



# Summary of Annual Report 2009

EFSA enters the new decade ready to play its role in the EU food safety system. The Authority has grown over the years allowing it to strengthen its support to risk managers in the European Commission, the European Parliament and Member States. In 2009, EFSA began implementing its Strategic Plan 2009-2013, guiding and preparing the Authority for coming challenges.

EFSA continued to provide comprehensive, sound scientific advice drawing on expertise from across Europe. In 2009, EFSA renewed its Scientific Committee and Panel members; many were re-appointed, underlining the Authority's ability to attract and retain quality scientists. The Authority continued to avail of Member State expertise through its national Focal Points and expert database. EFSA also invested EUR 6.8 million on grants and contracts with dedicated Member State organisations to support it in its work. In addition, EFSA was able to provide more comprehensive and wider reaching advice to risk managers on issues such as antimicrobial resistance by working alongside sister EU agencies.

Scientific outputs rose to 636 in 2009. Of these, evaluations of products, substances and claims accounted for 68 % of outputs. For example, in 2009 EFSA delivered its first series of opinions on "general function" health claims and adopted nearly 1 000 claims. In 2009, EFSA also strengthened internal processes and, with the European Commission, established a "roadmap" to better plan workloads and timeframes.

Access to high-quality data continues to underpin EFSA's ability to respond to regular and urgent requests for advice. In 2009, EFSA further boosted data collection with Member States, for example, through: the comprehensive food consumption database; new data tools to address emerging risks; its first Annual Report on Pesticide Residues in food; and its Annual Summary Report on Zoonoses and Food-borne Outbreaks.

The adoption of EFSA's international strategy in 2009 was an important step towards being globally recognised as the European reference body for risk assessment related to the food chain. In 2009, EFSA strengthened existing



partnerships with international organisations (WHO, FAO) and signed a Memorandum of Cooperation on data collection and data sharing with the Food Safety Commission of Japan, and took steps towards closer collaboration with Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

EFSA remains committed to reinforcing public confidence in the EU food safety system through communications and dialogue with partners and stakeholders. For example in 2009, EFSA renewed its stakeholder platform, organised technical meetings with stakeholders to discuss and explain EFSA's role in the evaluation of GMOs, health claims, etc., and worked alongside other EU agencies on areas of common interest. One notable example of EFSA's commitment to dialogue was a two-day conference on GMO risk assessment for human and animal health, and the environment. Scientific colloquia and a dedicated web area for the EFSA Journal also enhanced EFSA's scientific outreach. These efforts are being acknowledged: partners and stakeholders recognise EFSA's independence and its contribution to the EU food safety system, according to its target audience research, carried out in 2009.

Crisis simulation exercises in 2009 successfully tested EFSA's internal procedures and its collaboration with risk managers. EFSA put theory into practice by responding to urgent requests for advice from the European Commission on nicotine in mushrooms and printing ink in breakfast cereals.

Overall, 2009 was a year in which EFSA further strengthened cooperation and dialogue with partners and stakeholders while also responding to the ever-growing number of requests for independent scientific advice.

# EFSA HIGHLIGHTS 2009



## January

- EFSA and ECDC publish Annual Community Summary Report on Zoonoses
- Management Board adopts international strategy

## February

- Opinion on two ingredients commonly used in some energy drinks
- EFSA recommends maximum vitamin A levels in feed for food producing animals

## March

- EFSA evaluates risk of MRSA in food and animals
- Opinion on the potential risks arising from nanotechnologies on food and feed safety
- Management Board approves renewal of Scientific Committee and Panels
- EFSA issues statement on 4-methylbenzophenone in some breakfast cereals

## April

- First four opinions on smoke flavourings
- EFSA completes 30 risk assessments on undesirable substances in animal feed

## May

- EFSA assesses health risks linked to nicotine in wild mushrooms
- Festa dell'Europa celebrated in Parma

## June

- EFSA evaluates antibiotic resistance marker genes in GM plants
- Scientific Committee promotes alternatives to animal testing
- EFSA evaluates risk to plant health posed by oak processionary moth
- Meeting of Heads of EU agencies in Brussels

## July

- Advice on welfare of dairy cows
- First Annual Report on Pesticide Residues
- EFSA launches project to predict effect of climate change on aflatoxin B1 in cereals
- First EU-wide assessment of vitamin and mineral sources used in food supplements



## August

- Public consultation on Dietary Reference Values for carbohydrates, dietary fibre and fat
- Guidelines on “active” and “intelligent” substances in food contact materials
- Advice on marine biotoxins

## September

- Two-day EFSA conference debates GMO risk assessment
- EFSA takes forward work on cumulative effects of pesticides
- Guidance for assessing the safety of botanicals

## October

- First series of opinions on “general function” health claims
- Management Board appoints new Stakeholder Platform
- Risk assessment on arsenic in food
- European Commissioner for Health, Androulla Vassiliou, visits EFSA

## November

- EFSA updates safety advice on six food colours
- EFSA, EMA, and ECDC publish a joint opinion on infections transmitted to humans from animals and food (zoonoses)
- First EU-wide survey on MRSA in pigs

## December

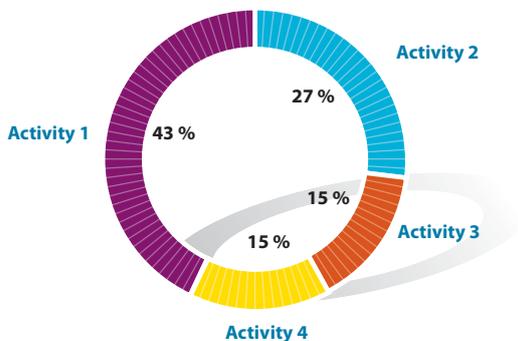
- Guidance on the collection of national food consumption data
- 13<sup>th</sup> Scientific Colloquium “What’s new on Novel Foods”
- EFSA and Japan sign a Memorandum of Cooperation
- First external review of the quality of EFSA’s activities

### Key figures 2009

Scientific outputs	636
Public consultations	66
Contracts and grants	96
Website visits	2.4 million
Electronic newsletter subscribers	25,690
Media coverage	9,038
EFSA staff in December 2009	407
Plenary meetings	99
Working group meetings	729

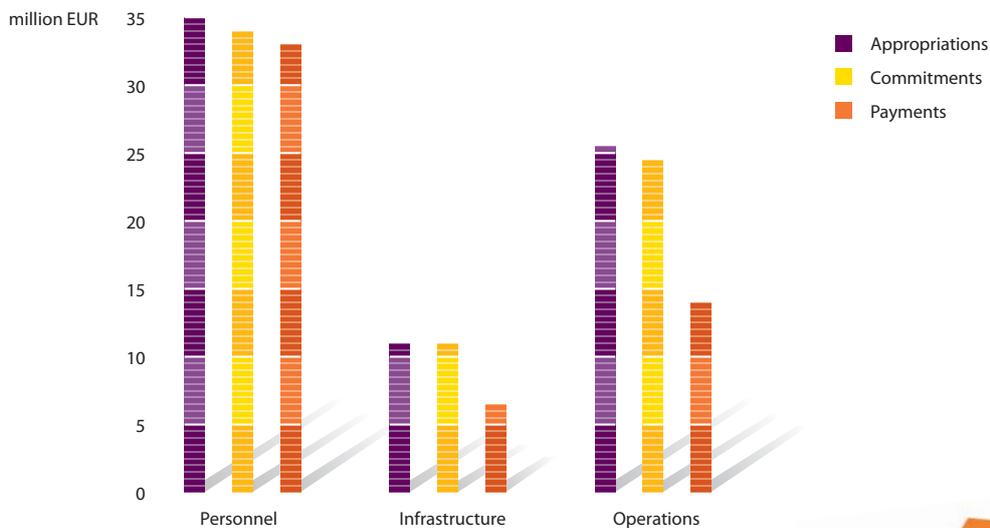
# EFSA FINANCES 2009

## Budget by Activity



- Activity 1:** Provide scientific advice and opinions
- Activity 2:** Risk assessment methodologies
- Activity 3:** Communication and dialogue
- Activity 4:** Management and administration

## Budget Execution



Committed to ensuring that Europe's food is safe