

Summary of Annual Report 2007

Last year, 2007, was a landmark year for EFSA. As well as celebrating its 5-Year Anniversary, a number of important milestones were reached, underlining how EFSA has grown, in every sense, since it was founded in 2002.

Always maintaining its commitment to scientific excellence, openness, transparency, independence and responsiveness, EFSA's **scientific output** continued to increase significantly in 2007. In practical terms this translates to over 200 scientific opinions, guidance documents and reports. And in the area of regulated substances such as pesticides and food additives, EFSA's scientists conducted around 1000 assessments of new applications and re-evaluations of previously authorised substances.

In 2007 EFSA also **reinforced transparency and independence** when it adopted a comprehensive policy for updating its processes for handling the Declarations of Interest that EFSA's experts, management and staff must all make. This policy further strengthened how EFSA internally safeguards independence through many new efficiency measures including detailed procedures for harmonising the process across EFSA, for screening declarations, and for identifying and resolving potential conflicts of interests.

Scientific cooperation between EFSA and Member States also took a big step forward in 2007. With the Advisory Forum we strengthened our ties with national risk assessment institutions. These ties will be facilitated by the establishment of a network of national Focal Points. These Focal Points will serve as an additional motor to further drive the exchange of information between EFSA and its national counterparts. In 2007 EFSA signed agreements to establish Focal Points with 19 national food safety authorities. In 2007, EFSA also launched calls for proposals for national organisations, nominated by Member States, to work on specific scientific projects, in line with its Founding Regulation.

In 2007 EFSA continued to implement its risk communications strategy of **enhanced coherence, simplicity and visibility**. This strategy of communicating its scientific advice to its principal clients, stakeholders and the public at large, helps bridge the gap between science and the consumer, and contributes to building public confidence in the way risks are assessed. An important result of this strategy was the substantial redesign and subsequent relaunch of EFSA's website. But major activities linked to EFSA's 5-Year Anniversary celebrations, and increased media contact and impact were also part and parcel of EFSA's increased visibility during 2007.

EFSA also continued to **build bridges with institutional partners and stakeholders across Europe and beyond**. Notably EFSA raised its global profile when it signed its first formal international agreement in 2007. Under this confidentiality agreement with the US Food and Drug Administration, non-public information will be shared, facilitating scientific cooperation in food safety risk assessments.

Helping EFSA with this significant body of work in 2007, **EFSA's workforce grew to over 300** with 54% of EFSA's staff engaged in scientific activities.

To better manage the increasing workload and to improve **the scientific support** to EFSA's panels, two scientific Directorates were created, one to focus on EFSA's core business of delivering risk assessments to Europe's risk managers, and the other to support EFSA's risk assessment work and to develop scientific cooperation. These are now called, respectively, the Risk Assessment Directorate, and the Scientific Cooperation and Assistance Directorate.

Committed to ensuring that Europe's food is safe, EFSA will continue to streamline procedures and adapt working practices while also further strengthening networking throughout the European Union so that it can continue to deliver high quality advice for Europe's risk managers and protect European consumers.



EFSA Highlights 2007

January

- > EFSA re-evaluates safety of bisphenol A and sets Tolerable Daily Intake

February

- > EFSA publishes opinion on the risk of rabies being introduced into the UK, Ireland, Sweden and Malta, as a result of abandoning serological tests measuring protective antibodies to rabies
- > EFSA meets the four Member States presently involved in carrying out GMO environmental risk assessments

March

- > EFSA evaluates proposed temporary EU Maximum Residue Levels for pesticides
- > Steering Group on Cooperation with Member States meets for the first time
- > EFSA assesses new proposed maximum levels for almonds, hazelnuts and pistachios, advising the European Commission on aflatoxins in food



July

- > EFSA publishes guidance document to applicants on health claims
- > EFSA concludes review of new scientific data on potential risks to human health from certain hormone residues in beef
- > EFSA re-evaluates safety of food colours: First opinion adopted on food colour Red 2G which raises potential safety concerns
- > EFSA signs international confidentiality agreement with US Food and Drug Administration

August

- > EFSA advises on acute dietary exposure to pesticides

September

- > EFSA adopts comprehensive policy on Declarations of Interests
- > EFSA website redesigned and relaunched





April

- > EFSA publishes EU-wide survey on Salmonella levels in flocks of chicken raised for meat

May

- > EFSA adopts opinion on the likelihood of BSE infectivity in specified risk material from cattle at different age groups

June

- > Scientific Colloquium on Environmental Risk Assessment of Genetically Modified Plants

Key figures	
Opinions adopted	204
Questions received	205
Scientific reports & pesticide conclusions	82
Public consultations	63
Website visits	1.5m
Electronic newsletter subscribers	>17500
Press releases and statements	24
Number of media queries	425
EFSA staff	>300

October

- > Scientific Colloquium on Nutrient Profiling for foods bearing Nutrition and Health Claims
- > Parma Week, EFSA organises a week of activities to celebrate its 5-Year Anniversary
- > First Focal Point agreement signed between EFSA and the Italian national food safety authority

November

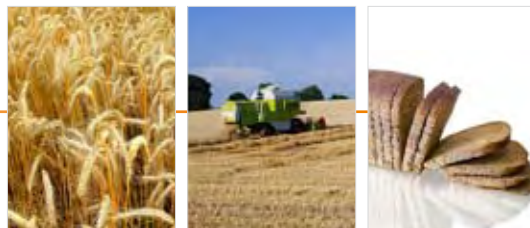
- > EFSA celebrates its 5-Year Anniversary in Brussels with a European Food Safety Summit and Scientific Forum
- > EFSA opinion on the BSE related public health risks of certain animal proteins in animal feed

December

- > Scientific Colloquium on pest risk assessments in support of phytosanitary decision making in the EU
- > Report on Zoonoses in 2006: EFSA and European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, jointly publish annual Community report on infections transmissible from animals to humans
- > EFSA staff numbers reach over 300



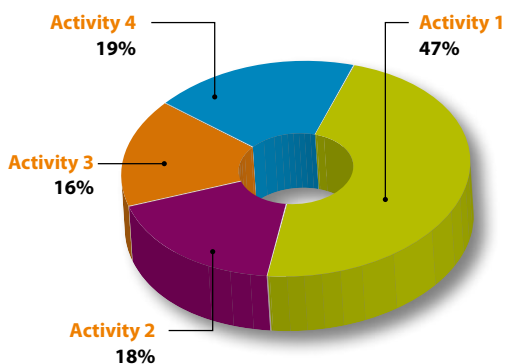
EFSA finances at a glance



EFSA's ever increasing growth was similarly reflected in its finances: With a budget of €52.2 million (compared to 2006's €40.2 million budget) commitments increased by 30% compared to 2006, totalling €47.4 million compared to 2006's €36.4 million. Overall, 91% of the budget was spent. More than two thirds of the budget was allocated to the scientific work of EFSA, of which the largest share (47%) belonged to activities

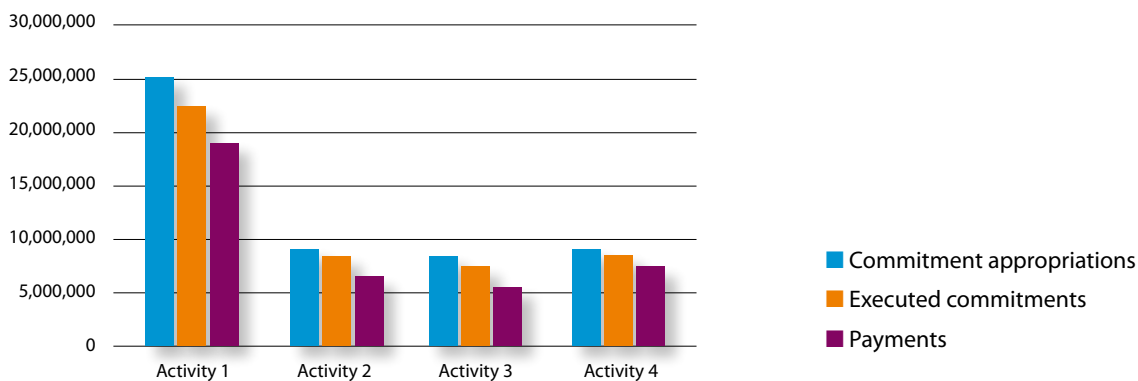
providing scientific opinion and advice to the European Commission, the European Parliament and Member States. Activities related to communicating scientific advice and dialogue between interested parties increased significantly to 16% of the executed budget compared to 2006's 9%.

Budget by Activity



- Activity 1:** Provide scientific opinion and advice to the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Member States
- Activity 2:** Enhance risk assessment methodologies in Europe
- Activity 3:** Communicate scientific advice and dialogue with interested parties
- Activity 4:** Manage and provide administrative support

ABB execution 2007



Operational and postal address:
 Largo N. Palli 5/A
 43100 Parma
 Italy

Contacts:
 Tel: +39 0521 036 111
 Fax: +39 0521 036 110
 info@efsa.europa.eu
 www.efsa.europa.eu

