“From Field to Plate”

Integrated Approach to the EU Food Safety

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Synergy of Partnership: Food Safety in Turkey and EU
Edinburgh, 13-14 September 2010
AGENDA

• Introducing EFSA
  - Creation of EFSA
  - What EFSA does?
  - Future challenges and perspectives
  - Pre-Accession & Neighbourhood
Introducing EFSA

- Set up in 2002
- Moved to Parma 2005
- Now around 450 staff
- In 2009 = over 1000 scientific outputs
- Total budget in 2010 of €73 million
Creation of EFSA

**EFSA has three main goals**

- Improve EU food safety
- Re-build consumer confidence in EU food safety
- Re-build confidence of trading partners in the EU food supply

Make a significant contribution to:
What is EFSA?

- **E**uropean
- **F**ood
- **S**afety
- **A**uthority

- The European reference body
- Covers the entire food chain
- Assess, advise, communicate
- Independent, trusted, based on sound science
What do we do?

• **Provide scientific advice** and support for EU law/policies on food and feed safety

• **Provide independent information**

• **Communicate the risks**
What EFSA does

The main changes

• Risk assessment separated from risk management
• EFSA advises but not part of European Commission
• EFSA has independent Management Board
• EFSA closely co-operates with national authorities
• EFSA actively considers and meets stakeholder needs (in particular consumers)
• Better support to and coordination of Scientific Panels
From field to plate

- We advise on food/feed safety across the entire food chain
EFSA’s guiding principles

Core values

• Scientific excellence
• Independence
• Openness
• Transparency
• Responsiveness
How do we do it?

EU Commission  EU Parliament  Member States  EFSA self mandate

EFSA receives question

EFSA’s scientists evaluate, assess, advise

Adoption and communication
EFSA structure

Management Board + Advisory Forum

EFSA Staff + Scientific Committee and Panels

= European Food Safety Authority
Management Board

Composition

14 Members

- Selected on basis of individual expertise and competence through an open call
- Appointed by the Council of the EU based on suggestions from Parliament
- Members do not represent EU Member States
- Widely range of backgrounds (e.g. consumer, government, agriculture, industry, retail as well as scientific experience)

1 Member representing the European Commission (DG SANCO)
Management Board

Role

• Primary role: ensure Authority functions effectively and efficiently
• Establish budget, agree work programmes and monitor implementation
• Ensure Authority stays within remit of Founding Regulation
• Appoint Executive Director, Scientific Committee and Panels
• Audit Authority’s operations
Management Board

**Strategic objectives**
Strategic Plan 2009-2013

1. Provide an integrated approach to delivering scientific advice, from field to plate;
2. Timely, high-quality evaluation of products, substances and claims subject to regulatory authorisation;
3. Collate, disseminate and analyse data in the fields within EFSA’s remit;
4. Position EFSA at the forefront of risk assessment in Europe and internationally;
5. Reinforce confidence and trust in EFSA and the EU food safety system;
6. Assure the responsiveness, efficiency and effectiveness of EFSA.
Management Board members outside the Palazzo Ducale in Parma
Executive Director

Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle

- EU-wide call for applications
- Appointed in July 2006 for 5 years
- Legal representative of the Authority
- Responsible for:
  - day-to-day management
  - defining and implementing work programme & budget priorities
  - all staff matters
Scientific Panels

- Animal health and welfare (AHAW)
- Food additives and nutrient sources (ANS)
- Biological hazards (BIOHAZ)
- Food contact materials, enzymes, flavourings (CEF)
- Contaminants (CONTAM)
- Feed additives (FEEDAP)
- Genetically modified organisms (GMO)
- Nutrition (NDA)
- Plant health (PLH)
- Plant protection products (PPR)
Working together

Cooperation with:

• 30 national food safety agencies
• 400 research institutes
• 1200 experts

• EU Agencies
• 3rd country organisations
A diverse Europe

Risk perceptions: Top Concerns

PESTICIDES: Greece, Italy, Hungary, France, Portugal, Slovenia, Germany, Spain, Finland

NEW VIRUSES LIKE AVIAN INFLUENZA: Malta, Latvia, The Netherlands

RESIDUES IN MEAT: Cyprus, Greece, Belgium

FOOD HYGIENE OUTSIDE HOME: Poland, United Kingdom, Denmark, Ireland, Spain

CONTAMINATION BY BACTERIA: Czech Republic, Luxembourg, Slovakia

POLLUTANTS LIKE MERCURY OR DIOXINS: Belgium

GMOs: Austria

ADDITIVES: Lithuania, Estonia

WELFARE OF FARMED ANIMALS: Denmark, Sweden
Reaching out to citizens
Scientific Colloquia
Joint events with Member States
International scientific conferences
Open doors
Local events
Stakeholder Relations

How EFSA involves Stakeholders

• Stakeholder Consultative Platform (since 2005)
• Board meetings: web-cast, open to public
• Public Consultations
• Bilateral meetings
• Speaking engagements
• Pre-notification of scientific opinions and press releases
Stakeholder Consultative Platform

- Mission: assist EFSA with the development of its overall relations and policy with regard to stakeholder involvement
- Members: EU-wide stakeholder organisations representing consumers, food chain operators and other NGOs active within EFSA's mandate
- A forum for regular dialogue and exchange
- Launched as pilot, mandate extended in June 2006 for three years
December 2008 contamination by dioxins in pork from Ireland

Urgent request to EFSA:
- To provide scientific assistance on the risk for human health related to the presence of dioxin in pork and pork products from Ireland and possibly contaminated processed pork products, from Ireland, in composite foods

3 days after:
- EFSA statement

Same day:
- Commission and Member States take action on the basis of EFSA ‘s advice
From safe food to healthy diets

- **Health Claims - scientific substantiation of claims to be evaluated by EFSA**
  - This information serves as a basis for the European Commission and Member States, which will decide whether to authorise the claims.

**Health claims** should only be authorized for use in the Community after a **scientific assessment of the highest possible standard**
The road ahead

Future challenges...

- Globalisation
- Climate change
- New technologies
- Socio-demographic changes
- …

- EFSA’s Strategic Plan 2009-2013 adopted by MB in December 2008
EFSA’s vision is to become globally recognised as the European reference body for risk assessment on food and feed safety, animal health and welfare, nutrition, plant protection and plant health.
The purpose of the opening up of European Community Programmes and Agencies to the Candidate and Potential Candidate Countries is

- to help them become familiar with EU policies and instruments and to enhance co-operation before accession.

- the overall objective of EFSA Pre-Accession Programme is to promote the understanding of EFSA’s work, share expertise and create information exchange mechanisms,
• The IPA programme replaces the previous pre-accession financial instruments - PHARE, ISPA, SAPARD, CARDS and the Turkish pre-accession instrument. The IPA came into force on 1 January 2007 bringing all pre-accession support into a single, focused instrument.

• Through the IPA programme, EFSA is working with the governments of Candidate and Potential Candidate countries on food and feed safety issues within EFSA’s remit.

• Within EFSA, the Legal and Policy Affairs Unit is coordinating the implementation of the programme.
Objectives of the Pre-Accession Programme

- to prepare the Competent Bodies in the beneficiary countries for their future participation in EFSA networks,
- enhancement of communication and information exchange systems enabling future participation of the beneficiary countries in the EFSA networks,
- to transfer knowledge on methodologies within the remit of EFSA, in particular on risk assessment and data collection.
Pre-Accession Programme 2005-2006 for Bulgaria and Romania

Pre-Accession Programme 2006-2007 for Turkey and Croatia

Pre-Accession Programme 2008 for Turkey, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Croatia

Pre-Accession Programme 2009-2010 for the Candidate countries and the Potential Candidate countries
Target groups

- The Competent Authorities for food and feed safety, in particular those with similar responsibilities as EFSA, their information and communication officers, legal officers and scientists.
- Focus was on development of the cooperation between authorities and the stakeholder groups.
Main activities

• series of seminars, workshops, trainings, colloquia, conferences

• participation by experts from Candidate Countries in EFSA meetings with the technical or scientific issues of relevance for the beneficiaries, on the condition that participation to observers was allowed.
Staff involvement

- The implementation of the project is managed by the Pre-Accession Co-ordinator, a Policy Officer (END) and a secretary assisted by a Programme Steering Committee,
- as required throughout the project EFSA staff from scientific, communications and administrative departments take part as speakers, together with
- speakers from the EU Member States and the European Commission.
- In the Candidate countries official coordinators for the Programme have been appointed by the countries (via EU Delegations)
- the Programme is funding one assistant coordinator in each Candidate country to take care of the practical work on the Programme.
- Within EFSA the Legal and Policy Affairs Unit manages the implementation of the IPA Programme.
Direct results of the Programme:

• 14 seminars and Project Steering Committee meetings with national authorities and stakeholders were organized with average number of 40 participants per meeting.

• Expert from Turkey and Croatia participated as observers in 60 different meetings such as EFSA’s Management Board (5), Advisory Forum (4) and Advisory Forum Working Groups on IT (4) and Communication (4), Stakeholders Consultative Platform (1), Scientific Panels (33) and Working Groups (2), Conferences (5), IT Web and Videoconferences (2).
• Turkey and Croatia – continuation of the Pre-Accession Programme 2006/2007
  - further in depth activities regarding risk assessment, risk communication and risk management
• Macedonia – involved in EFSA’s work for the first time

• Being part of the **information networks** will benefit these countries as they will be able to focus on **issues which are new to all Member States** and enable them to warn Member States of problems detected at an early stage which may in its turn **prevent food scares**.
Main activities

(a) Participation in EFSA meetings

• Science colloquia and other scientific/technical meetings
• EFSA organised/supported conferences
• EFSA Events
• Advisory Forum meetings - Working Groups and Plenary meeting (where relevant)
• Observership to experts meetings with MS representation (e.g. PRAPeR experts groups meetings, Zoonoses data collection, Food Consumption Database, BSE Network etc.)

(b) Training seminars on specific topics
Direct results of the Programme:

- a total of 23 EFSA meetings and one study visit where 60 experts from Turkey, Croatia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia took part in
- 6 seminars: BSE, GMO, Handling Crisis, Advisory Forum&Management Board, Microbial Risk Assessment, EFSA Institutional Framework
- one regional meeting on food safety in Turkey
The 2009/2010 Programme started officially 01.04.2009 and run up to **30 April 2011**

**Candidate Countries**
Turkey, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- continuation of the work in 2008 including training seminars, study tours and participation in EFSA meetings, networks, colloquiums and conferences.

**Potential Candidate Countries**
Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo (under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244), Montenegro and Serbia
- introduction to EFSA with seminars, a study tour to an EU Member State and observership in EFSA networks, colloquiums and conferences
Training seminars foreseen for 2009/2010:

Candidate Countries

• Series of seminars on topics relevant for food safety authorities – AHAW, RA Methodology, Chemical Contaminants, Emerging risks, Food Additives and Flavourings, Dietetic products, nutrition and health claims
• Support to a national conference on food safety in Croatia

Potential Candidate Countries

• EU Food Safety system and EFSA (8 from each country) in Montenegro,
• Seminar on Handling Crisis (6 from each country) in Parma
• **Study tours:**

• **Study tour** for Croatia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to Paris, France, October 2009

• **Study tour** for Turkey and Macedonia to Madrid, Spain March 2010

• **Study tour** for the 5 Potential Candidate countries 2010 to a MS (to be decided)
Key elements of success

- Beneficiary countries stay informed on recent developments in the EU food safety area,
- Participation in EFSA networks (Advisory Forum, BSE Network),
- Taking active part in EFSA initiatives on data collection (Task Force on Zoonoses Data Collection, Working group on Chemical occurrence data),
- Taking part in training seminars on topics of relevance for competent food authorities in the context of accession negotiations,
- Further development of cooperation with MS institutions,
- Development of networks and collaboration with neighbouring countries – Candidates and Potential Candidates
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Month</th>
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<td>2006</td>
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<td>PRAPeR meeting</td>
<td>Parma</td>
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<td>Feb</td>
<td>AF Comm WG, Brussels</td>
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<td>AF IT WG, Sofia</td>
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<td>Advisory Forum, Berlin</td>
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<td>Scientific Colloquium on GMO, Tabiano</td>
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<td>Jun</td>
<td>PRAPeR meeting</td>
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<td>Aug</td>
<td>AF Comm WG, Hague</td>
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<td>Sep</td>
<td>Symposium on Nutrition and Health, Bologna</td>
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<td>Oct</td>
<td>Management Board meeting, Helsinki</td>
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<td>Task Force on Zoonoses, Parma</td>
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<td>Conference with Stakeholders, Toulouse</td>
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<td>2007</td>
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<td>Pesticide Steering Committee, Parma</td>
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<td>Feb</td>
<td>Conference on Feed Additives, London</td>
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<td>EFSA Focal Points, Parma</td>
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<td>BSE Contact Points meeting, Parma</td>
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<td>Food Consumption Data Collection, Parma</td>
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<td>May</td>
<td>Zoonoses Reporting Training, Parma</td>
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<td>2009</td>
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<td>Advisory Forum, Hague</td>
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- the Competent Authorities in the beneficiary countries will be able to participate in the work of EFSA, before and after the accession,
- greater mutual confidence established,
- acceptance of research data and measures between the beneficiaries and EFSA,
- greater understanding between the beneficiary countries’ and the Member States’ Competent Authorities, leading to future cooperation and harmonisation of technical procedures within the EU.
- New 2-3 years EFSA IPA Programme for the Candidate and Potential Candidate countries
- Funds is expected to be available in April 2011
- Discussion on the content between EFSA and the beneficiary countries
- Decision on the Programme by EFSA Pre-Accession Steering Committee
- Further involvement of the Potential Candidate Countries
- European Neighbourhood Policy -

• The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) aims to forge closer ties with countries to the South and East of the EU.
• Through this policy, the EU seeks to promote greater economic development, stability and better governance in its neighbourhood.

• 16 countries in direct EU neighbourhood
• Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Moldova, Morocco, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Syria, Tunisia, Ukraine
Programme 2009

Seminar on the Food Safety and the role of the European Food Safety Authority - 1st and 2nd July in Brussels

- the first meeting of the EU food safety bodies with the ENP countries
- jointly organised by EFSA, DG SANCO, DG Relex and TAIEX
- the starting point for a new cooperation between the EU and ENP-countries in the area of food safety

Plans for 2010

- 2 regional seminars on Handling Food Emergencies/Crises in the Food Chain – one for Mediterranean and one for the East ENP countries

Plans for 2011/2012

- Programme for ENP countries following the best practices of the Pre-Accession Programme
Thank you for your attention

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