



Minutes

Management Board Meeting

11 December 2002

10.00 – 17.30 Centre Borschette, Brussels

Members of the Management Board present

- Angeliki Assimakopoulou
- Giorgio Calabrese
- Robert Coleman
- Carlos Escribano Mora
- Peter Gaemelke
- Matthias Horst
- Deirdre Hutton
- João Pedro Machado
- Bart Sangster
- Stuart Slorach
- Roland Vaxelaire
- Patrick Wall

Staff of the European Food Safety Authority Implementation Team present

- Jochen Brodersen
- Christine Majewski
- Andy Stimpson
- Anja Van Impe
- Katty Verhelst
- Peter Wagstaffe

Administrative Matters

The Management Board members decided that at future meetings, arrangements need to be made so that strictly administrative matters, which may be of less interest and concern to the webstreaming audience, are either taken before or after the webstreaming. Criteria need to be identified and communicated why some parts of the meeting are closed.

There were no declarations of interest for this meeting.

Following legal advice, the declarations of interest concerning the interviews for the Executive Director made on 1 October 2002 will be made public and put on the Authority's website.

Any changes to the contact details of the Management Board members need to be communicated to the secretariat.

Preliminary Formalities

Stuart Slorach opened the meeting by welcoming the Board members and the webstreaming audience. Apologies were received from Ernst Bobek, Cathérine Geslain-Lanéelle and Pirkko Raunemaa.

MB 11.12.2002 - adopted Minutes

1. Adoption of Agenda

A new agenda was tabled (revision 1). The agenda was adopted, including agenda points under Any Other Business.

2. Minutes of the meeting of 6 November 2002 and matters arising (MB 6.11.2002 – version 4 Draft Minutes)

Following a decision in the last meeting, a letter was sent from the Management Board to the Danish Presidency regarding the urgency of the decision on the Authority's permanent seat. The reply, which has been distributed to the Board members, stated that a decision on the location of the new agencies is not foreseen in the meeting in Copenhagen in December 2002.

The minutes of the Management Board meeting of 6 November 2002 were adopted. This document will be published on the Authority's website.

3. Update on the Appointment of the Executive Director

Stuart Slorach sent a letter on behalf of the Management Board to Geoffrey Podger outlining the conditions of his appointment as the Authority's Executive Director. Geoffrey Podger accepted the offer and will take up office on 1 February 2003. He met the Authority's staff on 5 December and is already in close contact with current matters in the Authority.

4. Update on the budget for 2002 (MB11.12.2002 – 2)

Jochen Brodersen introduced this item by giving an overview of the budgetary steps taken in the last year and by explaining that it was standard procedure to use funds which are budgeted in 2002 and used in the first quarter of 2003.

The Management Board adopted the proposal.

5. Update on the budget for 2003 (MB11.12.2002 – 3; MB11.12.2002 – 3 Annex)

Jochen Brodersen presented this matter by explaining the current budgetary constraints due to the European Parliament's imminent decision to put 50%, i.e. €8.244.171, of the Authority budget for 2003 in reserve. It was made clear that with cuts in administrative and operational expenditure, the Authority would not be able to reach the level of staffing as foreseen in its establishment plan 2003, and the objectives in the work programme 2003.

The Management Board, with great reluctance, adopted the 2003 budget amounting to €8.244.171, but recognised that a decision had to be taken for procedural reasons. The Board considered that this budget is insufficient to adequately discharge its responsibility as described in the Regulation 178/2002. Therefore, the Board invited the European Parliament to exercise its responsibility for food safety by restoring the full budget €16.493.423 in the interest of European consumers, food industries and agriculture.

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In addition to placing their concerns in the text of their Decision on the web-site, and in a press release, Stuart Slorach agreed to write a letter to the European Parliament to express the Board's disappointment in the Parliament action to cut the Authority's budget in this crucial start up phase. He also agreed to write to the Greek Presidency concerning the lack of decision on the Seat. It was agreed that he would make arrangements to meet the responsible people at the European Parliament in order to raise the Board's concern and dissatisfaction and to ensure that the Parliament understands the consequences to food safety of cutting the Authority's budget by 50%.

The Management Board members also agreed to use their contacts with the Parliament and Council to ensure that the implications of the 50% cuts are fully understood.

6. New Framework Financial Regulation (MB11.12.2002 – 4)

Jochen Brodersen informed the Management Board that the Commission adopted the new framework Financial Regulation on 19 November 2002. He also explained the main difference between the old and the new budgetary guidelines.

The Management Board adopted the new Financial Regulation, following the changes – editorial and others – made in the meeting. The Secretariat will provide the Board members with other agencies' implementing rules of the new Financial Regulation by its next meeting. The Regulation adopted by the Management Board will be forwarded to the Commission for its approval.

7. Update on Advisory Forum arrangements

Christine Majewski introduced this matter for information only. Following agreement from the Board in its meeting of 6 November 2002, the Authority has invited the Member States, through their Permanent Representation, to a meeting of the Interim Scientific Advisory Forum on 18 December 2002. The agenda of this meeting is as follows:

- ✓ Introduction
- ✓ Update on the Authority
- ✓ Role of the Advisory Forum of the Authority
- ✓ Update on scientific co-operation and the designation of Authorities by the Member States under article 36.2 of Regulation 178/2002-12-12
- ✓ Information concerning recruitment for the Authority and the possibility of detached national experts
- ✓ Any other business

The Advisory Forum proper will be established when the Executive Director takes up office. The Executive Director is requested to make proposals to the Management Board on transparency including for the Advisory Forum as early as possible.

Stuart Slorach informed the Board that he had written in November to the Permanent Representatives of the Member States to ask them to nominate their representatives and alternates for the Advisory Forum. This would ensure that the Forum could meet

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as quickly as possible in the New Year following the Executive Director coming into post.

8. Report from the Authority's Management Board Team Building Day (MB11.12.2002 – 6)

The Management Board's Team Building day on 29-30 November was attended by 9 members of the Board, Geoffrey Podger and 3 members of the Authority's secretariat.

The overall objectives therefore were to spend some time to build a cohesive team spirit and mutual understanding, to give members an opportunity to interact with each other and through discussion, start to find common ground on the scope and general direction of the Authority within the framework of the founding Regulation.

No conclusions were drawn from the discussions but members were able to explore one another's views on the problems and key issues facing the Authority in the near and long term future.

The secretariat is to prepare a document, based on MB11.12.2002-6, on the outcome of the Team Building day. Upon agreement by the Board, the document will be put on the web.

9. Information concerning the call of expression of interest for the Scientific Committee and Panels

Peter Wagstaffe reported on the progress made regarding the call of expression of interest for the Scientific Committee and Panels.

It is foreseen that the call will be published in various media (such as the Official Journal, the Authority's website, leading scientific publications, through the Management Board members, the Permanent Representations, the Advisory Forum, the Commission, DG SANCO's website, existing Scientific Committees and research communities, the Codex system, etc.) by mid-January 2003. The call should be open for 6 to 8 weeks.

The text of the call is to be sent to the members of the Board the day before it is officially published.

Since the Management Board nominates the scientific experts of the Committee and Panels, based on the proposal from the Executive Director, the proposal should be with the Management Board by 21 April in order to nominate the experts in its meeting of 29 April.

10. Any Other Business

- **Draft decision concerning the terms and conditions for internal investigations in relation to the prevention of fraud, corruption and any illegal activity detrimental to the Committees' interests (MB 11.12.2002-7)**

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Christine Majewski introduced the matter by explaining that the document needs to be adopted in order to have a system in place to combat fraud, corruption and illegal activities, and to work together with the Commission's anti-fraud service.

The Management Board decided to postpone the vote of this document until its meeting on 21 January 2003. The Secretariat is to change document according to the comments made in the meeting.

- **Date for next Management Board Team Building Day**

Following a circulation of availabilities of the Management Board members, it was decided to the next Team Building meeting will be held on 17 June 2003.

- **Public Health problem in Italy**

Giorgio Calabrese brought to the Boards attention a public health matter in Italy involving infants who are prematurely developing their sexual organs. The problem appears to be as a result of the ingestion of hormones in their diet. It was suggested that the situation should be reported formally to the Commission as it would appear that a breach of Community legislation had occurred. The Authority may need to be involved if there are risk assessment matters to resolve.

- **Reimbursement**

Jochen Brodersen informed the Board that adjustments to reimbursements were in hand and that EN and FR versions of the rules on reimbursement would be circulated to members at the meeting of 21 January.

Stuart Slorach closed the meeting by thanking the Authority's Implementation team for the preparatory work, the interpreters, the team responsible for the web streaming and all the members of the Board.