

Summary of Annual Report 2011

In 2011, EFSA delivered a total of 658 scientific outputs. Almost two-thirds of the Authority's scientific opinions related to the evaluation of products, substances and claims subject to authorisation. The completion of the evaluation of the final series of 'general function' health claims represented a significant achievement for EFSA. The Authority took a major step towards building capacity in the area of regulated products by setting up a new Applications Desk Unit, the aim of which is to provide more streamlined services to applicants.

EFSA's Science Strategy 2012-2016 was adopted by the Management Board after a process of extensive consultation. Amongst its key objectives are the further development of EFSA's scientific excellence and the strengthening of the scientific basis for risk assessment and risk monitoring.

Underlining the valuable work EFSA carries out in the area of new and emerging science, its Scientific Committee produced opinions and guidance on subjects as diverse as nanoscience, repeated dose 90-oral toxicity studies in rodents and genotoxicity testing strategies. The Scientific Committee's advice will be used by the Authority's individual scientific panels to guide their work in the future. Membership of these panels is renewed every three years; in 2011, EFSA launched a call for experts to join its Scientific Committee and eight of its panels.

Other noteworthy scientific advice from EFSA included opinions related to: the safety of the sweetener aspartame; the safety of bisphenol A (BPA); the welfare of animals during transport; the modernisation of meat inspection in the EU; and norovirus in oysters. The Authority also updated previous guidance on the environmental risk assessment of genetically-modified plants.

A strong emphasis continued to be placed on co-operation with Member States through regular

meetings with its Advisory Forum and national Focal Points. A 2011 report on the Authority's co-operation activities highlighted a number of mutual benefits for both EFSA and Member States, including a reduction in the duplication of work and the development of standardised guidelines for risk assessment. EFSA assigned €7.1 million in grants and contracts to specialist, national-level organisations capable of assisting it in its work. There were also important initiatives undertaken with Acceding, Candidate and Potential Candidate countries through training seminars, study tours and other events.

Public trust in EFSA is critical to the value of the scientific advice it provides. The Authority further strengthened its approach to safeguarding independence and integrity in its work by adopting a new *Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes*. The new policy integrates in one document the wide range of initiatives EFSA has put in place to uphold its core values of scientific excellence, openness, independence, transparency and responsiveness.

EFSA's crisis response procedures were tested to the full following the two *E.Coli* (STEC) outbreaks in Germany and France. During the period from May to July, the Authority worked closely with the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control to provide advice on the likely source of the outbreak and on how to avoid infection. It also sent senior scientific staff to Germany to assist with data collection and epidemiological analysis, the first time EFSA has sent scientists to a Member State during a crisis. In response to an urgent request from the Commission, EFSA set up a Task Force to trace back the implicated seeds through the EU supply and distribution chain. The Task Force, which included specialists from Member States and the Commission, and scientists from ECDC, the World Health Organization and the

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HIGHLIGHTS 2011

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Food and Agriculture Organization, concluded that one lot of fenugreek seeds imported from Egypt and used to produce sprouts was the likely link between the outbreaks in France and Germany. At all points during the crisis, co-operation and exchange of information with Member States was facilitated by EFSA through its Advisory Forum and network of Focal Points.

The *E.coli* outbreaks also highlighted the importance of EFSA's risk communications mandate and the value in co-ordinating communication between risk managers and risk assessors at a national and European level. EFSA's Communications Strategy 2010-2013 was further implemented during the year, following its adoption in 2010. In line with the strategy's focus on a thematic approach to communications, the directorate delivered several important outputs in support of its work in the area of zoonoses. Engagement with partner organisations in 2011 included official visits from Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council, and Antonio Tajani, Vice-President of the European Commission.

EFSA began a large scale re-organisation programme in May with the objective of making better use of its resources and improving efficiency. Although the full changes will not be finalised until 2012, EFSA already made structural saving of €1.98 million as a result of overall efficiency gains in 2011.

JANUARY

- EFSA publishes opinion on welfare risks to animals during transport
- EFSA engages in open debate on GMOs in European Parliament
- Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council, visits EFSA
- EFSA and ECDC review scientific evidence on possible links between TSEs in animals and humans

FEBRUARY

- EFSA issues statement on two publications related to the safety of artificial sweeteners
- Chinese food safety agency visits EFSA
- EFSA holds 10th meeting with National Focal Points in Parma

MARCH

- EFSA launches call for new experts to join its Scientific Committee and Panels
- EFSA and ECDC issue joint report on zoonoses
- EFSA reviews the safety of caramel colours
- EFSA holds stakeholder workshop in Brussels on its draft guidance for GM plant comparators

APRIL

- EFSA publishes report on monitoring and exposure assessment of the chemical acrylamide
- EFSA issues advice on the reduction of *Campylobacter* in chickens
- Spanish food safety agency visits EFSA
- EFSA assesses the safety of food irradiation

MAY

- EFSA begins work in response to *E.coli* (STEC) outbreak in Germany
- EFSA launches updated guidance for food and feed risk assessment of GM plants
- EFSA publishes first guidance for assessing nano applications in food and feed
- EFSA rolls out large-scale re-organisation programme to improve efficiency and optimise resources

JUNE

- EFSA provides public health advice and carries out fast track risk assessment on the *E.coli* (STEC) outbreak in Germany and France
- EFSA launches public call for data on the artificial sweetener aspartame
- EFSA publishes opinion on threat of plant pathogen *Phytophthora Ramorum*
- EFSA organised Pre-Accession study visits to food safety authorities in Croatia and Denmark



JULY

- EFSA finalises the assessment of 'general function' health claims
- EFSA and ECDC publish joint report on antimicrobial resistance in zoonotic bacteria affecting humans, animals and food
- EFSA launches public consultation on the Threshold of Toxicological Concern approach
- EFSA publishes report from its Task Force on the *E.coli* (STEC) outbreaks and makes further recommendations to protect consumers

AUGUST

- EFSA launches public consultation on the draft guidance for the risk assessment of food and feed from GM animals including animal health and welfare aspects
- EFSA publishes updated guidance on the post-market environmental monitoring of GM plants
- EFSA evaluates the public health risk of bacterial strains resistant to certain antimicrobials in food and food-producing animals

SEPTEMBER

- EFSA's Scientific Committee celebrates its 50th plenary meeting
- EFSA publishes report on furan levels in food including new exposure estimates
- EFSA takes part in the 'Global Diet and Physical Activity' Summit in New York

OCTOBER

- Hubert Deluyker is appointed Director of Science Strategy and Co-ordination
- EFSA holds stakeholder debate on its draft Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes
- EFSA completes the first stage of a major piece of work on meat inspection
- EFSA updates consumer advice on sprout consumption following the *E. coli* (STEC) outbreak in Germany & France

NOVEMBER

- Joint EFSA, FAO and WHO guidance published on harmonisation of dietary exposure assessments
- EFSA launches its new Applications Desk Unit to streamline services to applicants
- EFSA publishes the original industry studies on aspartame
- EFSA publishes opinion on its assessment of the public health risk of seeds and sprouted seeds

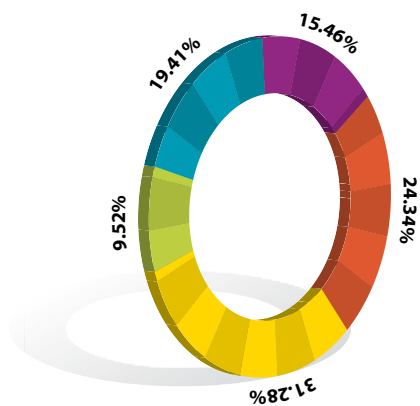
DECEMBER

- EFSA finalises purchase of its new headquarters in Parma
- EFSA publishes general guidance on 90-day feeding studies on whole food and feed
- EFSA advises on safety of bisphenol A
- Management Board adopts EFSA Science Strategy 2012-2016 and Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes

| Key figures 2011 | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Scientific outputs | 658 |
| Public consultations | 78 |
| Contracts and grants | 297 |
| Website visits | 3,575,488 |
| Electronic newsletter subscribers | 27,933 |
| Media coverage (articles) | 9,397 |
| EFSA staff in December 2011 | 443 |
| Plenary meetings | 79 |
| Working group meetings | 630 |

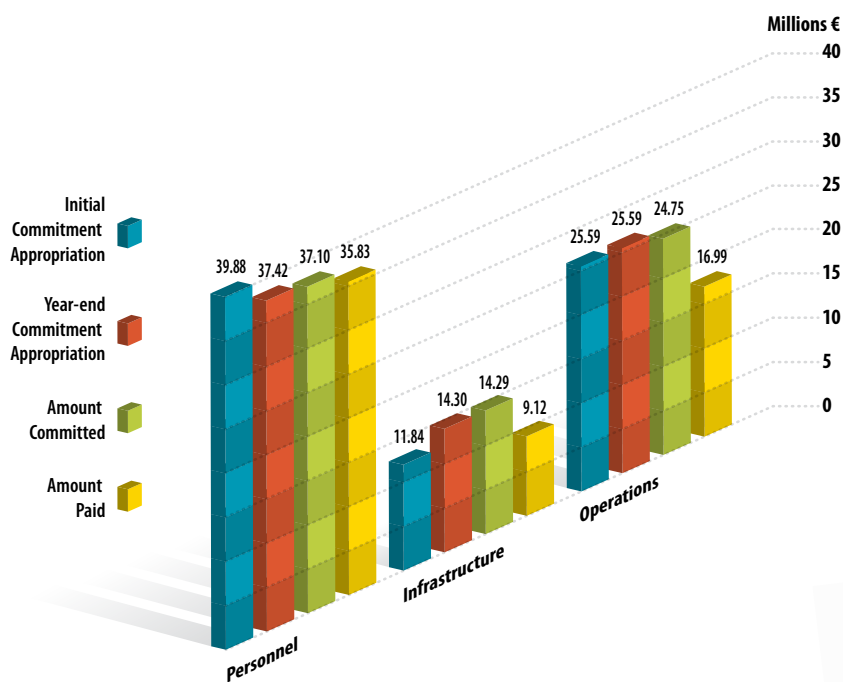
EFSA FINANCES 2011

Activity Based Budgeting – ABB Appropriation 2011 (% at year end)



- Activity 1 = Provision of scientific opinions and advice and risk assessment approaches
- Activity 2 = Evaluation of products, substances and claims subject to authorisation
- Activity 3 = Data collection, scientific cooperation and networking
- Activity 4 = Communication and dialogue
- Govern 5 = Governance and administration functions

Budget Execution 2011



Committed since 2002 to ensuring that Europe's food is safe