

EFSA Stakeholder Consultative Platform

EFSA's Science and Communications plan Recent and forthcoming press activities

Parma, 21st July 2006

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European Food Safety Authority

GMO risk assessment - Strategy for co-operation with Member States

- **Covers on-going and future plans for co-operation with Member States in GMO risk assessment (published 22nd June):**
 - Enhancing existing involvement of Member States in GMO risk assessments
 - Co-operation with Member States in the further development of scientific approaches to risk assessment, such as long-term effects
 - Active dialogue with Member States on EFSA's GMO risk assessment processes and practices
- **Fact sheets published on EFSA's role in GMO process, independence and transparency**

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Ochratoxin A (OTA) in food

- Press Release on Opinion (9th June)
- Mycotoxin naturally produced by certain fungi such as *Penecillium* and *Aspergillus*
- OTA contamination of food commodities, e.g. cereals, pulses, coffee, grape juice, nuts, spices
- OTA accumulates in and particularly toxic to kidney
- CONTAM Panel derived a Tolerable Weekly Intake (TWI)
 - 120 ng per kg body weight
- Weekly exposure of general population – between 15 and 60 ng per kg bodyweight
- EFSA recommends continue reduction of OTA levels + establish monitoring programme to gather more specific exposure data for certain vulnerable groups.

EFSA Communication on consultations

- Consultation on approach of EFSA's GMO Panel in carrying out risk assessments on 'hybrid' GM plants (10th September).
- Public consultation on developing harmonised approach for the environmental risk assessment of additives used in animal feed (31st October)
- Public consultation on a Guidance Document for notifiers and Member States on how to conduct Risk Assessment for Birds and Mammals in risk assessment of active substances for pesticides (review Annex I of Directive 91/414/EEC) (1st September)
- Guidance now published on the risk assessment of GM microorganisms (6th July)

Avian Influenza (AI)

- Scientific report and press statement on AI and food safety – 23rd March
- Migratory birds Opinion and press release – 12th April
- EFSA Participation in EU level meetings on risk communication and AI (Commission meetings, EP Health and Consumer Intergroup and Friends of EU Presidency)
- Discussion of communications experiences in Advisory Forum Communications Working Group – 26th April

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Salmonella / Zoonoses

SPECIFICS

- Salmonella baseline study on laying hens (14th June)
- Comparative study of salmonella in laying hens – not eggs
BUT EFSA study estimated that 3% of eggs in infected laying hens are infected with salmonella.
- Significant media coverage in UK, Spain, Portugal and Poland + coverage in a few other countries
 - UK media angle – mainly on safety of imports
 - Spanish and other countries on general safety of eggs and possible import bans being imposed on exports
- Zoonoses: EFSA's AHAZ and BIOHAZ Panels will deliver opinion with recommendations to Council on previous zoonoses report (Press activities t.b.d. in September).

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Nutrition and health claims

- Pending adoption of Regulation on nutrition and health claims, communications activities to outline EFSA's work and contribution including:
 - Web new / "focus on the issues"
 - Press communications
 - Media information seminar on EFSA (incl. claims)
 - Announce/support EFSA Symposium (November)

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Rabies

- Some countries still have controls or stricter rules for the movement of pets between EU countries although animals have been vaccinated against rabies.
- Opinion will analyze efficacy of serological tests for rabies.
- Opinion expected Sept./October.

PRESS ACTIVITIES:

t.b.d. - October

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Captive birds

- Opinion will look into health and welfare of captive birds
- Evaluation will include avian influenza and other diseases
- Large market for import of captive birds

PRESS ACTIVITIES:

t.b.d. - October

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Bisphenol A

- Used as a monomer in polycarbonate articles and epoxy coatings in cans
- An endocrine disruptor
- Particular attention will be given to the exposure assessment of infants through migration of the substance from polycarbonate infants feeding bottles
- Re-evaluation requested by the Commission in the light of new toxicological study on low dose effects
- Final opinion to be adopted in September 2006

PRESS ACTIVITIES: t.b.d.

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Noni Juice

BACKGROUND

- Use authorised as a novel food ingredient in pasteurised fruit drinks since 2003
- Of public and media interest

EFSA'S EVALUATION

- NDA Panel reviewing its safety by considering
 - 3 case reports
 - the AGES opinion and
 - additional information
- EFSA does not evaluate any related Health Claim
- Adoption of the opinion expected in August

PRESS ACTIVITIES: press release planned

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BSE activities

Evaluation of the breeding programme for TSE resistance in small ruminants

- Will evaluate the degree of resistance of certain genotypes of small ruminants to TSE/BSE
- Will enable risk managers to set up breeding programmes which can increase resistance of small ruminants to TSE/BSE risk

Quantitative risk assessment for residual BSE risk in sheep

- Quantitative assessment of the risk of BSE in sheep products

PRESS ACTIVITIES:

Press release planned in July on TSE resistance

Possibly press release in October on QRA of BSE in sheep

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