



PROGRESS REPORT ON EFSA 's ACTIVITIES

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What I will address

- a) Highlights of EFSA 's activities since the last Meeting of the Platform in December
- b) Internal and External review of EFSA 's scientific activities
- c) Areas of further stakeholder involvement: nutrition, cloning, nanotechnology

Temporary MRLs for pesticides:

- Adoption of opinion on possible health risks from certain proposed residue levels
- First step in full EU harmonization of national maximum residue levels for pesticides in MSs
- MRLs have to be considered in relation to different MS food consumptions
- 92 active substance unlikely to pose risk, 144 need further considerations

CONTAM - Opinion on risks derived from higher permitted levels of aflatoxins in almonds, hazelnuts and pistachios:

- Scientific support to the EC in the context of discussion at meeting of Codex Alimentarius
- Recommendation to keep aflatoxin exposure as low as reasonably achievable by reducing exposure from the sources that are major contributors to total dietary exposure.

BLUETONGUE - INITIAL FINDINGS:

- Initial infection nearby Maastricht
- Exact cause of introduction unknown, interest of MSs in import risk assessment
- Number of cases over time influenced by changes of temperatures (also altitude and density)
- Local spread modeled and at a rate of 16km/week (animal movements and wind)
- Report published on EFSA's website

GMO:

- MON 863
- Public Consultation: Draft Report on the Safety and Nutritional assessment of GM Plant derived Foods/Feeds - The role of animal feeding trials - GMO Panel considering comments

BIOHAZ:

- Assessment of batch testing of TSE rapid test kit
- Opinion assessing AFSSA opinion on scrapie in sheep
- Article 36 – 1st call launched in April: salmonella in pigs

NDA - 2 mandates published on EFSA' s website

- Guidance document for application to authorization of health claims - Deadline July 2007
 - a) Public consultation via the website – May/June
 - b) “Working Group” of the Platform in June, involving experts from the Platform and experts from the NDA Panel and EFSA
 - c) Meeting of the Advisory Forum at the end of June
- Opinion on nutrient profiles – Deadline January 2008
 - a) Scientific Colloquium in September 2007

Consultation with Member States, Stakeholders and any other interested parties

PLH :

- 1st opinions of the Panel (citrus canker)

AFC:

- 8 opinions covering 12 different substances adopted
- Call for data: food colours – Deadline March 2007

- 3 Working Group meetings on review of EFSA' s scientific work quality
 - a) Mandate published on EFSA 's website
 - b) Consulting stakeholders on EFSA 's scientific opinions
- Joint EFSA-DG RTD:
 - a) update on activities and exploring areas of cooperation
- Working Group meeting on Transparency in Risk Assessment
 - a) Integrating the input from the Platform WG on Transparency in risk assessment

- **European Parliament:**
 - Appearance in front of ENVI committee – Feb 2007
 - Bilateral meeting with Chair ENVI committee
 - Scientific co-ordinators met rapporteurs on plant protection and food “improvement” agents package
- **German Presidency:** meeting with Federal Minister Seehofer and his services in Berlin in January and in March
- **European Commission:**
 - bilateral meetings with Commissioner Kyprianou and Commissioner Dimas
 - bilateral meetings with DG SANCO Director General
- **Meeting Portuguese Authorities:** collaboration during their Presidency term and in particular re the Food Safety Summit (Brussels, 22 November 2007)

- **EP- Council (Budgetary Authority):**
 - 2005 budget discharge granted – 24 April
 - hearing before the COBU Committee and Council in January 2007
- **Stakeholder meetings:** Trans-Atlantic Consumer Dialogue (TACD), Annual Meeting of the Retail Industry
- **Stakeholder Consultative Platform:**
 - relevant and meaningful input for EFSA
 - maximizing the opportunities that the Platform offers, i.e. working groups, special meeting on nutrition
 - webstreaming in the future

- Mandates will be posted on EFSA 's website – few mandates already available, i.e. nutrition, cloning, risk-benefit, internal and external review to mention few
- EFSA will use all opportunities to consult interested parties
- Social dialogue – parallel debates (experimental exercise)
- “Focal points” – MS involving stakeholders at the national level

Governance in the Risk Assessment process

THANK YOU

