

# The role of EFSA and the link with research - opportunities for FP7

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Unit of the Scientific Committee and Advisory Forum

## What I will address

- **Work Programme of the Scientific Committee and Panels**
  - Developing, improving and implementing harmonised and new methodologies and approaches in risk assessment in the area of food and feed safety
  - *Challenges in 2007 and beyond*
- **EFSA's plans as regards scientific cooperation**
  - Relations with national and international organisations
  - Strategy on Cooperation and Networking with Member States
  - Setting milestones for *the next ten years*

## Scientific Work Programme

Challenges in the area of developing, improving and implementing harmonised and new methodologies and approaches in RA

## Scientific activities (work themes):

- **General Requests for Scientific Opinions and Advice:** providing scientific opinions, guidance and advice in response to questions;
- **Authorisations:** Assessing the risk of regulated substances and development of proposals for risk-related factors;
- **Monitoring and assessing specific biological risk factors for human animal health and animal diseases:** BSE/TSE, Zoonoses, plant health
- **Improving the European risk assessment approaches and methodologies:** Development, promotion and application of new and harmonized scientific approaches and methodologies for hazard and risk assessment

## The Nine Scientific Panels

- Food additives, flavourings, processing aids, materials in contact with food (AFC)
- Animal Health and Welfare (AHAW)
- Biological hazards (BIOHAZ)
- Contaminants in the food chain (CONTAM)
- Additives and products in animal feed (FEEDAP)
- Genetically modified organisms (GMO)
- Dietetic products, nutrition and allergies (NDA)
- Plant health (PLH)
- Plant Protection Products and their residues (PPR)

## Scientific Committee

### COMPOSITION

- Chairs of the 9 Scientific Expert Panels
- 6 scientists not members of the panel

### ROLE

- Harmonised/new approaches in hazard and risk assessment
- General co-ordination, guidance to all Panels
- Ad hoc questions involving several panels
- Advising EFSA on emerging issues and priorities

EFSA Work programme

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## Work Programme 2007

- Transparency in risk assessment – II. Science related issues
- Risk-benefit assessments – Guidance on methodologies, approaches and tools for RB assessments
- Risk assessment of nanoparticles (e.g. guidance, colloquium)
- Benchmark dose approach (guidance)
- Qualified presumption of safety (public consultation & 2<sup>nd</sup> opinion)
- Botanicals (development of a framework and setting priorities)

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## Work Programme 2007(cont'd)

- Welfare of experimental animals (guidance)
- MoE for genotoxic carcinogens – evaluation of its applicability
- REACH – assessing the impact of the new legislation on EFSA's work
- Emerging risks (implementation of SC advice and an Emerging Risk system)
- Advice on in- and external review of EFSA's scientific work
- Advice on projects for *scientific cooperation with Member States*
- Advice on the functioning of Scientific Panels and Scientific Committee (in cooperation with EFSA's staff and EFSA's MB)

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## Trends and Developments

- Re-evaluations, New regulations (e.g. **nutritional profiles & health claims**), Preparation of guidance/guidelines, New areas/substances/agents
- Development of new and harmonised RA methodologies and approaches (e.g. **nanoparticles, risk-benefit, plant health**)
- Setting up of & arranging access to databases (e.g. **chemical substances, food consumption**, animal disease, plant health)
- **Cooperation/Scientific support** (e.g. with EC, other EU Agencies, MS, CODEX, WHO, ...)

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EFSA Openness and transparency

## Investing in food safety science

- Active participation in and monitoring of scientific projects, conferences and other scientific meetings in Member States;
- Organization of open scientific EFSA meetings, to discuss in-depth topical and sensitive issues related to EFSA's mission: **EFSA Scientific Colloquia**;
- Adequate follow-up on EFSA Scientific Colloquia (e.g. development of Guidance Documents, harmonisation of RA approaches).

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EFSA Openness and transparency



EFSA Science  
Scientific Colloquium Series of the European Food Safety Authority N°3 April 2005

### EFSA SCIENTIFIC COLLOQUIUM 3

*European Food Consumption Database  
Current and medium to long-term  
strategies*

*28-29 April 2005, Brussels, Belgium*

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# EFSAScience

Scientific Colloquium Series of the European Food Safety Authority N° 5 March 2006

## EFSA SCIENTIFIC COLLOQUIUM 6

### *Risk-Benefit Analysis of Foods: Methods and Approaches*

13-14 July 2006 - *Tablano, PR, Italy*

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# EFSAScience

Scientific Colloquium Series of the European Food Safety Authority N° 5 March 2006

## EFSA SCIENTIFIC COLLOQUIA IN 2007

### TOPICS SUGGESTED

- Scientific substantiation of health claims
- Risk assessment of nanoparticles
- Environmental risk assessment of GMOs
- Risk assessment of endocrine disruptors
- Plant health risk assessment

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Work programme

## Numbers of questions and opinions

Year	# questions	# opinions
2003	230	30
2004	180	160
2005	210	160
2006	320	130

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Work programme

## Origin of Requests

Origin	2005	2004
EFSA	19	20
Member State	15	10
European Parliament	1	1
European Commission	201	151

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## Number of Plenary and WG meetings

Annual Report 2005 (2004)

- Number of Plenary meetings : 65 (62)
- Number of Working Groups: 108 (97)
- Number of WG meetings : 401 (328)

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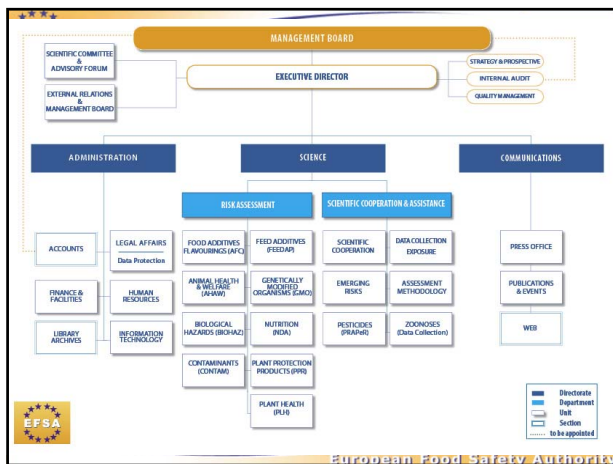
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## Management of the workflow of EFSA's Scientific Activities

EFSA's Science Directorate  
Scientific Cooperation with national and international organisations

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# 1. Recruitment 2007

*Increasing the capacity of the Scientific Cooperation & Assistance Department*

- Pesticide Risk Assessment (PRAPeR)
- Zoonoses (Data Collection)
- Data collection and exposure
- Assessment methodologies
- Scientific cooperation
- Emerging Risks

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## 2. Scientific Cooperation

- **International organisations** such as WHO, FAO, OECD, OIE and **Community Institutions** such as DGs ENV, ENTR, JRC, **RTD**, SANCO, EEA, EMEA, ECDC
- **National food safety agencies** and other government-related centres/institutions
- **Individual experts** /research groups
- **Stakeholders** (e.g. industry, consumer organisations)

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## Advisory Forum

<b>MEMBERS:</b>	National bodies with a similar role as EFSA
<b>REPRESENTATIVES:</b>	CEO's or Science Directors
<b>FREQUENCY:</b>	4-5 meetings per year
<b>CHAIR:</b>	Executive Director of EFSA
<b>SECRETARIAT:</b>	EFSA's SC & AF Unit
<b>AGENDA:</b>	ad-hoc subjects, <i>urgent issues</i>
<b>WG's:</b>	IT, Communications, Input of National Authorities, <i>more science related WG's in 07</i>
<b>SPECIFIC ISSUES:</b>	semicarbazide, furan, MeHg, botanicals, marine biotoxins, BSE, nanotechnology, ...

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## Strategy for Cooperation and Networking with Member States

(agreed by the AF on November 30<sup>th</sup> 2007 and endorsed by the MB on December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2007)

- Advisory Forum members to become focal points
- Defining and prioritisation of AF projects in consultation with the Scientific Committee and the Scientific Panels
- Creating dedicated Working Groups of the Advisory Forum with possible participation of SC or SP experts
- Harmonisation of approaches and methodologies in the area of risk assessment

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## Cooperation under Art. 36

### OBJECTIVE

Establishing *scientific cooperation allowing knowledge to be shared and making optimum use of resources and expertise* by creation of a network with scientific organisations *carrying out tasks which are complementary to those of the Authority*

(Podger, 27 July 2005)

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## Cooperation under Art. 36

### PROCEDURE

- Scientific Organisations to complete a **questionnaire** and send it to their Permanent Representations in Brussels
- Competent authority in the MS to select appropriate candidates based on the legal criteria set out in Article 1 of Regulation 2230/2004
- Member States to send via their Permanent Representations their designations to EFSA before 1 December 2005

(Podger, 27 July 2005)

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## Cooperation under Art. 36

### PROCEDURE (Cont'd)

- EFSA to check the compliance of these designated organisations with the criteria
- EFSA to provide proposals to the Management Board
- Management Board to agree on the list of competent organisations to be published in the Official Journal of the EC
- Member States to review the list of their designations every three years; they may also propose new organisations at any time

(Podger, 27 July 2005)

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## SOURCE

### MANAGEMENT PLAN OF THE EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY FOR 2007

Document providing the work of the Authority during 2007 both in relation to its annual and multi-annual work programmes

Establishment Plan 2007

Adopted by the Management Board at its meeting of 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2007

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## CONCLUDING SUMMARY

- EFSA's role **broadening** (e.g. diet and nutrition, plant health)
- EFSA's vision/mission requires **pro-active role** in area of data collection, hazard and risk assessment
- EFSA actively looking for **close links** with EU institutions, national and international organisations and experts in various Member States
- EFSA develops/executes plans to **manage the workflow** of its scientific activities

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*Thanks for your attention*