

Minutes

FOURTEENTH MEETING BETWEEN FOCAL POINTS AND EFSA BERN (SWITZERLAND), 5-6 JUNE 2012

Members

Chair: Stef Bronzwaer

Austria	<i>Johann Steinwider</i>	Latvia	<i>Dace Vilcāne</i>
Belgium	<i>Lieven De Raedt</i>	Lithuania	<i>Ingrida Miliute</i>
Cyprus	<i>Georgios Stavroulakis</i>	Luxembourg	<i>Nathalie Welschbillig</i>
Czech Republic	<i>Petr Beneš</i>	Malta	<i>Ingrid Busuttill</i>
Denmark	<i>Arne Büchert</i>	Netherlands	<i>Hubert Noteborn</i>
Estonia	<i>Piret Priisalu</i>	Norway	<i>Marie Louise Wiborg</i>
Finland	<i>Kirsi-Maarit Siekkinen</i>	Poland	<i>Iwona Wisniewska</i>
France	<i>Coralie Bultel</i>	Portugal	<i>Lubélia Maria Silva</i>
Germany	<i>Klaus Henning</i>	Romania	<i>Alecsandra Dida Cozachievici</i>
Greece	<i>Stamatina Louka</i>	Slovak Republic	<i>Marica Theiszová</i>
Hungary	<i>Judit Sali</i>	Slovenia	<i>Blaža Nahtigal</i>
Iceland	<i>Ástfríður Sigurðardóttir</i>	Spain	<i>Cristina Alonso-Andicoberry</i>
Ireland	<i>Anne-Marie Boland</i>	United Kingdom	<i>Alisdair Wotherspoon</i>
Italy	<i>Luca Busani</i>		

Observers

Croatia	<i>Sandra Bašić</i>	Serbia	<i>Jelena Šćepanović</i>
FYROM	<i>Abdulezel Dogani</i>	Switzerland	<i>Michael Beer and Judith Beck</i>
Montenegro	<i>Tatjana Babovic</i>	Turkey	<i>Nurseren Budak</i>

Invitees

<i>Réné Imhof</i> ¹	
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Staff of the European Food Safety Authority

<i>Stef Bronzwaer</i>	<i>Sérgio Potier Rodeia</i>
<i>Torben Nilsson</i>	

1 WELCOME AND OPENING OF THE MEETING

Stef Bronzwaer from EFSA's Advisory Forum and Scientific Cooperation (AFSCO) Unit and Chair of the meeting opened the 14th meeting between Focal Points (FPs) and EFSA. He introduced Michael Beer, Swiss Advisory Forum Member and Head of the Food Safety Division of the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH).

Michael Beer welcomed participants and highlighted the important work carried out by the Focal Point network, on the year that EFSA celebrates its 10th anniversary. He finally wished participants a fruitful meeting.

The Chair thanked Michael Beer for hosting the meeting in Bern, as well as Judith Beck, Swiss Focal Point, for the support provided in organising this event. The Chair welcomed the representatives from 33 countries, in particular Lieven De Raedt from Belgium, Coralie Bultel from France, Ingrida Miliute from Lithuania, Abdulezel Dogani from FYROM and Jelena Šćepanović from Serbia, who are attending a Focal Point meeting for the first time. Apologies were received from Bulgaria and Sweden.

2 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Following the distribution of the draft agenda to Focal Points before the meeting, some additional items were raised. Austria expressed the wish to report on its recent request to EFSA for a risk assessment on verotoxigenic *Escherichia coli*. During the meeting, Denmark, France, Finland and Germany requested to be given the word under "Any Other Business" (AOB) so to make short announcements. From EFSA's side, five topics were listed also under AOB: an update on EFSA's Scientific Colloquia; an update on Advisory Forum discussion groups; the adoption of minutes by written procedure; Focal Point expenditure in human resources; and future Focal Point meetings in 2012.

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Declarations of Interests, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest (ADoI) of meeting participants. Arne Büchert (Denmark) informed participants of his current involvement in the consortia which will be delivering the training courses on principles and methods of food safety risk assessment, organised through the European Commission (EC) "Better Training for Safer Food" (BTSF) programme. No conflicts of interests related to any issues to be discussed in this meeting were identified during the screening process or at the beginning of the meeting. Focal

¹ Attended part of the meeting

Points were also reminded to update their ADOIs, especially when they receive a notification that it will soon be one year old i.e. that it will no longer be valid.

The draft minutes of the 13th Focal Point meeting were sent to Focal Points for comments on the 13th of March 2012. The minutes were approved with comments received from Denmark and have been published on EFSA's website.

After a few administrative matters, the Chair informed participants of changes about to occur regarding the handling of the FP network. The Chair gave the floor to Torben Nilsson, who explained that he will be leaving EFSA by the end of August in order to integrate the EU delegation for the African Nations, based in Ethiopia.

Action 1: AFSCO to upload the final minutes of the 13th Focal Point meeting on EFSA's website, as well as on the Focal Point workspace available on ScienceNet.

3 FOOD SAFETY SYSTEM IN SWITZERLAND

Michael Beer provided participants with an insight of how the food safety system is organised in Switzerland. Reference was made to the Federal Department of Home Affairs, to the Federal Office of Public Health, and to activities carried out in the area of food safety. On this field of activity, the organisation employs 66 employees and runs a total annual budget of 13 million CHF. Independent scientific committees advise the organisation with regards to scientific research and survey activities. Examples of currently running projects are the monitoring programmes on selenium, sodium, iodine and vitamin D intake, on persistent organic pollutants, and on contaminants in breast milk. Other projects of relevance are run on salt reduction, contaminants in drinking water, and on food packaging. The Chair thanked Michael Beer for his presentation and pointed out the importance of the research work done at national level, most useful for EFSA's scientific outputs.

4 FOOD SAFETY SYSTEM IN SERBIA

Jelena Šćepanović, from the Serbian Ministry of Agriculture, Trade, Forestry and Water Management presented how the food safety system is organised in Serbia. Food safety competences are currently split between the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Health, depending on the type of product in consideration and at which level of the food chain (from primary production to retail) the activity is carried out. Key attention is currently being given to the implementation of EU legislation, in particular the one concerning risk management activities in the food safety area (e.g. RASFF and TRACES). An Expert Council for risk assessment will be set up in the near future in order to further implement the risk analysis framework in the area of food and feed safety at national level.

5 SUCCESSFUL STRATEGIES AGAINST *Listeria monocytogenes* IN SWITZERLAND

René Imhof, co-manager of the project on quality assurance in the research station Agroscope of the Federal Office for Agriculture (BLW) gave a brief overview on the occurrence of *Listeria monocytogenes* in Switzerland and on the success of the strategies meanwhile implemented to reduce its incidence. Being a country with a long tradition on milk and milk products, high priority has been allocated by the Swiss Government to the prevention and control of *Listeria monocytogenes* outbreaks. A dedicated laboratory, a monitoring programme and a *Listeria* consulting team have been set up with this purpose, supporting food business operators in the detection of weak points and risk zones during the course of the manufacturing process of milk and milk products.

6 BTSF RISK ASSESSMENT TRAINING IN MEMBER STATES

An update on the current status of the BTSF training activities on food safety risk assessment was presented by Sérgio Potier Rodeia. Focal Points were reminded of the main learning objectives and that the overall coordination relies with the EC BTSF programme. An information package containing the detailed agendas and learning objectives of the different training courses was shared with Focal Points. Ideas for possible support activities that FPs may provide to national BTSF contact points were also revisited, namely: (1) the dissemination of information about the courses to the right organisations/experts; (2) the provision of clarifications about the courses to applicants; (3) the identification/selection of the best candidates for the courses; (4) the online registration process; and (5) the implementation of the training courses themselves (where applicable).

Judith Beck and Nathalie Welschbillig were then given the floor and provided participants with an overview of the EC BTSF programme framework. The key role played by DG SANCO on this matter - more politically and strategically oriented - as opposed to the one carried out by the Executive Agency for Health and Consumers (EHAC) - more operational and financially oriented - was highlighted. The characteristics of the current training initiatives on food safety risk assessment were underlined, as well as the difficulties encountered so far on its implementation.

The discussion that followed these two presentations highlighted the need for a stronger and better coordination at national level between national BTSF contact points and Focal Points, given the implementing role of the first and the responsibility of the latter in communicating with the right organisations/experts involved at national level in food and feed safety risk assessment. It also highlighted the need for a clearer definition of the profile of candidates that should be selected for these training courses.

Action 2: AFSCO to request the EC BTSF programme coordinators to remind national BTSF contact Points to liaise with FPs and seek their support in the implementation of the training sessions;

Action 3: FPs to continue liaising directly with the national BTSF contact points for promoting the training sessions, as well as to support their implementation at national level.

7 RELEVANT ISSUES FROM THE LAST AF MEETING AND AFCWG MEETING

Torben Nilsson briefed participants on the outcome of the last Advisory Forum (AF) and Advisory Forum Communications Working Group (AFCWG) meetings, held respectively on 07-08.03.2012 and 03-04.04.2012.

During the AF meeting, strategic discussions focused on independence of scientific advice, food safety research, chemical mixtures and cooperation in the area of nutrition. Amongst the issues raised by EFSA, reference to the updates on Bisphenol A and the “Schmallenberg” virus, EFSA's 17th Scientific Colloquium on low dose response in toxicology and risk assessment, EFSA's opinion on threshold of toxicological concern, and training courses in food safety risk assessment being implemented at Member State (MS) level and in EFSA. Further details on this meeting, including issues raised by MS, are available on the respective minutes on EFSA's website².

From the AFCWG meeting, reference to the current state-of-play of EFSA's 10th anniversary events, upcoming work in the communications area, in particular regarding risk communication guidelines and the glossary of food safety terminology, as well to the joint meeting between the AFCWG members and Focal Points, to be held in October 2012.

8 IMPLEMENTING RULES OF EFSA'S POLICY ON INDEPENDENCE AND SCIENTIFIC DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES (TELECONFERENCE)

Simone Gabbi from EFSA's Legal and Regulatory Affairs Unit presented, via teleconference, the implementing rules of EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes³. The starting point for the development of this policy, the approach taken until the publication of the policy in December 2011, as well as of its implementing rules in March 2012, were briefly explained. Simone Gabbi mentioned that the policy describes all the steps that are taken by EFSA to ensure the implementation of its core values (scientific excellence, openness, independence, transparency and responsiveness) in its scientific outputs and decision-making processes. He also clarified that the implementing rules concern the screening and management of Declarations of Interest (DoI) submitted by scientific experts from the Scientific Committee, Panels or Working Groups, as well as by EFSA staff, Members of the Management Board and third party organisations, including external contractors. The new implementing rules also provide definitions of interests to be declared and what EFSA considers to be a conflict of interest. Finally, reference was made to the improved DoI IT tool, allowing interests to be declared to be fully visible and traceable, thus facilitating their understanding and public scrutiny.

9 FOOD SAFETY ORGANISATIONS

Linked to EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes and its implementing rules, the Chair briefed participants on the concept of Food Safety

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/120307-m.pdf>

³ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules.pdf>

Organisations (FSO). These are the organisations mentioned in the Article 36 list, as well as other entities carrying out tasks within EFSA's mission, pursuing public interest objectives, whose governance ensures the performance of its tasks with independence and integrity, and detaining a budget which has more than 50% of public funding. The current list under preparation will comprise the more than 400 Article 36 organisations, and other organisations which are currently not on the Article 36 list but that have recently provided EFSA with new Panel/Scientific Committee members. Further details on the nature/type of activities experts cooperating with EFSA will be allowed, depending on whether they belong to an FSO organisation or not, are provided on the implementing rules of EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes, available online.

10 JOINT MEETING BETWEEN FOCAL POINTS AND AFCWG MEMBERS

Torben Nilsson made a short introduction on the main objectives of this breakout session, aimed at preparing the joint meeting between Advisory Forum Communication Working Group (AFCWG) members and Focal Points, and to be held on the 10.10.2012 in Parma. FPs were pooled in six groups and asked to (1) share their national experiences of liaison with AFCWG members; (2) identify topics for discussion with AFCWG members which are of interest to FPs; (3) identify overlapping activities and audiences, and how to best manage them; and (4) share their experiences on the best use of FP WebPages in the context of national communication activities.

A set of five guiding questions was presented as a basis for a 30' discussion and provision of feedback. On the question "*Is the information exchange/flow at national level considered sufficient given the complementary tasks carried out by FPs and AFCWG members?*" the majority of FPs confirmed an overall good flow of information. However, in certain cases, the exchange of information was reported to present limitations due to (1) lack of a representative at the level of the AFCWG; (2) FPs and AFCWG representatives being located in different institutions; and (3) different professional background of FPs and AFCWG members. To overcome these constraints FPs expressed the wish to understand better the background and aim of the AFCWG, and the role played by its members at national level.

Regarding the question "*Are different communication activities split at national level between FPs and AFCWG members?*", most FPs confirmed a good division of communication activities, established on the basis of the target audience (scientific vs. public domain), the subject to be communicated (e.g. EDB, Article 36, other IT tools vs. messages addressed to the public in general) and the institutions of concern (when e.g. FPs and AFCWG are located in different organisations). The latter was also referred by some FPs as a cause for difficulties on the optimal split of communications activities. Most FPs also mentioned that an important channel used for these communication activities are the FP WebPages and that often an agreement exists at national level on who should do what on these WebPages.

When questioned "*Is there an overlap/duplication of communication activities considering the tasks carried out by FPs and AFCWG members? In case there is overlap, is that a problem?*" all FPs confirmed the existence of such overlap. However, given that the target audiences are different, such overlap is not considered duplication but a

complementary activity, thus is not considered to be a problem. The single issue raised during the discussion of this question was the non-existence of an AFCWG representative at national level, that may then result in lack (or limited) communication activities being addressed to the general public.

On the question “*In the context of communication activities, are the target audiences of FPs and AFCWG distinct? Are the target audiences large enough or do we miss certain audiences?*” FPs expressed that there is, in general, a good distinction of the target audiences for the different communication activities. There is, however, the need to further expand them (e.g. to NGO’s, industry representatives, other stakeholders), and agree in advance who could be responsible for their coverage.

FPs were finally questioned “*How are Focal Point websites used for communicating national and EFSA RA activities/information?*”. Replies received illustrated that the use made by FP websites varies from country to country. In some countries there is a predefined communication strategy, in others e.g. a Council advising on communication issues. The type of information uploaded on websites may vary from direct links to EFSA’s scientific outputs/newsletters, to customised information translated into the countries language, and as well to the promotion of scientific events.

Action 4: AFSCO to summarize the outcome of the breakout session on the preparation of the joint meeting between FPs and AFCWG members, and present it at the forthcoming 36th meeting of the AFCWG, with a view to prepare the draft agenda for the joint meeting.

11 UPDATE ON EFSA’S 10TH ANNIVERSARY ACTIVITIES

General issues and EFSA cases studies

Torben Nilsson briefed participants on key activities ongoing or yet to occur related to the celebration of EFSA’s 10th anniversary. An important part of these activities concern a series of online outputs, published (or to be published) on EFSA’s website, regarding key achievements of EFSA, MS and the EC in the area of food and feed safety. These include, amongst other, several featured web stories (named also as “case-studies”), some already published in January 2012 (e.g. concerning BSE, *Salmonella*, environmental risk assessment, etc.), others scheduled to be published as of July 2012 (e.g. on the 2011 STEC outbreak, pesticides, food consumption data, etc.).

EFSA has a dedicated website where information concerning its 10th anniversary is kept regularly updated⁴. In addition, a brochure related to EFSA’s 10th anniversary, entitled “*EFSA@10: The science that is helping to keep Europe’s food safe*” has also been published⁵. Finally, a series of videos aimed at the general public are also being published on EFSA’s website. Although they do not hold the 10th anniversary label, they aim to explain how EFSA carries out its work and scientific activities. These videos are also available on YouTube channel⁶.

⁴ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/aboutefsa/10thanniversary.htm>

⁵ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/corporate/pub/efsa10thanniversary.htm>

⁶ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5xUhPmthgZk&feature=player_embedded

Action 5: FPs invited to use the outreach material published on EFSA's website (e.g. web stories, 10-year anniversary brochure, videos on EFSA's scientific work and activities) at national level. Adaptation of this material into the national languages is also most welcome.

During 2012, EFSA is organising different events for key partners and stakeholders, as well as together with MS. The main event will be a scientific conference organised in November in Parma (see below). A high level institutional conference will also take place in November, just after the abovementioned scientific conference. A series of specific anniversary-related events have been organised jointly with MS (e.g. conference on risk assessment with the Italian Ministry of Health, seminar on cooperation and regulated products in Bratislava, event on the first anniversary of the Bulgarian National Food Safety Agency in Sofia, etc.).

EFSA Scientific Conference 2012

The Chair provided an update on EFSA's scientific conference for 2012, the main event aimed at celebrating EFSA's 10th anniversary. This event, entitled "*Challenging boundaries in risk assessment – sharing experiences*" will take place on 07-08.11.2012 in Parma. It is expected to bring together over 700 scientific experts and other interested parties, and will consist on a 1.5 day lecture-like programme, with five parallel sessions. The main objectives for this event are to: (1) acknowledge achievements of past 10 years and lessons learned; (2) discuss new developments and opportunities for harmonisation in risk assessment across different scientific domains; (3) stimulate multidisciplinary debate amongst scientists working in different scientific domains; (4) present how EFSA is working in partnership with international organisations; and (5) present and discuss the key challenges and opportunities ahead, as laid down in EFSA's Science Strategy 2012 – 2016.

Action 6: FPs to promote EFSA's scientific conference for 2012 amongst their network of organisations/experts.

12 EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION BETWEEN EFSA AND FOCAL POINTS

IEP issues

Sérgio Potier Rodeia briefed FPs on current outstanding issues regarding the Information Exchange Platform (IEP). Focal Points were again requested to (1) target all risk assessment bodies at national level when collecting information on risk assessment activities; (2) upload on the IEP, in addition to risk assessment outputs, also mandates/requests for risk assessment falling within the EFSA's remit (i.e. on food and feed safety, nutrition, animal health and welfare, plant health and plant protection); and (3) to upload the correct documents on the proper location of the IEP (for further details, FPs were referred to the IEP website⁷).

FPs were also again reminded that some types of documents should not be uploaded onto the IEP (e.g. scientific articles, abstracts, posters or presentations, press releases, newsletters, raw data, results of research projects, confidential documents, unofficial

⁷ <https://sciencenet.efsa.europa.eu/portal/server.pt> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/calls/procurement.htm>

documents). Data to be uploaded should be with correct spelling, in English and with proper characters, given that IEP reports are currently automatically generated. Finally FPs were again requested to, if possible, expand the list of addressees of the IEP monthly reports, and as well to further disseminate the IEP postcards at national events.

Action 7: FPs reminded to (1) target, as far as possible, all risk assessment bodies, when collecting information on risk assessment activities at national level to be uploaded onto the IEP; and (2) continue the regular distribution of IEP monthly reports and, if possible, expand the respective list of addressees.

Communications sent by EFSA to Focal Points

Sérgio Potier Rodeia presented the recently launched EFSA web tool named “email alerts”. These consist on email updates of the latest information published by EFSA on its website, including news, publications, events, calls for data, calls for tenders, consultations and job opportunities in EFSA. It is possible to choose the subject of interest (or even all available subjects) and as well the frequency by which email alerts are received. The tool is still currently being fine-tuned, and therefore all current notifications being sent by EFSA to FPs via the scientific cooperation mail box will be maintained. In addition, FPs were reminded that EFSA’s website has available up-to-date information on past, ongoing and future calls for proposals planned under the annual work programme for grants⁸, and as well on calls for tenders planned under the annual work programme for science procurement projects⁹.

13 ISSUES RAISED BY FOCAL POINTS

Austrian Request to EFSA for a Risk Assessment on VTEC

Johann Steinwider, Austrian FP, presented the “*Austrian Request to EFSA for a Risk Assessment on VTEC*”. From the presentation it was made clear that, even though VTEC pathogenicity is currently based on the VTEC serotype of interest (and associated epidemiological data i.e. incidence in human disease, source of outbreaks, nature of clinical symptoms), this classification system led to a condition by which only six serotypes (out of more than 200 identified serotypes) are nowadays classified as pathogenic. However, over 100 serotypes have been associated with disease in humans (e.g. diarrhoea). AGES has therefore requested EFSA to review the use of the VTEC seropathotype concept versus a concept that is based on the detection of verocytotoxins in isolates (which are relevant pathogenicity factors). This has been a clear example where collected data and epidemiological investigations carried at national level have led EFSA to initiate a mandate aimed at addressing an important microbiological hazard.

⁸ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/calls/art36grants.htm>

⁹ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/calls/procurement.htm>

14 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

EFSA's Scientific Colloquia

The Chair briefed participants on the 17th EFSA Scientific Colloquium, to occur in Parma on the 14-15.06.2012, and focusing on low dose response in toxicology and risk assessment. The colloquium aimed to convene leading scientists from Europe and beyond for an open scientific debate on key issues related to the current state of the art in low dose response in toxicology and on the way forward to further enhance the process of risk assessment in the EU. The Chair highlighted that colloquia are not consensus meetings nor a series of lectures, but an opportunity for structured scientific debate. The conclusions of the meeting will be published on the EFSA website¹⁰ and as a booklet.

Update on Advisory Forum discussion groups

Torben Nilsson briefed participants on the work of the Advisory Forum discussion group on medium term planning. This discussion group was set up with the aim to explore how MS can work in partnership with EFSA to deliver its strategic objectives and priorities in the coming years. A discussion paper is being prepared to stimulate the strategic discussion on work planning and prioritisation, scheduled to take place at the 44th meeting of the Advisory Forum in June 2012.

The Chair informed participants on the current state-of-play of the work carried out by the Advisory Forum discussion group on the Article 36 list of organisations. The objectives of this discussion group are to reflect on the development of the Article 36 network and list, and in particular to (1) evaluate whether the appropriate organisations are on the Article 36 list, and what type of work they can do; (2) assess how to carry out the review of the list by the MS (legislation stipulates that MS shall review the list at least every 3 years); and (3) discuss and agree on guidelines for the nomination, maintenance and review of the Article 36 list by MS and EFSA, in particular with regards to the interpretation and implementation of the criteria set out in Commission Regulation (EC) No. 2230/2004. Work is currently ongoing in order to prepare the abovementioned draft guidelines, which will at a later stage be sent for consultation to FPs.

Approval of minutes by written procedure

Torben Nilsson explained to participants that, in the past, the draft minutes of FP meetings have been approved on the following FP meeting. It is now proposed to change this practice and approve minutes by written procedure. After each FP meeting, the draft minutes of the meeting are circulated by email to all FPs. A consultation period of two weeks is granted for the provision of comments on the draft version. The minutes are modified accordingly, where applicable, and the final minutes published on EFSA's website¹¹. Focal Points endorsed the proposal made.

¹⁰ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/120614.htm>

¹¹ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/fp/fpmeetings.htm>

Focal Point expenditure in human resources

Torben Nilsson informed participants that, according to the FP reporting guideline, expenses with human resources, even if made with temporary staff, can only be considered eligible if (1) they have occurred during the reporting period; (2) salary costs are directly related to activities carried out by FPs (in case of temporary staff, they should be at the same level of salaries of ministry officials doing similar tasks); (3) evidence of actual costs is provided during the reporting period. FPs were requested to provide such evidence on the coming reporting period, so to avoid unnecessary requests for clarification.

Action 8: FPs reminded to, when applicable, submit evidence of eligibility of human resource costs on the forthcoming reporting period of FP activities.

Future Focal Point meetings

The proposed date for the forthcoming 2012 Focal Point meeting is:

- 15th FP meeting: 9-10 October 2012, Parma, Italy.

FPs were reminded not to make any travel arrangements until receiving the formal invitation from EFSA. FPs were also reminded that they should have an approved ADol before registering for a meeting.

Other topics raised by Focal Points

Klaus Henning, from Germany, briefed participants on the BfR symposium "*Acting in Times of Crisis and Crisis Prevention*"¹², being organised in Berlin on the 13th and 14th of September, in cooperation with ANSES (France) and DTU (Denmark). Focal Points were specifically asked to share any existing national crisis manuals, guidelines for crisis communication or flow charts for crisis management, for publication as symposium proceedings.

Coralie Bultel from France invited participants to register to the ERA-ENVHEALTH's final conference on "*Sharing a vision for environment and health research in Europe*". The event is taking place in Paris on the 13th and 14th of June of 2012. The objectives of the event are to (1) gain a deeper understanding of ERA-ENVHEALTH concerns and how research may contribute to resolving them; and to (2) bring dynamism to ERA-ENVHEALTH research by analysing the impact of research and its effectiveness for policy.

Kirsi-Maarit Siekkinen, from Finland, informed participants about a joint event being organised by the Finnish Food Safety Authority (EVIRA) and EFSA. It will comprise an event celebrating EFSA's 10th Anniversary, taking place in Helsinki on the 1st of October 2012, and focusing on plant health¹³. This will be followed by a seminar on pest risk assessment, also organised in Helsinki, on the 2nd and 3rd of October 2012. The target audience of the later are researchers and other parties interested in pest risk assessment or

¹² <http://www.bfr.bund.de/en/events.html>

¹³ <http://www.evira.fi/portal/praseminar>

related disciplines. The event aims to increase the knowledge of pest risk assessment and to create and strengthen networks in order to facilitate cooperation.

Arne Büchert from Denmark informed Focal Points on the joint event being organised by DTU (Denmark) and EFSA, back to back with the 44th meeting of the Advisory Forum Advisory. The seminar will be held in Copenhagen on 26th of June 2012 and focus on the work on health claims for foodstuffs and dietary supplements in the EU and Denmark.

CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The Chair closed the meeting. He thanked again Michael Beer, as well as Judith Beck, for hosting the meeting in Bern and for the very good support provided in the organisation of this event. The Chair also thanked participants for their attendance and their active contributions in the various discussions. He specifically thanked Arne Büchert (from Denmark) and Stamatina Louka (from Greece) for their very good and active contribution as Focal Points, as both announced at this meeting to no longer attend future Focal Point meetings given other professional challenges ahead. Finally, he reiterated that it was a true pleasure for him to have chaired for the first time a Focal Point meeting, and wished a continued fruitful and consolidated collaboration between EFSA and the FP network.

SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

Reference	Who	What
Action 1	AFSCO	To upload the final minutes of the 13 th Focal Point meeting on EFSA's website, as well as on the Focal Point workspace available on ScienceNet
Action 2	AFSCO	To request the EC BTSF programme coordinators to remind national BTSF Contact Points to liaise with FPs and seek their support in the implementation of the training sessions
Action 3	FPs	To continue liaising directly with the national BTSF contact points for promoting the training sessions, as well as to support their implementation at national level
Action 4	AFSCO	To summarize the outcome of the breakout session on the preparation of the joint meeting between FPs and AFCWG members, and present it at the forthcoming 36 th meeting of the AFCWG, with a view to prepare the draft agenda for the joint meeting
Action 5	FPs	Invited to use the outreach material published on EFSA's website (e.g. web stories, 10-year anniversary brochure, videos on EFSA's scientific work and activities) at national level. Adaptation of this material into the national languages is also most welcome
Action 6	FPs	To promote EFSA's scientific conference for 2012 amongst their network of organisations/experts

Reference	Who	What
Action 7	FPs	Reminded to (1) target, as far as possible, all risk assessment bodies, when collecting information on risk assessment activities at national level to be uploaded onto the IEP; and (2) continue the regular distribution of IEP monthly reports and, if possible, expand the respective list of addressees
Action 8	FPs	Reminded to, when applicable, submit evidence of eligibility of human resource costs on the forthcoming reporting period of FP activities