

Committed *since 2002*
to ensuring that Europe's food is safe



EFSA's work in the past 10 years: A decade of achievements

Carola Sondermann
Advisory Forum and Scientific Cooperation Unit

**Conference of the Bulgarian Food Safety Agency
Sofia, 22 May 2012**

EFSA and the EU food safety system:

- The beginnings
- Making the difference
- Key achievements
- Future challenges

Why EFSA was created in 2002...

- Food scares (e.g. BSE, dioxins)
- Loss of consumer confidence
- Loss of confidence in EU food trade
- Damaged trust in public authorities
- Creation of national food agencies



As European veterinary experts met yesterday to discuss easing the ban on British beef, the Consumers' Association issued a report claiming the Government had failed to put consumers first in the BSE crisis. Have people been misled? Today, CHRIS ELLIOTT reports on how a Mid-Anglian scientist is attempting to put the crisis in perspective — by launching a crusade to banish misinformation about it.

**Public just
want truth
about BSE
says expert**



**EFSA as independent source of scientific
advice and communication**



Scientific excellence

Independence...

Scientific Cooperation...

Partnership...

A growing organisation



2004

2012



Committed since 2002
to ensuring that Europe's food is safe

EFSA's remit: from farm to fork

1. Animal health & welfare
2. Biological hazards
3. Contaminants
4. Plant health
5. GMOs
6. Pesticides

7. Feed
8. Food additives & nutrient sources
9. Food contact materials, enzymes, flavourings & processing aids
10. Dietetic products, nutrition, allergens

Scientific Committee and 10 Scientific Panels



- Independent scientists selected based on their proven excellence
- Mandatory commitment of independence
- Declaration of Interest (annual and per meeting)



With...

- EU-Member States
- EU-Authorities and Institutions
- Stakeholders
- International Authorities and Organisations
- Scientists worldwide



Scientific cooperation between Member States & EFSA via

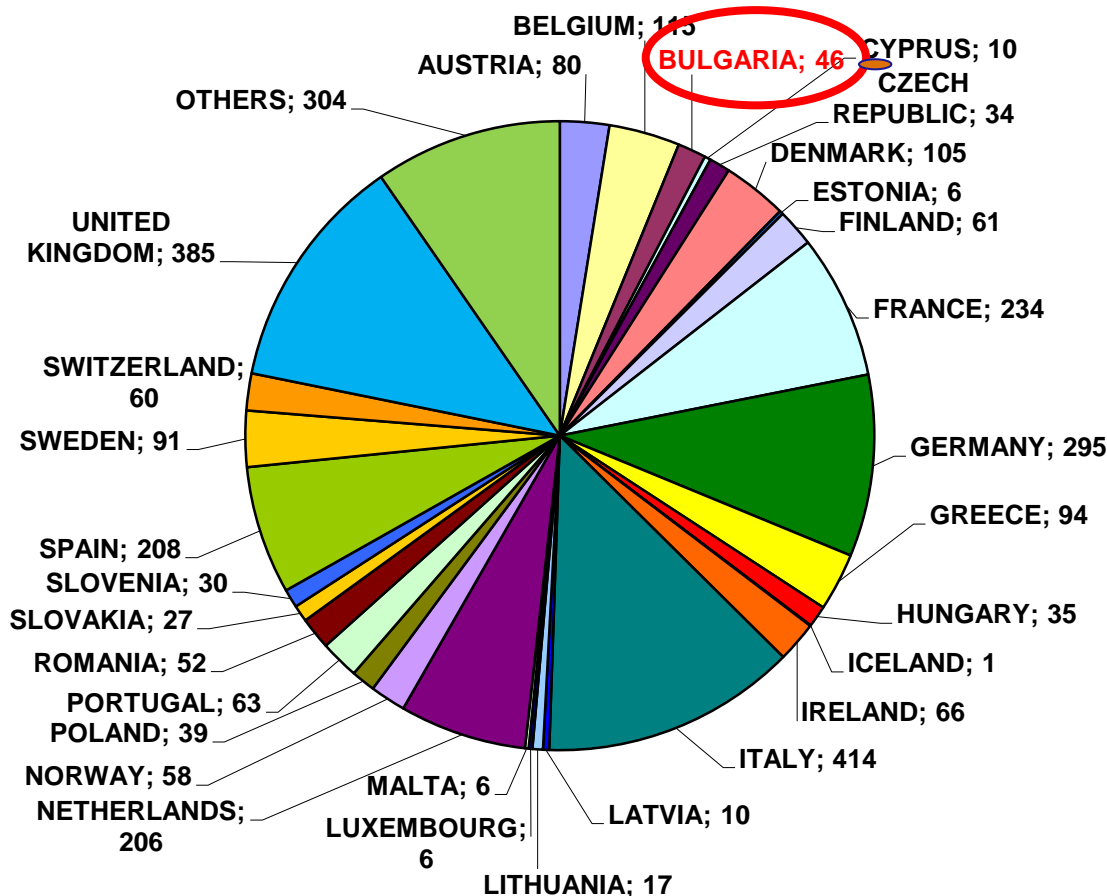
- **The Advisory Forum**
- **Focal Points**
- **Scientific networks**



EFSA's Expert Database – a growing database

> 3450 experts included

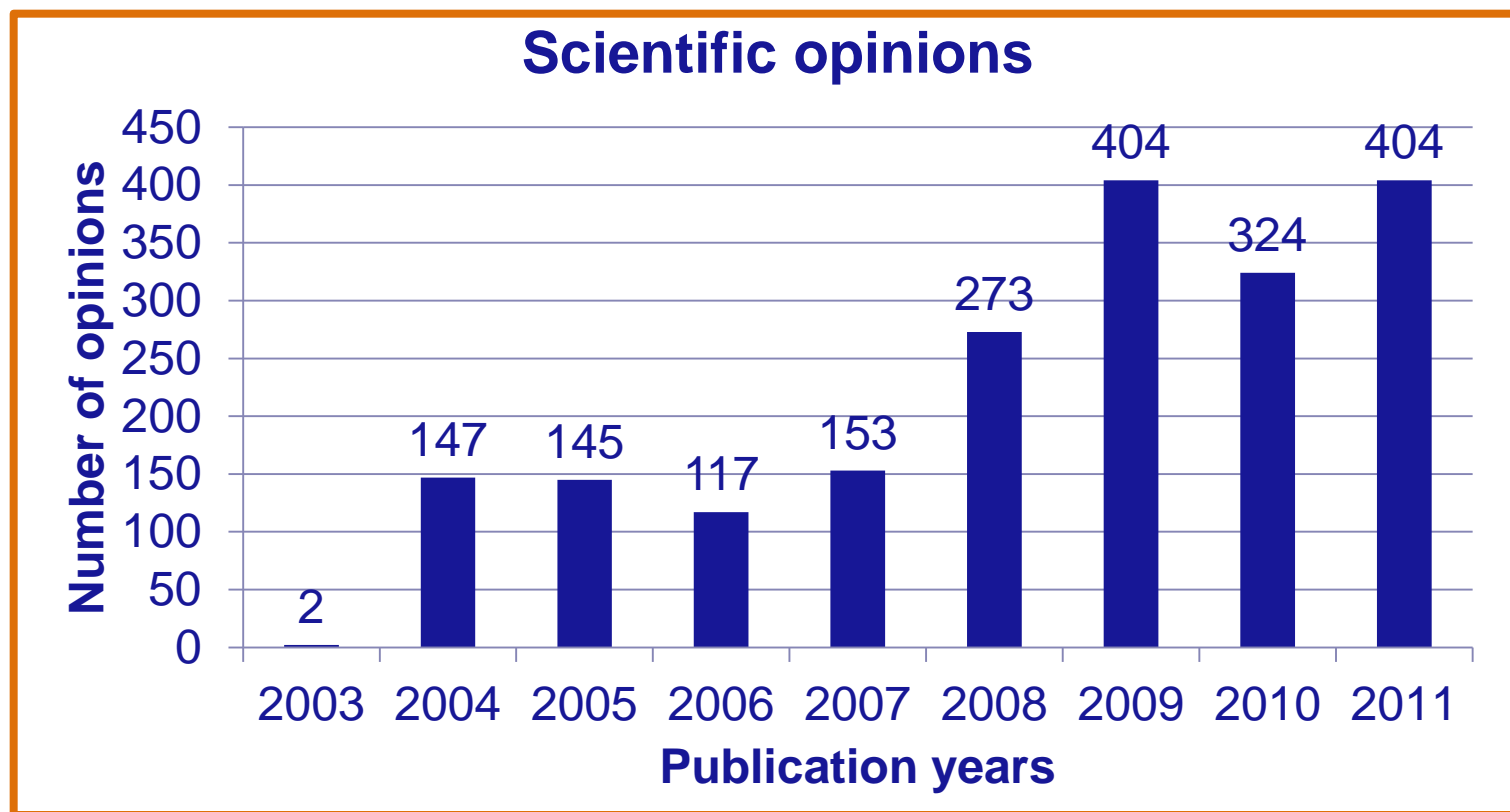
- Established in 2008
- For EFSA & MS
- To enhance capacity & transparency of the selection process



Status: 04/2012

EFSA's scientific outputs published in the EFSA Journal

Almost 3000 scientific outputs published



Protecting Europe's 500 million consumers

- **Combating biological hazards, including zoonoses**
 - Successful EU response to BSE
 - 50% reduction of human *Salmonella* cases
- **Chemicals in food**
 - Re-evaluating all food additives
 - Mycotoxins e.g. aflatoxins
- **Nutrition**
 - Evaluating more than 3,000 health claims



- **Animal health and welfare**
 - Animal diseases e.g. Bluetongue, avian influenza
 - Welfare of animals during transport, welfare of dairy cows and other farm animals...
 - Foot-and-mouth disease in Thrace
- **Pesticides**
 - 97% compliance with safe levels of pesticide residues in food
 - Review of all existing active substances on market before 1993



**Evaluation of regulated products
→ 60% of EFSA's outputs**

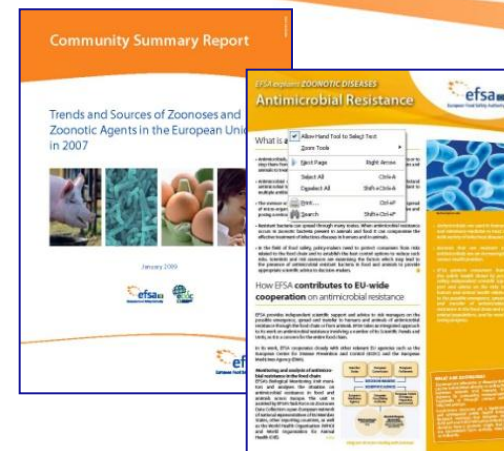


Major role in EU rapid responses to **food-related emergencies and animal health issues:**

- BSE
- Avian influenza
- Contamination of pork by dioxins in Ireland
- Melamine in foods
- Nicotine in mushrooms
- Q-fever outbreak in the Netherlands
- Pathogenic *E. coli* outbreaks in Germany and France
- New “Schmallenberg” virus
- ...

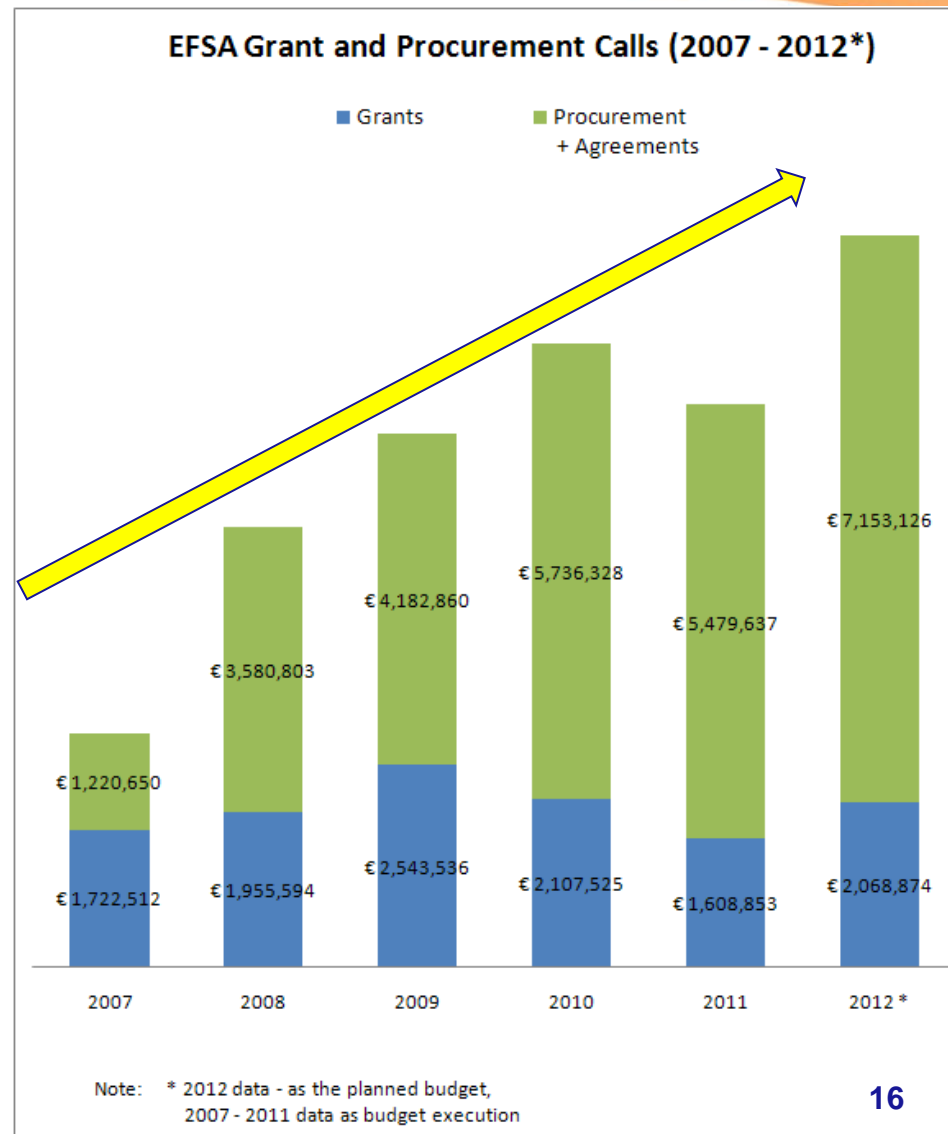
Working together, working for Europe

- **Yearly analysis of EU-wide situation**
 - Zoonoses
 - Antimicrobial resistance
 - Pesticide residues
- **Food consumption data for exposure assessments**
 - Increasingly sophisticated and harmonised data
- **Cooperation in risk communication**
 - Advisory Forum Working Group
 - Information exchange (e.g. STEC)
- **Increasingly more structured cooperation**
 - **Medium-term planning** with Advisory Forum,
 - Stakeholder Platform rolling work plan...



Increasing scientific cooperation with Member State organisations

- ✓ over €9 million in 2012 to Article 36 cooperation and procurement
- ✓ increase of €2 million compared to 2011



Open dialogue with interested parties

- Public consultations (e.g. all guidance documents)
- Stakeholder technical meetings, consultations
- Webcasting for maximum transparency (GMO, health claims)



Growing media interest

ANSA

**Salute:biberon al
bisfenolo; EFSA,
confermata dose
tollerabile**

REUTERS 

**EFSA sees risks to
children from lead in food**



**France/E.coli : l'EFSA
recommande la cuisson
des graines germées**



**EFSA: plus de 75% des poulets abattus
dans l'UE contaminés par des
bactéries**



**EFSA reports fewer
pesticide residues are
now found in food in
the EU**

**Fleisch
wirtschaft
International**

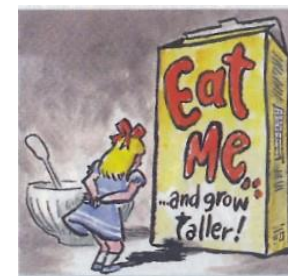
**EFSA; GMO guidelines
with NGOs**

Food e-news

**Efsa
guidance on
safety of
botanicals**

**The
Economist**

The proof of the pudding



**afz allgemeine
fleischer zeitung**

**Bakterien immer öfter resistent; EFSA
untersucht Erreger in der
Nutztierhaltung
- Wirken Antibiotika noch?**



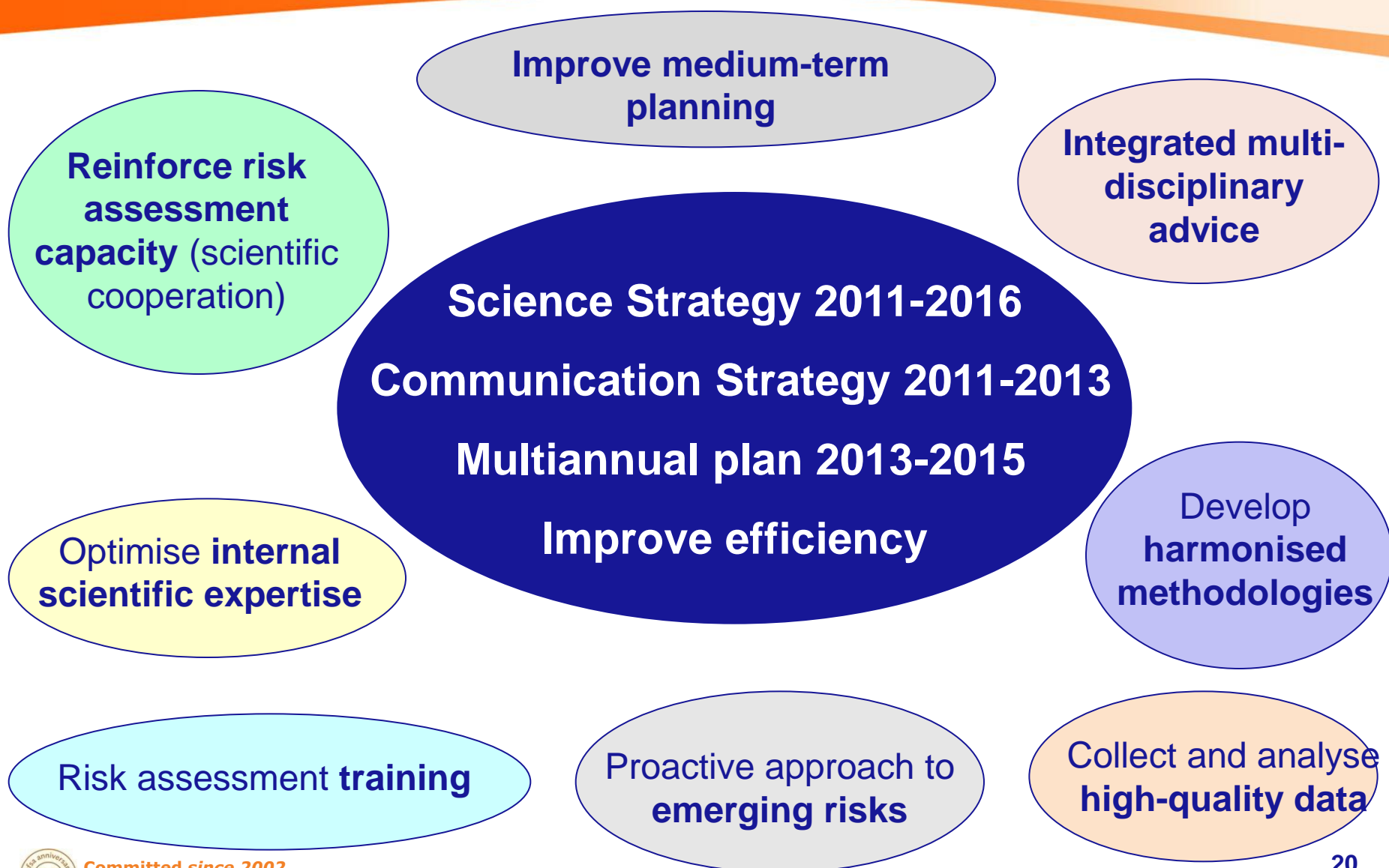
**Hogyan lehet cafatokból
hússzeletet készíteni?**

- Accurate
- Meaningful
- Transparent
- Coherent

Risk communications



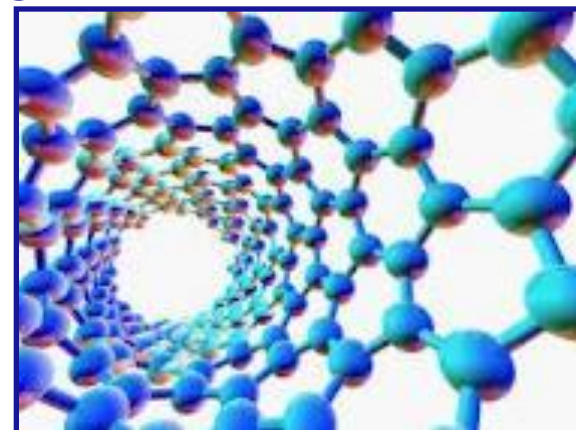
Responding to future challenges



- **New risk assessment methods and guidance**
→ nanotechnology, intelligent packaging

- **New fields of risk assessments:**

- **New technologies** → cloning
- **Safety of new products** → novel foods
- **Efficacy/benefits** → pesticides, health claims
- **Environmental impact** → GM plants
- Occupational health, post-market monitoring, risk comparisons...



Emerging issues and trends affecting EFSA's work



Thank you for your attention

