

2002 – 2012 EFSA success and challenges

Dr. Stef Bronzwaer
Science Strategy & Coordination Directorate

EFSA, TEN YEARS ON ASSESSMENT AND COMMUNICATION RISK ACTIVITY
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About EFSA



- ✓ Set up in 2002
- ✓ EFSA started its scientific work in 2003
- ✓ Moved to Parma 2005
- ✓ Budget 2012 of 78 Million Euros
- ✓ Over 450 Staff, 60% engaged in science

EFSA's mission



- European Union's **scientific risk assessment body** on food and feed safety, nutrition, animal health and welfare, and plant health and protection, tackling issues **all along the food chain**.
- Provides **science based risk assessments** supporting risk management related to food/feed safety.
- Provides **scientific and technical advice** on all matters within these fields, including **data collection**.
- EFSA **communicates** all findings publicly (task shared with EC/Member States).



- No responsibility for food safety legislation

- No task in food safety/quality controls, labelling or other such issues

- No substitute for national authorities

• Parma (IT)

EFSA's vision



To provide Europe with the best scientific advice that enables timely decision-making to protect consumers from food-related risks and support healthy dietary choices.

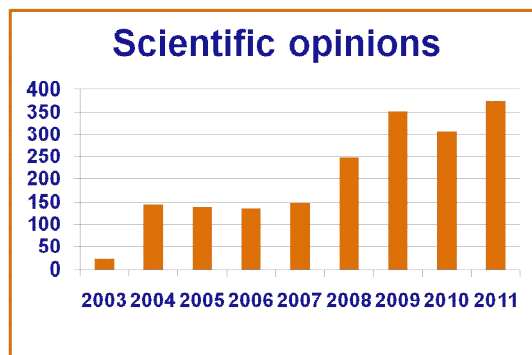
Where is EFSA today?

- Creation of scientific structure: **Scientific Committee and Scientific Panels**
- Development of **internal scientific support** structures
- Development of **guidance on methodologies for risk assessment and risk monitoring, procedures**
- Establishment of **cooperation activities throughout Europe** and with organisations in **third countries** and **international organisations**
- **Dialogue with its stakeholders and consults** on key scientific opinions
- Publication of over **2,500 scientific outputs**

Risk assessment: dedicated to scientific excellence

+ 1800 scientific opinions (together 2500 scientific outputs)

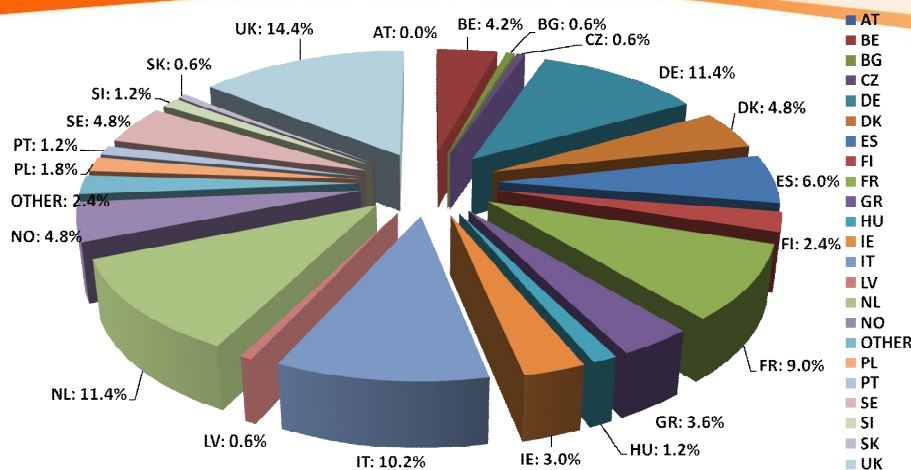
- 500th opinion - 2007
- 1000th opinion - 2009



Scientific excellence and other core values

- Scientific excellence:
 - ✓ Quality expertise
 - ✓ Information / data
 - ✓ Methods
- Other core values: responsiveness, independence, transparency, openness and dialogue
- Integrated advice: Scientific Committee
- Scientific outputs: EFSA Journal & accessibility

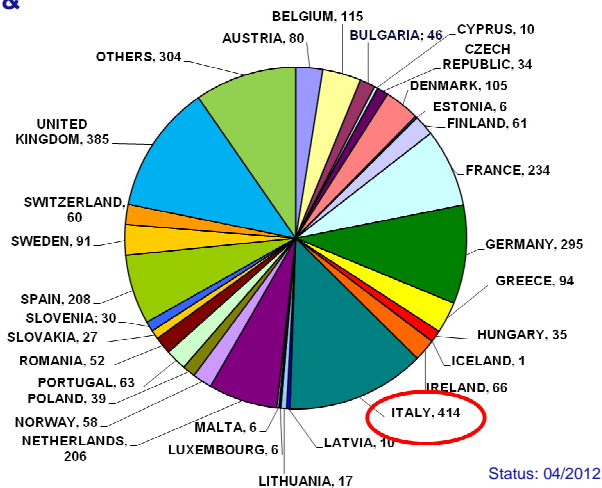
New Panels – 2012



- Most candidates from UK, Germany, The Netherlands, Italy and France; consistent with 2009
- 21 EU MSs and only 3 experts from non-EU countries are proposed for nomination, compared to 6 in 2009

EFSA's Expert Database – a growing database

- To enhance capacity & transparency of the selection process
- Established in 2008
- For EFSA & MS

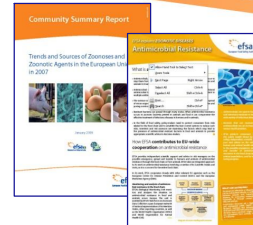


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Open Plenary meetings - 2012

- **Objectives**
 - ✓ To promote better understanding of how scientific risk assessment work is undertaken at EFSA.
 - ✓ To provide an opportunity for participating Observers to raise questions in relation to the work of the Scientific Committee/Panels.
- **Pilot phase**
 - ✓ To test the procedures developed by EFSA (incl. the 'Guidelines for Observers').
 - ✓ To collect feedback from meeting participants (incl. participating Scientific Committee/Panel secretariats).

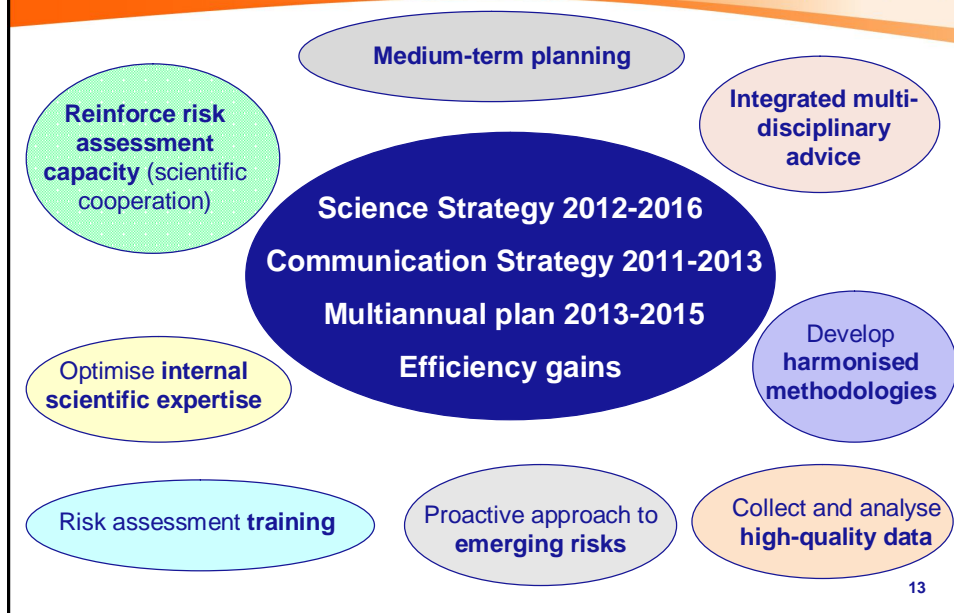
- **Yearly analysis of EU-wide situation**
 - Zoonoses
 - Antimicrobial resistance
 - Pesticide residues
- **Food consumption data for exposure assessments**
 - Increasingly sophisticated and harmonised data
- **Cooperation in risk communication**
 - Advisory Forum Working Group
 - Information exchange (e.g. STEC)
- **Increasingly more structured cooperation**
 - **Medium-term planning** with Advisory Forum,
 - Stakeholder Platform rolling work plan...



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- **Evolving European food policy context – EFSA’s Strategic Plan**
- **Nature and volume of scientific work**
 - ✓ Regulated products with many sectorial regulations
 - ✓ Public health and emerging issues
 - ✓ Nature and complexity of advice:
 - *novel technologies,*
 - *marked broadening of the scientific discourse*
 - environmental impact
 - benefits versus risks
 - post-market monitoring
 - single versus multiple hazards
- **Resources**
 - ✓ Budget to remain around existing levels

Responding to future challenges



Guidance Harmonisation and Development, Consultation and Life-Cycle Management

- Working Groups of the Scientific Committee supported by EFSA Task Forces:
 - ✓ Overall scientific (uncertainty) and procedural aspects (materials and methods, public consultation)
 - ✓ Hazard characterisation (chemical and microbiological)
 - ✓ Exposure assessment, including occurrence monitoring
 - ✓ Environmental Risk assessment
 - ✓ Efficacy / health benefits
 - ✓ Import risk assessment
 - ✓ Emerging issues
- Supported by a Member State Network

Guidance Life cycle



Scientific training activities in EFSA and Member States

Foreseen training activities

- Basic - Risk Assessment training under European Commission's Better Training for Safer Food (BTFS) programme
- Training at or through EFSA:
 - Residence at EFSA
 - Entry-level staff training
 - Panel members and senior staff training

Risk Assessment training under (BTSE)- Calendar

Principles and Methods of Food Safety Risk Assessment		
Training courses on:	Training dates:	Location:
Microbiological risk assessment	Sep 10-15, 2012	Vilnius
	Mar 11-15, 2013	Berlin
Chemical risk assessment in food	Oct 01-05, 2012	Vilnius
	Feb 25- Mar 01, 2013	Milan
	Apr 29- May 03, 2013	Berlin
Risk assessment in nutrition	Nov 19 -23, 2012	Vilnius
	Apr 08-12, 2013	Berlin
Pest risk assessment	Dec 03-07, 2012	Milan
	May 13-17, 2013	Vilnius
Risk assessment in Genetically Modified Organisms	Feb 04-08, 2013	Milan
	Apr 08-12, 2013	Vilnius

Training opportunities at EFSA

- **Direct training opportunities**
 - ✓ Pre-accession programme
 - ✓ Residence at EFSA
 - Trainee-ship
 - Seconded National Experts
 - National Experts in Professional Training (NEPT)

- **Indirect training opportunities**
 - ✓ Scientific Colloquium series: exploring new areas
 - ✓ EFSA's 10th anniversary conference "Challenging boundaries in risk assessment – sharing experiences" (Parma, 7 - 8 November 2012)

Risk Assessment training under development



- Human capital: risk assessment competency development
 - **Induction training for (new) staff, open to Panel experts**

- Science Strategy & Coordination: specialised training courses on certain aspects of food safety risk assessment
 - **Training for (new) Panel experts, open to staff**

Quality at EFSA - Principles



- EFSA aims to forge a world class reputation for the quality of its scientific processes and Outputs – essential for building trust in European food safety
- Quality is inherent in our core values of
 - **Independence**
 - **Scientific Excellence**
 - **Openness and Transparency**
 - **Responsiveness**
- In 2011 the Management Team decided to implement a fully integrated Quality Management System by 2016
- The system being implemented is to be compatible with ISO 9001:2008

External Quality Review



- Is a constructive review of the Quality of our Outputs and not a re-opening of the scientific debate
- Carried out by an external working group* (ERWG)
- Is now an annual process reviewing around 10% of EFSA outputs and includes all Panels
- There has been a significant improvement in the Quality of our Outputs as defined by the review criteria
 - The number of findings dropped from 6% in 2009 to 1.4% in 2011
- Results are published in the annual Quality Manager's Report

* External scientists not involved in the development of the Outputs they review

About the EFSA Journal



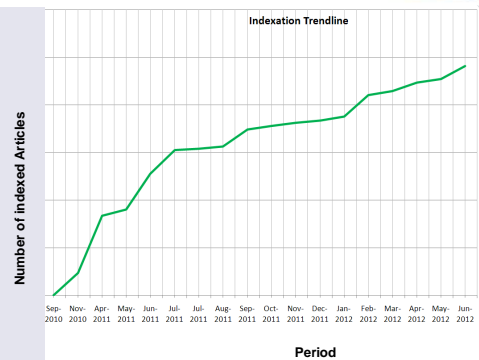
- **Scientific online journal that publishes EFSA scientific outputs**
- **Since 2003 - relaunch Dec 2009**
- **Characteristics**
 - ✓ Open-access, free of charge
 - ✓ Governed by an Editorial Board
 - ✓ Simple subscription to monthly table of contents and RSS
 - ✓ Search/advanced search capabilities
 - ✓ Indexed in bibliographic databases



EFSA Journal - Indexation databases



- Food Science and Technology Abstracts (FSTA)
- CAB Abstracts
- SciFinder
- Web of Knowledge
- DTU Libraries
- International Portal on Food Safety, Animal & Plant Health (IPFSAPH Portal)
- Google scholar
- Directory of open access journals (DOAJ)



FSTA™
Food Science and Technology
Abstracts® database



EFSA Journal - 2012



- Apply to more bibliographic databases: underway
 - ✓ AGRIS (FAO database)
 - ✓ Thomson Reuters' Web of Science
- ✓ Develop the EFSA Journal further creating a new section on 'Special issues'
- ✓ Publish the first special issue on EFSA's scientific achievements of the past 10 years
- ✓ Improve the search function

Grazie per la vostra attenzione