European Food Safety Authority

Progress Report of EFSA's Activities

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EFSA 's Executive Director

Stakeholder Consultative Platform – Parma, 24 April 2008

Highlights 2007

- **Core business:**
  - EFSA 's outputs reach 665, with more than 200 adopted in 2007 alone
  - In the area of food additives, food contact materials, feed additives, GMOs, food allergies and novel foods1552 applications were completed
- **Capability/ capacity:**
  - Number of staff employed reaches 300 (91% of the establishment plan) – today we are 325 staff members
  - Responsiveness: EFSA's accelerated procedures
- **Credibility:**
  - Declaration of Interests (DOIs) processes are strengthened
  - Scientific Committee proposes quality review process for scientific outcomes – implementation plan in 2008/09

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Highlights 2007

- **Cooperation:**

  - Implementation of the strategy for scientific co-operation and networking / ESCO WGs
  - The Scientific Cooperation & Assistance Department (SCA) becomes operational
  - Article 36: 12 calls were issued in 2007– 21 call are planned for 2008
  - 18 Focal Point agreements were signed – today we have already 22 focal points agreements and more in the pipeline
  - Landmark confidentiality agreement is signed with the US FDA

- **Coherence:**

  - Communication
  - Dialogue with the Commission/EP/Council and MSs
  - Press coverage increases by 60%
  - EFSA website is re-launched with steady growth in traffic

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Main outcomes of 5th anniversary activity, Scientific Forum and Summit

Main achievements of EFSA

- The separation of risk assessment and risk management works and brings added value
- The principles of operation of EFSA are essential to achieve its mission: scientific excellence, independence, transparency, inclusiveness and responsiveness
- Co-operation with Member States and competent authorities in MSs is crucial
- Involvement of all interested parties: meeting the needs and expectations of risk managers and of stakeholders
- EFSA's unique integrative approach and multidisciplinary character is instrumental in reducing risk to the entire European food chain

New challenges :

- Addressing workload (increasing requests for risk assessments – prioritisation)
- EFSA has to adapt to changing conditions and new challenges (i.e. trade, movement of people, climate, new detection methods, …)
- Increased role of science – new areas: nutrition, animal health, environmental RA of GMOs, risk benefit analysis

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Key objectives for 2008

- Continue to deliver the best scientific advice in a timely manner, in a context of increasing workload (X2)
- Build on the quality of EFSA's scientific outputs
- Be at the forefront of Risk Assessment methodologies in Europe
- Enhance the dialogue with our stakeholders and the impact and effectiveness of EFSA communications
- Positioning of EFSA in the international food safety environment

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How to achieve these objectives

- Strengthen the scientific (and administrative) support to the panels and Scientific Committee
- Streamline our procedures/processes
- Develop the scientific cooperation with Member States and strengthen EFSA's network with the 27 National Agencies
- Further improve the RA methodologies and monitor the quality of EFSA's scientific output
- Strategy on building visibility of scientific work, strategy on targeted communication

FURTHER IMPROVE THE GOVERNANCE OF THE ORGANISATION

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Enhancing the scientific activities

- **2 SCIENTIFIC DIRECTORATES**

- Directorate of Risk Assessment:

  -support to 9 (10) Scientific Panels

- Directorate of Scientific Cooperation and Assistance:

  - Scientific Cooperation with the Member States
  - *Support to the Directorate of Risk Assessment*
  - Data Collection and Exposure, Emerging Risks, Assessment Methodology

- **SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE & ADVISORY FORUM UNIT**

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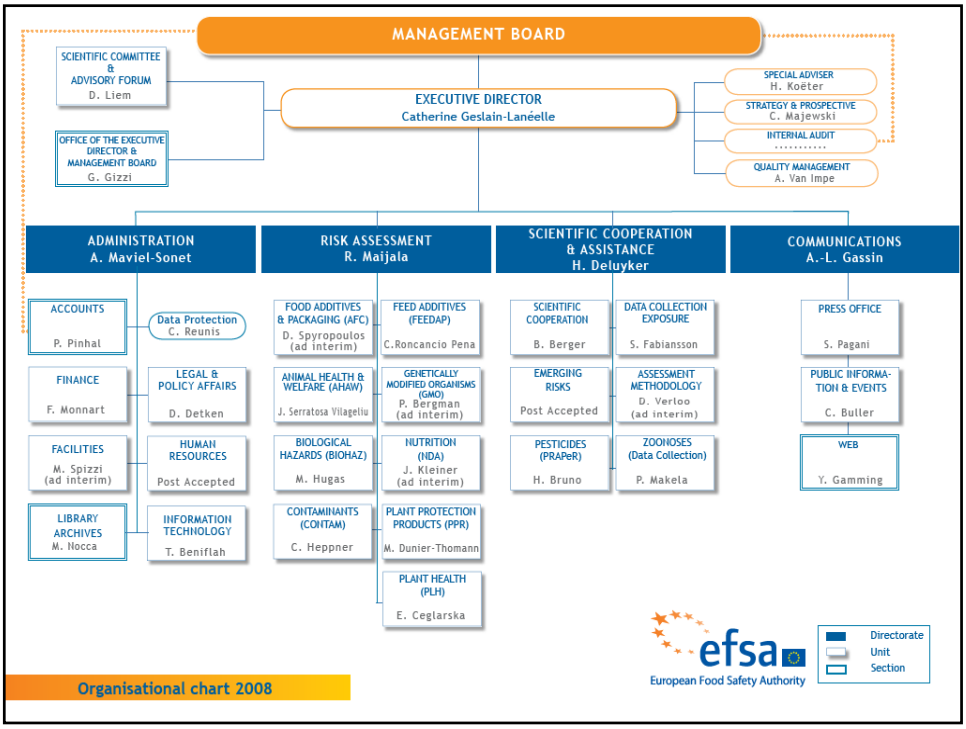
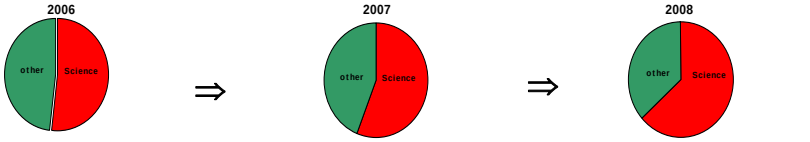


Enhancing the scientific activities

Staff allocation by Directorate

	2008	*2008/2006*
Scientific activities (R.A.- SCA - SC&AF)	253	**X2**
Communications	41	**X2**
Administration	105	+22%
TOTAL staff		**+ 81%**



51 % **55 %** **61 %**

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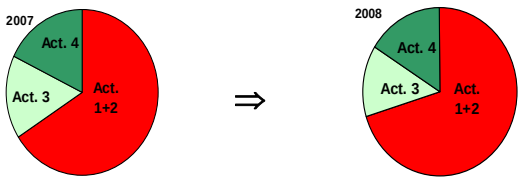
Enhancing the scientific activities

Budget by activity

Budget by activity (M€)	**2007 Budget**	2008 Budget
1- Provide scientific advice	25.2	32.7
2- Enhancing RA method.	9.1	13.5
3- Communicate scientific advice	8.6	9.0
4- ADMIN support	9.3	10.7
TOTAL	**52.2**	**65.9**

66 % **70 %**



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An EFSA fit for purpose

- In-house scientific capacity increased and structured to focus on quality and delivery: supporting the experts and underpinning the credibility of the RAs
- Greater partnership with the Scientific Committee and the MSs: data collection, Article 36, cooperation working groups etc – more coherence, less duplication of effort
- Building an EFSA with the capability and capacity to work effectively and in cooperation with MS to strengthen the European food safety system
- Strengthening the dialogue with our stakeholders – better understanding of your needs and expectations and having greater access to input/data from stakeholder groups

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Food Safety and EFSA at a turning point

Food safety today – a few observations:

- An increasingly globalised food trade
- Impact of climate change - animal or plant diseases may occur in areas where they have never been reported before, i.e. blue tongue
- Science and technology advances, i.e. new detection methods - risk assessment methodologies have to be regularly re-visited in light of new evidence
- Socio-democratic changes, i.e. aging population, lifestyle,…

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Looking at the future

- In EFSA we have started to look into the future to enable us to better protect public health in 5 years time (2013)
- EFSA 's strategic plan is in preparation - will be submitted to our Management Board later this year and will give direction to the Authority over the coming years
- In the process of developing this strategic plan extensive consultation will be carried out by EFSA, including consultation of stakeholders
- Few possible key priority areas were identified so far

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Looking forward: possible areas for 2009-2013

1. Continue to provide an integrated approach to delivering scientific advice associated with the food chain from field to plate.
2. Provide timely, high-quality evaluation of products, substances and claims subject to the regulatory authorisation process.
3. Develop and provide access to unique pan-European scientific databases related to food and feed safety and nutrition.
4. Position EFSA at the forefront of risk assessment methodologies and practices in Europe and internationally.
5. Reinforce dialogue with the stakeholders and promote safe and healthy dietary choices through pan-European science-based risk communication
6. Assure the responsiveness, efficiency and effectiveness of EFSA.

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Thank you for your kind attention







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