The role and activities of EFSA in food safety

Dr. Jordi Serratosa
Head of Animal Health and Welfare Unit
Creation of EFSA: Reg 178/2002

- Series of food scares (e.g. BSE, dioxins) in 90s
- Consumer confidence in food safety
- Confidence of trading partners

- Creation of **EFSA** to handle food and feed safety, animal health and welfare, plant health and pesticides covering all stages of their production, processing and distribution.

  - Including support in Rapid alert system, crisis management and emergencies
EFSA mandate

• **Provide scientific advice** and support for EU legislation/policies in all fields that impact food and feed safety

• **Provide independent information** on all relevant matters

• **Communicate the risks**
Risk Analysis [CAC,01]: a decision paradigm for Food Safety Governance

EC+EFSA

RISK COMMUNICATION
= The Exchange

RISK MANAGEMENT
= The Policy

Implementation

Options selection

Options identification

Preliminary activities

Monitoring

Review

EFSA

RISK ASSESSMENT
= The Science
Who can task EFSA

European Commission

European Parliament

EU Member States

Self-tasking
EFSA structure

Management Board

Advisory Forum

EFSA Directorate and Staff

Scientific Committee and Panels
**Scientific Committee Panels**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mainly generic opinions</th>
<th>Mainly opinions on applications</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Panel on plant Heath (PLH)</td>
<td>1. Panel on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO)</td>
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<td>2. Panel on plant protection products and their residues (PPR)</td>
<td>2. Panel on additives and products or substances used in animal feed (FEEDAP)</td>
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<td>3. Panel on biological hazards (BIOHAZ)</td>
<td>3. Panel on food contact materials, enzymes, flavorings and processing aids (CEF)</td>
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<td>4. Panel on Animal health and welfare (AHAW)</td>
<td>4. Panel on food additives and nutrient sources added to food (ANS)</td>
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<td>5. Panel on contaminants in the food chain (CONTAM)</td>
<td>5. Panel on dietetic products, nutrition and allergies (NDA)</td>
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</table>
Number of questions and outputs

- **# questions**
- **# outputs**

- **2003**
- **2004**
- **2005**
- **2006**
- **2007**
- **2008**

The chart shows the number of questions and outputs from 2003 to 2008, with a noticeable increase in the number of outputs in 2008 compared to previous years.
A snapshot of EFSA in 2008

- **Workload:**
  - 2008: 2 mandates per working day
  - + 25% resources ⇒ x 2 outputs

- **Scientific Outputs:**
  - 490
  - doubled compared with 2007
  - Reduction of backlog: 1/3

- **Communication**
  - media coverage: +62%
  - Web visits: +43%
  - publications: +9%
Transparent Workflow

**Receipt of request**
- Accepted mandates (Register of Questions)
- Names of panel and working group members
- Declaration of interest of experts

**Assessment**
- Agendas of the panel’s plenary meetings
- Minutes of the panel’s plenary
- Minutes of working group meetings

**Adoption and Communication**
- Adopted opinions
- Press releases and web stories
EFSA urgent statements in 2008

- Mineral oil in sunflower oil (April)
  - Initial view within 1 day
  - Update due to additional data within 6 days

- Melamine in food (September)
  - Statement within 6 days

- Dioxin in Irish pork (December)
  - Statement within 2 days

Statements issued by EFSA and not by the CONTAM Panel. However, some experts of the CONTAM Panel provided scientific advice to EFSA during the drafting of these statements.
## Some examples of Self-tasking Opinions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Panel</th>
<th>Adoption date</th>
<th>Subject</th>
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<tr>
<td>AHAW</td>
<td>In progress</td>
<td>Risk Assessment Guidelines for Animal Welfare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOHAZ</td>
<td>09/07/2008</td>
<td>Foodborne antimicrobial resistance as a biological hazard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEEDAP</td>
<td>16/09/2008</td>
<td>Guidance for the preparation of dossiers by categories of feed additives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GMO</td>
<td>12/09/2007</td>
<td>Use of Animal feeding trials for the safety evaluation of whole Genetically Modified Food/Feed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLH</td>
<td>In progress</td>
<td>Development of a guidance document on the evaluation of Pest Risk Assessment for phytosanitary made by third parties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC</td>
<td>11/3/2006</td>
<td>Transparency in risk assessment development of comprehensive guidance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cooperation = work in progress

- **Member States:** Grants 2008: 3,4 M €; 2007: 2,4M€
  Focal Points
  ESCO WGs

- **Networking:** 30 national food safety agencies,
  more than 1200 experts
  more than 250 national scientific organisations

- **Risk managers:** Commission, Member States – Roadmap signed with DG SANCO

- **EU agencies/organisations:** ECDC, EMEA, JRC (MOUs)

- **International activities:** Strategic approach adopted by MB in January 2009
One example: BIOHAZ agenda

- BSE and TSE’s:
  - Monitoring regimes
  - Genetic TSE resistance in goats
  - TSE tests
  - BSE related risk of intestines

- Other Food borne zoonoses:
  - *Salmonella* in pigs
  - *Salmonella* in poultry: breeders, layers and broilers
  - *Campylobacter* in poultry
  - MRSA and AMR in general

- Food Hygiene and microbiology:
  - Efficacy and safety of Food irradiation
  - Qualified presumption of safety (QPS)
  - Decontamination of food of animal origin
  - BSE related risk of intestines

- Food safety aspects of welfare systems
Salmonella in pigs: From data to legislation

**EC**
- Requests an opinion
- Decision 2006/668 and 2008/55 on Baseline surveys in Slaughter and breeder pigs
- MS: Collect data
- Request QMRA *Salmonella* in slaughter and breeder pigs
  - Cost-benefit analysis (outsourced)
  - Set targets for reduction

**EFSA**
- Opinion: RA and mitigation options of *Salmonella* in pig production
- Baseline survey Technical specifications
- Analysis and reporting
- EFSA Opinion (supported by outsourced project)

www.efsa.europa.eu
Zoonoses Data Collection by EFSA

Member States

Animal, food and feed monitoring

Foodborne outbreaks

Communicable human diseases

DSNs -Enter-Net -EuroTB

Zoonoses

DTU

ZCC

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Priorities in 2009

1. Delivery of timely, high-quality scientific advice
2. Progressing implementation of strategy of cooperation and networking
4. Strengthened capacity to identify emerging risk
5. Strategic approach in international activities
6. Ensure stimulating, rewarding work environment
Thank you for your attention!