



MANAGEMENT BOARD

Management Board Assessment of the 2021's Consolidated Annual Activity Report of EFSA

The Management Board,

having regard to Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2002, as amended by Regulation (EU) 2019/1381 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on the transparency and sustainability of the EU risk assessment in the food chain,

having regard to the Financial Regulation applicable to the budget of the European Food Safety Authority and in particular Article 47 thereof,

having regard to the EFSA Strategy 2020 adopted by the Management Board in March 2016,

having regard to the 2021-2023 Programming Document of the Authority adopted by the Management Board in December 2020,

1. Appreciates that, through pro-activeness and resilience, EFSA has minimised the impact on its productivity and taken care of the wellbeing of its staff during the SARS-CoV-2 crisis also in 2021.
2. Welcomes a sixth (and final) year of implementation of the Strategy 2020, with relevant progress made across all strategic objectives, and a sound performance across the various indicators, taking into account the impact of the SARS-CoV-2 crisis and the implementation of the transparency regulation
3. Notes the challenges faced in 2021, particularly with the entry into application of the Transparency Regulation and the related considerable investment on organisational changes and appreciates the successful safeguarding of EFSA's core business, although impacts were noted in the performance of regulated products evaluation. Moreover, notes the efforts made to ensure business continuity during the transition to the new tools and processes, in particular in the area of competing interests management.
4. Appreciates the achievements in the area of general risk assessment and regulated products and the significant efforts made to improve risk managers satisfaction with fit for purpose, timely and independent scientific advice and communication activities, including an increasingly successful EFSA Journal.
5. Notes the productivity of the Authority in the finalization of 704 questions via scientific outputs and technical reports in a timely manner, with a point of attention on the challenges faced in a small number of regulated product areas.
6. Welcomes the strengthened work in the area of plant health on the assessment of risks from new and emerging plant pests (invertebrate and microorganism agents) on a wide range of plants and notes the continuous activities on horizon scanning and surveillance; also appreciates the efficiencies achieved in the areas of feed additives and food contact materials, the improved results in the area of pesticide MRLs and the timely finalisation of the Annual Report on Pesticide Residues.
7. Appreciates the coordinated and timely assistance provided to the Commission and Member States through different rapid foodborne outbreak assessments and the continued support provided in collaboration with ECDC with regards to the SARS-CoV-2 in mustelids.
8. Welcomes the commitment and attention to public opinion and perceptions via the integration of social science into food safety risk assessment; commends the reports published in response to the EC mandate on the science of Risk Communication; and acknowledges the impact of the pan European communication campaigns.

9. Appreciates the on-going work to engage with stakeholders for improved dialogue and enhanced quality of science, including the establishment of a new engagement framework, and the efforts to guarantee access to data and information and the sharing of scientific documents and tools through open repositories.
10. Notes the continuous collaboration with Member States, that has been instrumental in strengthening the identification of common priorities in EFSA's work-programme, and welcomes the initiative to explore ways to increase Member State engagement in partnership schemes and improve the sustainability of the risk assessment system.
11. Notes the efforts for strengthening cooperation with EU sister agencies, and particularly with the successful initiative with ECHA, preparing the field for more strategic partnerships around the "One Health" goals, and the implementation of the Chemical substances strategy and the One Substance-One Assessment approach in the context of the EU Green Deal.
12. Appreciates the efforts made towards preparedness, and in particular the involvement of EFSA's Focal Point Network in order to improve collaboration and exchange information and knowledge, and the continuous investment in improving the organisation internal awareness regarding procedures for responding to urgent advice needs and communication strategies to use during a crisis.
13. Welcomes the close cooperation of EFSA with its partners towards the finalisation of the new Strategy 2027, driven by the results of the environment scan and its update in 2020 taking stock of the new policy agenda of the Commission, the midterm evaluation of the Strategy 2020 and the requirements of the Transparency regulation.
14. Appreciates the continuation of the work, in close collaboration with DG SANTE, to support the new processes addressing the requirements of the Transparency regulation; also notes the importance of this collaboration considering that the new rules and measures specified in the Transparency Regulation will affect stakeholders' interaction with EFSA during the risk assessment process, especially in the areas of proactive transparency, confidentiality, notification of studies, pre-submission advice and consultation of third parties, as well as the processing of applications for access to documents held by EFSA.
15. Welcomes the positive outcomes achieved in developing an environment focused on improving organisational performance and capabilities, such as the ISO 9001:2018 Quality re-certification with no highlighted non-conformities; the confirmation of EFSA's certification in the field of health and safety management standard ISO 45001:2018, and the registration to Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) registration. Appreciates the efforts for the integration of EFSA's management systems towards improving efficiency, relevance and clarity in the steering of the organisation.
16. Notes the achievements in the internal control area, the management of the Declarations of Interest and the continued outstanding budget implementation; welcomes the fact that EFSA did not have to transmit or follow-up on any suspicion of fraud cases to OLAF.
17. Welcomes the audit results by the Internal Audit Service and the European Court of Auditors.

Adopted at the Management Board meeting held in virtual modality on 24 March 2022

For the EFSA's Management Board

[NOT SIGNED]

Aivars Bērziņš

Chair of the Management Board