European Food Safety Authority

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EFSA in focus PLANTS

efsa anniversary 10 efsa anniversary

Contents

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> Key topics

Residues compliance continues to rise, pesticide report shows

EFSA has published its third Annual Report on Pesticide Residues, which gives an overview of pesticide residues found in food in the European Union during 2009 and assesses the exposure of consumers to those residues through their diets. The report shows that compliance rates continue to rise, with 97.4% of the samples analysed falling within the permitted Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs), a rise of about one percentage point since 2008.

In the EU coordinated part of the monitoring programme, which is designed to collect directly comparable data from reporting countries and to enable dietary exposure assessment, 61.4% of samples were free of measurable pesticide residues. Compared with 2006, the last time the same food commodities of plant origin were analysed under the EU-coordinated programme, the MRL exceedance rate has fallen from 4.4% to 1.2%. EFSA said this could be partially ascribed to the harmonisation of MRLs, which came into force in September 2008, but other factors – such as the more effective use of legislation compelling producers and other industry players to implement safety systems, and

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changes in the pattern of pesticide use in Europe – may have contributed to the improvement.

EFSA's Pesticides Unit, which prepared the report, emphasised that the presence of pesticides in food at a level exceeding the MRLs does not necessarily imply a safety concern.

Reporting countries, which include all EU Member States, but also Iceland and Norway, analysed nearly 68,000 samples of food commodities for 834 pesticides. The number of food commodities analysed rose from just under 200 in 2008 to approximately 300 in 2009.

The introduction of a new data reporting format enabled a more accurate assessment of the long-term risks to consumers from exposure to pesticide residues. EFSA concluded that based on current knowledge long-term exposure to residues detected in major foods that make up the European diet would not raise health concerns.

The assessment of short-term acute exposure was based on worst-case scenarios – assuming the consumption of large portions of a food item containing the highest recorded residue – and EFSA concluded that risks to consumers were unlikely. Of the 10,553 samples taken in the EU coordinated programme, a potential risk could not be ruled out for 77.

MRLs were more often breached in samples from countries outside the European Economic Area (6.9% of samples) than in those from the EU and EFTA countries (1.5% of samples).

The lowest exceedance rates overall were for food products of animal origin (0.3%).

No specific MRLs have been established for organically produced commodities so those used for conventionally produced commodities are applied. The MRL exceedance rate recorded for organic produce was lower by a factor of 7 compared to conventionally grown produce.

In the report, EFSA made a number of recommendations aimed at improving future monitoring programmes and the enforcement of European legislation on pesticide residues.

For more information.

EFSA assesses the public health risk of seeds and sprouted seeds

EEFSA has evaluated the public health risk of Shiga-toxin producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) and other pathogenic bacteria that may contaminate seeds intended for sprouting and sprouted seeds (sprouts, shoots and cress).

Recognising that sprouted seeds are generally consumed raw or minimally processed, the Panel on Biological Hazards (BIOHAZ Panel) concluded that sprouted seeds are ready-to-eat foods with food safety concerns because certain pathogenic bacteria can contaminate seeds and grow during sprouting.

Furthermore, preventing initial contamination during production, storage and distribution of seeds is of the foremost importance, as sprouted seeds have the potential to cause large food-borne outbreaks. Operators producing sprouted seeds should strive to implement additional food safety management measures across the whole sprout production chain. Stakeholders at all parts of the production chain and consumers, including also those practising home-sprouting, should be informed of the food safety risk posed by sprouted seeds.

The European Commission requested a risk assessment of seeds and sprouted seeds intended for human consumption following the STEC outbreaks in Germany and France in spring and summer 2011. In its opinion, the BIOHAZ Panel noted that large outbreaks associated with consumption of contaminated sprouts have previously been reported in the EU and worldwide. Sprout-associated outbreaks are most commonly caused by *Salmonella* and pathogenic *E. coli* (including STEC). Very low levels of the bacteria – as little as 4 bacteria/kg – in seeds intended for sprouting have been sufficient to cause outbreaks.

The Panel concluded that sprouted seeds pose specific microbial food safety concerns and that there are several risk factors for contamination affecting the entire sprouted seed

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production chain. Pathogenic bacteria can contaminate the seeds intended for sprouting during production, storage and distribution through, for example, contaminated irrigation water and soil particles. The high temperature and humidity needed for the germination and sprouting of seeds are also favourable conditions for pathogenic bacteria to further grow and spread. Consumption of raw or minimally processed sprouted seeds poses additional food safety concerns. EFSA's risk assessment focused on seeds and sprouts, as there is limited scientific information available on shoots and cress.

EFSA's BIOHAZ Panel considered sprouted seeds as ready-to-eat foods and therefore recommended that general EU food safety hygiene rules should be applied across the whole chain from seed production to the final sprouted product. The Panel concluded that preventing initial contamination of seeds intended for sprouting was of particular importance, as there are currently no methods to ensure elimination of pathogens in all types of seeds used for sprouting. The Panel noted that the control of a sprout-associated outbreak is challenging as seed lots can be widely distributed and therefore difficult to trace.

As for other ready-to-eat food products, the BIOHAZ Panel recommended that additional food safety management measures should be put in place along the whole chain from seed production to the final sprouted product.

Microbiological criteria should be an additional step in managing food safety in the sprouted seed production chain. However, the Panel recognised the difficulties of detecting contamination with testing, and that reliable results would require the analysis of large samples and/or different sampling strategies. In addition, due to the short shelf life of sprouted seeds, rapid methods for detecting pathogenic bacteria are important to obtain timely results.

Given the complex nature of the sprouted seed production chain, the Panel considered different approaches and made a variety of suggestions for mitigation options throughout the production chain that could assist risk managers in setting policies and making decisions to protect consumers in the European Union.

For more information.

EFSA evaluates pine wood nematode threat

The stone pine, a tree species found widely in Portugal and Spain, must still be considered a potential host for pine wood nematode, EFSA has found. The Authority's Panel on Plant Health called for further research to assess the threat posed by this pest to European trees.

The conclusions were part of a scientific opinion on the phytosanitary risk associated with some coniferous tree species for the spread of pine wood nematode (*Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*), a significant disease present in North America and the Far East. In Europe the problem is largely confined to mainland Portugal, which suffered a first outbreak of pine wood nematode in 1999, and which is subject to emergency measures to prevent its further spread.

The nematode causes pine wilt disease, which results in the sudden death of pine trees. Susceptible coniferous tree species suffer invasions of the pest through the feeding or egg-laying scars created by nematode-carrying beetles.

The Commission asked the Panel on Plant Health specifically to clarify the risk associated with the species *Pinus pinea*, the Mediterranean stone pine, following a request from Portugal and Spain that it be removed from the EU's list of plants considered susceptible to the nematode. The Panel was also asked to look at plants belonging to the genera *Chamaecyparis, Cryptomeria* and *Juniperus*, which are not on the EU's list of susceptible plants.

On *P. pinea*, the Panel undertook a comprehensive literature review and analysed a risk assessment submitted by Portugal. It rejected the assertion in the Portuguese dossier that *P. pinea* is not a host plant for the pine wood nematode, pointing out that the small number of *P. pinea* trees sampled in the study was insufficient to support such a conclusion and that the results could not be extrapolated to other areas of Portugal. The Panel also cited evidence that other coniferous trees in North America can become infested with the pine wood nematode but remain free of symptoms for many years.

With regard to the vector beetle *Monochamus galloprovincialis*, the Portuguese study reported an

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experiment which showed a relatively low rate of egg-laying on *P. pinea* compared with the susceptible species *Pinus pinaster*. However, the EFSA Panel pointed out that oviposition (egg-laying) on *P. pinea* was still possible and also concluded that the finding from the experiment could not be extrapolated to forests with different tree compositions and environments.

In addition, the Panel noted that *M. galloprovincialis* is distributed over a vast geographical area and local populations could have host preferences different from those of the beetles found in Portugal. For example, attacks on *P. pinea* by *M. galloprovincialis* have been recorded in Italy.

Overall, the Panel considered the risk of pine wood nematode spreading through the plants and wood of *P.pinea* to be low if trade volumes are small. However, they emphasised that this assessment is highly uncertain, because of the lack of data concerning the interaction between the vector beetles, the nematode and *P. pinea*.

The Panel concluded that the available information on *Chamaecyparis, Cryptomeria* and *Juniperus* suggested that they would not suffer from pine wilt disease and would not act as efficient hosts of the pine wood nematode. However, the experts again highlighted the lack of data concerning the nematode-beetle-plant interaction, which made it difficult to make firm statements about the risk.

The Panel called for further research – particularly on the association between the pine wood nematode, its vector beetles and *Chamaecyparis, Cryptomeria, Juniperus* and *P. pinea* plants – and suggested that studies be carried out on the ability of the nematode to survive in field-grown trees that have been inoculated against the pest.

For more information.

EFSA launches updated guidance on post-market environmental monitoring of GM plants

EFSA has published updated guidance on the post-market environmental monitoring (PMEM) of GM plants. The document expands on previous EFSA guidance provided in this area, further strengthening the requirements that applicants must fulfil for the environmental monitoring of GM plants authorised for placement on the EU market. It also makes recommendations for risk managers to improve the way PMEM data are collected and reported in the EU. As with all EFSA guidance documents on genetically modified organisms (GMOs), the Authority engaged in consultation at different stages during its development with Member States and a broad range of stakeholders.

Under EU legislation, applications for the cultivation of GM plants must contain a detailed PMEM plan demonstrating how the GM plant will be monitored for possible adverse effects on human health and the environment. This monitoring is a key feature of the legislative framework on GM plants and, taken together with environmental risk assessment and risk management, forms an important part of the cycle of measures in place to detect and limit possible adverse effects, including those that may occur over a long period of time. EFSA assesses the results of PMEM for GM plants on a yearly basis and makes recommendations to the European Commission to improve the PMEM plan for future years and to conclude about the GM plant's ongoing safety.

PMEM of GM plants is comprised of two components. The first is 'General Surveillance' and must be carried out in all cases where a GM plant is approved in the EU. It intends to detect unanticipated adverse effects of GM plants and focuses on different aspects of environmental protection such as the conservation of flora and fauna, soil quality and the sustainability of agro-ecosystems. EFSA's updated guidance document outlines the different tools to be used for General Surveillance, including comprehensive advice on the design and analysis of farmer questionnaires and recommendations on the use of existing biodiversity monitoring networks at Member State level that are relevant for monitoring of GM plants.

Alongside applicants, risk managers also play an important role in the implementation of General Surveillance. The updated guidance document recommends that General Surveillance is considered by Member States as part of general environmental protection monitoring taking place within the EU. In this respect, it proposes that reporting centres are established at a national level to better integrate and harmonise PMEM data collection.

The second component of PMEM is 'Case-Specific Monitoring' (CSM) and must be carried out when, in the original Environmental Risk Assessment (ERA) of a GM plant, EFSA identifies a potential risk or level of uncertainty (or both) that can be mitigated during cultivation but nevertheless needs to be monitored on an ongoing basis. For example, in carrying out the ERA, an applicant may identify a potential risk from the exposure of a species of insects to a certain toxin produced by the GM plant that cannot be fully predicted or determined from existing studies or scientific literature. In this instance, specific monitoring is required to confirm assumptions made in the ERA and to assist in the evaluation of the ERA throughout the life-cycle of the GM plant. EFSA's updated guidance document on PMEM outlines requirements for

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the statistical design of CSM plans and gives examples of objectives and approaches to monitor identified risks or uncertainties (or both).

EFSA considered it necessary to update its 2006 PMEM guidance in light of the update to its guidance on ERA, published in November 2010. The present updated guidance was informed by the experience of EFSA's GMO Panel in assessing previous GM plant applications and by comments submitted from stakeholders and interested parties during a period of public consultation. EFSA also held a dedicated session at the second meeting of the EFSA Scientific Network for Risk Assessment of GMOs, with representatives from Member States asked to discuss their contributions to the public consultation.

For more information.

Phytophthora Ramorum is a threat to European forests, parks and gardens, says EFSA

A fungal-like pathogen that causes "sudden oak death" in California and blight in a number of common plant species is a growing threat to forests, parks and gardens across the European Union, according to EFSA.

Following large-scale outbreaks of *Phytophthora ramorum* in Japanese larch (*Larix kaempferi*) plantations in the UK and Ireland, the European Commission asked EFSA to deliver a scientific Opinion on a pest risk analysis of the disease published in 2009 by RAPRA (acronym for Risk Analysis of *Phytophthora ramorum*), the EU-funded Sixth Framework Programme research project.

In its opinion, EFSA's Panel on Plant Health agreed with RAPRA's conclusion that there is "a risk of further entry and establishment" of *P.ramorum* in the EU and supported the risk reduction options proposed.

However, after considering comments from Member States and information that became available only after the publication of the RAPRA report, EFSA's Panel of independent scientists went further. It concludes that the recent outbreaks – which have affected an estimated 1,900 hectares of Japanese larch, or 500,000 trees, in England and Wales alone – represented a "major step change" in the epidemiology of *P.ramorum* and the associated risk assessment and management issues. It suggested additional options to reduce the likelihood of further spread.

The EFSA opinion pointed out that there are large regions across Europe that are climatically suitable for the spread of *P.ramorum* and where susceptible host plants are present. There are many common species among potential hosts, such as European beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), rhododendron, camellia and viburnum.

The Japanese larch *P.ramorum* outbreak in the UK and Ireland has raised the possibility of a threat to European larch across the EU.

In addition, there is growing evidence that some forms of *P. ramorum* are more aggressive than others. Allowing new, potentially more virulent lineages to enter the EU could lead to *P.ramorum* becoming more widely established in the region.

P.ramorum is not listed as a harmful organism in the EU but in 2002 the Commission adopted emergency measures to prevent its introduction and spread. A decision will be taken as to whether permanent measures are needed – and, if so, what type of measures – based on the RAPRA research and EFSA's subsequent opinion.

The emergency measures, which are based on specific import requirements, the "plant passport" certification system and phytosanitary measures at the place of production, seem to have been partially successful in removing *P. ramorum* from plant nurseries, although it is uncertain to what extent the reduction in outbreaks is causal. Plant traders in many Member States are still reporting the presence of the pathogen in stocks.

EFSA's experts also expressed reservations about the effectiveness of the three-month quarantine period that follows eradication measures, given uncertainties about how long *P.ramorum* can lie dormant.

The measures have not been successful in reducing the occurrence of the disease outside plant nurseries, the Panel says. As well as the recent major outbreaks in Japanese larch in the UK and Ireland, *P.ramorum* has been found on a range of host species in parks, gardens, woodlands and forests in The Netherlands, the UK, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, Norway, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain and Switzerland.

Controlling the spread of the disease outside nurseries is therefore a significant challenge for risk managers. Large-scale felling is taking place in the affected Japanese larch plantations in the UK and Ireland. However, *Rhododendron*

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ponticum, the most widespread host species in the UK, regrows from rootstock and requires root-and-branch removal. Previous attempts to remove it from British woodlands have been unsuccessful.

EFSA's Panel suggested that management could focus on protecting trees that experts deem worthy of conservation by clearing the surrounding area of healthy plants belonging to host species.

For more information.

EFSA holds fifth GMO meeting with environmental and consumer NGOs

EFSA held its fifth meeting with environmental and consumer non-governmental organisations (NGOs) on the subject of genetically modified organisms (GMOs). The meeting gave NGOs involved in this area the opportunity to engage and exchange views with EFSA and to hear in more detail about the work it carries out on GMO risk assessment.

Members from the EFSA GMO Panel as well as EFSA staff joined NGO representatives to discuss issues such as the general principles for GMO risk assessment, the specific strategy for risk assessment of stacked GM events and post-market environmental monitoring (PMEM) of GM plants.

Per Bergman, EFSA's Director of Scientific Evaluation of Regulated Products, said: "EFSA's annual GMO meeting with NGOs is a good example of the approach we take to ensure stakeholder involvement and engagement in our work. The debate was constructive and I hope the NGOs benefitted as much as EFSA did from the opportunity to exchange views on GMO risk assessment."

At the beginning of the meeting, EFSA explained the importance it attaches to consultation and communication with stakeholders, including NGOs, and set out the various ways in which external organisations can engage with the Authority on scientific issues related to its work. There followed a broad discussion on effective risk communications with EFSA outlining the steps it takes to ensure that all its target audiences are able to understand the scientific advice it delivers.

After a brief overview of the ongoing activities of the EFSA GMO Panel, a detailed presentation was given on the strategy adopted by the Panel to assess risks associated with stacked events in GM plants. Stacked events, as opposed to single events, refer to GM plants where more than one new trait, for example both insect and herbicide resistance, are combined, usually by conventional crossing techniques.

The afternoon session was dedicated to a presentation and discussion on the PMEM of GM plants cultivated in Europe. EFSA presented its updated guidance on PMEM (2011) and, in this context, referred to its recent assessment of the 2009 PMEM report for maize MON810. NGO representatives raised questions about aspects of the guidance related to case-specific monitoring and general surveillance. The meeting ended with a general discussion about statistical analysis and biological relevance and a short introduction by EFSA to a project it has initiated to build a fauna database in support of environmental risk assessment and PMEM.

For more information.

Applications Helpdesk: enhanced service and increased transparency

With the launch of its Applications Helpdesk Unit, EFSA has taken a major step forward in enhancing the service it provides to EU Member States, its other partners in the EU and applicants. The Authority aims to contribute to safe innovation in the agrofood sector by facilitating increased understanding of its risk assessment work and requirements to enter the EU food chain. EFSA is also streamlining its procedures for dealing with the evaluation of regulated substances, products and health claims.

Science and innovation are key drivers of economic competitiveness, as recognised by the EU's "Europe 2020" growth strategy. The EU agrofood sector is worth over €900 billion annually to the EU economy and employs some 4.4 million people. As Europe's food safety watchdog, EFSA is uniquely placed to provide the scientific expertise needed to protect consumers and enable innovation. More transparency about how EFSA carries out its risk assessments and further clarifying how applicants submit information, can support growth and enhance competitiveness.

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Since 2003, the number of annual requests received by EFSA for applications-related evaluations has increased considerably. These now account for 40% of the Authority's resources, twice the 2008 level, and as many as two-thirds of its scientific outputs.

Recent legislative changes in the EU mean that EFSA's work on the evaluation of regulated substances is likely to continue to grow; a large number of new applications, for example for feed additives, food enzymes and flavourings, is expected in the coming years, while the assessment of other types of applications is becoming more complex. The Applications Helpdesk Unit will enable EFSA to provide a streamlined service to applicants and other interested parties in this changing environment.

For more information.

New Science Strategy published as EFSA marks its 10th anniversary

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the European Union's General Food Law and the establishment of EFSA. The publication of EFSA's Science Strategy for 2012-2016 highlighted how the Authority has grown over time into its pivotal position within the European food safety system and lays out the vision for its scientific development for the next five years.

The main objectives of the Science Strategy are: to further develop EFSA's scientific excellence and other core values, such as openness, transparency, independence and responsiveness; to optimise the use of European risk assessment capacity across the EU; to develop and harmonise risk assessment methodologies and approaches to assess risks associated with the food chain; and to strengthen the scientific basis for risk assessment and risk monitoring.

The Science Strategy was the subject of an extensive consultation process involving EFSA's Scientific Committee, its Advisory Forum, staff, its stakeholders as well as a public consultation.

Commenting on the importance of this document, EFSA's Director of Science Strategy and Coordination, Hubert Deluyker, said: "The quality of our science is central to everything we do and with this ambitious strategy, EFSA can continue to enhance its support of the European food safety system in the years to come. Looking forward, along with our partners, our role is one of leadership in the development of state-of-the-art risk assessment methodologies in key areas while meeting the needs of risk managers in the most effective way.

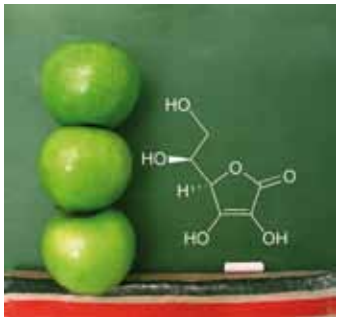
"Our relationship with the Member States will continue to be critical both from a data collection and information exchange perspective and from a capacity building perspective where EFSA strongly supports the development of risk assessment skills across Europe."

EFSA has already begun to implement the objectives of the Science Strategy: a workshop for EFSA's scientific staff was held to start the process of executing the strategy; a dialogue with key partners in the EU institutions and Member States is also scheduled to map out a route for increasing further the scope for interaction and cooperation; and EFSA's management will aim to give priority to fulfilling the objectives of the Science Strategy through resource allocation and the development of longer-term multiannual planning.

For more information.







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EFSA invites leading scientists to sign up to its expert database.

EFSA is the European Union´s scientific risk assessment body on food and feed safety, nutrition, animal health and welfare, plant health and protection.

EFSA, in cooperation with Member States, has decided to set up a database of external scientific experts able to assist its Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels, EFSA networks and respective working groups. EFSA will draw on this database to find experts to help deliver high-quality, independent and timely scientific advice.

You can be part of that team of top scientists helping EFSA support Europe´s decision makers in ensuring that Europe´s food is safe.

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> Scientific contracts and grants

External reports published

Modelling, predicting and mapping the emergence of aflatoxins in cereals in the EU due to climate change	*http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/supporting/pub/223e.htm*
Identification of Cumulative Assessment Groups of Pesticides	*http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/supporting/pub/269e.htm*
Extensive literature search on potato cyst nematodes and the potato cyst nematode (PCN)-host interaction	*http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/supporting/pub/272e.htm*
Experimental study: uptake of coccidiostats in vegetables	*http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/supporting/pub/273e.htm*
Review of quantitative assessment of risk reduction options applied in the EFSA outputs on biological hazards, in support of a guidance document of the EFSA Panel on Plant Health	*http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/supporting/pub/251e.htm*

> Mandates accepted

Mandates accepted: January-July 2012

Information on all other on-going requests is available in EFSA's register of questions.

Biological Hazards (BIOHAZ)	Deadline	Mandate number
Procurement on food of plant origin: production methods and microbiological hazards linked to foodborne disease		M-2012-0034
Risk posed by pathogens in food of non-animal origin	31-Dec-13	M-2012-0041

Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO)	Deadline	Mandate number
Application for authorisation of genetically modified maize 1507 x 59122 x MON810 x NK603 for food and feed uses, import and processing submitted under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 by Pioneer (EFSA-GMO-NL-2011-92)	Additional data request	M-2011-0042
Application for authorisation of genetically modified oilseed rape MON 88302 for food and feed uses, import and processing submitted under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 by Monsanto (EFSA-GMO-BE-2011-101)	Additional data request	M-2011-0305
Request for scientific assistance on the safety of pollen produced by Ms8xRf3 oilseed rape	31-Jan-12	M-2011-0370
Workshop on key allergens and compositional analysis in the allergenicity assessment of genetically modified plants	21-May-12	M-2012-0054
Request of support to EFSA related to the Parliamentary question E-11817/11 - Request of review of the findings of the study from Zhang et al.	02-Mar-12	M-2012-0060
Literature review of allergenicity/immunogenicity related studies focusing on non-IgE-mediated adverse reactions and in vitro digestibility tests	Contract of 12 months	M-2012-0082
Review of the strategies for the comprehensive food and feed safety and nutritional assessment of GM plants per se	Contract of 10 months	M-2012-0084
Mandate for the assessment of the scientific elements supporting the prohibition by France of the placing on the market of GM maize MON 810 for cultivation purposes	15-Jun-12	M-2012-0086

Mandates accepted

Application for authorisation of genetically modified oilseed rape MS8 x RF3 x GT73 for food and feed uses, import and processing submitted under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 by Bayer CropScience (EFSA-GMO-NL-2009-75)	Additional data request	M-2009-0289
Application for authorisation of genetically modified maize Bt11 x MIR162 x 1507 x GA21 for food and feed uses, import and processing submitted under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 by Syngenta (EFSA-GMO-DE-2010-86)	14-Dec-12	M-2010-0360
Application for authorisation of genetically modified maize MON89034 for cultivation, submitted under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 by Monsanto (EFSA-GMO-BE-2011-90)	Additional data request	M-2011-0004
Application for authorisation of genetically modified Bt11 x 59122 x MIR604 x 1507 x GA21 maize for food and feed uses, import and processing submitted under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 by Syngenta (EFSA-GMO-DE-2011-99)	Additional data request	M-2011-0250
Application for authorisation of genetically modified soybean MON 87705 x MON 89788 for food and feed uses, import and processing submitted under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 by Monsanto (EFSA-GMO-NL-2011-100)	Additional data request	M-2011-0289
Application for authorisation of genetically modified pollen MON 810 as or in food submitted under Regulation (EC) No. 1829/2003 by Monsanto (EFSA-GMO-NL-2012-107)	29-Nov-12	M-2012-0105
Application for authorisation of genetically modified soybean MON 87708 x MON 89788 for all food and feed uses, import and processing submitted under Regulation (EC) N° 1829/2003 by Monsanto (EFSA-GMO-NL-2012-108)	Additional data request	M-2012-0134
Mandate for assessment of new scientific elements supporting prolongation of prohibition of the placing on the market of GM oilseed rape GT73 for food & feed purposes in Austria	31-Oct-12	M-2012-0183
Mandate for the assessment of the scientific elements supporting the prohibition of the placing on the market of GM potato EH92-527-1 (Amflora) for cultivation purposes in Luxembourg	31-Oct-12	M-2012-0189
Mandate for the assessment of the scientific elements supporting the prohibition of the placing on the market of GM maize MON 810 for cultivation purposes in Greece	31-Oct-12	M-2012-0190
Mandate for the assessment of the scientific elements supporting the prohibition of the placing on the market of GM potato EH92-527-1 (Amflora) for cultivation purposes in Hungary	31-Oct-12	M-2012-0191
Request to assess the PMEM report of BASF for the cultivation of amylopectin potato EH92-527-1 (Amflora) in 2011	31-Oct-12	M-2012-0203
EFSA opinion gathering all available information related to the environmental risk assessment of maize MON 810 for cultivation	31-Dec-12	M-2012-0229
EFSA opinion gathering all available information related to the environmental risk assessment of maize 1507 for cultivation	31-Oct-12	M-2012-0231
EFSA opinion gathering all available information related to the environmental risk assessment of maize Bt11 for cultivation	31-Dec-12	M-2012-0232
Mandate for the assessment of the new scientific elements supporting the prolongation of prohibition of the placing on the market of GM oilseed rapes Ms8, Rf3 and Ms8xRf3 for food and feed purposes in Austria	31-Dec-12	M-2012-0233

Plant Health (PLH)	Deadline	Mandate number
Panel Statement in response to the clarification request relating to the scientific opinion of EFSA on the evaluation of the pest risk analysis on Pomacea insularum, the island apple snail, prepared by the Spanish Ministry of Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs	31-Mar-12	M-2011-0337
Scientific opinion of EFSA on a technical file submitted by the US Authorities to support a request to list a new option among the EU import requirements for wood of Agrilus planipennis host plants	31-Mar-12	M-2012-0047
Procurement on collection and analysis of statistical data from National Statistical Institutes of the EU Members States on crop production of the host plants of some harmful organisms listed in Annex II A II of Directive 2000/29/EC		M-2012-0147
Procurement on extensive literature search on crop production of host plants of some harmful organisms listed in Annex II A II of Directive 2000/29/EC		M-2012-0148
Procurement on systematic review and inventory of quantitative models for spread of plant pests for use in pest risk assessment for the EU territory		M-2012-0149
Technical hearing with experts operating within the commercial cultivation of ornamental carnation and chrysanthemum plants in the EU to assist evaluation of the risk of certain organisms listed in Annex II Part 2 Section II of Council Directive 2000/29/EC		M-2012-0153
Statement on the Scientific Opinion of EFSA on the phytosanitary risk associated with some coniferous species and genera for the spread of pine wood nematode	30-Nov-12	M-2011-0248

Pesticides (former PPR and PRAPeR)	Deadline	Mandate number
Mandates related to residues Between January and July 2012, EFSA has received 70 requests to assess MRL applications under Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005, 3 requests under Article 12.1 of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 for review of existing MRLs, and 30 requests under Article 43 of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 concerning scientific advice on certain MRLs.		
Pesticide risk assessment and peer review of 1,4-dimethylnaphthalene		M-2009-0032
Pesticide risk assessment and peer review of Pyriofenone		M-2009-0032
Pesticide risk assessment and peer review of Penthiopyrad		M-2009-0032
Request for EFSA to organise a peer review on confirmatory data concerning the risk assessment for birds for the active substance methiocarb	02-Jun-12	M-2012-0067
Procurement on collection of pesticide application data in view of performing Environmental Risk Assessment for pesticides	Expected completion: 30-Jun-14	M-2012-0069
Procurement on scientific support, literature, data collection and analysis for risk assessment on microbial organisms used as active substance in plant protection products	Expected completion: 31-Jul-13	M-2012-0070

Mandates accepted

Procurement on development of software models for predicting environmental concentrations of plant protection products in soil	Expected completion: 31-Dec-13	M-2012-0071
Procurement on a literature review on epidemiological studies linking exposure to pesticides and health effects	Expected completion: 31-Dec-14	M-2012-0090
Toxicological data analysis to support grouping of pesticide active substances for cumulative risk assessment of effects on the nervous system, liver, reproduction and development	15-Dec-12	M-2012-0136
Request for EFSA to organise a peer review and deliver its conclusions on the consumer risk assessment for benfluralin	02-Jul-12	M-2012-0138
Spinetoram - Statement on the setting of temporary MRLs for spinetoram in cherries, raspberries and blueberries	16-May-12	M-2012-0175
Request for EFSA to organise a peer review and deliver its conclusions on confirmatory data concerning the risk assessment on the potential toxicological relevance of the impurity and metabolite 4-chloroaniline (PCA) for diflubenzuron	08-Sep-12	M-2012-0178

Scientific Assessment Support (SAS - former AMU)	Deadline	Mandate number
Guidance on statistical reporting	30-Jun-14	M-2012-0195
Mandate for the identification of existing monitoring networks suitable to provide datasets to support post-market environmental monitoring (PMEM) of GMOs	31-Oct-14	M-2012-0196

Scientific Committee (SC)	Deadline	Mandate number
Version 3 of the Compendium of botanicals reported to contain inherent substances of possible concern for human health	31-Dec-14	M-2012-0145
Self-tasking mandate for developing a generic assessment system allowing for priority settings among the botanicals to be evaluated by EFSA	31-Dec-13	M-2012-0202

> Opinions and other outputs adopted

Opinions and other outputs adopted: January-July 2012

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

Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO)	Adoption date	Question number
Request to assess MON 810 monitoring report for the 2010 cultivation season	07-Mar-12	EFSA-Q-2011-01161
Request to assess Amflora PMEM report for the 2010 cultivation season	26-Jan-12	EFSA-Q-2011-00761
Request for an opinion on the adequacy of EFSA guidelines to perform a risk assessment of plants developed through a number of new techniques: cisgenesis	26-Jan-12	EFSA-Q-2011-00152
Application for authorisation of genetically modified soybean MON87701 x MON89788 for food and feed uses, import and processing submitted under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 by Monsanto (EFSA-GMO-NL-2009-73)	26-Jan-12	EFSA-Q-2009-00761
Application for renewal of authorisation for continued marketing of food additives, feed materials and feed additives produced from cotton MON 531 x MON 1445 submitted under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 by Monsanto (EFSA-GMO-RX-MON531xMON1445)	08-Mar-12	EFSA-Q-2007-152
Application for authorisation of genetically modified Cotton MON 531 x MON 1445 and derived food and feed submitted under Regulation (EC) No. 1829/2003 by Monsanto (EFSA-GMO-UK-2005-09)	08-Mar-12	EFSA-Q-2005-012
Mandate for the assessment of the scientific elements supporting the prohibition of the placing on the market of GM potato EH92-527-1 (Amflora) for cultivation purposes in Austria	08-Mar-12	EFSA-Q-2011-00797
Scientific Opinion on a request from the European Commission related to the emergency measure notified by France on genetically modified maize MON 810 according to Article 34 of Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003	07-May-12	EFSA-Q-2012-00345
Scientific Opinion on an application (EFSA-GMO-NL-2005-24) for the placing on the market of the herbicide tolerant genetically modified soybean 40-3-2 for cultivation under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 from Monsanto	31-May-12	EFSA-Q-2005-251
Scientific Opinion on application (EFSA-GMO-DE-2010-82) for the placing on the market of insect-resistant genetically modified maize MIR162 for food and feed uses, import and processing under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 from Syngenta	31-May-12	EFSA-Q-2010-00972

Plant Health (PLH)	Adoption date	Question number
Scientific opinion on the risks to plant health posed by European versus non-European populations of the potato cyst nematodes (PCN) Globodera pallida and Globodera rostochiensis	21-Mar-12	EFSA-Q-2011-00782
Panel Statement in response to the clarification request relating to the scientific opinion of EFSA on the evaluation of the pest risk analysis on Pomacea insularum, the island apple snail, prepared by the Spanish Ministry of Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs	21-Mar-12	EFSA-Q-2012-00375
Scientific opinion of EFSA on a technical file submitted by the US Authorities to support a request to list a new option among the EU import requirements for wood of Agrilus planipennis host plants	21-Mar-12	EFSA-Q-2012-00255

Opinions and other outputs adopted

Guidance on methodology for evaluation of the effectiveness of options for reducing the risk of introduction and spread of organisms harmful to plant health in the EU territory	23-May-12	EFSA-Q-2010-01343
Scientific Opinion on the pest categorisation of the tospoviruses	15-Jun-12	EFSA-Q-2011-01156

Pesticides (former PPR and PRAPeR)	Adoption date	Question number
Reasoned opinions **Between January and July 2012, EFSA provided 34 reasoned opinions on MRLs under Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005, responding to 42 requests. In addition, EFSA issued 5 other scientific outputs under Article 43 of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 on specific questions regarding the risk assessment of MRLs, and 24 reasoned opinions on review of existing MRLs under Article 12 of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005.** For more information.		
Request for EFSA to organise a peer review and deliver its conclusions on the risk assessment for mammals and non-target arthropods for glufosinate	08-Mar-12	EFSA-Q-2011-01252
Request for EFSA to organise a peer review and deliver its conclusions on the risk of thiamethoxam to honeybees	20-Feb-12	EFSA-Q-2011-01167
Pesticide Risk Assessment and Peer Review of Trichoderma asperellum strain T34	20-Apr-12	EFSA-Q-2011-00899
Pesticide Risk Assessment and Peer Review of phosphane	20-Feb-12	EFSA-Q-2011-00393
Pesticide Risk Assessment and Peer Review of isopyrazam	21-Feb-12	EFSA-Q-2011-00392
Pesticide Risk Assessment and Peer Review of Adoxophyes orana Granulovirus	04-Apr-12	EFSA-Q-2009-00324
Pesticide Risk Assessment and Peer Review of Cydia pomonella GV under the fourth stage of the programme of work referred to in Art. 8(2) of Council Directive 91/414/EEC (ref. Commission Regulation (EC) No 2229/2004 as amended by Commission Regulation (EC) No 1095/2007)	04-Apr-12	EFSA-Q-2009-00254
Guideline on the use of the Standard Sample Description for the reporting of the monitoring of pesticide residues in food and feed according to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005	15-Mar-12	EFSA-Q-2011-00010
Guidance on Dermal Absorption	18-Apr-12	EFSA-Q-2010-01324
Scientific opinion on clustering and ranking of emissions of plant protection products from protected crops (greenhouses and crops grown under cover) to relevant environmental compartments	08-Mar-12	EFSA-Q-2011-00793
Scientific opinion on the science behind the development of a Risk Assessment of Plant Protection Products on bees (Apis mellifera, Bombus spp. and solitary bees)	18-Apr-12	EFSA-Q-2011-00417
Scientific opinion on the science behind the guidance for scenario selection and scenario parameterisation for predicting environmental concentrations of plant protection products in soil	25-Jan-12	EFSA-Q-2011-00282

Pesticide risk assessment and peer review of Trichoderma atroviride I-1237 in accordance with Article 8 of Commission Regulation (EU) No 188/2011.	14-May-12	EFSA-Q-2011-00900
Statement on the modification of the existing MRLs for spinetoram in cherries, raspberries and blueberries	16-May-12	EFSA-Q-2012-00578
Conclusion on the peer review of the pesticide risk assessment of the active substance zucchini yellow mosaic virus - weak strain	28-May-12	EFSA-Q-2009-00346
Statement on the findings in recent studies investigating sub-lethal effects in bees of some neonicotinoids in consideration of the uses currently authorised in Europe	31-May-12	EFSA-Q-2012-00556
Conclusion on the peer review of the pesticide risk assessment of confirmatory data submitted for the active substance methiocarb	01-Jun-12	EFSA-Q-2012-00295
Guidance Document on the use of Probabilistic methodology for modelling dietary exposure to pesticide residues	21-Jun-12	EFSA-Q-2008-754
Scientific Opinion on evaluation of the toxicological relevance of pesticide metabolites for dietary risk assessment	21-Jun-12	EFSA-Q-2008-756
Conclusion on the peer review of the pesticide risk assessment of the active substance kieselgur (diatomaceous earth)	22-Jun-12	EFSA-Q-2009-00284
Conclusion on the peer review of the pesticide risk assessment of the active substance sodium hypochlorite	25-Jun-12	EFSA-Q-2009-00292
Assessment of the scientific information from the Italian project "APENET" investigating effects on honeybees of coated maize seeds with some neonicotinoids and fipronil	25-Jun-12	EFSA-Q-2012-00554
Conclusion on the peer review of the pesticide risk assessment of confirmatory data submitted for the active substance benfluralin	03-Jul-12	EFSA-Q-2012-00449
Conclusion on the peer review of the pesticide risk assessment of the active substance sedaxane	06-Jul-12	EFSA-Q-2011-00898
Conclusion on the peer review of the pesticide risk assessment of the active substance penflufen	27-Jul-12	EFSA-Q-2011-01197

Scientific Committee (SC)	Deadline	Mandate number
Maintenance in the years 2010 and 2011 of the Compendium of botanicals reported to contain toxic, addictive, psychotropic or other substances of concern	17-Apr-12	EFSA-Q-2010-00154

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