

SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION UNIT

Parma, 20 October 2009  
EFSA/FP/M/2009/056/PUB/FIN

**Minutes**  
**SIXTH MEETING BETWEEN FOCAL POINTS AND EFSA**  
**PARMA (ITALY), 9-10 SEPTEMBER 2009**

**Participants**

Chair: Bernhard Berger

Austria	<i>Johann Steinwider</i>	Latvia	<i>Dace Santare</i>
Belgium	<i>Laurence Ballieux</i>	Lithuania	<i>Albertas Barzda</i>
Bulgaria	<i>Teri Vrabcheva</i>	Luxembourg	<i>Nathalie Welschbillig</i>
Cyprus	<i>Maria Manoli</i>	Malta	<i>Flavia Zammit</i>
Czech Republic	<i>Petr Benes</i>	Netherlands	<i>Jacqueline Castenmiller</i>
Denmark	<i>Arne Büchert</i>	Poland	<i>Iwona Wisniewska</i>
Estonia	<i>Piret Priisalu</i>	Portugal	<i>Manuel Barreto Dias</i>
Finland	<i>Kirsi-Maarit Siekkinen</i>	Romania	<i>Valentin Cristian Lis</i>
France	<i>Philippe Prigent</i>	Slovakia	<i>Marica Theiszova</i>
Germany	<i>Michaela Nürnberg</i>	Slovenia	<i>Blaza Nahtigal</i>
Greece	<i>Eirini Tsigarida</i>	Spain	<i>Cristina Alonso-Andicoberry</i>
Hungary	<i>Judit Sali</i>	Sweden	<i>Anita Strömberg</i>
Ireland	<i>Anne-Marie Boland</i>	United Kingdom	<i>Alisdair Wotherspoon</i>
Italy	<i>Luca Busani</i>		

**Observers and Invitees**

Croatia	<i>Zorica Jurković</i>	Norway	<i>Danica Grahek-Ogden</i>
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	<i>Marina Popovska-Domazetova</i>	Switzerland	<i>Judith Beck</i>
Germany	<i>Kerstin-Heike Kühne</i>	Turkey	<i>Emine Güher Çeltek</i>

**Staff of the European Food Safety Authority**

<i>Bernhard Berger</i>	<i>Goran Kumrić</i>
<i>Stef Bronzwaer</i>	<i>François Monnart</i>
<i>Christoph Buller</i>	<i>Torben Nilsson</i>
<i>Sharon Cheek</i>	<i>Ilias Papatryfon</i>
<i>Hubert Deluyker</i>	<i>Sérgio Potier Rodeia</i>
<i>Paul Dragan</i>	<i>Finn Sheye</i>
<i>Herman Fontier</i>	<i>Carola Sondermann</i>
<i>Yenny Gamming</i>	<i>Andras Szoradi</i>
<i>Caterina Gozzi</i>	

**1 WELCOME AND OPENING OF THE MEETING**

Bernhard Berger from EFSA's Scientific Cooperation Unit (SCO) opened the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting between Focal Points (FPs) and EFSA. He expressed his appreciation that representatives from all 27 Member States (MS), Norway and Switzerland participated at this meeting. In addition, the Chair welcomed the participation of representatives from Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey as well as those MS representatives who attended a FP meeting for the first time. The Chair also introduced the two new staff members at SCO.

**2 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Three new items were raised by FPs under Any Other Business (AOB), namely: i) risk assessment seminar in Finland, ii) request from Poland concerning invitations to EFSA meetings and iii) a list of remarks/comments for discussion submitted by France. As most of the comments raised by France under AOB were in relation to items on the agenda of this meeting it was therefore suggested and agreed to discuss them when arriving to the relevant item on the agenda. EFSA raised one additional item under AOB, namely: iv) request from EFSA's PRAPeR Unit to support EFSA's high workload in the Pesticide Risk Assessment Peer Review Programme in 2010.

Participants were reminded that FPs should not hesitate to contact SCO whenever they feel a topic/subject would be of interest for discussion at a FP Meeting. As no subject of particular interest has been raised by FPs under agenda item 7, the Chair suggested having a short discussion with participants on what items/subjects to place on the agenda of future FP meetings. The agenda was adopted without further comments from participants.

The draft minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> FP Meeting were distributed to FPs in June 2009. The minutes were approved without comments from participants and shall shortly be placed on the EFSA website. Participants were reminded that EFSA needs to receive written approval of the draft minutes by at least two-thirds of participants to allow the minutes to be placed on the web before the next meeting.

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Declarations of Interests, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest (ADoI) filled in by the participants invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the beginning of this meeting.

### **3 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF NEW PARTICIPANTS**

#### **3.1 Pre-Accession Programme between Candidate Countries and EFSA**

Goran Kumrić, from EFSA's Legal and Policy Affairs Unit, introduced the Pre-Accession Programme between Candidate as well as Potential Candidate Countries of the EU and EFSA. The beneficiaries of the Programme are Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey as Candidate Countries and, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo (under UNSC Resolution 1244), Montenegro and Serbia as Potential Candidate Countries. The overall objective of EFSA's Pre-Accession Programme is to promote the understanding of EFSA's work in these countries; to share experience; to create information exchange mechanisms and to ensure that the national authorities of these countries can participate effectively in the activities of EFSA both before and after EU accession. The Programme is financed by the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) of the EU. The 2009-2010 Work Programme comprises a series of workshops, study visits and seminars in various areas within EFSA's remit.

Finn Sheye, from EFSA's Legal and Policy Affairs Unit, introduced EFSA's work with the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) partner countries. The first seminar between the EU food safety bodies and the ENP partner countries took place in July 2009 and two follow-up regional seminars are planned in the course of 2010.

As part of the subsequent discussion it was noted that EFSA would much appreciate if FPs could help, from time to time, in the identification of national experts to speak at Pre-Accession workshops/seminars organised in one of the beneficiary countries or to help in finding a suitable study tour location in their home country.

#### **3.2 Croatia**

Zorica Jurković, Director of the Croatian Food Agency, presented the food safety system in Croatia and the role of the Croatian Food Agency (HAH).

### 3.3 Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Marina Popovska-Domazetova, Director of the Food Directorate at the Ministry of Health, presented the legal framework of food safety in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

### 3.4 Turkey

Emine Güher Çeltek, EU expert at the Foreign Affairs and EU Coordination Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, presented the regulatory framework of food safety in Turkey.

## 4 FOCAL POINT ACTIVITIES 2009

### 4.1 Article 36 list and Extranet platform

Ilias Papatryfon from SCO gave an update on the Article 36 activities. Calls for proposals under Article 36 of Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002 for 2009 have been published on the EFSA website (13 calls in total).

The 2010 Work Programme for grants and procurement is currently under preparation and is expected to be adopted by EFSA's Management Board later this year. The budget foreseen for grants and procurement in 2010 is expected to be similar with the figures for 2009.

In the course of 2009 EFSA will carry out an evaluation of its grants and procurement activities. The evaluation methodology is at present under development and the evaluation is expected to be finalised in early 2010.

An Article 36 Extranet workspace is currently under preparation and is expected to be launched later this year. The objective of the platform is to facilitate networking amongst Article 36 organisations and with EFSA, and to enhance the project implementation of signed grant agreements. It was noted that once the platform is fully operational EFSA would still publish the calls for proposals on its website. A database of Article 36 organisations - to facilitate the management of the Article 36 list - is also currently under development and, similar to the Article 36 Extranet workspace, it is expected to be launched later this year.

In relation to the Article 36 list FPs are kindly requested to review the list for their country in close cooperation with the competent organisations: to ensure correct presentation of the organisations' names on the published list; to correct spelling errors; to give the full name of the organisation and not only the acronym; to provide the names also in English; to harmonise use of capital letters; to arrange the order of different levels within a name from high to low (e.g. University/Institute/Faculty/Department, etc.); and in general to harmonise the presentation of the different entities within a MS. In case a MS sees the need for modifications/corrections, it is strongly advised to liaise with SCO beforehand for the provision of support in case of doubts or uncertainties.

As part of the discussion some FPs raised whether it would be possible for EFSA to disclose the name of organisations applying for a particular call once the evaluation of proposals has been completed. In addition it was also raised whether it would be possible for EFSA to modify the procedure it has in place for answering call specific questions.

Caterina Gozzi, Legal Officer at EFSA, noted that EFSA cannot disclose the name of organisations unsuccessful in a call, which is in line with EU data protection requirements, while the information on the successful applicants is already made publicly available on EFSA's website. Efforts will be made to provide this information faster by more frequently updating the Status of Calls for Proposals table<sup>1</sup> on the EFSA website. It was also clarified that the procedure EFSA has in place for answering call specific questions might be strict and time consuming, but it ensures the equal treatment of applicants and equal access to information, following standard EU rules and procedures.

FPs have expressed their appreciation for the new IT tools. The Article 36 training linked to this FP meeting was found very useful and some FPs would be interested in attending a follow-up training session on Article 36, in particular to explore the new IT tools once they are being launched.

*Action 1: FPs, in collaboration with Article 36 organisations, to review the Article 36 list for their country and to notify SCO, via the Article 36 mailbox ([cooperation.article36@efsa.europa.eu](mailto:cooperation.article36@efsa.europa.eu)), in case they see the need for modifications/corrections and to agree on the necessary follow-up actions.*

*Action 2: SCO to investigate the possibility of follow-up training sessions on Article 36.*

#### 4.2 Country Profiles – feedback and progress

Michaela Nürnberg, from the German FP, presented the state of play in relation to the BfR's "EU Food Safety Almanac". Content wise the Almanac will begin with the presentation of the EU food safety system and its players, while the bulk of the document will describe the national food safety system in 30 European countries (27 MS, Iceland, Norway and Switzerland), with a particular emphasis on risk assessment. The Almanac will be available both in English and German. The final commenting on all country profiles had been set at 31 July 2009. All comments received by then have been incorporated in the version circulated to FPs on 13 August 2009. The first version of the Almanac is expected to be available as hard copy in October 2009. In addition to the printed copies the document will also be available on the website of BfR. In order to thank the support of FPs and EFSA the following text will appear in the preface of the document from Prof. Andreas Hensel, the President of BfR: "*During the preparation of this EU Almanac the Federal Institute for Risk Assessment benefited from the excellent and effective support from the EFSA Focal Points and EFSA itself. I would like to express my sincere thanks for their contribution.*"

As part of the subsequent discussion Michaela Nürnberg confirmed that comments received after 31 July 2009 were continuously taken on board and will be reflected in the final version to be sent to press. As it is the last FP meeting before the document goes to press, the Chair suggested sharing the latest version of the document before the end of this meeting.

Torben Nilsson, from the Scientific Committee & Advisory Forum Unit, suggested informing EFSA's Advisory Forum (AF) on the progress made with the country profiles.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/cs/BlobServer/resource\\_EFSA/partners/art36/art36status.pdf?ssbinary=true](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/cs/BlobServer/resource_EFSA/partners/art36/art36status.pdf?ssbinary=true)

It was also noted that the country profiles of the three Candidate Countries could also be included. It was noted again that the AF has asked FPs to be involved in the update of the Almanac, the first of which is scheduled to take place six months after the first version is published. It was also agreed at the meeting that the final country profiles would be uploaded onto the Information Exchange Platform (IEP) by SCO.

At the end of the meeting Michaela Nürnberg informed participants that the latest version of the country profiles are available to FPs to take home and to send final comments within the next few days.

*Action 3: FPs to send final comments on the country profiles within the next few days to the German FP.*

*Action 4: German FP to explore whether to inform the AF on the progress made with the country profiles.*

*Action 5: SCO to upload all country profiles on the IEP after publication of the Almanac by BfR.*

#### 4.3 Work Programmes

Paul Dragan from SCO presented an Excel based reporting table by which FPs may exchange information on work plans. The objective of the reporting table is to collect information in a clear and concise manner on all those national risk assessment activities that have not yet started, but are expected to start in the near future. As a first step FPs were asked to look at the table and to send any comments they may have by the end of September 2009. Once the final version of the reporting table is made available, FPs will be asked to fill in the table until the end of October 2009. In the pilot phase of the project the table should only be filled in for the FP organisation in each country and the focus should clearly be on sharing information on planned risk assessment activities. For clarification purposes it was noted that Article 36 projects or those under the EU FP6 and FP7 of DG Research would not need to be reported. It was also emphasised that no backfilling of the reporting table will be requested. The first compiled report on work plans is expected to be delivered by the end of this year.

*Action 6: FPs to look at the draft reporting table and to send any comments to the Scientific Cooperation mailbox ([scientific.cooperation@efsa.europa.eu](mailto:scientific.cooperation@efsa.europa.eu)) by 25 September 2009.*

*Action 7: SCO to finalise the reporting table based on comments received from FPs.*

*Action 8: FPs to fill in the table until the end of October 2009.*

*Action 9: SCO to deliver the first report on shared planned activities by the end of the year.*

#### 4.4 Focal Point Reporting 2009

Andras Szoradi from SCO presented the most important features and timelines of the 2009 FP Reporting exercise. The exact reporting periods, as agreed with FPs, are presented below:

- the description of tasks should cover the entire year (1 January 2009 – 31 December 2009);
- the statement of resources used should cover the period between the date of signature of the FP Agreement and 31 October 2009 (15 November 2009 being the deadline for submitting the reports);
- the statement of resources planned/estimated should cover the period between 1 November 2009 and 31 December 2009.

It was agreed that FPs would be given 7-8 weeks to fill in the reporting template and to send the report together with the necessary supporting documents (e.g. copies of invoices, pay slips, etc.) to SCO by 15 November 2009 at the latest. It was noted that following the submission of the 2009 reports by FPs, SCO will analyse and compile the reports and will present the 2009 Summary Report to FPs in January 2010 and to members of the AF in February 2010.

As part of the discussion on financial matters François Monnart, Head of EFSA's Finance Unit, reiterated that according to the EU Financial Regulations, to which EFSA is legally bound, it is not possible for FPs to recover expenses having occurred before the signature of the 2009 FP Agreement. In case the date of signature of the FP and the date of signature of EFSA is different the latter shall be the date of reference. It was also confirmed that in countries where the local currency is not EUR the exchange rates established by the European Central Bank (ECB) shall be used.

As part of the discussion on the activities reporting it was agreed that at the time of launching the 2009 reporting, SCO would circulate the list of e-mail messages sent to FPs in order to facilitate the reporting of FPs.

Christoph Buller, Head of EFSA's Public Information and Events Unit, presented the table annexed to the 2009 FP reporting template. The objective of the table is to obtain an understanding to whom information from EFSA is further distributed to by FPs. Mapping the target audience in different MS would help EFSA to streamline its communication activities.

As part of the discussion on the Annex a number of FPs have noted that it would be difficult for them to fill in the table as presented for the following reasons: i) the FP e-mail lists are long and exhaustive; ii) the documents, in general, are distributed further and FPs have no knowledge and influence to whom they are being forwarded; and iii) in cases when documents are disseminated via national FP web pages, no information is available who has accessed or viewed the information on these sites. For the above reasons and arguments it was agreed that the elements of the table in the Annex would simply be taken as an indication of the level of information EFSA would like to have. FPs may therefore provide feedback, either through a text description of whom they reach today or by using the table in the Annex or a modified version of it to meet the various situations FPs are faced with.

*Action 10: SCO to launch the 2009 reporting exercise in the second half of September 2009 and to send the list of e-mail messages sent to FPs in order to facilitate the reporting of FPs.*

*Action 11: FPs to submit their FP Report by 15 November 2009.*

*Action 12: SCO to analyse and compile the reports and to present the Summary Report to FPs in January 2010 and to members of the AF in February 2010.*

*Action 13: SCO to circulate a document from EFSA's Communications Directorate summarising to whom EFSA is distributing information.*

#### 4.5 Expert Database

Sérgio Potier Rodeia from SCO updated FPs on the past, present and planned activities in relation to EFSA's Expert Database (EDB). By 5 September 2009, 1831 applications have been received. In the course of June 2009 the first anniversary of the EDB was celebrated. On the occasion an e-mail was sent to all experts included in the EDB thanking for their availability to cooperate with EFSA, and simultaneously informing them that the EDB data protection notices were updated to further clarify who are the external end-users of the EDB search tool – the AF and FP representatives of MS, the EEA/EFTA countries and the European Commission. In order to further populate the EDB, invitations have been sent to over 400 experts participating in the 2009 renewal of EFSA's Scientific Committee and Panels. Shortlisted candidates from the call for external review experts (INEX call) will be invited to join the EDB in the course of autumn 2009. FPs were further encouraged to identify national expert databases or national networks of experts operating within EFSA's remit, if not already done so, to further promote the EDB. SCO will contact relevant FPs individually about further actions on input received so far. In addition, EFSA will continue its ongoing cooperation with European agencies and international organisations like ECDC, ECHA, EPPO, FAO, OIE, etc. in an attempt to further populate the EDB. It was noted that information such as the use of the EDB by end-users, the coverage offered by the database in the different fields of expertise or the distribution of available nationalities, will be summarised in an Annual Report by year end. For collecting such information an EDB user survey will be initiated in autumn 2009 and FPs will kindly be requested to provide their feedback.

*Action 14: FPs to identify national expert databases and/or networks of experts, if not already done so, and inform SCO via the Scientific Cooperation mailbox ([scientific.cooperation@efsa.europa.eu](mailto:scientific.cooperation@efsa.europa.eu)).*

*Action 15: SCO to contact FPs individually about further actions on input received so far concerning national expert databases or networks of experts.*

*Action 16: SCO to launch the EDB user feedback survey in autumn 2009.*

*Action 17: FPs to respond to the EDB user feedback survey.*

*Action 18: SCO to prepare and present the EDB Annual Report at the next FP meeting January 2010.*



#### 4.6 Information Exchange Platform (IEP)

Bernhard Berger from SCO presented some key figures on the IEP. By the end of August 2009, 393 documents have been uploaded onto the IEP of which the majority (260) are Scientific Opinions. Technical reports account for the second largest group with 71 documents. At the last AF meeting it was agreed to grant read-only access to individuals nominated by members of the AF. At the next AF meeting in September 2009 it is proposed to grant read-only access to members of EFSA's Scientific Committee and Panels and for members of EFSA Networks. Following the planned assessment of the IEP in 2010, additional user groups would also be given access and the possible further use of the IEP report will be revisited. It was reiterated that for the time being the monthly IEP reports should not be uploaded onto the national FP web pages. SCO is currently reflecting whether to organise another meeting of the IEP WG to take place in the beginning of 2010 to discuss the redesign of the tool.

As part of the discussion it was noted that in case read-only users would like to have some document uploaded onto the IEP the users would each time have to go via the FPs to have them uploaded. To make sure that only relevant documents are uploaded the user group with an upload function shall remain limited (FPs and SCO). It was noted that in case of need SCO can support FPs in uploading documents onto the IEP. In the subsequent part of the discussion a number of technical comments/remarks have been raised for discussion at the next IEP WG meeting (beginning of 2010).

*Action 19: SCO to propose to the AF to grant access to members of the Scientific Committee and Panels of EFSA and EFSA networks and to provide feedback on the decision of the AF on this.*

*Action 20: SCO to consider organising the next meeting of the IEP WG in the beginning of 2010.*

### 5 RELEVANT ISSUES FROM THE AF MEETING

Torben Nilsson informed participants on relevant issues from the AF Meeting held in Prague (24-25 June 2009). The minutes of the meeting in Prague are already available on EFSA's website.

### 6 COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES

Christoph Buller informed participants on EFSA's communications activities, including new and forthcoming publications, press activities and upcoming events. FPs have been informed that key documents like the EFSA Annual Report and its summary or the EFSA Strategic Plan 2009-2013 will be made available in all 23 official languages of the EU.

Now that all EU27 FPs have dedicated national FP web pages, Yenny Gamming, Team Leader of EFSA's Web Team, presented best practices in online communication. As part of the presentation FPs have been informed on how to ensure that the EFSA content presented on the national FP websites are kept up-to-date. It was emphasised that in accordance with EFSA's guidelines on corporate identity the acronym of EFSA remains the same in all languages. Web banners on the EFSA website may be used on the national

FP web pages as a tool to establish direct links to the relevant pages on the EFSA website. Upon request EFSA can supply the text appearing on the banners in any of the 23 official languages of the EU. In order to respect copyrights of images/pictures presented on the EFSA website, FPs were reminded to contact EFSA's Communications Directorate ([ester.nonis@efsa.europa.eu](mailto:ester.nonis@efsa.europa.eu)) whenever there is a desire to use one or more of these images/pictures on a national FP web pages. The new online subscription service to EFSA newsletters has also been presented as a tool for targeted communication.

## **7 SUBJECT(S) RAISED BY FOCAL POINTS**

As no subject of particular interest has been raised by FPs under agenda item 7, the initial idea was to have a short discussion with participants on what items/subjects to place on the agenda of future FP meetings. The Chair invited FPs to inform SCO, via the Scientific Cooperation mailbox (if possible 5 weeks in advance of the next meeting), of any items/subjects that could be of mutual interest for other FPs and EFSA.

*Action 21: FPs to inform SCO, via the Scientific Cooperation mailbox ([scientific.cooperation@efsa.europa.eu](mailto:scientific.cooperation@efsa.europa.eu)), if possible 5 weeks in advance of the next meeting, of any items/subjects that could be of mutual interest for other FPs and EFSA.*

## **8 DISSEMINATION OF SCIENTIFIC OUTPUTS**

### **8.1 EFSA Journal – new web area**

The Chair suggested postponing the presentation and discussion on the *EFSA Journal* to the next FP meeting in January 2010.

*Action 22: SCO to place the EFSA Journal on the agenda of the next meeting in January 2010.*

### **8.2 AFSSA – Journal of Reference**

Philippe Prigent, from the French FP, introduced the *AFSSA Journal of Reference* to participants of this meeting. The journal is published in English and the first issue was released in June 2009 and the second issue is foreseen later this year. Regular sections of the journal include: i) designation of new Community and National Reference Laboratories; ii) laboratory focus; iii) new reference methods; iv) reference related research activities; and an v) agenda on trainings and workshops organised by AFSSA. Additional sections on quality insurance and legislation are still to come. Apart from disseminating information and contributing to the harmonisation of reference methods the objective of the journal is to establish reference as one of the pillars of risk assessment. Contributions on the regular sections are most welcome ([cahiersdelareference@afssa.fr](mailto:cahiersdelareference@afssa.fr)). Free subscription to the journal is available on the website of AFSSA (<http://www.afssa.fr/cahiersdelareference>).

## 9 EFSA SEMINARS AND TRAINING ON RISK ASSESSMENT

### 9.1 EFSA Colloquium Series

Stef Bronzwaer from SCO informed participants on the latest developments on the EFSA Colloquium Series and Reports. The latest in the Colloquium Report Series (Assessing Health Benefits of Controlling *Campylobacter* in the Food Chain) is now available on the EFSA website. EFSA's 13<sup>th</sup> Scientific Colloquium will take place on 19-20 November 2009 in Amsterdam covering "*What's new on Novel Foods*". The online registration for the above mentioned Colloquium is now open on the EFSA website until 9 October 2009. Two Scientific Colloquia are planned for 2010: one on Food Classification (March 2010) and one on Emerging Risks (June 2010).

### 9.2 Training on Risk Assessment

Paul Dragan presented a working document on training activities on food safety risk assessment offered by European and other international organisations. It has been noted that both the Strategy for Cooperation and Networking and its interim review have highlighted the importance and need for EU training courses on risk assessment within EFSA's remit of activities. Members of EFSA's AF have expressed their continued support and have asked EFSA to investigate the possibility of offering EU training courses on risk assessment in close cooperation with the MS. In order to best target and design such training courses it is important to map existing training opportunities offered by MS. In light of the above a draft questionnaire has been presented to FPs in order to gather the necessary information.

As part of the discussion it was clarified that the focus should be on risk assessment training courses organised at national level (other than those offered by universities) or those offered in cooperation with other countries. The questionnaire was agreed at the meeting. FPs were asked to fill in and return the questionnaire by 9 October 2009. Results from the questionnaire will then be compiled into the working document to complete the review on training opportunities in food safety risk assessment as well as the needs for further training.

*Action 23: FPs to fill in and submit the questionnaire by 9 October 2009.*

*Action 24: SCO to analyse and compile the questionnaires returned by FPs.*

## 10 EFSA PLANT HEALTH ACTIVITIES

Sharon Cheek, from EFSA's Plant Health Unit, presented the work of the PLH Panel, which was established in June 2006 as the 9<sup>th</sup> Scientific Panel of EFSA. The work of the Panel is to evaluate risks presented by non-indigenous living organisms harmful to plants and/or plant products that are associated with the movement of plants or plant products and which may enter, establish, spread and cause harmful effects on plants and/or plant products and biodiversity. Over the past years the Panel has established good working relations with MS as well as with other international organisations like: EPPO, IPPC or WTO. In addition to the published Scientific Opinions, the Panel has developed two Guidance Documents in the area. One on the evaluation of pest risk assessment and risk

management options and one on harmonised framework for pest risk assessment. Ongoing Article 36 projects are PRASSIS (Pest risk assessment in the European Community: inventory of data sources) and MO-PEST (Models for pest's epidemiology: review, documentation and evaluation for pest risk analysis). The work and role of the "Special AF on Plant Health" has also been presented.

## **11 AOB**

### **EVIRA Risk Assessment Seminar in Helsinki**

Kirsi-Maarit Siekkinen, from the Finish FP, informed participants of a risk assessment seminar on expert knowledge elicitation and advances in health risk modelling and analysis organised by EVIRA. The seminar will take place in Helsinki on 21-23 October 2009; interested individuals are free to attend. The seminar is intended for researchers, risk managers and decision makers in government organisations, research institutions and universities working in the field of food safety risk assessment.

### **Invitations to EFSA meetings**

Iwona Wisniewska, from the Polish FP, raised whether it would be possible to inform FPs about invitations to meetings and seminars, which EFSA sends to national experts. The Chair suggested addressing this issue in a more detailed approach at the next FP meeting in January 2010.

*Action 25: SCO to place the discussion on invitations to EFSA meetings on the agenda of the next meeting in January 2010.*

### **Request from EFSA's PRAPeR Unit**

Hubert Deluyker, Director of EFSA's Scientific Cooperation and Assistance Directorate, together with Herman Fontier, Head of EFSA's PRAPeR Unit, informed participants that EFSA is looking for MS experts (with relevant experience in risk assessment of pesticides) to support the work of the PRAPeR Unit in the first three quarters of 2010 as Seconded National Experts. It was explained to FPs that a temporary peak in the PRAPeR workload is foreseen as a consequence of the resubmission of those active substances back into the peer review process, which have not been included in Annex I (the positive list) to Council Directive 91/414/EEC. In order to manage this increased workload in 2010, EFSA is seeking the assistance of MS in identifying national experts with expertise in any of the following five areas: i) physical-chemical properties of active substances; ii) mammalian toxicology; iii) residues; iv) environmental fate and behaviour; and v) ecotoxicology. Further details will be provided in a letter shortly to be sent to members of the AF with FPs in copy.

### **Future FP Meetings**

Andras Szoradi from SCO presented the dates and locations of the 2010 FP Meetings, as listed below:

- 7<sup>th</sup> FP meeting – 27-28 January 2010 (Paris);
- 8<sup>th</sup> FP meeting – 5-6 May 2010 (Madrid);
- 9<sup>th</sup> FP meeting – 6-7 October 2010 (Budapest).

The Chair thanked and welcomed the invitations of the French, Spanish and Hungarian FPs. In addition, FPs were reminded not to make any travel arrangements until receiving the formal invitation from EFSA.

## **12 CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

The Chair closed the meeting. He thanked participants for attending the meeting and for their active contribution in the various discussions. He stressed the continued commitment of the SCO Unit in supporting the work of FPs.

## SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

Reference	Who	What
Action 1	FPs	<i>in collaboration with Article 36 organisations, to review the Article 36 list for their country and to notify SCO, via the Article 36 mailbox (<a href="mailto:cooperation.article36@efsa.europa.eu">cooperation.article36@efsa.europa.eu</a>), in case they see the need for modifications/corrections and to agree on the necessary follow-up actions</i>
Action 2	SCO	<i>to investigate the possibility of follow-up training sessions on Article 36</i>
Action 3	FPs	<i>to send final comments on the country profiles within the next few days to the German FP</i>
Action 4	German FP	<i>to explore whether to inform the AF on the progress made with the country profiles</i>
Action 5	SCO	<i>to upload all country profiles on the IEP after publication of the Almanac by BfR</i>
Action 6	FPs	<i>to look at the draft reporting table and to send any comments to the Scientific Cooperation mailbox (<a href="mailto:scientific.cooperation@efsa.europa.eu">scientific.cooperation@efsa.europa.eu</a>) by 25 September 2009</i>
Action 7	SCO	<i>to finalise the reporting table based on comments received from FPs</i>
Action 8	FPs	<i>to fill in the table until the end of October 2009</i>
Action 9	SCO	<i>to deliver the first report on shared planned activities by the end of the year</i>
Action 10	SCO	<i>to launch the 2009 reporting exercise in the second half of September 2009 and to send the list of e-mail messages sent to FPs in order to facilitate the reporting of FPs</i>
Action 11	FPs	<i>to submit their FP Report by 15 November 2009</i>
Action 12	SCO	<i>to analyse and compile the reports and to present the Summary Report to FPs in January 2010 and to members of the AF in February 2010</i>
Action 13	SCO	<i>to circulate a document from EFSA's Communications Directorate summarising to whom EFSA is distributing information</i>
Action 14	FPs	<i>to identify national expert databases and/or networks of experts, if not already done so, and inform SCO via the Scientific Cooperation mailbox (<a href="mailto:scientific.cooperation@efsa.europa.eu">scientific.cooperation@efsa.europa.eu</a>)</i>
Action 15	SCO	<i>to contact FPs individually about further actions on input received so far concerning national expert databases or networks of experts</i>
Action 16	SCO	<i>to launch the EDB user feedback survey in autumn 2009</i>
Action 17	FPs	<i>to respond to the EDB user feedback survey</i>
Action 18	SCO	<i>to prepare and present the EDB Annual Report at the next FP meeting January 2010</i>

<b>Reference</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>What</b>
Action 19	SCO	<i>to propose to the AF to grant access to members of the Scientific Committee and Panels of EFSA and EFSA networks and to provide feedback on the decision of the AF on this</i>
Action 20	SCO	<i>to consider organising the next meeting of the IEP WG in the beginning of 2010</i>
Action 21	FPS	<i>to inform SCO, via the Scientific Cooperation mailbox (<a href="mailto:scientific.cooperation@efsa.europa.eu">scientific.cooperation@efsa.europa.eu</a>), if possible 5 weeks in advance of the next meeting, of any items/subjects that could be of mutual interest for other FPS and EFSA</i>
Action 22	SCO	<i>to place the EFSA Journal on the agenda of the next meeting in January 2010</i>
Action 23	FPS	<i>to fill in and submit the questionnaire by 9 October 2009</i>
Action 24	SCO	<i>to analyse and compile the questionnaires returned by FPS</i>
Action 25	SCO	<i>to place the discussion on invitations to EFSA meetings on the agenda of the next meeting in January 2010</i>