

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



10 Year of EFSA in European food safety: achievements and challenges

*Bernhard Url, EFSA, Director of Risk
Assessment and Scientific Assistance*

- EFSA's mission
- Achievements
- Examples
- Member States contributions
- Challenges

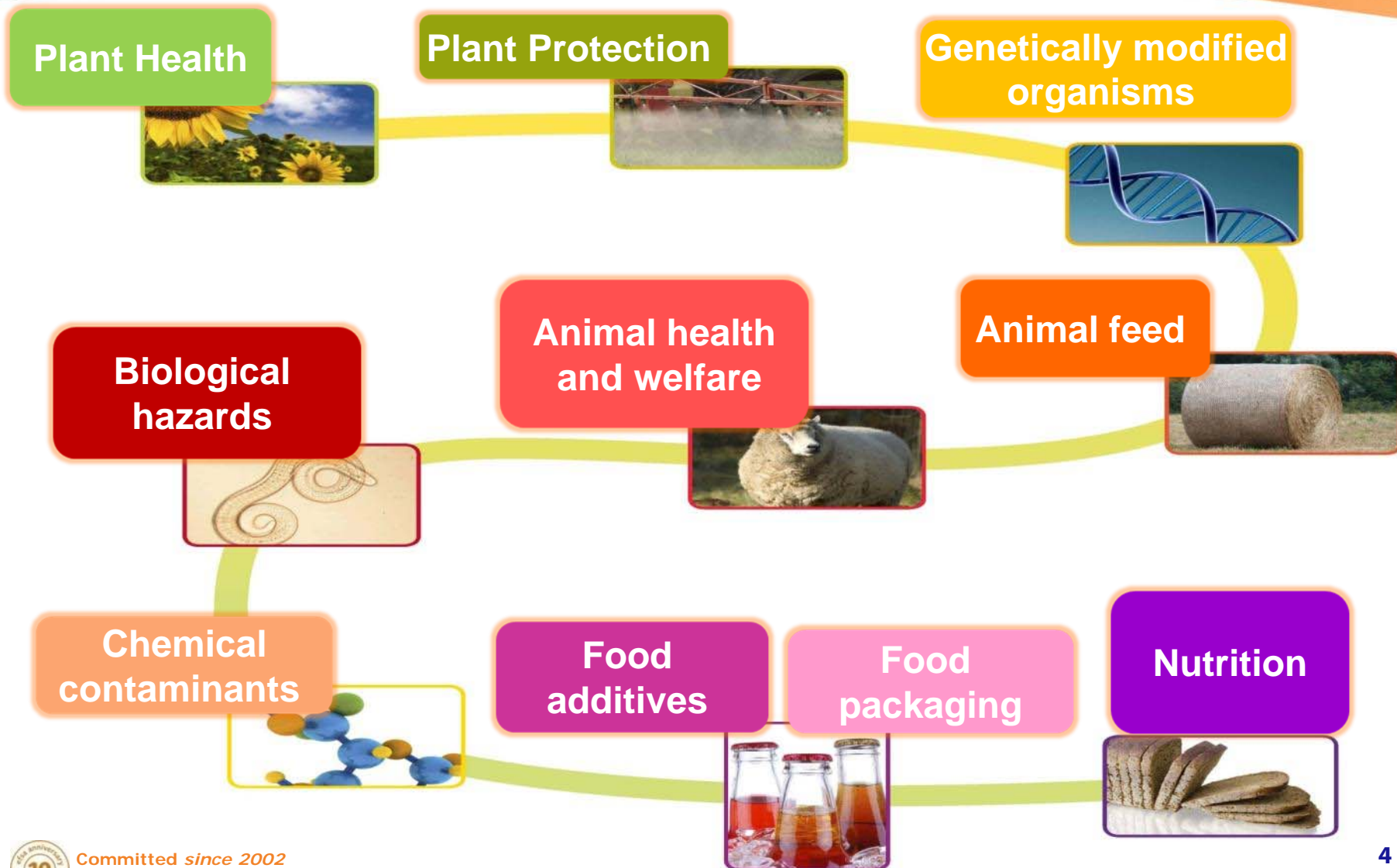
- European Union's **scientific risk assessment body** on food and feed safety, nutrition, animal health and welfare, and plant health and protection, tackling issues **all along the food chain**.
- Provides **science based risk assessments** supporting risk management related to food/feed safety.
- Provides **scientific and technical advice** on all matters within these fields.
- EFSA **communicates** all findings publicly (task shared with EC/Member States).



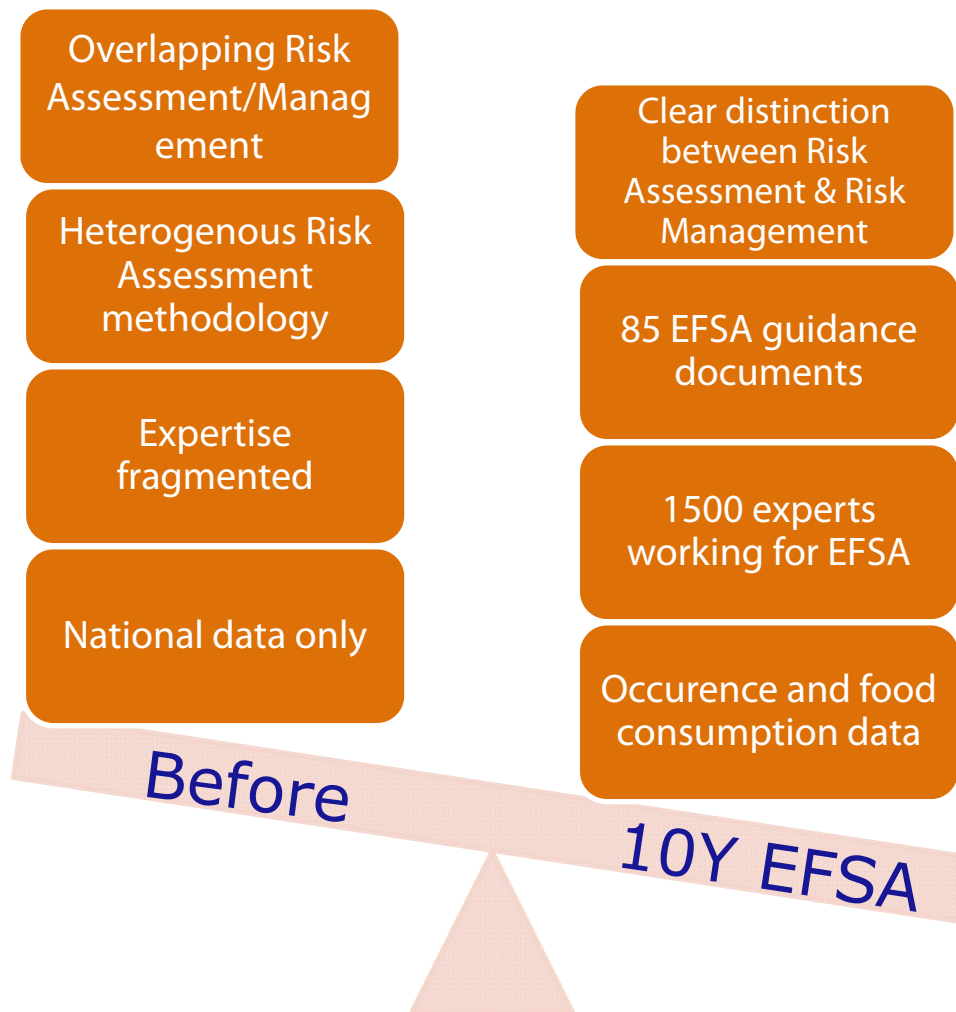
- No responsibility for food safety legislation
- No task in food safety/quality controls, labelling or other such issues
- No substitute for national authorities

● Parma (IT)

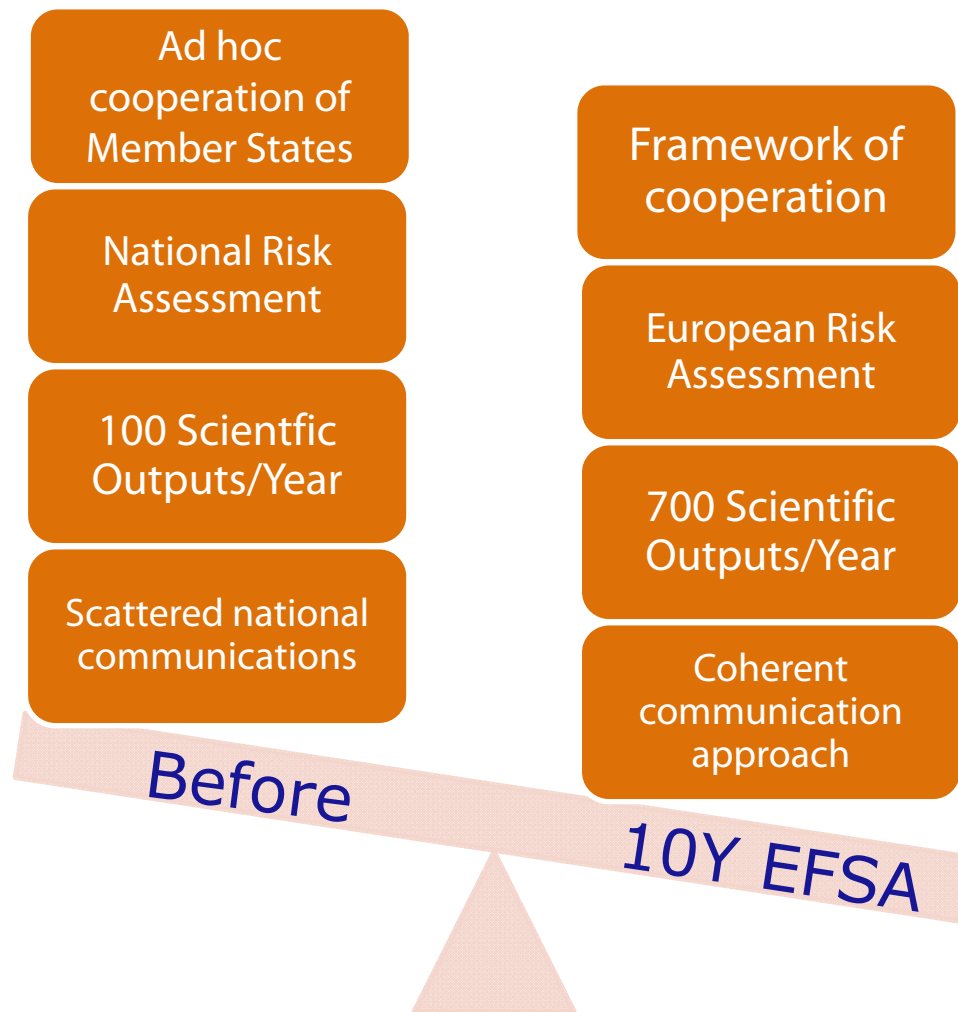
Scientific advice from farm to fork



10 years of EFSA's achievements

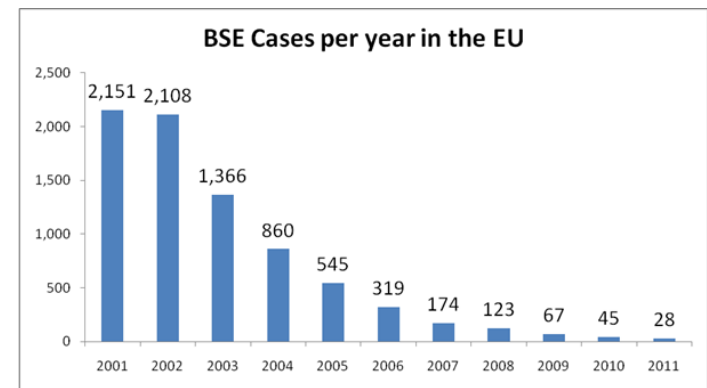


10 years of EFSA's achievements



10 years of EFSA's achievements - examples

- Human *Salmonella* cases reduced by almost 50% over 5 years
- BSE 98% decrease from 2001 til 2011



- Plant protection products
 - 2-tier approval system: risk assessment and approval of active substances at EU level; authorisation of plant protection products (containing the approved active substance) at national level
 - EFSA Risk assessments finalised for 290 active substances

10 years of EFSA's achievements - examples

- Dioxin crisis (2008 Ireland vs 1999 Belgian case)
 - Rapid EU risk assessment and communication enabled EC to take timely and harmonised risk management measures
- VTEC outbreak in Germany 2011
 - EFSA's rapid risk assessment in collaboration with ECDC, WHO, FAO and Member States
- Health claims
 - 2849 claims assessed by EFSA (in 365 opinions)
 - 241 authorised vs 1796 non-authorised
- Risk communications guidelines (2012)
 - Advisory Forum working group



10 years of EFSA's achievements - examples

- Early identification and analysis of emerging risks (EMRISK Unit set up in 2008)
 - During 18 months pilot period (Feb 2010 – May 2011)
 - Approximately 2200 signals collected
 - 12 signals identified for follow-up activities (EFSA Panels, Task Forces or through outsourcing)
 - Examples:
 - Emergence of aflatoxins in cereals due to climate change
 - Consumption of energy drinks
 - Bee health, including weakening of honey bees colonies
 - Risk assessment of chemical mixtures

Member States contributions to the achievements

- Experts (Panels, Working Groups, Advisory Forum, Networks, Focal Points)
- Data collection
- Art. 36 cooperation (grants)
- Procurements
- SNEs, trainees



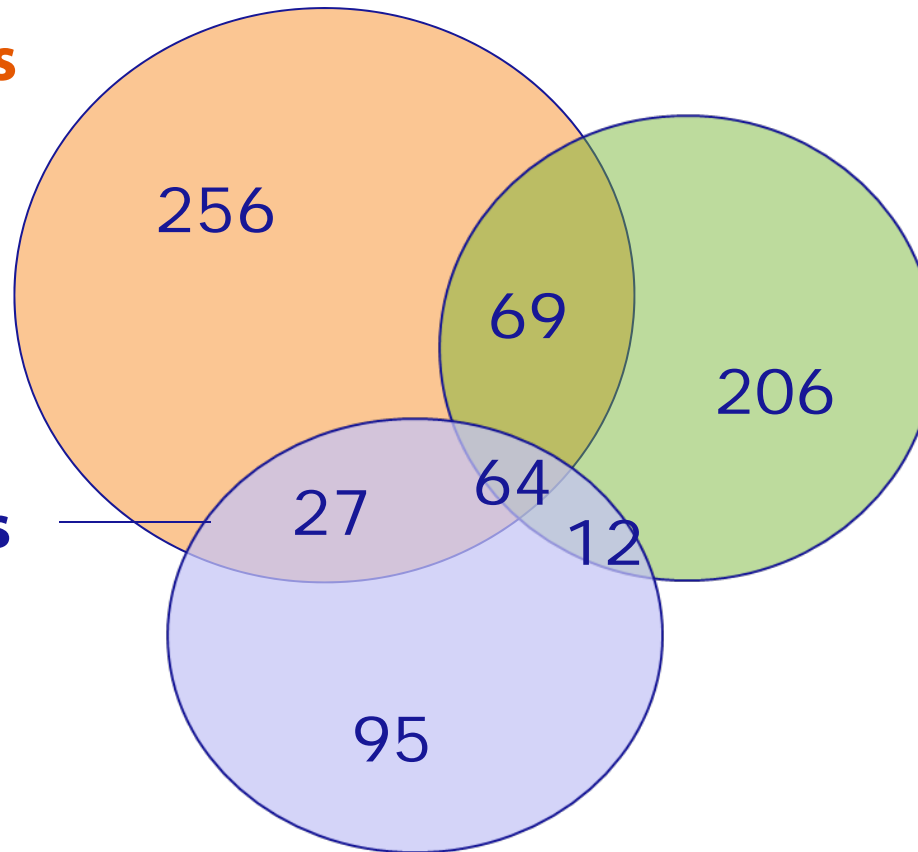
Framework of Scientific Cooperation

Active Art36 organisations: 160 (38.5%)

Article 36 organisations (total = 416)

Organisations involved in grants and procurement (total = 198)

Organisations providing experts to networks & Scientific Committee / Panels (total = 351)



- Overcoming boundaries amongst different scientific disciplines
- Bridging from academic research to regulatory science
- Bringing new methods, new safety testing approaches into regulatory environment
- Development of harmonised methodologies
- Multi- versus single hazard characterisation approach

- Need for more data and for standardised and open-access databases
 - Environmental risk assessment and monitoring
 - Exposure assessment
- Dialogue with risk managers and communication in general
 - Problem formulation (fitness for purpose)
 - Weighing of risks vs. benefits
 - Transparency of risk management