



**Hyvää huomenta hyvät naiset ja herrat!**

***EFSA:n Focal Point***  
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***Scientific Cooperation Unit***

*EFSA:n Focal Point - seminaari, April 2008, Helsinki*

## My presentation



**What is EFSA?**

**How does  
EFSA work?**

**What are  
Focal Points?**

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## EFSA in Parma



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## EFSA at a glance

- Set up in January 2002 following a series of food crises  
(Regulation (EC) 178/2002 of 28 January 2002)
- Fundamental change: separation of **risk assessment** and **risk management**



## Why was EFSA created?

### Three reasons:



To improve food safety in the EU



To ensure a high level of consumer protection



To restore and maintain consumer confidence in the EU food supply

## What does EFSA do?

### Role to assess and communicate on all risks associated with the food chain

- produce scientific opinions and advice
  -  to provide a sound foundation for European policies and legislation
- support the European Commission, European Parliament and EU Member States
  -  to take effective and timely risk management decisions
- communicate food and feed safety advice to principal clients, stakeholders and public at large

## What is EFSA's remit?

### “ From farm to fork”

- Risk assessment (food and feed)
- Nutrition
- Animal health and welfare
- Plant protection and plant health

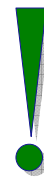


...these include, additives, contaminants, pesticides, GMOs, new technologies such as cloning and nanotechnology, BSE, health claims, allergens.....

## What are EFSA's core values?

### 4 core values for EFSA's activities:

- Openness and transparency
- Excellence in science
- Independence
- Responsiveness



**EFSA's aim:** to be globally recognised as the European reference body for risk assessment

## How is EFSA organised?



### EFSA's Bodies

Management Board

Advisory Forum

Executive Director and EFSA secretariat

Scientific Committee and Panels

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## Management Board – its role



- To ensure **EFSA functions effectively and efficiently**
- To establish budget, agree work programmes and monitor implementation
- To ensure EFSA stays within remit of Founding Regulation
- To appoint Executive Director, Scientific Committee, Article 36 Organisations and Panels
- To audit EFSA's operations

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## Management Board – its Members



**Management Board Members**  
outside the Palazzo Ducale in Parma

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## Advisory Forum

### Composition

- **Representatives from national food safety authorities/bodies with role similar to EFSA**
- **One representative per Member State,**
- **European Commission as observer**
- **Special invitees (accession countries, Norway, Iceland, Switzerland)**



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## Advisory Forum



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## EFSA's Scientific Panels

- **Nine Scientific Panels (10 by May 2008)**
- **Independent scientists selected based on their proven scientific excellence**
- **Mandatory commitment of independence**
- **Declaration of Interest**



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## Executive Director



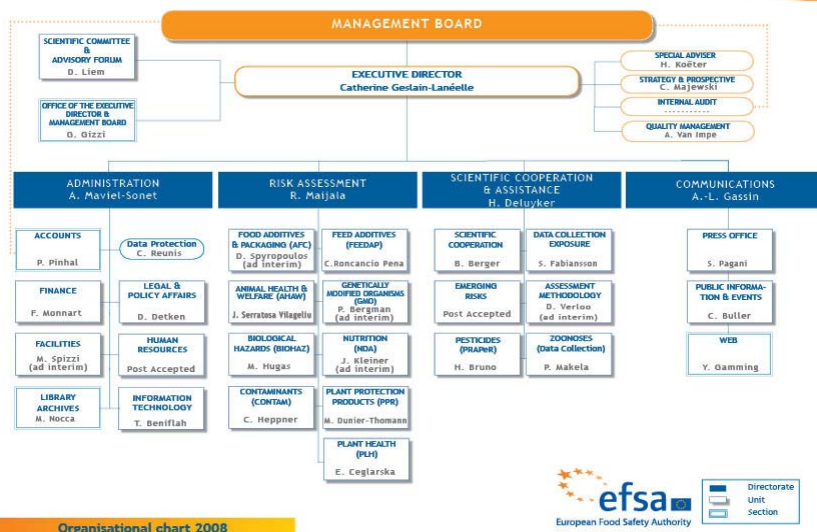
### Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle

- EU-wide call for applications
- Appointed in July 2006 for 5 years
- Legal representative of EFSA
- Responsible for:
  - day-to-day management
  - defining and implementing work programme & budget priorities
  - all staff matters



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## EFSA's organisational chart



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## Working together

### EFSA's partners:

- European Commission
- European Parliament
- Member States
- Stakeholders  
(e.g. consumer groups, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), industry)



## Cooperation with Member States

EFSA aims to deliver the best science  
at the right time in the most appropriate manner



Effective pooling of scientific excellence  
available in EU Member States is required

## Scientific Cooperation

### Critical for:

- Appropriate allocation of **resources** against priorities
- Better co-ordination of work programmes to **avoid duplication** of activities
- Early identification and analysis of **emerging risks**
- Increased coherence in **scientific risk assessment and communications**



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## Milestones

- **Basis: Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002 (EFSA's founding Regulation)**
- **External evaluation of EFSA and following recommendations by the Management Board**
- **EFSA „Declaration of intent“ signed by Advisory Forum Members (Sept. 2006)**
- **Strategy for Cooperation and Networking (introducing the concept of FP, Dec. 2006)**
- **Creation of Focal Points (start 2007)**

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## What are Focal Points?



- **Interface** between EFSA and Member States
- Individual person or institution
- Established by Member States, nominated by Permanent Representations
- **Official contact person** invited to FP meetings



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## Facts & Figures of Focal Points

### Status on Focal Point Agreements:

- 22 signed
- All to be complete by summer 2008
- EEA/EFTA countries invited to nominate Focal Points

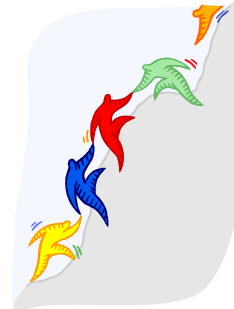


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## Role of Focal Points

To support the Advisory Forum Member by building a network in their Member State:

1. To ensure the **exchange of scientific information** between Member States and EFSA
2. To cooperate through **Article 36** and on the **Expert Database**
3. To provide support *inter alia* on **networking** and raising **EFSA's visibility**



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## 1<sup>st</sup> Focal Point Meeting

- Lively and constructive discussion
- Open and trustful atmosphere



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## Specific Meeting Objectives

- To become (better) acquainted with one another
- To exchange views and experiences on Focal Point tasks
- To discuss financial issues and reporting
- To discuss and develop ideas for future cooperation



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## Key Recommendations

- To develop a table of **Focal Point tasks** with practical examples
- To develop further **Communications activities**, including **FP web pages**
- To create a **Working Group on the Exchange of Scientific Information**



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## Information Exchange Platform

**Aim:** To facilitate the exchange of scientific information between Member States + EFSA:



**Set up a Focal Point Working Group**

- To involve Member States from the beginning;
- To gather experiences, views, etc.



**1<sup>st</sup> Meeting in May**

## Article 36

**Article 36 of EFSA's Founding Regulation states:**

EFSA "...shall promote the European networking of organisations operating in the fields within the Authority's mission."



**List of competent organisations established**

**Article 36 list**

**These may undertake work on behalf of EFSA, e.g.:**

- collecting data;
- preparatory work for development of scientific opinions;
- other scientific and technical support, e.g. on emerging issues and crisis situations.

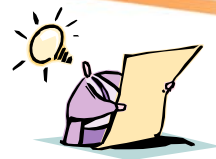


## Article 36 – how is the list established

- Member States' Permanent Representations formally propose organisations for the list
- Information on the organisations are provided via a questionnaire
- EFSA assesses the questionnaires and prepares a document for the decision of the Management Board
- **The Management Board decides**
- The list is to be reviewed in regular intervals.

## Support from Focal Points – Article 36

- To provide ideas of scientific activities under Article 36 work-programme;
- To provide advice on the match between planned calls and the Article 36 organisations;
- To stimulate Article 36 organisations to apply;
- To act as the **interface** between EFSA and the Article 36 organisations regarding changes to the organisations on the list.



## Expert Database

### Aims of the Expert Database:

- To establish a **searchable database of scientific experts**
  - ➔ to support the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels, Advisory Forum, EFSA's Scientific Directorates and other Expert WG
- To allow the use of the Expert Database by **external users** (e.g. Advisory Forum Members)



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## Support from Focal Points – Expert Database

- To provide **feedback** on the Expert Database
  - during the testing stage and
  - after its launch
- To **disseminate information** on the database, including its purpose and scope
- To actively **stimulate** national experts to apply



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## Looking Ahead

- **Focal Point work** has started in nearly all Member States.
- Focal Points are building up **networks**.
- With the help of such networks, Focal Points and EFSA together will further improve the Scientific Cooperation between Member States and with EFSA in the area of food safety.
- Advisory Forum will review the Focal Points' work at the end of the year.



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## The Unit “Scientific Cooperation”



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