

To celebrate our 5 Year Anniversary, we are organising a programme of events in 2007 to present EFSA and its work to decision-makers, stakeholders and the general public.



#### Brussels week: November 19-23, 2007

- **November 20-21: Scientific Forum** entitled "From safe food to healthy diets: EU risk assessment past, present and future", for scientists and other interested parties from the EU and beyond to debate issues with EFSA including nanotechnology, animal cloning, chemical and microbiological risks and nutrition (EC Charlemagne Building)
- **November 22: Food Safety Summit** for high level decision-makers from the Member States, EU institutions, international organisations and non-EU partner countries, to consider jointly the future of food and feed risk assessment in Europe (EC Charlemagne Building)
- An **EFSA exhibition** and events at the European Parliament



#### Joint events with Member States and Institutional partners

- **Activities in EU Member States** including conferences and seminars
- **Exhibition** at the open day of the European institutions in the **Berlaymont building** of the European Commission in Brussels (May 5)
- **Exhibition** at the open day of the **Joint Research Centre** in Ispra, Italy (May 12)



#### Parma week in co-operation with local authorities: October 1-7, 2007

- A **conference** with **Parma University** to foster dialogue with the Italian scientific community including scientists, researchers, and other bodies involved in risk assessment
- An **EFSA exhibition and information stand** open to the public all week in the centre of Parma and open days at EFSA
- **Scientific Round Table** on "Food Safety at the heart of Parma" facilitating an open discussion between EFSA's scientists and Parma citizens



#### Online activities

- A **dedicated section on the EFSA website on the 5 Year Anniversary** with a range of online tools to learn about EFSA and our work, including web casts, presentations, speeches and photos of our events

#### Where to find more details

EFSA website: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu>

Subscribe to receive EFSA 5 Year Anniversary information and EFSA news:

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/subscription.html>

#### How you can take part

Some events will be open to members of the public, though pre-registration may be required.

Check the EFSA website for more details or write directly to [5years@efsa.europa.eu](mailto:5years@efsa.europa.eu)



EUROPEAN | FOOD | SAFETY | AUTHORITY

Celebrating  
**five years**  
since the  
founding  
of **EFSA**

EFSA was set up by European authorities as part of a commitment to ensuring a high level of food and feed safety and consumer protection. EFSA is the keystone of the EU system of risk assessment for food and feed safety, and our scientific advice underpins the decisions of policy-makers and risk managers in the European institutions and Europe's Member States.



Food is essential to life. We are committed to ensuring that Europe's food is safe.



## Valuing high scientific standards in food safety

The Authority's most critical commitment is to provide objective and independent science-based advice grounded in the most up-to-date and reliable scientific information and data.

EFSA is a pan-European organisation of leading scientists in the field of science-based risk assessment. The experts on EFSA's Scientific Committee and Panels are appointed on the basis of proven scientific excellence including experience in carrying out risk assessment and peer-reviewing scientific work and publications.

EFSA is governed by an independent Management Board whose members do not represent any government, organisation or sector. The Authority also applies a robust set of internal mechanisms to safeguard the independence of its scientific work. Scientific experts are required to make an annual declaration of interests which is published online.

All the final opinions of EFSA's Scientific Committee and Panels result from collective decisions, each member having an equal say, which reinforces impartiality and balance. To ensure transparency in its scientific work and procedures, EFSA consistently publishes opinions, agendas, minutes and other key documents on its website. To maximize transparency, we also web cast important meetings and events.

We are a listening organization, proactively seeking input from our stakeholders and exchanging different points of view through our Stakeholder Consultative Platform and by holding open consultations via our website, face to face meetings and multilateral discussions at scientific conferences and seminars.

EFSA will continue working independently, openly and transparently to deliver timely scientific advice of the highest standards to support the policies and decisions of European risk managers.

## Strengthening Europe



Food safety is a key area of European policy. Ensuring that the food we eat is safe contributes to a healthier, better-protected European.

EFSA was set up in 2002, following a series of food crises in the late 1990s, as an independent source of scientific advice on food safety.

EFSA's scientific advice on existing and emerging risks informs the policies and decisions of risk managers in the European institutions and EU Member States. EFSA aims to be a responsive and reliable source of support for decision-makers who require complete and timely information.

We work closely with national food safety authorities across the EU, with whom we have agreed a strategy for sharing scientific information, pooling resources and co-ordinating work programmes. We also co-operate with the European Commission, other EU institutions and agencies and international organisations active in the field of food and feed safety.

To communicate its scientific results, EFSA strives to ensure all interested parties receive timely, accurate and objective information, working in liaison with national food safety authorities and stakeholders and taking account of the needs of different audiences.

EFSA's independent scientific advice underpins the European food safety system. Thanks to this system, European consumers are among the best protected and best informed in the world as regards risks in the food chain.

### Where does EFSA fit in?

EFSA is part of a system for food and feed safety in which risk assessment is done separately from risk management. Policies and decisions to manage risks are made by the European Commission, European Parliament and governments of the EU Member States. At EU level, their decisions are informed by independent risk assessments delivered by EFSA. Risk assessment is a specialised field of applied science that involves reviewing scientific data and studies in order to evaluate the risks posed by a given issue. Communicating on risks associated with the food chain is also a key part of EFSA's mandate.

### Five years of strengthening dialogue and progress in the field of food safety and regulatory risk assessment

- We have built an effective network of all national food safety agencies to share views, discuss common concerns and exchange information.

- We have brought together all non-government parties with an interest in food and feed safety, animal health and welfare and plant health and protection in our Stakeholder Consultative Platform.

- We have stimulated scientific discussions to push forward new developments in regulatory risk assessment approaches through open scientific meetings involving world scientists. Topics have included risks and benefits of foods, European consumption data and patterns, and principles of animal health and welfare risk assessment.

- We have co-ordinated important public announcements with risk assessors and risk managers in the Member States as well as the European Commission.



## Some key EFSA achievements

We have developed over 450 scientific opinions on a wide variety of topics. Here are just a few examples:

- Provided scientific advice on food additives and flavourings, so that regulators can ban unsafe substances and ensure only safe substances are permitted in foods
- Provided scientific advice on active substances in pesticides and their residues with respect to their safety for users, consumers and the environment
- Identified upper intake levels for vitamins and minerals, so that regulators can ensure only safe amounts are permitted in fortified foods and food supplements
- Provided scientific advice on avian influenza in relation to animal health and food safety, in order to assess the risk of infection to European bird populations and to humans with regard to food
- Put forward a harmonised approach to assessing substances with the potential to cause cancer, so that the risks of different substances can be meaningfully and accurately compared
- Provided risk assessments on BSE/TSE-related issues, which underpin the measures that have been put in place to control the risk of BSE / TSE in Europe

## The future starts now

EFSA's vision for the 21<sup>st</sup> century is to become globally recognised as the European reference for risk assessment in the fields of food and feed safety, animal health and welfare, nutrition, plant protection and plant health.

The EU food and feed safety policy environments have evolved since 2002. While food and feed safety, animal health and welfare and plant protection and plant health are at the core of these policies, more emphasis is being

placed today on safe diets and the important link between nutrition and health. EFSA's future work will continue to reflect this evolving policy environment. We also intend to increasingly focus on responding proactively to urgent issues, tackling emerging risks and gathering further data to underpin European risk assessment.



In 2007 our work will include:

- Guidelines for substances used in active and intelligent food contact materials
- Scientific advice on nutrition and health claims including nutrient profiles
- A scientific colloquium on environmental risk assessment for GMOs
- Developing risk assessment methodologies in the field of nanotechnology
- Scientific advice with respect to animal cloning
- Working with Member States to set up Europe-wide data banks, including data on food consumption and exposure to substances found in food and feed



EFSA will continue to tackle 21<sup>st</sup> century issues with regard to the food chain, including emerging risks, evolving scientific approaches and new technologies, while remaining vigilant and responding to existing and re-emerging risks.

