



EFSA in focus *PLANTS*

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> Key topics

Climate not a barrier to citrus black spot entering Europe, finds EFSA

According to EFSA, climatic conditions are not a barrier to a fungus that causes citrus black spot (CBS) disease establishing itself in Europe.

The European Commission asked EFSA for its scientific advice after South Africa requested a review of current EU phytosanitary regulations on the import of South Africa citrus fruit into the European Union.

Guignardia citricarpa Kiely is currently not present in Europe and a series of phytosanitary measures are in place to help protect Europe's citrus crops from CBS. *G. citricarpa*, attacks a wide variety of citrus species causing black spots and blemishes making them unsuitable for sale.

EFSA based its advice on the evidence provided by South African authorities and additional data that the Authority collected. It also looked at the likelihood of an introduction of CBS to Europe through infected fruit, and the appropriateness of the current control measures.

South African authorities believe that citrus-growing areas in Europe do not have a climate suitable for the disease to take hold, and therefore the current EU phytosanitary measures regarding the import of fresh citrus fruit from South Africa should be revised.

EFSA disagreed with this view. It concluded that the harmful organism could enter citrus-producing areas in Europe. This would be more likely



especially if the symptoms of the disease could not be easily seen on the fruit, making it difficult to intercept them at EU borders. Once introduced, *G. citricarpa* could easily establish itself in Europe as there are many susceptible citrus host plants.

EFSA also pointed out that the assessment of climatic suitability provided by South Africa was based on the use of specialised software which has many limitations for the evaluation of organisms such as *G. citricarpa*. For example, the software used does not capture climatic factors of short duration, such as leaf wetness that play an important role in the lifecycle of this fungus.

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EFSA also examined the existing control measures and concluded that generally they are not fully effective in eliminating the likelihood of the disease being introduced from South Africa. The risk of CBS could however, be reduced by combining pre-harvest and post-harvest treatments of citrus fruit at the country

of origin. Alternatively EFSA suggested adopting different measures for controlling end use and the distribution of the fruit in citrus-producing and non citrus-producing areas in Europe.

[For more information](#)

> EFSA at work

A milestone for EU pesticide legislation



On 1 September 2008 a milestone in European food safety legislation food safety was achieved: on this date a fully harmonised system of Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) for pesticide residues in food became applicable. Trade barriers resulting from different MRLs established by Member States have been removed. MRLs will now be set at European level only. Before this harmonisation became effective, great efforts were undertaken by European Member States, the European Commission and EFSA.

The first Europe-wide MRLs were established in 1976. Since then MRLs have been set on a substance-by substance basis under four basic EU Directives. However, for many substances for which there were no European MRLs, Member States had diverse national MRLs in place which caused not only problems in trade but also raised discussions on the different protection levels in Europe.

The entry into force of the EU Regulation governing the setting, monitoring and control of pesticides residues in April 2005 marked the start of the ambitious programme to harmonise MRLs for all active substances used in pesticides at European level. It also separated risk assessment from risk management in the MRL setting process. For EFSA, it meant that the Authority must be involved in all amendments of the legislation as an independent scientific body responsible for consumer risk assessments.

Under the new law, MRLs established under the previous European legislation were transferred to the new regulation.

Active substances, for which so far only national MRLs were established, are subject to a risk assessment performed

by EFSA. After EFSA gave its opinion on the safety of the proposed MRLs, derived from existing national values, the European Commission issued new regulations which then entered into force on 1 September 2008. Many national MRLs failed the risk assessment and were replaced by MRLs at the level of the analytical determination. While the switch to the new system eliminated many MRLs that were considered problematic, in some Member States certain MRLs were raised to accommodate European trade, provided that these MRLs were proved to be safe.

The date of 1 September 2008 was also the starting point for the review of MRLs established for active substances for which the Peer Review in the framework of the EU plant protection products Directive (91/414/EEC) is already complete. This inventory of MRLs should ensure that MRLs established under the old legislation are in line with current risk assessment practices. This challenging task requires close collaboration between Member States and EFSA in order to fulfil the tight deadlines.

The new MRL legislation also set up new procedures for setting, amending or deleting MRLs. In all procedures EFSA will be involved regarding consumer risk assessments.

Under this new legal framework, the Commission recently asked EFSA to assess the safety of existing MRLs for 15 active substances used in pesticides. EFSA proposed to lower MRLs where safety concerns were identified and also for substances where data available were not sufficient to substantiate the safety of the current MRL. In addition, for active substances not authorised in the European Union but which may be found as residues, for instance on or in imported food and feed, EFSA recommended that MRLs be set at the lowest level which can be measured through routine monitoring in line with usual EU practice. Taking into account EFSA's scientific advice, a new regulation to amend or remove the relevant MRL is under preparation.

From now on EFSA will also play a key role in providing important information regarding the exposure of Europeans to pesticide residues. It has now taken over responsibility for drafting the annual European monitoring report on pesticide residues from the Commission. The first such report will be published later this year. ■

[For more information.](#)

EFSA begins Europe-wide research project on bee decline

EFSA has awarded a grant of €100,000 to a consortium of European scientific institutes to study so-called 'Colony Collapse Disorder' (CCD) in honey bees.

The 9-month project began in January 2009. It aims to identify factors which may contribute to CCD and to highlight gaps in scientific knowledge in order to help guide future research. It will also analyse existing bee surveillance programmes and assess the suitability of the data for measuring CCD across Europe.

"This project will be an important step forward in international efforts to understand and help tackle the reported decline in bee populations, which could have widespread implications not only in environmental terms but also with regard to the food chain," said Hubert Deluyker, EFSA's Director of Scientific Cooperation and Assistance. *"I strongly encourage scientists and other interested parties – such as beekeeping associations, for example – to share their valuable scientific data, knowledge and experience with the organisers of this project."*

Honey bees play an important role in the pollination of crops and a decline in bee populations could have a serious impact on agricultural production. Since 2003, there have been reports of serious losses of bees from beehives in Europe, but the true extent of the losses is hard to estimate as data collection is fragmented and surveillance methodologies are diverse. The cause of CCD is not known, although various factors are thought to be responsible including starvation, viruses, mites, pesticide exposure and climate change.

In 2008, EFSA reported on its preliminary survey of the situation in Europe, which drew on information provided by 22 European countries. The survey requested information on honey production, monitoring of chemical residues in honey and existing surveillance programmes for bee mortality, weakening and colony collapse. This project intends to expand on the findings of that report.



In line with Article 36 of its Founding Regulation, EFSA regularly provides grants to partner organisations, nominated by the EU Member States, in order to help EFSA in areas such as data collection and other preparatory work for the development of its opinions, as well as providing scientific and technical support. Since the launch of the scheme in 2007, some 25 such grants have so far been agreed or are currently in negotiation, worth a total of around €3.5million.

The bee decline project consortium is led by the Agence française de sécurité sanitaire des aliments (Afssa) in partnership with the UK's Central Science Laboratory (CSL) and the French Institut national de la recherche agronomique (INRA). Five other national institutes will collaborate in the project: the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, the Instituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie (Italy), the Swiss Bee Research Institute, the Agricultural Institute of Slovenia and the Chemische und Veterinaruntersuchungsamt Freiburg (Germany).

[For more information.](#)

EFSA's networking with Member States forges closer ties, finds review

A review of EFSA's 2006 Strategy for Cooperation and Networking has found that ties with Member States are well developed, even after a relatively short period of time. Among Member States the consensus was that there is no need to start new activities. Instead the existing initiatives should be continued and some of them further strengthened. These concern: Focal Points; harmonisation of and training on risk assessment methods; data collection; facilitating the submission of applications for Article 36 calls; strengthening the existing networks with Member States; and identifying in which areas additional networks may add value.

The strategy calls for strengthening Member States' cooperation through the Advisory Forum in collaboration with the Scientific Committee. For this, two initiatives have already been set up. In all Member States there are now Focal Points to support the Advisory Forum members in their daily networking and

scientific cooperation work. These are jointly funded by EFSA and Member States. The positive experience to date, has led Member States to recommend that the Focal Points network be strengthened. In addition, the Steering Group on Cooperation, in which both the Scientific Committee and the Advisory Forum participate, provides oversight on joint European Scientific Cooperation (ESCO) Working Group projects.

Furthermore, several dedicated scientific networks have been created or strengthened in data collection (food consumption, chemical occurrence) and risk assessment (animal health, plant health, GMO, BSE).

Grants awarded to competent organisations under Article 36 of EFSA's Founding Regulation to help prepare opinions or collect data, for example, and contracts awarded to research organisations to carry out scientific work have also grown. In

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2009 EFSA will spend €7.5 million on these activities (grants and contracts), compared to €2.9 million and €5.5 million in 2007 and 2008, respectively. Similarly, the list of organisations now stands at 371 organisations – an increase of over 50%, following the recent adoption of the updated list by the EFSA Management Board, broadening the coverage of competences available to EFSA.

Support has also come from the over 200 Panel Members and more than 1000 experts that work with EFSA. In June 2008, EFSA launched an expert database to deepen the pool of specialists that EFSA and Member States can call upon. This database holds information on external scientific experts capable of and willing to assist Member States and EFSA on their scientific activities. By mid April 2009, over 1400 applications had been received from 48 countries.

Overall, progress in strengthening Member States' cooperation has been made in the four priority areas of the strategy:

1. Exchanging and collecting scientific data and information – In practical terms, this has led to an Information Exchange Platform - an online tool to facilitate the sharing of scientific information - being set up between EFSA and the Member States.
2. Sharing risk assessment practices - Several initiatives have already been taken through ESCO Working Groups in the areas of botanicals, emerging risks, and folic acid. Workshops have been organised in pre-accession countries and with current Member States to raise awareness of EFSA's work. Bilateral meetings between EFSA and Member States took

place, e.g. on issues where there was or may be sources of divergence. To be prepared for crisis situations, exercises have been conducted with participation from Advisory Forum members and the European Commission.

3. Harmonising risk assessment methods - The ESCO Working Group on harmonisation has completed and delivered its report to EFSA's Executive Director. In addition, EFSA regularly organises scientific colloquia with key scientists from the Member States as well as other scientific events for open scientific debate.
4. Promoting coherence in risk communications – The Advisory Forum Communications Working Group has been instrumental in promoting cooperation and coherence. Pre-notification and sharing of communications between members, including early warning on emerging and topical issues, is consistently the highest priority. Strengthening such practical two-way, timely and responsive cooperation will continue to be prioritised. In addition, publications and events with national food safety authorities, and links between EFSA's website and national counterparts have also played an important role.

All told, it is clear from this interim review that cooperation and networking between Member States and EFSA has already come a long way. EFSA is committed to continue to build bridges and forge alliances across the EU, as stated in the Authority's 2009-2013 Strategic Plan, adopted in December 2008. ■

[For more information.](#)

EFSA seeks external scientific experts to review the quality of its scientific outputs

EFSA has published a call to select external reviewers for a working group that will help the Authority evaluate the quality of its scientific work.

In 2007, EFSA proposed a review system to help assess the quality of its scientific activities. The system involves a self review, during the development of documents, an internal review by senior scientific and communications staff at EFSA and an external review by high-level independent external experts.

The present call seeks to find external experts to help EFSA identify whether in the development of its scientific outputs best assessment practices were followed in collecting, describing, evaluating and interpreting the scientific data. The experts will also assess whether the conclusions and recommendations were supported by an adequate description of the reasoning underlying the interpretation of the data, with due attention

paid to any uncertainties and assumptions, and whether the terms of reference were adequately addressed in the conclusions.

In total, 24 external experts will be included in the working group and a reserve list will be created. Three experts will come together to cover each of the seven areas of activity: chemical risk assessment and connected fields (2 groups), nutrition and novel foods, biological risk assessment and zoonoses data collection, animal health and welfare, plant health, GMOs, risk assessment methodologies and emerging risks. The external evaluation of all the activity areas should be finalised by the end of September 2009.

The call was launched on 24 April and will close on 15 June.

[For more information.](#)

European plant health experts discuss cooperation and data collection

Parma, 8-9 October 2008

Twenty national plant health experts, brought together in Parma by EFSA's Advisory Forum, met plant experts from EFSA and from the European Commission to discuss cooperation between EFSA and national authorities.

At the meeting with Advisory Forum members on 8 and 9 October, EFSA outlined current issues and future challenges in pest risk assessments (PRA), and touched on the guidance document for evaluating PRAs, which EFSA is already preparing. In order to receive comments from the scientific community and stakeholders, a public consultation was launched. Interested parties were invited to submit written comments online by 2 March 2009. Participants welcomed EFSA's initiative to collate an inventory of data sources for pest risk assessments which will soon be available to national authorities.

"This is important piece of work which could play a central role in the assessment of plant pests which threaten crop production and biodiversity, and, could also be of particular use to national authorities across the EU," said EFSA's Director of Risk Assessment, Riitta Maijala.

The experts exchanged views on harmonisation in pest risk assessment methodology and discussed data needs for different types of risk assessments. Participants agreed that harmonisation in methodologies is a central requirement as guidelines were already developed under different European frameworks. The experts also said harmonisation presented various challenges as, for example, there was no common regime for plant health data collection and there were multiple definitions of the same basic terms.

In Europe protective measures against organisms harmful to plants, such as fungi, bacteria, viruses, insects, mites and weeds, are based on pest risk assessments.



PRAs are prepared by national authorities and submitted to the European Commission for consideration and, in certain cases, the Commission asks EFSA to evaluate PRAs prepared by the national and international plant health organisations. EFSA then carries out a scientific assessment of the PRA and provides scientific advice on whether existing protective measures are adequate or not. EFSA also provides scientific advice on the risk from a particular pest and whether it should fall under EU law governing protective measures against the introduction of plant pests (Directive 2000/29/EC).

[For more information.](#)

Meeting to help revise birds and mammals guidance document

Brussels, 11 March 2009

On 11 March in Brussels, a joint working group of representatives from EFSA, the European Commission and Member States met in Brussels, Belgium to discuss the final revision of the guidance document on assessing the risks to birds and mammals of exposure to pesticides.

The formation of this working group follows EFSA's opinion on the science behind the guidance document adopted in June and published in July 2008. The working group will consider the risk management issues highlighted in the opinion and, by deciding on different options, will finalise the revision of the guidance document itself. This task is expected to be completed by late 2009. This was the first meeting of the working group.



Interagency meeting shares best risk assessment practices



Parma, 4-5 November 2008

Risk assessors from many EU scientific committees and panels gathered in Parma on 4-5 November 2008 to share experiences and best practices in risk assessment. This will further help improve the quality of and the communications about risk assessments, and ultimately support risk managers in their decision-making.

Participants considered scientific issues of common interest related to risk assessment, such as transparency and terminology, and also identified areas and topics for further cooperation, such as nanotechnology, emerging risks, international dialogue, data sharing, and sharing of practices.

This was the 4th annual meeting of Chairs and Secretariats of European Commission and Agency Scientific Committees, and Panels involved in risk assessment. The meeting was attended by representatives from the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, the European Environment Agency, the European Chemicals Agency, the European Medicines Agency, the Commission's Directorates-General for Health and Consumers, and for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, and EFSA.

[For more information.](#)

> Events

Stakeholder consultation workshop of EFSA's revision of the 'persistence in soil' guidance document

Ispra, Italy, 12-14 May 2009

EFSA's Plant Protection Products and their Residues (PPR) Panel will run a workshop on the revision of the Guidance Document 'Persistence in Soil' published in 2000. The workshop, taking place at the European Commission's Joint Research Centre in Ispra, Italy, aims at collecting feedback from stakeholders (Member States, agrochemical industry representatives, consulting companies, and others) during the revision process. This revision will lead to a tiered approach for pesticide exposure assessment in soil at EU level and will include the development of a range of scenarios representing realistic worst-case conditions considering, as far as possible, ecological and climatic considerations. Also the appropriate role of field persistence and soil accumulation experiments in the tiered assessment will be defined.

Exposure assessment is considered to be part of terrestrial ecotoxicological risk assessment. This implies that it has to consider all types of concentrations that are considered relevant for assessing ecotoxicological effects. This is also of relevance for EFSA's revision of the Guidance Document on Terrestrial Ecotoxicology.

The workshop will consist of an information session to update participants on the ongoing revision, break-out groups on specific topics, and a summarising session to present and discuss the outcome of the break-out groups.

[For more information](#)

> Publications

New reports on emissions of pesticides from protected crop systems

EFSA's Plant Protection Products and their Residues (PPR) Panel has released two reports on the emissions of pesticides from protected crop systems, such as greenhouses and cultivations grown under cover. These two reports, commissioned externally by EFSA, provide scientific background information on pesticide emissions to the environment that will help in the development of a new Guidance Document.

The new Guidance Document, that EFSA itself has decided to develop following consultations with Member States, aims to provide notifiers and Member States with guidance on the environmental fate and behaviour of pesticides in protected crop systems in the context of the review of active substances according to the EU Directive governing plant protection products (91/414/EEC) and the regulation that will replace it. The guidance is also intended for review of plant protection products for national registrations in EU Member States. ■

[For more information.](#)



> Calls

Article 36 calls

Article 36 of EFSA's Founding Regulation allows the Authority to financially support projects and activities that contribute to EFSA's mission. This financial support is exclusively given to a list of competent organisations capable of assisting EFSA in its work. The list was drawn up on the basis of nominations made by Member States in an EFSA Management Board decision.

Calls awarded

CFP/EFSA/AMU/2008/02

Bee Mortality and Bee Surveillance in Europe

Agence Française de Sécurité Sanitaire des Aliments (AFSSA) (FR); Central Science Laboratory, (UK); Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA) (FR)

CFP/EFSA/CONTAM/2008/02

Survey on use of veterinary medicinal products in third countries

Central Science Laboratory, (UK)

CFP/EFSA/AMU/2008/01

Systematic review of pest risk models using climatic data and plant phenology

Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (IT)

CFP/EFSA/PPR/2008/01

Applicability of thresholds of toxicological concern in the dietary risk assessment of metabolites, degradation and reaction products of active substances of plant protection products

Pesticides Safety Directorate (UK)

[For all calls awarded](#)

Public consultation on the revision of the existing guidance document on dermal absorption of pesticides

The dermal route is the main route of exposure to pesticides for operators applying pesticides as well as for workers re-entering treated zones and unprotected bystanders that can be exposed accidentally. Thus, the assessment of dermal absorption for estimating possible health risks resulting from these exposures is crucial for the risk assessment of pesticides.

Several aspects in determining skin penetration of pesticides are insufficiently covered by the current guidance document and methodological aspects in this field have evolved. EFSA therefore revised the current guidance document on the dermal absorption of pesticides and then launched a public consultation on 15 December 2008.

Comments from 14 different stakeholders (Member States Authorities, Commission and industry) have been received. The public consultation ensures early involvement of interested stakeholders and gives valuable input for EFSA regarding which issues to address and how to tackle them in the revised guidance document.

The consultation closed on 15 January 2009. ■

[For more information.](#)



Guidance on the evaluation of pest risk assessments



EFSA is seeking comments from interested parties through a public consultation on a guidance document it has drafted on evaluating pest risk assessments prepared by third parties to justify phytosanitary measures taken under European Union (EU) law.

The guidance concerns the evaluation of pest risk assessments by EFSA's scientific Panel on Plant Health when providing independent scientific advice on the risks posed by plant pests that can cause harm to plants and plant products in the EU. The guidance document describes the process and criteria used for evaluating pest risk assessments.

The comments received during the consultation will help shape the final guidance document.

The deadline for submitting comments is 2 March 2009. ■

[For more information.](#)

Public consultation on transparency in risks assessments

EFSA launched a public consultation on its draft opinion on ensuring transparency in the scientific aspects of the risk assessment process. This follows EFSA's recommendations on transparency in risk assessments procedures, published in May 2006.

The general principles covered in the opinion include identifying, documenting and explaining key factors underpinning the scientific process, their relative importance and their possible influence on the assessment outcome, such as:

- > The rationale for any decision to include or exclude data, and the strengths and limitations of the data set used.
- > Key assumptions inherent in the risk assessment, for instance in relation to data extrapolation from test animals to human beings.
- > Identification of limitations or uncertainties underlying the risk assessment, arising for example from limited exposure data.
- > Variability factors for instance between different population groups or species that may affect the risk assessment.
- > Different outcomes compared with other scientific assessments, including implications of potentially contradictory data and diverging views with other expert bodies.

The opinion forms part of an overall framework of EFSA's good risk assessment practices. These include EFSA's quality assurance process, and its system of internal and external review to continually review and strengthen the quality of EFSA's scientific work.

EFSA has also published a technical report summarising the guidance documents, guidelines and working documents developed or in use by EFSA and its Scientific Panels. This technical report will be updated regularly.

The consultation closed on 15 February 2009. ■

[For more information.](#)



> Latest mandates received

Mandates accepted: October 2008-January 2009

Information on all other on-going requests is available in EFSA's [register of questions](#).

Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO)

Application for authorisation of genetically modified H7-1 Roundup Ready® sugar beet for food and feed uses and cultivation submitted under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 (EFSA-GMO-DE-2008-63)

Requestor: Germany
 Reception date: 10 Dec 2008
 Question number: EFSA-Q-2008-782

Request for a scientific opinion on supplementary information about the enzyme preparation of trade name ECNASE XT L and ECNASE XT P

Requestor: European Commission
 Reception date: 11 Nov 2008
 Question number: EFSA-Q-2008-775
 Deadline: 30 Apr 2009

Application for authorisation of genetically modified MON89034 x 1507 x MON88017 x 59122 maize grain in the European Union submitted under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 (EFSA-GMO-CZ-2008-62)

Requestor: Czech Republic
 Reception date: 28 Oct 2008
 Question number: EFSA-Q-2008-764
 Deadline: 02 Sep 2009

Plant Health (PLH)

Plant health risk of *Thaumetopoea processionea* L., the oak processionary moth, for the EU territory

Requestor: European Commission
 Reception date: 20 Oct 2008
 Question number: EFSA-Q-2008-711
 Deadline: 20 Apr 2009

Plant Protection Products and their Residues (PPR)

Request for preparation of the revised Guidance Document on Risk Assessment for birds and mammals on the basis of the scientific opinion on the science behind the Guidance Document on risk assessment for birds and mammals and its appendices.

Requestor: EFSA
 Reception date: 27 Jan 2009
 Question number: EFSA-Q-2009-00223

Consultation on the revision of the Guidance Document SANCO/10329/2002 (Terrestrial Ecotoxicology)

Requestor: EFSA
 Reception date: 19 Dec 2008
 Question number: EFSA-Q-2009-00002
 Deadline: 31 Dec 2011

Consultation on the revision of the Guidance Document SANCO/3268/2001, rev.4 final, 17 October 2002 (Aquatic Ecotoxicology)

Requestor: EFSA
 Reception date: 19 Dec 2008
 Question number: EFSA-Q-2009-00001
 Deadline: 31 Dec 2010

Evaluation of the toxicological relevance of metabolites and degradates of pesticide active substances for dietary risk assessment.

Requestor: EFSA
 Reception date: 04 Nov 2008
 Question number: EFSA-Q-2008-756
 Deadline: 15 Jul 2009

Update of the Guidance Document on dermal absorption

Requestor: EFSA
 Reception date: 04 Nov 2008
 Question number: EFSA-Q-2008-755
 Deadline: 11 Jul 2010

Probabilistic methodology for modelling dietary exposure to pesticide residues

Requestor: EFSA
 Reception date: 04 Nov 2008
 Question number: EFSA-Q-2008-754
 Deadline: 30 Apr 2009

Pesticide Risk Assessment and Peer Review (PRAPeR)

EFSA is currently preparing the review of MRLs for 358 active substances

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/ScientificPanels/PRAPER/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178713248967.htm

Request for an EFSA peer review and conclusion on the active substance cadusafos

Requestor: European Commission
 Reception date: 08 Jan 2009
 Question number: EFSA-Q-2009-00201
 Deadline: 08 Apr 2009

Request for an EFSA peer review and conclusion on the active substance benfuracarb

Requestor: European Commission
 Reception date: 06 Nov 2008
 Question number: EFSA-Q-2009-00200
 Deadline: 06 Feb 2009

2007 Annual Report on pesticide residues

Requestor: EFSA
 Reception date: 07 Oct 2008
 Question number: EFSA-Q-2008-714
 Deadline: 28 Feb 2009

List of adopted opinions and other documents per unit: October 2008- January 2009

Disclaimer: This is not the full list of all EFSA opinions but only those considered relevant to this newsletter.

For the full list

Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO)

Safety and efficacy of Natugrain® TS (endo-1,4-β-xylanase and endo-1,4-β-glucanase) as a feed additive for piglets (weaned), chickens for fattening, laying hens, turkeys for fattening and ducks

Question number: **EFSA-Q-2008-013** Adopted on: **09 Dec 2008**
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1211902225382.htm

Request from the European Commission related to the safeguard clause invoked by Austria on maize MON810 and T25 according to Article 23 of Directive 2001/18/EC

Question number: **EFSA-Q-2008-314** Adopted on: **04 Dec 2008**
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1211902209965.htm

Application for placing on the market of the insect-resistant genetically modified maize MON89034, for food and feed uses, import and processing under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 from Monsanto

Question number: **EFSA-Q-2007-042** Adopted on: **03 Dec 2008**
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1211902216540.htm

Application for placing on the market of the insect-resistant and herbicide-tolerant genetically modified maize 59122 x NK603, for food and feed uses, and import and processing under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 from Pioneer Hi-Bred International

Question number: **EFSA-Q-2005-247** Adopted on: **19 Nov 2008**
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1211902200229.htm

Safety and efficacy of the product Ronozyme® NP (6-phytase) for chickens for fattening

Question number: **EFSA-Q-2007-133** Adopted on: **18 Nov 2008**
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1211902199809.htm

Request from the European Commission related to the safeguard clause invoked by France on maize MON810 according to Article 23 of Directive 2001/18/EC and the emergency measure according to Article 34 of Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003

Question number: **EFSA-Q-2008-077** Adopted on: **29 Oct 2008**
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1211902156394.htm

Request from the European Commission to review scientific studies related to the impact on the environment of the cultivation of maize Bt11 and 1507

Question number: **EFSA-Q-2008-679** Adopted on: **29 Oct 2008**
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1211902156411.htm

Plant health (PLH)

Pest risk assessment and additional evidence provided by South Africa on *Guignardia citricarpa* Kiely, citrus black spot fungus

Question number: **EFSA-Q-2008-299** Adopted on: **17 Dec 2008**
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1211902274417.htm

Development of a guidance document on the evaluation of pest risk assessments for phytosanitary measures made by third parties

Question number: **EFSA-Q-2008-259** Adopted on: **17 Dec 2008**

Plant Protection Products and their Residues (PPR)

Potential developmental neurotoxicity of deltamethrin

Question number: EFSA-Q-2008-373 Adopted on: 09 Dec 2008
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1211902248971.htm

Pesticide Risk Assessment and Peer Review (PRAPeR)

EFSA has issued 13 reasoned opinions on pesticide MRLs between October 2008 and January 2009.

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_Opinions498.htm

Pesticide Risk Assessment and Peer Review of:

Ethanol	Question number: EFSA-Q-2008-394
Sulphur	Question number: EFSA-Q-2008-393
2-Phenylphenol	Question number: EFSA-Q-2008-392
Difenacoum	Question number: EFSA-Q-2008-391
Paraffin oils CAS 64742-46-7, 72623-86-0, 97862-82-3	Question number: EFSA-Q-2008-687
Didecyl-dimethylammonium chloride	Question number: EFSA-Q-2008-685
Paraffin oils CAS 8042-47-5 (Staehler)	Question number: EFSA-Q-2008-684
Paraffin oils CAS 8042-47-5 (Neudorff)	Question number: EFSA-Q-2008-682
Adopted on: 19 Dec 2008	

Request for an EFSA peer review on the active substance methomyl

Question number: EFSA-Q-2008-696 Adopted on: 19 Dec 2008

Scientific Committee (SC)

ESCO Working Group on fostering harmonised risk assessment approaches in Member States

Question number: EFSA-Q-2008-389 Adopted on: 01 Dec 2008
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/National_Focal_Points/Scientific_Cooperation_projects/efsa_locale-1178620753812_harmonised_raapproches.htm



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