

## 77<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the EFSA's Management Board

### Minutes of the Public Session

**Parma, 20 June 2018 – 9:00-13:45**

<b>Members of the Management Board Present</b>	
Jaana Husu-Kallio (Chair)	Didier Houssin
Robert van Gorcom (Vice-Chair)	Stella Michaelidou-Canna
Raymond O'Rourke (Vice-Chair)	Jan Mousing
Aivars Bērziņš	Giuseppe Ruocco
Zita Čeponytė	András Székács
Iñaki Eguileor	Piet Vanthemsche
Céline Gauer	Michael Winter

**Apologies:** Andrej Simončič

<b>Staff of the European Food Safety Authority</b>	
Bernhard Url (Executive Director)	Juliane Kleiner
Gian Luca Bonduri	Pedro Pinhal
Peter De Pauw	Alberto Spagnolli
Guilhem de Seze	Jane Richardson
Dirk Detken	Tobin Robinson
Barbara Gallani	Hans Verhagen
Gisèle Gizzi	Selomey Yamadjako
Marta Hugas	

**Also attending:**

Anthony Hardy, Chair of the EFSA's Scientific Committee

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## SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

The Board adopted:

- The opinion on EFSA's accounts for the financial year 2017.
- The Implementing Rules of the Staff Regulations concerning whistleblowing and staff mission expenses.
- The amendment (one new entry) to the Art. 36 list of competent organisations designated by Member States which may assist EFSA within its mission.

In addition, the Board:

- Updated the audience on the state of play of the third external evaluation of EFSA.
- Shared its view on the legislative proposal to amend the EU's General Food Law.

Finally, the Board noted:

- The update from the Scientific Committee, provided by its Chair Prof. Anthony Hardy.
- The EFSA's performance report, which provided information on the activities and outcomes achieved from January to April 2018.
- The presentation of the conceptual framework for the development of EFSA's Quality Policy.
- The presentation on the governance of EFSA's scientific activities.
- The presentation on the overview of activities carried out in the area of bee health.
- The update on the implementation of the TERA project.
- The update on the implementation of the MATRIX project.
- The report on EFSA's scientific cooperation.
- The presentation on the programme of EFSA's third scientific conference.
- The feedback from the Chair of the Audit Committee.

### Item 1: Welcome by the Chair

1. The Chair opened the 77<sup>th</sup> Management Board meeting by welcoming the Board members, Executive Director, Chair of the Scientific Committee, EFSA Management Team and staff members. In particular, she welcomed Ms Céline Gauer, SANTE Deputy Director-General for Food Safety, who participated in the Board meeting for the first time.

### Item 2: Adoption of the agenda

2. The Chair asked the Board if they wished to add any items to the agenda. The agenda was adopted with the addition of the following item under Any Other Business: Feedback from Raymond O'Rourke on the outcome of the second meeting of the EFSA Stakeholder Bureau (18 April 2018).

### Item 3: Board members' Annual and Oral Declaration of Interests

3. Pursuant to Article 13 of the Management Board Rules of Procedure adopted on 27 June 2013, the Board took note of the Executive Director's assessment of the Declarations of Interests submitted by three of its members and confirmed it.
4. The Chair invited the Board members to declare possible interests in addition to those already declared in their Annual Declaration of Interests. No interest was declared.

### Item 4: Accounts 2017 financial year

5. Upon the presentation introduced by Pedro Pinhal (EFSA's accounting officer), the Board gave a positive opinion on EFSA's 2017 financial accounts, having obtained reasonable assurance that they represent a true and fair view of the Authority's financial position as of the end of 2017. A [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed description. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at the following [link](#).
6. **Action:** EFSA to notify the Board's opinion to the EU competent authorities.

### Item 5: EFSA's external evaluation: State of play

7. The Chair of the Management Board updated the audience on the state of play of the third external evaluation of EFSA. The conclusions of the evaluation will be made available on EFSA's website following the finalisation of the report drafted by an external contractor. Based on the findings of this report, in October 2018 the Board will adopt its recommendations in line with Art. 61 of EFSA's Founding Regulation. The Chair conveyed the gratitude of the Board to EFSA, and to Juliane Kleiner and her collaborators in particular, for the support received. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at the following [link](#).

### Item 6: Management Board opinion with regard to the European Commission legislative proposal to amend the European Union General Food Law

8. The Chair shared the view of the Management Board on the legislative proposal to amend the EU's General Food Law. On April 11, the European Commission proposed to revise the Regulation established in 2002, under which EFSA was created as an independent EU agency responsible for scientific advice on risks associated with the agri-food chain. The Board strongly welcomed the proposal from the European Commission, which includes a number of important changes, particularly in the areas of transparency and communication. The Board also discussed plans to increase the responsibility of the Member States, notably in the

nominations of scientific experts. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at the following [link](#).

#### Item 7: EFSA performance report

9. Bernhard Url (Executive Director) introduced to the Board the performance report covering the reporting period from the 1<sup>st</sup> of January to the 30<sup>th</sup> of April, 2018. The document included information in all aspects of the EFSA performance measured during the reporting period against the annual and multiannual work programme as presented in the Single Programming Document 2018-2020. Selomey Yamadjako (Business Services Department) brought to the Board's attention data on the management and consumption of resources, highlighting that EFSA remains committed to achieve the annual targets. A [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed description.
10. EFSA followed up on the comments of a Board member who noted in the performance report some misalignments with respect to the targets set in the Single Programming Document. Aside the meeting, the Board member received the following information:
  - Strategic Objective 1 - Number of questions closed: the annual and quarterly targets related to the work of the Pesticides Unit had been revised based on an updated work plan agreed with DG SANTE early 2018. EFSA acknowledges that this information, reported in a note of the performance report, might have been made better visible and cross-referenced in the corresponding table.
  - Strategic Objective 4 - Number of questions closed: the above-mentioned work plan agreed with DG SANTE led to the update of this figure too. EFSA acknowledges that an explanation should have been provided in a clearer manner and commits to address these shortcomings with the following reports.
11. The Board noted EFSA's performance report and asked the Executive Director to convey their gratitude to the EFSA's staff and experts for the results achieved in the reporting period. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at the following [link](#).

#### **12. Actions:**

- EFSA to revise the performance report addressing the explanations provided above.
- EFSA to draft Board documents minimising, or possibly giving up with, the use of acronyms and abbreviations.

#### Item 8: Update from the Scientific Committee

13. The Board noted the update provided by Prof. Anthony Hardy, Chair of the Scientific Committee, who presented an overview of the activities carried out in the areas of exposure to chemical mixtures, nanomaterials and endocrine disruptors. Concluding, he provided an overview of the outcomes achieved by the Scientific Committee in the risk assessment methodological area over the last six years. A [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed description.
14. On behalf of the Management Board, the Chair thanked Prof. Hardy for his work with EFSA since 2003 and for his considerable contribution to EFSA's scientific activities as Chair of the Scientific Committee over the last six years. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at this [link](#).

#### Item 9: Implementation of the EFSA Strategy 2020: Scientific excellence and quality

15. The Executive Director introduced to the Board the conceptual framework of the developing EFSA's Quality Policy, which aims to operationalise the EFSA value on 'scientific excellence' with a view to make it more tailored to the Authority core business, hence further improving the efficiency of the organisation. In particular, the Quality Policy would aim at clarifying the 'degree of scientific value' needed for a scientific output before the start of the assessment. An efficient quality management system would help delivering scientific value that is as close as possible to excellence, but with the right balance of investment in terms of time and resources. The Board noted the presentation and invited EFSA to carry on with the development of the Quality Policy paying attention to the elements allowing its practical implementation. A [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed description. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at the following [link](#).

#### Item 10: Governance of scientific activities

16. The Board noted the presentation of Guilhem de Seze (Scientific Evaluation of Regulated Products), who provided an overview of the actions that are being carried out in order to streamline the performance of EFSA's scientific activities with a view to enhance efficiency with the production of scientific outputs. A [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed description. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at the following [link](#).

#### Item 11: EFSA's work in the field of bee health

17. Tobin Robinson (Scientific Committee and Emerging Risk) provided the Board with an overview of the activities carried out by EFSA in the area of bee health, which have the objective to determine the factors leading to excessive bee mortalities and support the development of mitigation measures. In particular, he highlighted the scope and actions of the so called MUST-B project (2016-2020), which objective is to develop a holistic and integrated approach to assess bee health in the context of multiple stressors. A [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed description. Noting the presentation and inviting EFSA to continue investigating in this area, the Board acknowledged the complexity of the matter and commended EFSA for the work carried out so far. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at the following [link](#).

#### Item 12: EFSA scientific cooperation

18. Barbara Gallani (Communication, Engagement and Cooperation) introduced a presentation around EFSA's engagement in scientific cooperation activities, including joint projects with the EU Member States, the organisation of the first Risk Assessment Research Assembly and cooperation with international bodies such as the UN's Codex Committees. Particular focus was put on the key role covered by EFSA's Focal Points, which this year celebrate their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Board noted the Focal Points' strategic contribution as a cornerstone of scientific cooperation with Member States and in communication activities across Europe. A [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed description. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at the following [link](#).

Item 13: Update on the 'Transparency and Engagement in Risk Assessment' (TERA) project

19. The Board noted the presentation of Gisèle Gizzi (TERA project manager), who updated the Board on the progress of the project highlighting that more than 80% of the measures constituting the multiannual work programme endorsed by the Board in 2016 had been deployed. In view of the elements brought forward by the Commission's proposal for the revision of EFSA's Funding Regulation, she suggested to consider the project as having achieved its overall objective and recommended to move the implementation of the outstanding measures either within on-going or future projects to be designed around the provisions of the amended Regulation. A [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed description. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at the following [link](#).

Item 14: Update on the MATRIX project

20. Jane Richardson (Evidence Management) updated the Board on the progress achieved in implementing the so called MATRIX project, which aims at developing an IT solution allowing the secure transmission of data related to food and feed applications and liable to become the single point of information for all stakeholders on the status of an application throughout the entire authorisation process. A [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed description. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at the following [link](#).

Item 15: Third EFSA's scientific conference

21. Hans Verhagen (Risk Assessment and Scientific Assistance) presented the programme of the third scientific conference of EFSA, which will take place in Parma from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> of September, 2018. The conference will engage more than 90 speakers in nine thematic sessions and it is expected to engage approximately 1000 scientists. A [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed description. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at the following [link](#).

Item 16: Implementing rules of Staff Regulations

22. Dirk Detken (Legal & Assurance Services) introduced to the Board two draft decisions for the adoption of Implementing Rules to the Staff Regulations related to whistleblowing and staff missions. A [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed description. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at the following [link](#).

23. The Board adopted the Implementing Rules to the Staff Regulation on whistleblowing, which is based on an agency model decision agreed with the Commission services. As well, the Board adopted the Commission mission guide (Decision C(2017)5323 of 27 September 2017) for application at EFSA by analogy.

Item 17: Amendments to the Art. 36 list

24. The Board adopted the amendment (one new entry) to the [Art. 36 list](#) of competent organisations designated by Member States which may assist EFSA within its mission. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at this [link](#).

Item 18: Feedback from the Audit Committee

25. The Chair of the Audit Committee updated the Board on the outcome of the meeting held on 19 June 2018. Among others, he reported on financial aspects of EFSA's outsourced services, the Authority accounts 2017, the discharge of the 2016's budget and the implementation of EFSA's IT strategy. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at this [link](#).

Item 19: Any other business

26. The Board noted the feedback from Raymond O'Rourke, who participated in the meeting of the EFSA Stakeholder Bureau on 18 April 2018. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at this [link](#).

END

**Summary of actions**

Action reference	Action	Deadline	Status
June 20, 2018 - 1	EFSA to notify the Board's opinion on EFSA's accounts 2017 to the EU competent authorities.	1 July 2018	DONE
June 20, 2018 – 2	EFSA to revise the performance report addressing the explanations provided in paragraph 10 above.	ASAP	OPEN
June 20, 2018 – 3	EFSA to draft Board documents minimising, or possibly giving up with, the use of acronyms and abbreviations.	ASAP	ON-GOING