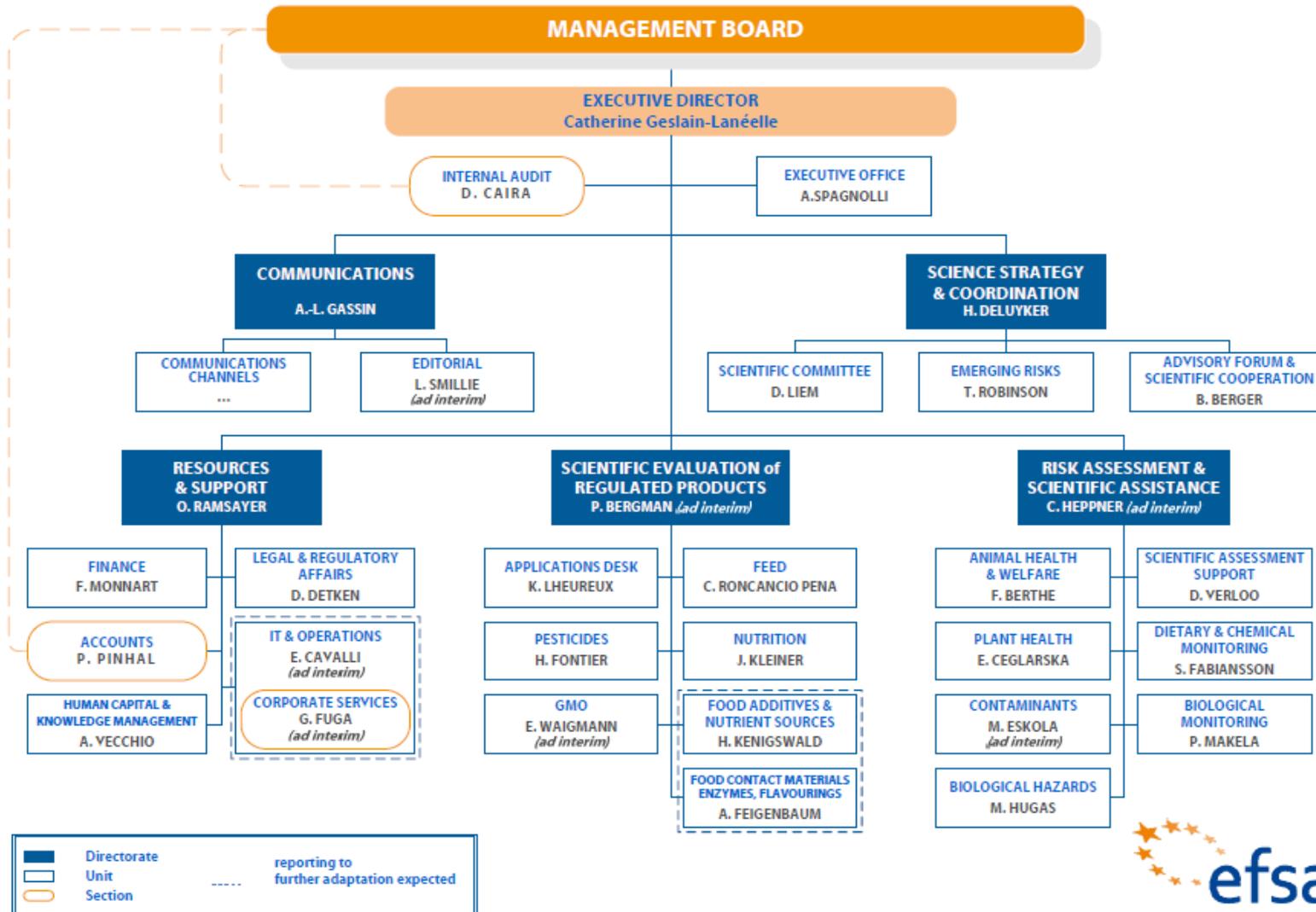


- **German outbreak.** EFSA supported EC and Germany
  - **Scientific Report of EFSA.** Urgent advice on the public health risk of Shiga-toxin producing *Escherichia coli* in fresh vegetables and **Joint EFSA/ECDC Technical Report** on Shiga toxin/verotoxin-producing *Escherichia coli* in humans, food and animals in the EU/EEA, with special reference to the German outbreak strain STEC O104 (**both published 9 June 2011**).
- **French outbreak.** EFSA set up a **Task Force** composed of experts from European Commission, concerned MS, WHO, ECDC and FAO
  - **Technical Report of EFSA.** Tracing seeds, in particular fenugreek seeds, in relation to the Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* (STEC) O104:H4 2011 Outbreaks in Germany and France (**5 July 2011**).
  - **Scientific Report of EFSA.** Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* (STEC) O104:H4 2011 outbreaks in Europe: Taking Stock (**3 October 2011**).

- The trace-back and trace-forward studies established one common link between all 41 of the German clusters and the French cluster: Import of **fenugreek seeds from Egypt** through a single importer in Germany.
- Lot 48088 of fenugreek seeds imported from Egypt was the common link for both outbreaks. Possible implication of other lots not discarded.
- **Commission implementing decision, 2011/402/EU (6<sup>th</sup> July 2011):**
  - Withdrawal from the EU market of all lots of fenugreek seeds imported from Egypt (2009-2011) and mentioned in the RASFF.
  - Temporary prohibition of all seeds and beans originated from Egypt.
- **Consumer advice (3 October, EFSA website)**
  - After tracing activities across the food chain have been completed, EFSA no longer advises *“not to grow sprouts for their own consumption and also not to eat sprouts or sprouted seeds unless they have been cooked thoroughly”* and recommends that consumers refer to national food safety agencies for any specific advice regarding sprout consumption.

# Update on the re-organization of EFSA

Organisational Structure on 01/11/2011



# The renewal of the EFSA Stakeholders Consultative Platform

- At its October meeting, the EFSA Management Board agreed to prolong the duration of the existing Stakeholders Consultative Platform membership until end of June 2012
- This will allow the process for the renewal to be carried out and finalized in compliance with the Terms of Reference approved in 2010

# State of play draft Policy on Independence

- Public consultation on draft endorsed by MB:
  - 25 contributors from stakeholders and civil society
  - 86 comments
- Stakeholder Workshop on 12 October:
  - Approx. 150 participants registered
  - Members of the European Parliament, Commissioner, national competent authorities, international partners, stakeholders actively participating
- Amended draft to the Board for discussion-adoption in December – implementation from 2012

# EFSA scientific strategy 2012-2016

- At the beginning of November 2011 in line with its policy on openness and transparency, EFSA has launched an online public consultation on its Draft Science Strategy 2012-2016: Deadline: 21<sup>st</sup> November.
- The document explains the scientific contribution EFSA will make to the European food safety system over the next five years, laying down strategic objectives to further drive scientific excellence and quality and optimise risk assessment capacity across the EU.
- Stakeholders and all interested parties are kindly invited to take part to the open consultation and provide their contributions

- On the 7th November EFSA's Executive Director addressed the ENVI Committee of the EP.
- The annual address provided an overview of EFSA's development and activities during the last year together with a focus on the incoming milestones and challenges.
- Main questions focused on our work in relation to: bisphenol A, aspartame, safety of honey containing MON 810 pollen, pesticide residues, cumulative risk assessment, safety of pesticide spraying on crops, dioxins and other chemical contaminants resulting from environmental pollution, and independence



# The independent external evaluation of EFSA

- External evaluation to be done in compliance with article 61 of the EFSA Founding Regulation 178/2002 to assess the working practices and the impact of EFSA
- Contract signed with the external evaluator in June 2011
- Inception report approved by the Steering Committee in September 2011
- Interim report approbation by the Steering Committee foreseen for December 2011
- Questionnaire and interviews to the stakeholders foreseen between January and June 2012

# Publications & Events

## Engaging in dialogue with the scientific community...

- Scientific Colloquium # 16 on Emerging Risks in Plant Health – From plant pest interactions to global change | 9-10 June
- SafePork 2011 – 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on the Epidemiology and Control of Biological, Chemical and Physical Hazards in Pigs and Pork | 19-22 June
- Dioxin 2011 – 31<sup>st</sup> International Symposium on Halogenated Persistent Pollutants | 21-25 August



## Visibility for EFSA's achievements

- Annual Report 2010
- Summary of Annual Report 2010



## ...and new editions of newsletters

- Moving Together
- EFSA in focus (Animals, Food, Plants)

## Cooperating within the EU and beyond...

- Scientific Cooperation between EFSA and Member States
- Food safety cooperation beyond borders (4 languages)



- EPPO
- Bulgarian Food Safety Agency (BFSA)
- Asia-Pacific Weeks (Berlin)
- Polish Presidency
- International Dairy Federation Summit 2011
- Visit to the Netherlands