

71st Meeting of the EFSA's Management Board

Minutes of the Public Session

Parma, 14 December 2016 – 9:00-15:15

Members of the Management Board Present	
Jaana Husu-Kallio (Chair)	Ladislav Miko
Robert van Gorcom (Vice-Chair)	Jan Mousing
Aivars Bērziņš	Giuseppe Ruocco
Zita Čeponytė	Andrej Simončič
Iñaki Eguileor	András Székács
Didier Houssin	Piet Vanthemsche
Stella Michaelidou-Canna	Michael Winter

Apologies: Raymond O'Rourke (Vice-Chair)

Staff of the European Food Safety Authority	
Bernhard Url (Executive Director)	Dirk Detken
Gian Luca Bonduri	Barbara Gallani
Hubert Deluyker	Juliane Kleiner
Peter De Pauw	Alberto Spagnoli
Paul Devalier	Hans Verhagen
Guilhem de Seze	Selomey Yamadjako

Also attending:

Anthony Hardy, Chair of the EFSA's Scientific Committee

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SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

The Board **adopted:**

- The Programming Documents covering the period 2017-2020. In particular, these include the “Final programming document 2017-2018”, the “Budget 2017” and the “Draft programming document 2018-2020”. In January, the programming documents will be notified to the competent EU bodies and made available online.
- The revised Charter of the Audit Committee. In view of the reorganisation of the EFSA’s internal control system and the decision adopted by the Board in June 2016 to reorganise the functions of the Internal Audit Capabilities, the Audit Committee Charter was revised in order to reflect these changes.
- A new decision on Terms and conditions for internal investigations in relation to the prevention of fraud, corruption and any illegal activity detrimental to the Union’s interests that replaces the Board decision adopted in 2002.
- A new decision on Setting up a Staff Committee under Article 110 of the Staff Regulations, which is based on the model notified by the European Commission.
- Amendments (2 new entries) to the Art. 36 list of competent organisations designated by Member States which may assist EFSA within its mission.

Item 1: Welcome by the Chair

1. The Chair opened the 71st Management Board meeting by welcoming the Board members, Executive Director, Chair of the Scientific Committee, EFSA Management Team and staff members.

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda

2. The Chair asked the Board if they wished to add any items to the agenda. The agenda was adopted as proposed.

Item 3: Board members' Oral Declaration of Interests

3. The Chair invited the Board members to declare possible interests in addition to those already declared with their Annual Declaration of Interests. No additional interest was declared.

Item 4: EFSA progress report

4. The Executive Director provided information on the activities carried out and main results achieved between September and November 2016. The report also included annexes on the status of the legal cases pending before the Court of Justice and the General Court, the 2016 budget execution and transfers, and the reduction of the MRLs backlog. [EFSA's progress report](#) and the [PowerPoint presentation](#) are available online. Prof. Anthony Hardy, Chair of the Scientific Committee, complemented EFSA's report by presenting an overview of the activities that are being carried out in the fields of weight of evidence, biological relevance and benchmark dose approach. A separate [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed description.
5. The Board noted the progress report and thanked the ED, the Chair of the SC, EFSA's scientific experts and staff for the work carried out during the reporting period. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at the following [link](#).
6. **Actions:**
 - Provide the Board with a yearly update on the reduction of the MRL backlog.
 - Provide the Board with information on the attractiveness of the EU-FORA fellowship programme.

Item 5: EFSA programming documents

7. The Executive Director introduced to the Board the "[Programming Document 2017-2019](#)", inclusive of the "[Budget 2017 – Statement of revenues and expenditures](#)" and the "[Programming Document 2018-2020](#)". A [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed description.
8. Expressing high appreciation for the plan of activities for 2017 and the following years, the Board adopted the above-mentioned programming documents and encouraged EFSA to continue implementing its Strategy. In January, the programming documents will be notified to the competent EU bodies and made available online. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at the following [link](#).
9. **Actions:**
 - EFSA to finalise the documents in line with the comments received from the Board and submit them to the competent EU authorities by the end of January 2017.

- When information becomes available, EFSA to revise the budget 2017 with the inclusion of the funds expected from FAO. The revised budget will be submitted to the Board for adoption in written procedure.

Item 6: EFSA independence policy review

10. Michael Winter, member of the Management Board working group on the review of EFSA's independence policy, reported on the activities carried out by the working group, in particular highlighting some initial reflections and outlining the methodology to be applied for the analysis. In addition, he described the subjects covered by the group work and the timeline for the completion of its activities. A [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed description.
11. The Board noted the update and encouraged the working group to continue progressing with this important activity. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at the following [link](#).
12. **Action:** The working group to circulate among the Board members an initial draft of the revised independence policy for written comments before submission for discussion at the next Management Board meeting.

Item 7: Revision of the Audit Committee Charter

13. With the aim to promote higher efficiency of the organisational processes, in June the Board supported the re-organisation of the Internal Audit Capabilities' functions. Under the new organisational structure in force from the 1st of January 2017, EFSA will invest in ex-ante risks prevention and externally procure the necessary expertise to respond to audit needs not addressed by the Internal Audit Service of the Commission. The Board adopted the revised [Audit Committee Charter](#) that reflects the elements of the new organisational model. The [PowerPoint presentation](#) and the [audio-file on the discussion](#) around this agenda item are available online.
14. **Action:** The revised Audit Committee Charter to enter into force as of the 1st of January 2017.

Item 8: Art. 36 organisations

15. With the inclusion of two new organisations based in Cyprus, the Board adopted the amended [Art. 36 list of organisations](#).
16. Barbara Gallani (Communications and External Relations) introduced to the Board a new initiative that, in the framework of the strategic objective no. 3 of EFSA's Strategy 2020, aims to strengthen networking between EFSA and the organisations in the Art. 36 list. In particular, the initiative aims at establishing a more agile and up-to-date Art. 36 list, whilst enhancing the engagement of Member States and competent organisations in the European networking. A [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed description.
17. The Board highly appreciated the initiative promoted by EFSA and invited the Authority to proceed along the lines described. The audio-file on the discussion around this agenda item is available online at the following [link](#).

Item 9: Establishment and operations of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and their Working Groups

18. With a view to the renewal of the Scientific Panels and the Scientific Committee in 2018, Juliane Kleiner (Senior Science Coordinator) presented a proposal to update the Board decision on the "Establishment and operations of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and their Working Groups", which was last reviewed

in 2012. The update focuses on some major issues, e.g. the number of terms of a Panel member in the same Panel and the number of members in a Scientific Panel. The proposal, [available online at this link](#), was presented with a view to receive input from the Board and submit a revised decision for possible adoption at the following meeting in March 2017.

19. The Board noted the presentation and provided indications on the approach to take with regards to the revision of the main elements of the above-mentioned decision. The [PowerPoint presentation](#) and the [audio-file on the discussion](#) around this agenda item are available online.
20. **Action:** At the March 2017 meeting, EFSA to submit to the Board for possible adoption a decision on the Establishment and operations of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and their Working Groups revised in line with the comments received.

Item 10: Anti-Fraud

21. Iñaki Eguileor left the meeting at 13:40 and for the vote on this item he gave his proxy to Jaana Husu-Kallio.
22. The Anti-Fraud Strategy, together with its Action Plan, was adopted by the Management Board in March 2015. Dirk Detken (Legal & Regulatory Affairs) reported on the activities carried out to implement each of the seven actions, by referring to the corresponding indicators. The main findings of the [report](#) show that all the actions foreseen in the Action Plan have been implemented. It also acknowledges a very low occurrence level of fraud at EFSA and as a consequence considers a risk-based approach as the best fit approach for future anti-fraud measures to put in place at EFSA. A [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed description.
23. As well, Dirk Detken presented the main elements of a new decision concerning the terms and conditions for internal investigations in relation to the prevention of fraud, corruption and any illegal activity detrimental to the Union's interests. A separate [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed description.
24. The Board noted the report on the implementation of the Action Plan of the EFSA's Anti-Fraud Strategy and adopted the above-mentioned decision, hence replacing the previous one dated 2002. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion around this agenda item is available online at the following [link](#).

Item 11: Implementing Rules of Staff Regulations

25. Dirk Detken introduced to the Board the draft decision for adoption of the Implementing Rules of the Staff Regulations on "Setting up a Staff Committee", which is based on the model notified by the Commission. He also provided an overview of the new implementing rules planned to be submitted to the Board in 2017. A [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed description.
26. The Board adopted the decision on "[Setting up a Staff Committee](#)". The audio-file on the presentation and discussion around this agenda item is available online at the following [link](#).

Item 12: Implementation of the EFSA Stakeholders Engagement Approach

27. Barbara Gallani provided the Management Board with an update on the implementation of the activities envisaged in the framework of EFSA's Stakeholder Engagement Approach, which the Board had endorsed in June 2016. In particular, she reported on the on-going registration of stakeholders following the call published in October and she described the main elements characterising

the permanent and targeted mechanisms of engagement. A [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed description.

28. The Board noted the update and invited EFSA to continue implementing activities along the lines of the Stakeholder Engagement Approach. The Board also noted the possible date for the kick-off meeting of the Stakeholder Forum, and the Chair expressed interests in taking part in this meeting. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion around this agenda item is available online at the following [link](#).
29. **Action:** EFSA to confirm the date of the kick-off meeting of the Stakeholder Forum and invite the Chair of the Management Board.

Item 13: Implementation of the IT operational strategy

30. Paul Devalier (Planning, Transformation and Technology Unit) provided the Board with an update on the implementation of the IT roadmap that the Board endorsed in 2013. His [presentation](#) gave an oversight of the performance and execution of the IT Strategy and showed its continuous business alignment with the EFSA Strategy 2020. The IT mission remains to help prepare for future risk assessment challenges by leveraging technology and transforming traditional workflow and knowledge management on modern software platforms.
31. The Board noted the update and invited EFSA to further advance with the implementation of the IT operational strategy along the lines described. The Chair thanked the Audit Committee for the steering activity they carry out with regards to this important project. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion around this agenda item is available online at the following [link](#).
32. **Action:** EFSA to provide the Audit Committee with information on the possible use by EFSA of ethical hackers to test the safety of the IT system.

Item 14: Feedback from the Audit Committee

33. The Chair of the Audit Committee (AC) updated the Board on the outcomes of the meeting held on 13 December. Among others, he reported on the reorganisation of EFSA's internal control system, the IAS audit on the EFSA IT governance and project management, EFSA's assurance plan 2017 and EFSA's ISO certification. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion around this agenda item is available online at the following [link](#).

Item 15: Any other business

34. Actions:

- As of this meeting, EFSA to draft minutes of the Board meetings highlighting the main outcomes, decisions taken and actions points.
- EFSA to organise the next phone-conference of the Steering Group on External Evaluation on 7 February 2017.

END

Summary of actions

Action reference	Action	Deadline	Status
Dec. 14, 2016 - 1	EFSA to provide the Board with a yearly update on the reduction of the MRL backlog.	Dec. 2017	OPEN
Dec. 14, 2016 - 2	Provide the Board with information on the attractiveness of the EU-FORA fellowship programme.	June 2017	OPEN
Dec. 14, 2016 - 3	EFSA to finalise the Programming Documents in line with the comments received and submit them to the competent EU authorities by the end of January 2017.	Jan. 2017	DONE
Dec. 14, 2016 - 4	EFSA to revise the budget 2017 with the inclusion of the funds expected from FAO. The revised budget will be submitted to the Board for adoption in written procedure.	Feb. 2017	OPEN
Dec. 14, 2016 - 5	The Board working group on the revision of EFSA's independence policy to circulate an initial draft of the revised policy for written comments.	Feb. 2017	DONE
Dec. 14, 2016 - 6	The revised Audit Committee Charter to enter into force as of the 1 st of January 2017.	1 st Jan. 2017	DONE
Dec. 14, 2016 - 7	For possible adoption by the Board, EFSA to submit a revised decision on the "Establishment and operations of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and their Working Groups".	March 2017	DONE
Dec. 14, 2016 - 8	EFSA to confirm the date of the kick-off meeting of the Stakeholder Forum and invite the Chair of the Management Board.	Jan. 2017	DONE
Dec. 14, 2016 - 9	EFSA to provide the Audit Committee with information on the possible use by EFSA of ethical hackers to test the safety of the IT system.	ASAP	DONE
Dec. 14, 2016 - 10	EFSA to draft minutes of the Board meetings highlighting the main outcomes, decisions taken and actions points.	As of the Dec. 2016 meeting	DONE

Dec. 14, 2016 - 11	EFSA to organise the next phone-conference of the Steering Group on External Evaluation on 7 February 2017.	Feb. 2017	DONE
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