



**EFSA 's Activities: Focus on Cooperation**  
**by**  
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**EFSA 's Executive Director**

**Visit to Evira**

19 November 2008

- Series of food scares (e.g. BSE, dioxins) in 90s
- Loss of consumer confidence in food safety  
Damaged trust in public authorities
- National agencies created to handle food issues

A clear need for strengthening EU food safety policy...

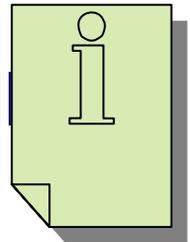
**...A clear need for EFSA**

## EFSA's three main goals

- To improve EU food safety
- To re-build consumer confidence in EU food safety
- To re-build confidence of trading partners in the EU food supply

## Mandate

- **Provide scientific advice** and support for EU legislation/policies in all fields that impact food and feed safety
- **Provide independent information** on all relevant matters
- **Communicate the risks**



## Who can task EFSA?



European Commission



EU Member States

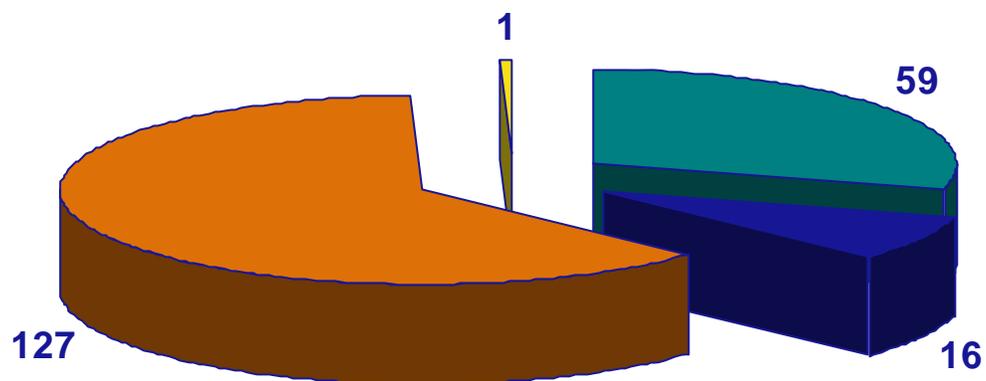


European Parliament



Self-tasking

## Origin of requests for 2007



- Member States
- EFSA
- European Commission
- European Parliament

## Guiding principles

- Scientific excellence
- Independence
- Openness
- Transparency
- Responsiveness

**Management  
Board**

+

**Advisory  
Forum**

+

**EFSA Directorates  
and Staff**

+

**Scientific Committee  
and Panels**

=



## Role

- 14 members appointed by Council of Ministers – not representing MSs
- Ensure EFSA functions effectively and efficiently
- Agree budget, work programmes and monitor implementation
- Ensure EFSA stays within its remit
- Appoint Executive Director, Scientific Committee and Panels

## Composition

- Representatives from national food safety authorities/bodies with role equivalent to EFSA
- One representative per Member State
- European Commission represented as observer
- Special invitees - observers from Norway, Iceland, Switzerland and Pre-Accession countries

## Introducing the Panels

- Animal health and welfare (AHAW)
- Food additives and nutrient sources (ANS)
- Biological hazards (BIOHAZ)
- Food contact materials, enzymes, flavourings (CEF)
- Contaminants (CONTAM)
- Feed additives (FEEDAP)
- Genetically modified organisms (GMO)
- Nutrition (NDA)
- Plant health (PLH)
- Plant protection products (PPR)



## Scientific Committee and Panels

- 10 Scientific Panels - covering the entire food chain from field to plate
- Independent scientists selected based on their proven scientific excellence
- Mandatory commitment of independence
- Declaration of Interest (annual DOI, specific DOI and per meeting)

## Scientific Panel Members

- Members appointed following open call for applications
- Selected on basis of proven scientific excellence, experience in relevant fields, specialised expertise
- Appointed by the Management Board for three years renewable

## Call to renew members

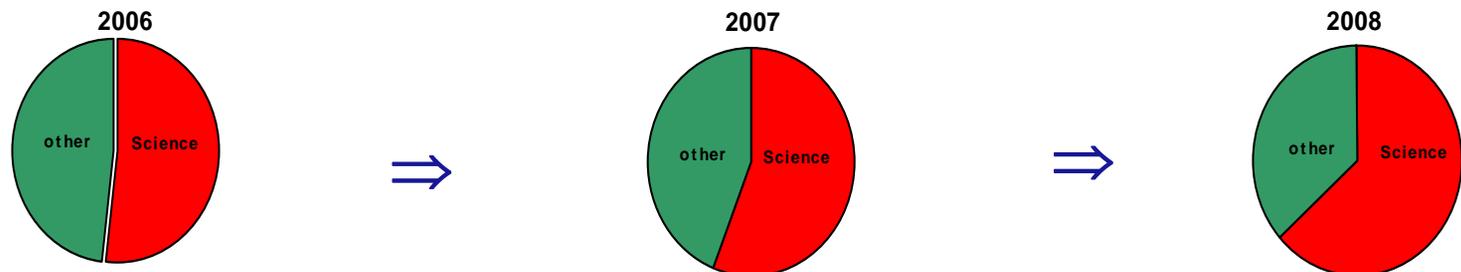


Apply online until 7 January 2009 to:

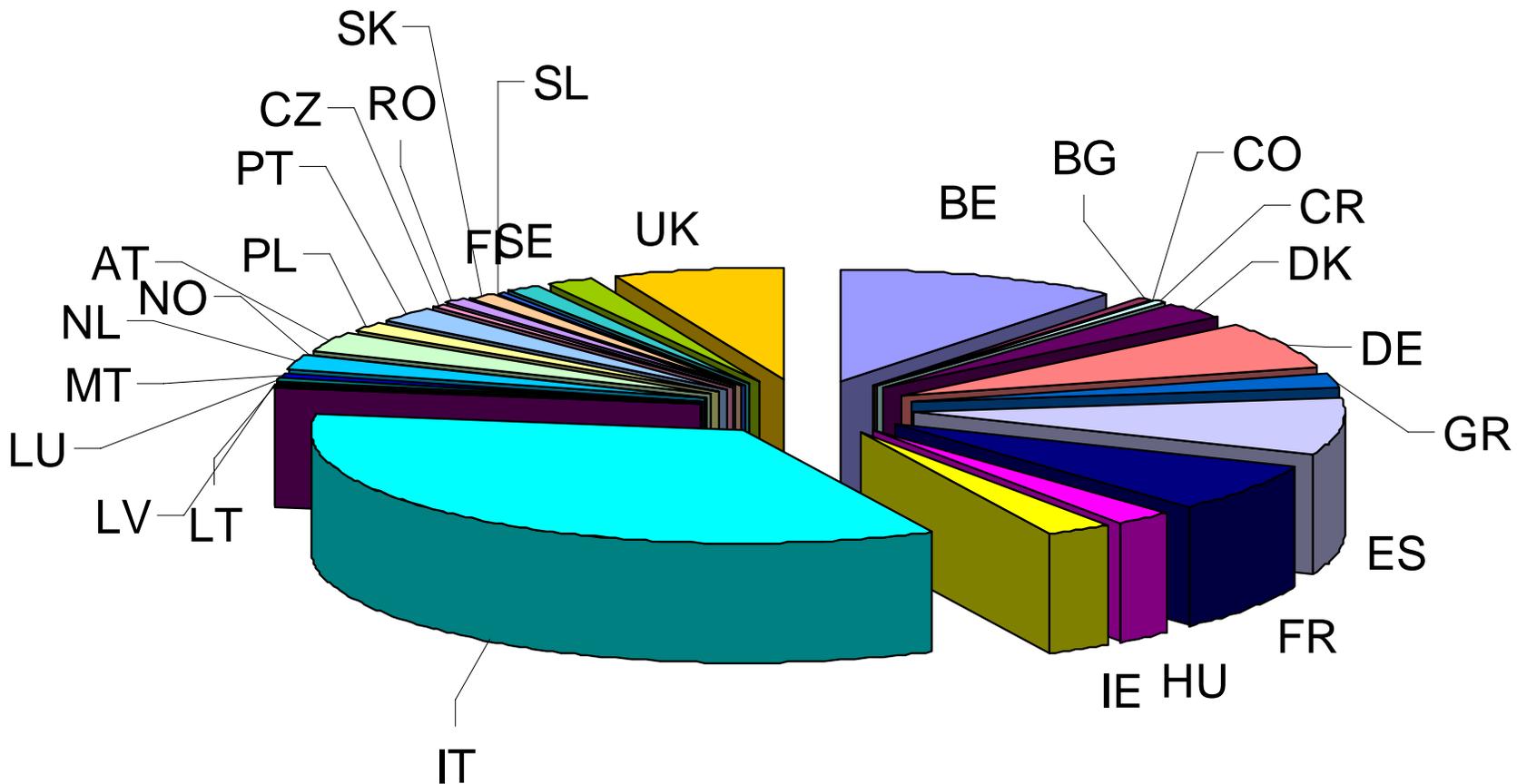
- => Make a difference to European food safety
- => Deliver scientific advice to Europe's risk managers
- => Be part of Europe's network of top food safety scientists

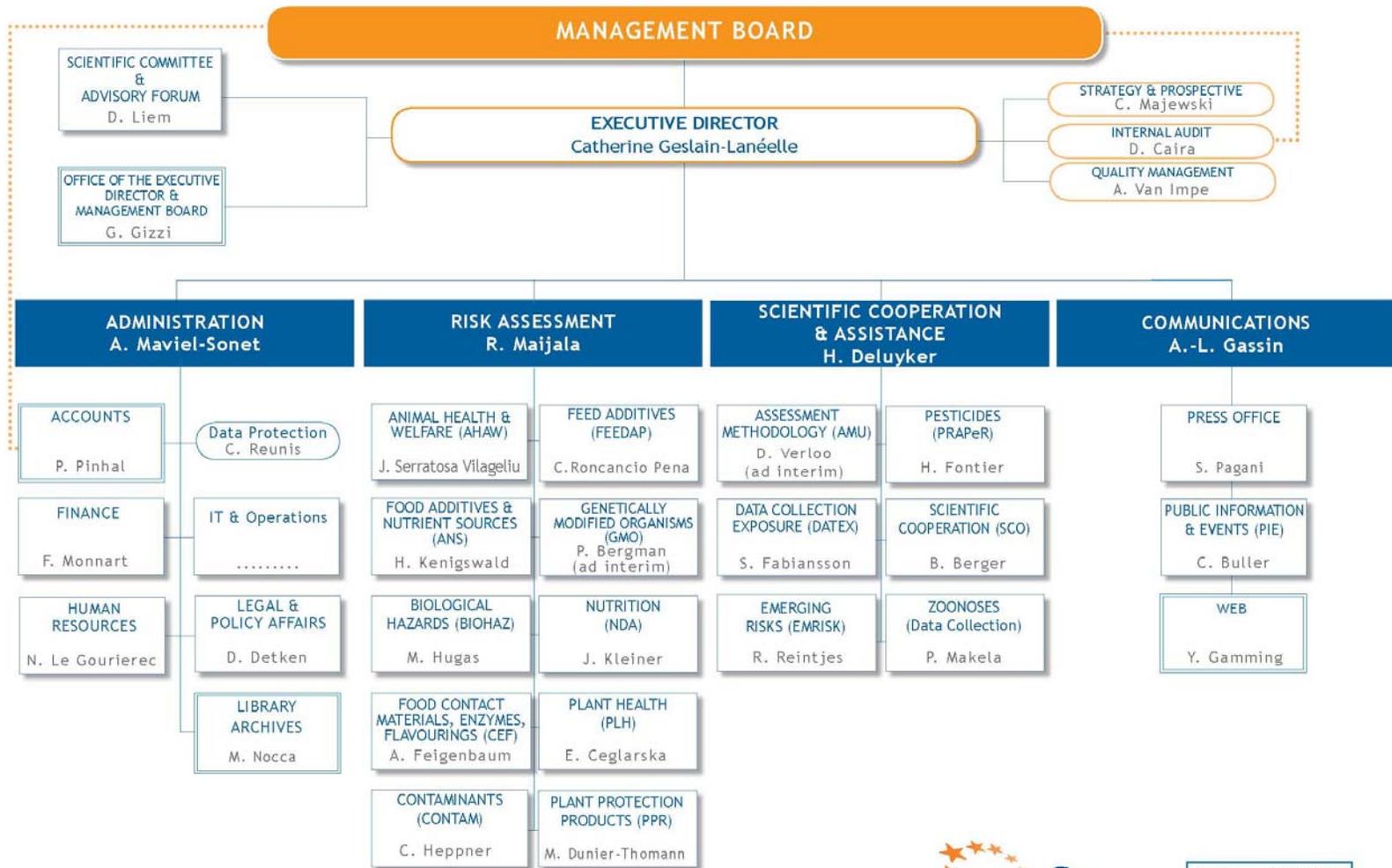
## Overall profile

- 384 currently
- Multinational and multicultural (27 nationalities)
- Temporary agents, contract agents, national experts
- Science and Communications doubled



## A diverse workplace





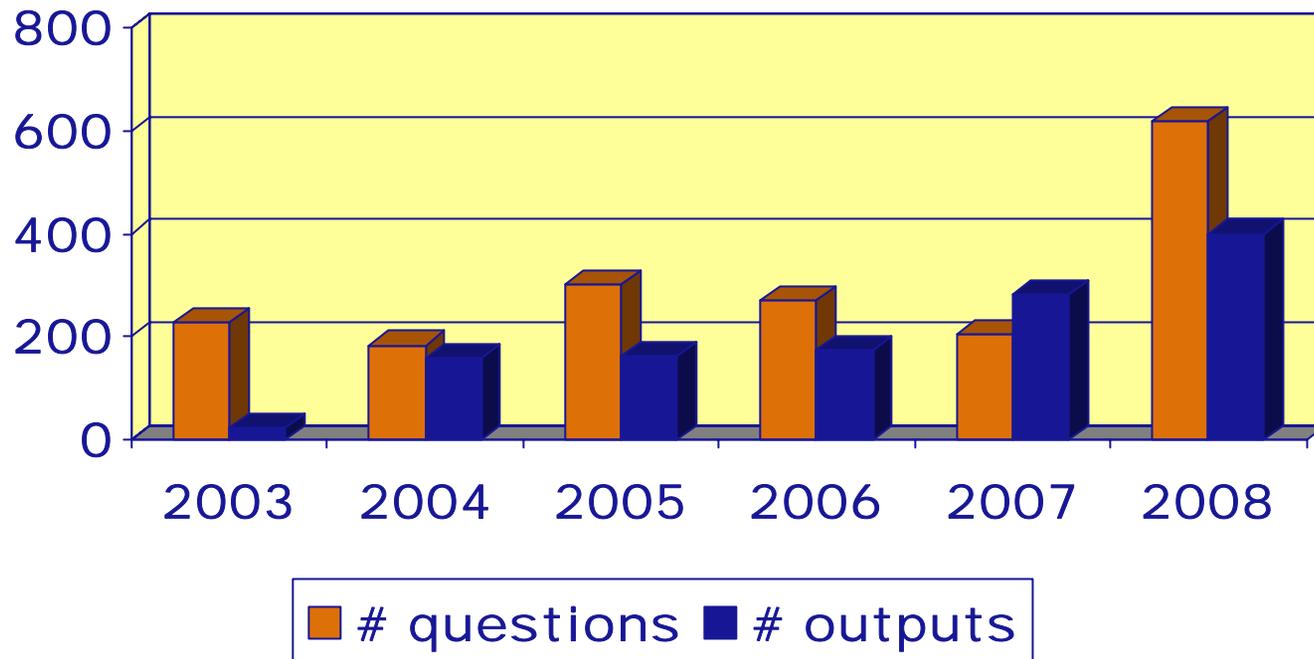
Organisational chart 2008

## A snapshot of EFSA in 2008

- Based in Parma, Italy
- Over 930 scientific opinions adopted
- 165 press releases/statements
- Network of 30 national agencies
- 250 organisations in Member States
- 1,000 experts
- 12 Scientific Colloquia on key topics
- Budget: € 65.9 million for 2008



## Number of questions and outputs



## Scientific Activity 2007

Plenary Meetings	74
Working Groups	132
Working Groups meetings	628
Public consultations	63
Questions received	205
Opinions adopted	204
Other scientific reports	80

**Total scientific output: 283**

## Supporting cooperation

- **Member States:** Advisory Forum and Focal Point Network
- **Networks** with Member States
- **Organisations:** Art. 36 institutions and grant procedure
- **Experts:** Database of scientific experts



- **Data collection and analyses**
  - On zoonoses, food consumption, chemical occurrence, pesticide residues
  - Strategy drafted
  - Operating Procedures developed
  - Harmonisation of terminology ongoing
  - Harmonisation of data collection and transmission standards ongoing
- **Emerging risks:** dedicated Unit created in 2008



## What are we trying to achieve?

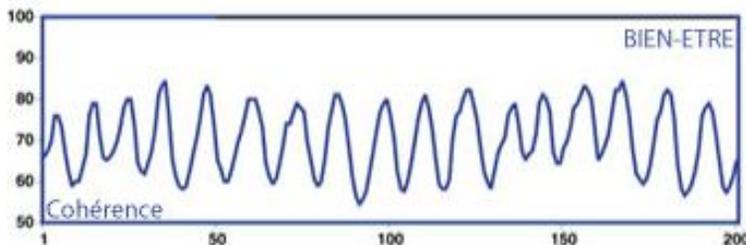
- Coherent risk communication across EU
- Open and transparent access to EFSA's work
- Timely and accurate public announcements on risk assessments and key EU-wide issues
- Close coordination with Member States to respond to their concerns
- Visibility as the European food safety watchdog

## Communicating risk effectively



Bridge the **GAP** between science and the consumer

Understand **CONSUMER PERCEPTION**



Promote **COHERENT** risk communications

## Risk perceptions: Top Concerns

**PESTICIDES:** Greece, Italy, Hungary, France, Portugal, Slovenia, Germany, Spain, **Finland**

**NEW VIRUSES LIKE AVIAN INFLUENZA:** Malta, Latvia, The Netherlands

**RESIDUES IN MEAT:** Cyprus, Greece, Belgium

**FOOD HYGIENE OUTSIDE HOME:** Poland, United Kingdom, Denmark, Ireland, Spain

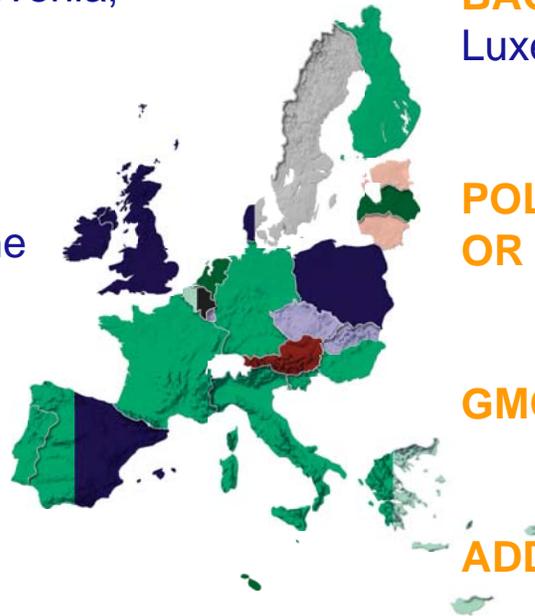
**CONTAMINATION BY BACTERIA:** Czech Republic, Luxembourg, Slovakia

**POLLUTANTS LIKE MERCURY OR DIOXINS:** Belgium

**GMOs:** Austria

**ADDITIVES:** Lithuania, Estonia

**WELFARE OF FARMED ANIMALS:** Denmark, Sweden



## EFSA's public face



The screenshot shows the EFSA website homepage. At the top left is the EFSA logo. To its right is a navigation bar with language options: de, en, fr, it. Below the logo is the text 'European Food Safety Authority'. A navigation menu on the left lists: Home, About EFSA, Partners & Networks, Scientific Opinions, Publications & Reports, Scientific Panels & Units, Public Consultations & Calls for Contribution, News, Events & Meetings, and Key Topics. The main content area features a 'European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)' section with a description of the authority's role. Below this is a 'Latest News' section with a headline 'New Co-operation Agreement Signed between JRC and EFSA' and a sub-headline 'EFSA evaluates TSE risk from small ruminants' milk'. On the right side, there is a search bar, a 'Print this page' button, an 'Apply online' button with the dates '23 Oct 2008 - 7 Jan 2009', a 'Subscribe to the EFSA e-Newsletter' button, and a 'See Also' section with a thumbnail for the 'Executive Director'.

## DAILY EXPRESS



THE WORLD'S GREATEST NEWSPAPER

**Fears over gender  
bender chemical in  
our food packaging**

## Le Monde

**La Commission européenne  
veut savoir si les animaux clonés  
peuvent être mangés sans risque**

## Irish Independent



IRELAND'S BEST-SELLING DAILY NEWSPAPER

**E-numbers  
in children's  
food add to  
hyperactivity**

## REUTERS



*EU agency disagrees with USDA over citrus disease*

## THE GUARDIAN

**Fresh fears raised about aspartame**

## CORRIERE DELLA SERA

DOLCIFICANTI

**L'aspartame  
supera l'esame  
di sicurezza**

## Berliner Morgenpost



**Verzehr geklonter Tiere  
wird erforscht**

## Irish Examiner.com

**Goat had 'Mad Cow Disease'**

## EFSA in focus: new thematic newsletters



## EFSAnews – New look...



## EFSA's joint event with Slovenia



## Promoting EFSA's call for scientific panel members and experts



## Raising EFSA's profile at major scientific events...



## ...& at Open Scientific Fora

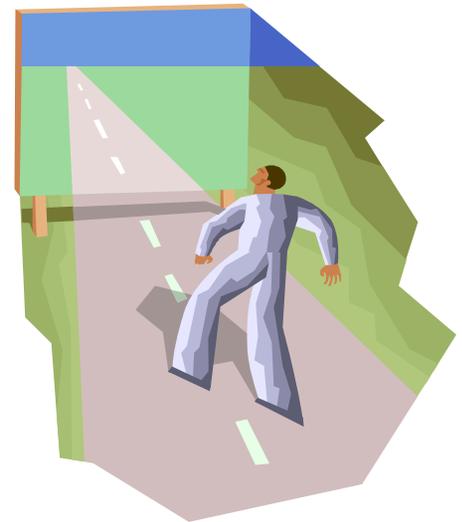


## How EFSA involves stakeholders

- Stakeholder Consultative Platform
- Board meetings: web-cast, open to public
- On-line public consultations
- Technical meetings
- Speaking engagements
- Pre-notification of scientific opinions and press releases on sensitive matters

## Future challenges...

- Globalisation
- Climate change
- New technologies
- Socio-demographic changes
- ...



## Vision

EFSA 's vision is to become globally recognised as the European reference body for risk assessment on food and feed safety, animal health and welfare, nutrition, plant protection and plant health

***EFSA 's Strategic Plan 2009-2013 due for adoption at the end of the year***

EFSA aims to deliver:

- ✓ the best science
- ✓ at the right time
- ✓ in the most appropriate manner

⇒ This goal can only be achieved through effective co-operation with all key actors

# Thank you for your kind attention



*Staff photo, January 2008*