European Food Safety Authority

Update on Progress: achievements and looking ahead

Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle

Executive Director

EFSA's Work Priorities

4 main activities for 2007-2008:

- Provide scientific opinions and advice to the European Institutions and the Member States
- Enhance risk assessment methodologies in Europe
- Communicate scientific advice and build dialogue with interested parties
- Exercise sound management and efficient use of resources.

EFSA has to be flexible – assessing and adjusting priorities as risks change

Core Business – Risk Assessment

- 180 Opinions and Reports this year to date – 140 Opinions in 2006 – 500 Opinions since 2003
- Key-opinions: colours (Red 2 G), smoke flavourings, plant health (citrus canker)
- Key consultation process: nutrition – seals

Increasing workload year on year

Complexity and urgency of questions rising

Capacity and Capability

- Priority setting
- Reinforcement of support to SC/Panels
- Split of AFC Panel
- Outsourcing
- Article 36 Network – grants – 10 projects launched to date
- Networking and co-operation with Member States – utilise expert resources in MSs

Co-operation with Member States

- "Focal points“ agreements
- Joint-events with Member States in 2007: raising visibility- presentation of EFSA‘s activities in MSs
- Key forefront projects agreed by the AF and further implementation by EFSA – ESCO Projects
- EFSA reinforcing its internal organization: SCA Department - dedicated Unit to Scientific Co-operation

Co-operation gets more concrete: ESCO Projects

- Projects with MSs have been initiated on the following areas:

✓ fortification of food with folic acid

✓ Harmonisation of methodologies for RA

✓ Chemical occurrence

✓ Emerging risks

✓ Nanotechnology

Co-operation with EU Agencies and International partners

- Confidentiality agreement with US FDA signed in July
- International arrangements with Japan, China and Australia and New Zealand in the pipeline
- Benefiting from the expertise of world-wide experts, i.e, nutrient profiles, seals, nanotechnology, cloning
- Co-operation with ECDC, EMEA, ECHA

Confidence – "open to scrutiny“

- Independence - Strengthening processes around DOIs – new procedures adopted by the MB
- Responsiveness – accelerated procedures endorsed by MB
- Scientific excellence = internal and external review of scientific output

Continuous and new challenges

- Addressing the workload – focus of Work Plan 2008
- New challenges: innovative technologies, international trade, climate change, increasingly sensitive detection methods, new emerging risks
- Risk communication – Coherence – simpler, timely and accurate information

Conclusions: Present and future

- **EFSA = scientific excellence – coherence on communications**
- **EFSA = flexible**, i.e. adjusting priorities – protection of health as driven factor of priority setting
- **EFSA = pro-active**, i.e. blue tongue, melamine
- **EFSA = vigilant**, i.e.salmonella, BSE/TSE,..

Celebrations: 5th anniversary

- 5th Anniversary celebrations with authorities and citizens – Parma, week of 1st October
- Portuguese Presidency– Jointly organisation of the Food Safety Summit – 22 November
- Celebrations 5th Anniversary - Brussels,19-22 November

  Involvement of the SH Platform is key – co-ordinated input to EFSA‘s celebrations