



European Food Safety Authority

“From Field to Plate”

Integrated Approach to the EU Food Safety

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TAIEX TLOs Meeting
Brussels, 03 March 2011

- **Introducing EFSA**
 - Creation of EFSA
 - What EFSA does?
 - Future challenges and perspectives

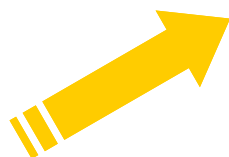
Introducing EFSA

- 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



EFSA has three main goals

Make a
significant
contribution to:



Improve EU food safety



Re-build consumer
confidence in EU food safety



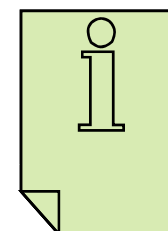
Re-build confidence of
trading partners in the EU
food supply

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**

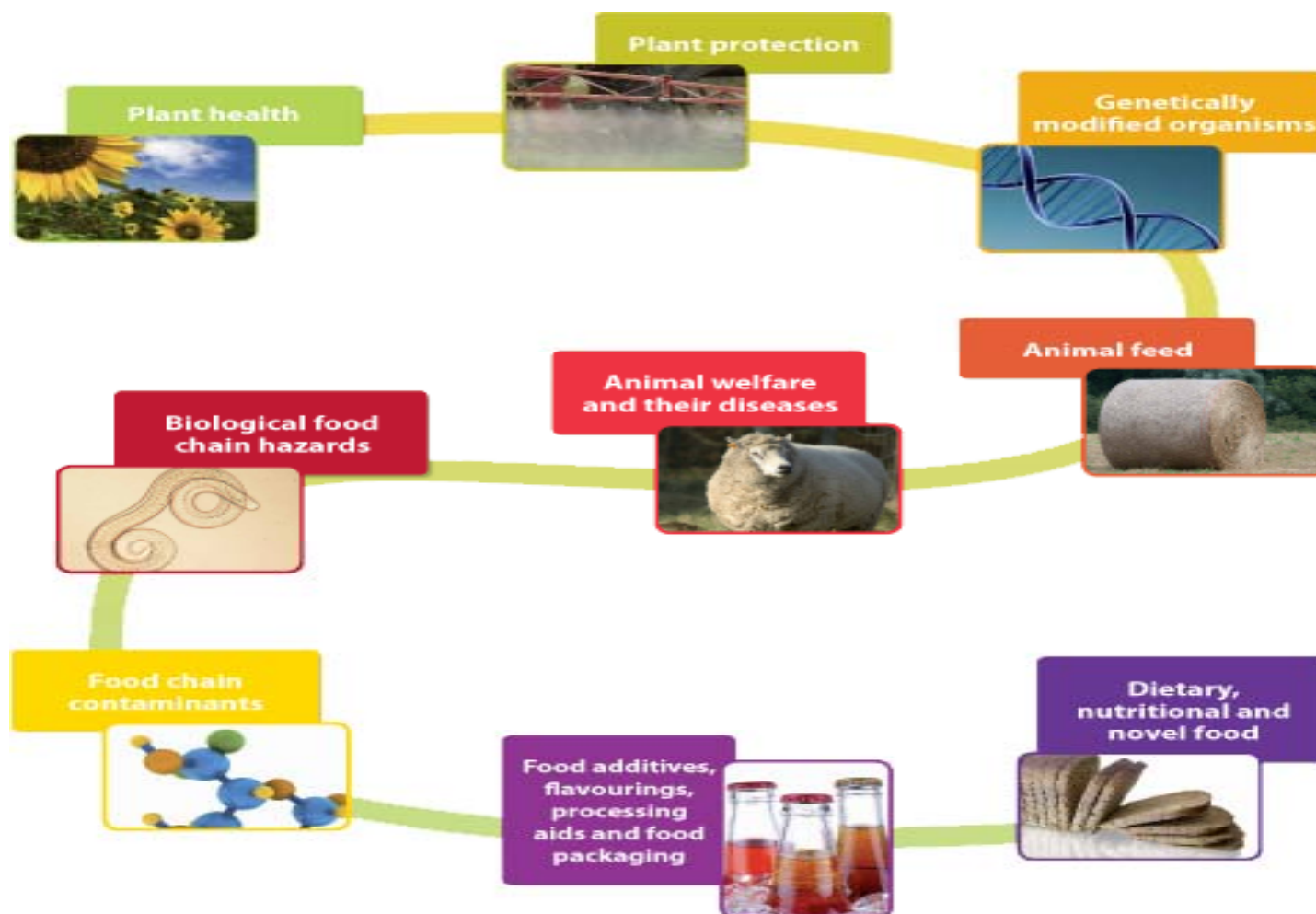


The main changes

- 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



Core values

- Scientific excellence
- Independence
- Openness
- Transparency
- Responsiveness

How do we do it?



EFSA
receives question

EFSA's scientists evaluate, assess, advise



Adoption and
communication



EFSA structure

**Management
Board**

+

**Advisory
Forum**

+

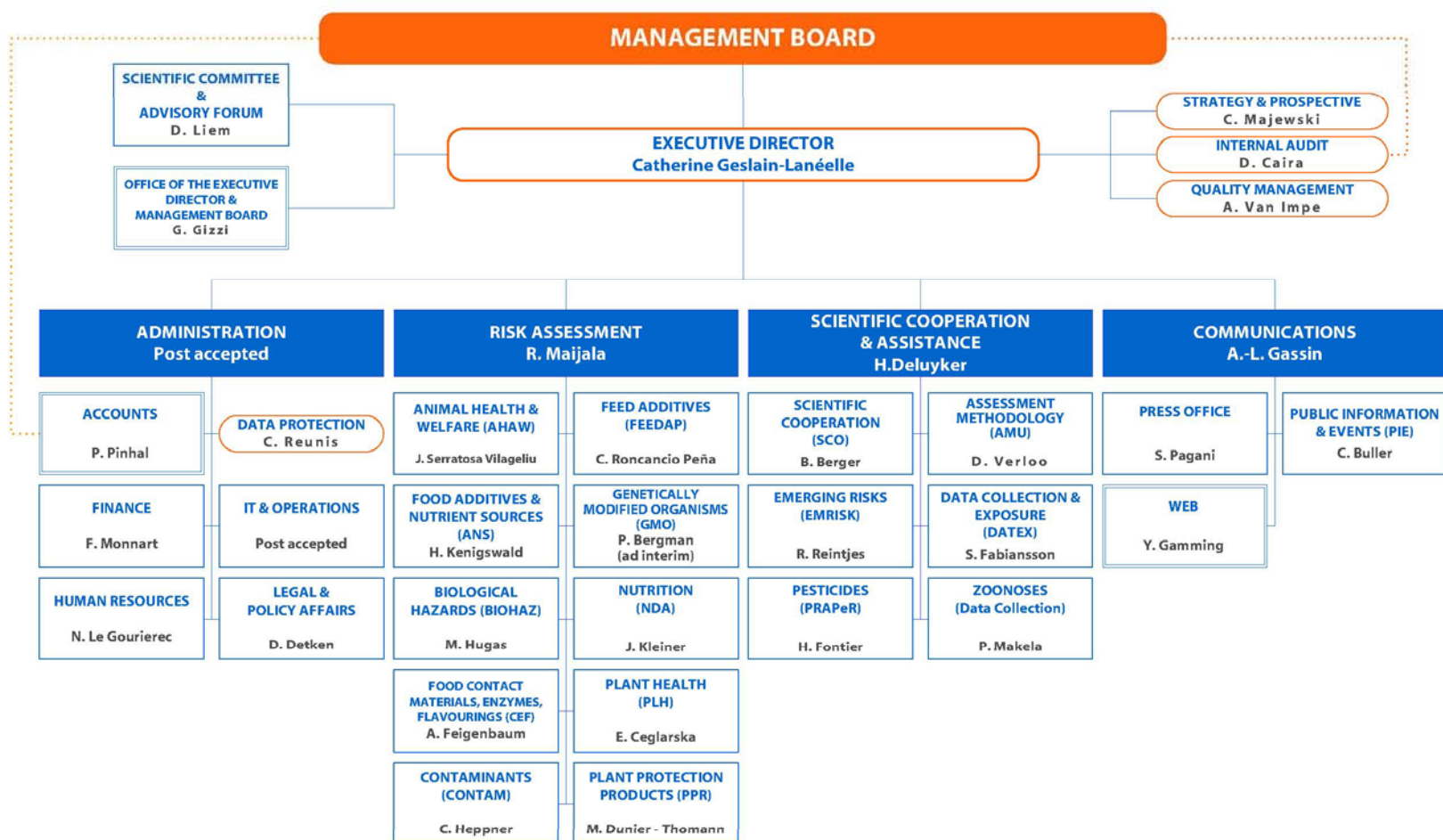
EFSA Staff

+

**Scientific Committee
and Panels**

=

EFSA Staff



Organisational chart 2009

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)

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

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



Management Board members outside the Palazzo Ducale in Parma

Composition

- Representatives from national food safety authorities/bodies with role equivalent to EFSA
- One representative per Member State, may bring specialist support
- Commission represented as observer
- Observers from the 3 Candidate countries, Norway, Iceland and Switzerland)

Role

- Advise EFSA on scientific matters, work programme/ priorities and emerging risks
- Ensure close collaboration between national bodies and EFSA
- Assist in resolving contentious scientific issues and avoiding divergent views on food/feed safety issues
- Avoid duplication of scientific effort
- Play a key role in sharing and disseminating information
- Assist in increasing scientific co-operation between Member States

Advisory Forum



Advisory Forum Meeting, Attard (Malta), 22 September 2010

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**



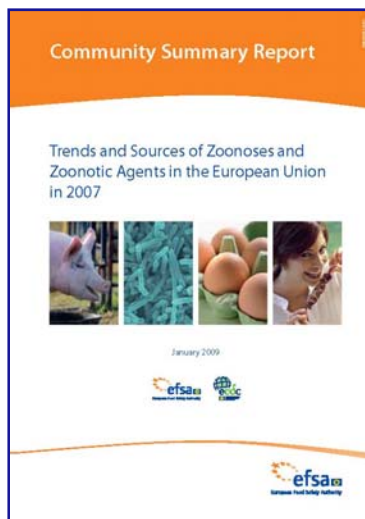
Scientific Panels

- 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)



Cooperation with:

- 38 national food safety agencies
- 400 research institutes
- 1200 experts



- EU Agencies
- 3rd country organisations

A diverse Europe

Risk perceptions: Top Concerns 2005

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

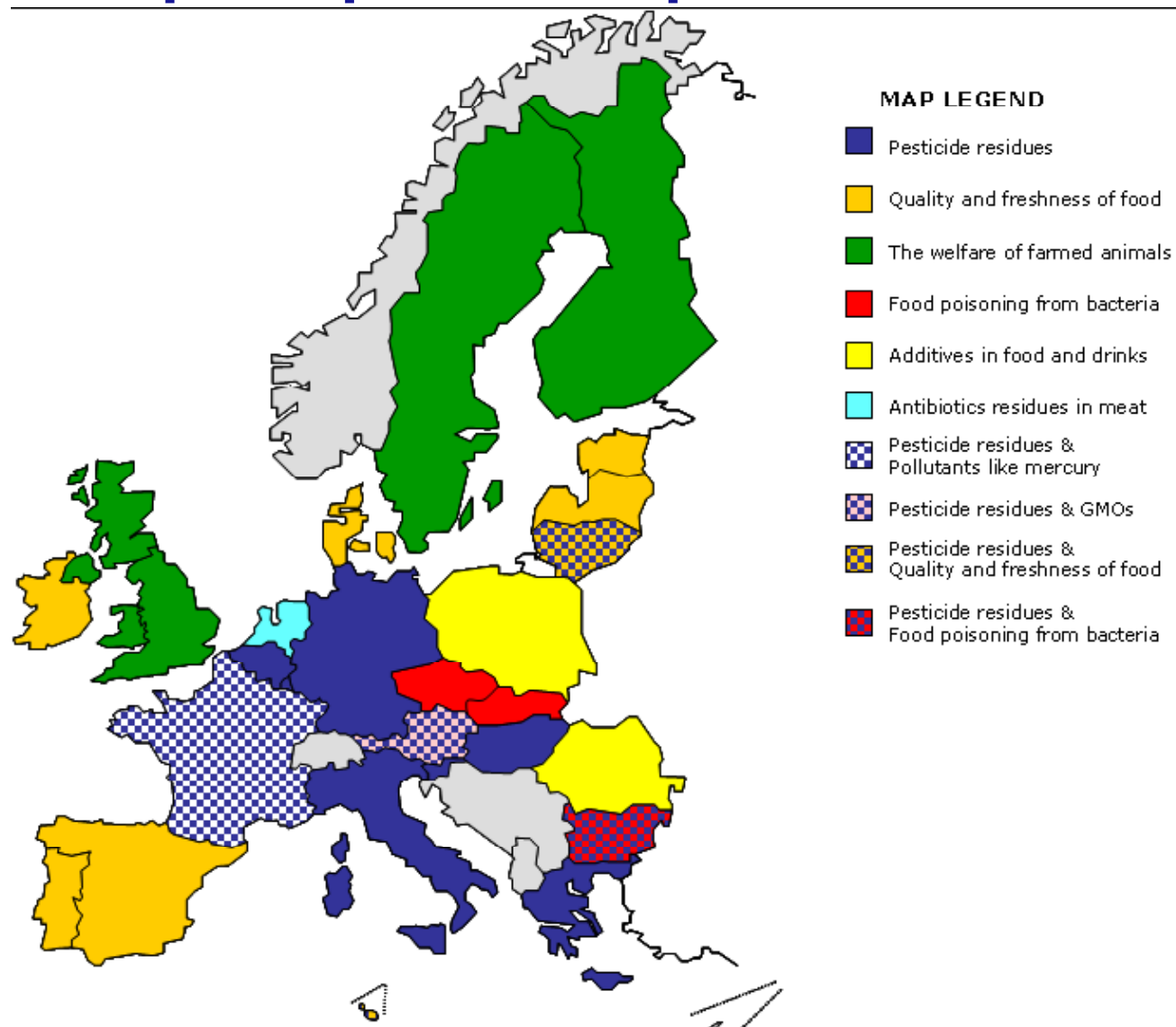
GMOs: Austria

ADDITIVES: Lithuania, Estonia

WELFARE OF FARMED ANIMALS: Denmark, Sweden

A diverse Europe

Risk perceptions: Top Concerns 2010

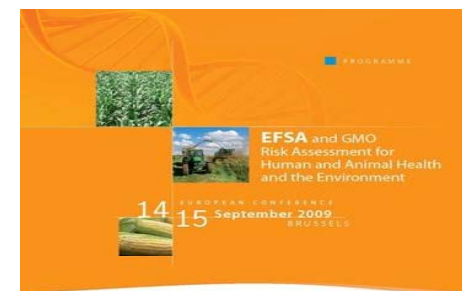


Reaching out to citizens



Accros Europe

events ... cities ... countries...



Scientific Colloquia
Joint events with Member States
International scientific conferences
Open doors
Local events...



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

We protect you - the consumers

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:

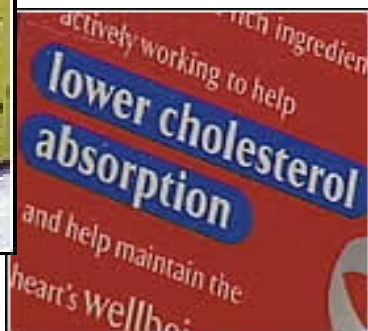
- Commission and Member States take action on the basis of EFSA 's advice



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**

Future challenges...

- Globalisation
- Climate change
- New technologies
- Socio-demographic changes
- ...
- ***EFSA 's Strategic Plan 2009-2013 adopted by MB in December 2008***



INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

EFSA communicates and exchanges information with OIE, WHO, FAO, IPPC

EFSA provides technical and scientific support to the European Commission regarding Codex Alimentarius

PRE-ACCESSION AND NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNTRIES

- IPA Programme and future ENP Programme

THIRD COUNTRIES AGENCIES

Continue cooperation with:

- FDA – signed agreement with FDA to form basis for collaboration (2007)
- Memorandum of Cooperation with Japanese Food Safety Commission
- Exchange of letters for cooperation with Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ), New Zealand Food Safety Authority (NZFSA), Health Canada (HC)

Our vision

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

Thank you for your attention

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