


EFSA tools for QMRA: Expert Panels and Data collection Systems in Zoonoses

Marta Hugas and Pia Mäkelä

European Food Safety Authority




Legal basis

- **Regulation No 178/2002**
laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety
(General Food Law)

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The Tasks of EFSA

- Issuing scientific opinions based on risk assessments
- Coordination of the development of risk assessment methodologies
- Providing technical and scientific support to Commission
- Commissioning scientific studies
- Collection of scientific and technical data
- Identifying emerging risks

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The Tasks of EFSA (continued)

- Establishing networks of relevant organisations
- Assistance of the Commission in crisis management
- Risk communication
- Independent expression of own conclusions and orientations

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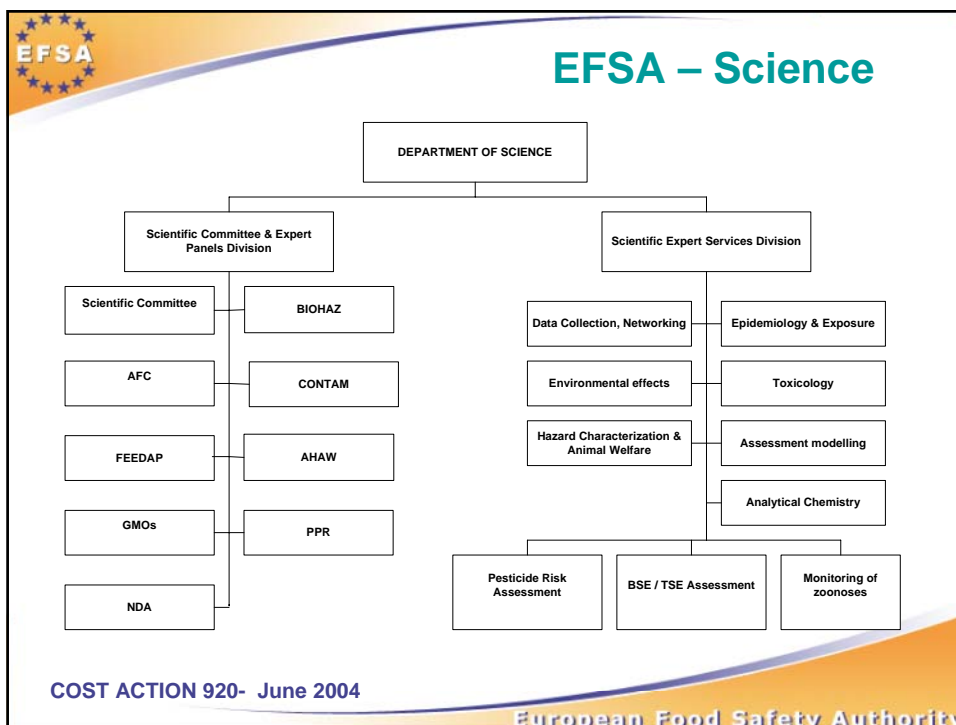
EFSA

EFSA Tasking:

- Legal requirements
- By the Commission
- By the European Parliament
- By the Member States
- Self tasking

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EFSA tools for QMRA on food safety

- ❖ The Scientific Panel on Biological Hazards
- ❖ The Scientific Expert Services Division:
 - ❖ *Data collection on Zoonoses Unit*
 - ❖ *Epidemiology & Exposure Unit**
 - ❖ *Assessment modelling Unit**
 - ❖ *Hazard characterization Unit**

* Staff not yet recruited

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EFSA approaches for QMRA

- BIOHAZ Panel planning to undertake the self-tasking linked to QMRA and its data needs
- Discussion of priorities for QMRA with COM:
 - VTEC ??
 - *Campylobacter*??
 - *Listeria* in most risky RTE foods??
- Recruitment of new staff with complementary expertise for QMRA

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Drawbacks for QMRA at European level

- QMRA at European level is more difficult than in a single Member state:
 - *Different contamination level*
 - *Different prevalence*
 - *Diferent food consumption patterns*
 - *Different types of food products*
- QMRA at European level is needed for the basis of Community legislation
- EFSA to decide how to approach these problems and how the QMRA techniques should be used in this context

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The 8 EFSA Panels

1. Panel on contaminants in the food chain
2. Panel on food additives, flavorings, processing aids and materials in contact with food
3. Panel on dietetic products, nutrition and allergies
4. **Panel on biological hazards**
5. Panel on additives and products or substances used in animal feed
6. Panel on genetically modified organisms
7. **Panel on animal health and welfare**
8. Panel on plant health, plant protection products and their residues

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BIOHAZ Panel mandate:

- The Panel on biological hazards deals with questions on biological hazards relating to food safety and food-borne diseases including
 - food-borne zoonoses
 - transmissible spongiform encephalopathies
 - microbiology
 - food hygiene and
 - associated waste management





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BIOHAZ Panel expertise:

food hygiene
 food technology
 food microbiology
public health
 animal health
 parasitology
 virology, zoonoses
 meat inspection
 TSE (epidemiology, neuropathology, testing, exposure)

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BIOHAZ Panel areas:

- TSE/BSE
- Animal by-products sector
- Food hygiene sector/ food-borne zoonoses:
 - *Campylobacter*
 - Microbiological risks in infant formula
 - Foods at risk for *Bacillus* and *Clostridium*
 - Vaccines and antimicrobials to control *Salmonella*
 - *Trichinella*

Currently dealing with more than 12 questions

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BIOHAZ Panel:

- It cannot produce microbial quantitative risk assessments on its own, although it might peer-review assessments available from other sources
- It has a limited capacity of assessing epidemiological trends in a quantitative fashion
- It has a limited capacity for meta-analyses and literature reviews on topics
- It has a limited capacity for epidemiological intelligence
- It has a limited capacity for producing scientific reports, that limits the capacity of producing opinions

But on the other hand.....

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EFSA has the capacity of collecting data:

- The **reporting** on data from monitoring of zoonoses has been transferred from Commission to EFSA
- It is the first system to be transferred:
- ❖ The new **Directive on the monitoring of zoonoses and zoonotic agents (2003/99/EC)** gives EFSA the task to examine the data collected from the Member States and to publish a summary report
- ❖ This Directive replaces the current Directive 92/117/EEC and its data collection

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New zoonoses Directive

- ❖ Starts to apply on **12 June 2004**
- ❖ The data from **2004** is collected using the old system (also the data on humans included)
- ❖ The data from **2005** reported using the new system (human data from the CDNs?)
- ❖ **EFSA** will take over the responsibility from **the beginning of 2005**
- ❖ EFSA will combine the animal and foodstuffs data to the human data in the **Community report**

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EFSA's plans for zoonoses

- ❖ Call for tenders to contract with a zoonoses collaborator to prepare the zoonoses report
- ❖ An EFSA Task Force and Working Groups to be set up to review the report and the reporting system
- ❖ A new zoonoses database and Internet reporting system will be created by EFSA

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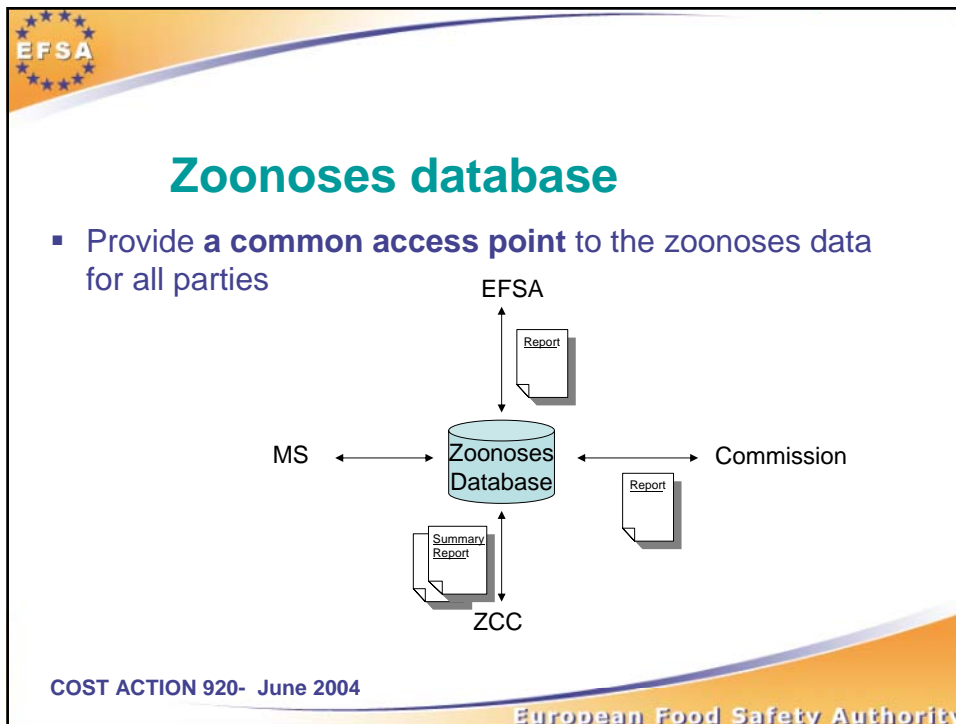
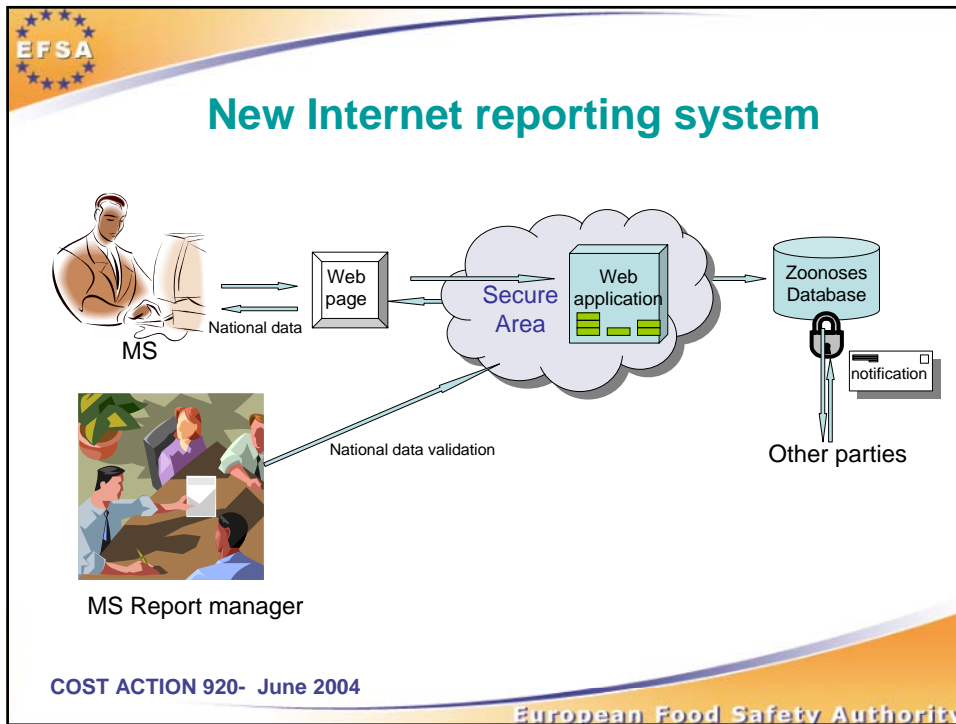


EFSA's plans for zoonoses

- The Task Force will act as a consultation forum and consist of the national contact points, the COM, the ZC and EFSA
- Working Groups will report to the task force to prepare matters

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Facilitate data exchange

- Exchange of data with other parties or networks through a standard exchange format (XML)
 - ⇒ help data reutilisability
 - ⇒ help to decrease workload
 - ⇒ help data exchange between networks

Other parties → Import national data into the system through XML

Other Networks → Import national data into the system through XML

Secure Area

Zoonoses Database

Export entered data into XML or Microsoft Excel files

Other parties

Other Networks

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EFSA and zoonoses data collection

- Annual EFSA's summary report on zoonoses: follow up the situation, trends and emerging risks
- Data for the scientific panels (BIOHAZ and AHAW panels)
- Data for (quantitative) risk assessments
- Development and improvement of the data collection

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EUROSTAT database on food safety

- Compilation of an inventory of data in food safety available in the EU
- Construction of a database:
 - *Imports and exports of meat and meat products, fruit and vegetables*
 - *Production and consumption of foodstuffs*
 - *Food consumption*
 - *Production and consumption of products issued from organic farming*
- The database will contain data from individual countries and aggregated data for the EU as a whole.

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