Pre-Accession Programme for Turkey and Croatia 2006/2007

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General introduction I

- "Progress towards accession: Strengthening the food safety systems in Turkey and Croatia" in 2006/2007

EFSA Pre-Accession Programme for 2006 and 2007 : 750.000 €

- **AIM:**

- To prepare the competent bodies in Turkey and Croatia, which are active in the fields relating to the work carried out by EFSA, for their future participation in EFSA networks,

General introduction II

- To contribute to the creation of communication and information exchange systems enabling future participation of Turkey and Croatia in the EFSA networks.
- - To transfer knowledge on methodologies used in the fields in the remit of EFSA, in particular on risk assessment and data collection.
- - To support Turkey and Croatia in their communication activities linked to risk assessment.
- - To transfer information on EFSA experiences and experiences from EU Member States on co-operation with the stakeholders

The Programme

- The implementation of the EFSA Pre-Accession Programme has been managed by a Programme Coordinator, a national expert and secretaries from the ER Unit assisted by the Steering Committee, and by other EFSA staff including speakers from EFSA and the EU Member States. Coordinators were appointed in Turkey and Croatia and 2 assistant coordinators have been working for the Programme in Turkey and Croatia

Seminars & Workshops for Turkey and Croatia

- **Relationship to stakeholders – TURKEY** (consumer organisations, NGO's, industry). EFSA operates through strong links with stakeholder groups and these play an important role in building the confidence of stakeholders in the EU food supply
- **Handling Crises - CROATIA** including a Crises exercise, information on RASFF and speeches by experts from the Member States on specific crises and how they had been handled. Also information on the Rapid Alert system.
- **Relationship to stakeholders** - **CROATIA** (consumer organisations, NGO's, industry). EFSA operates through strong links with stakeholder groups and these play an important role in building the confidence of stakeholders in the EU food supply
- **The EFSA Advisory Forum** - **CROATIA** (The Advisory Forum is the main formal interface between EFSA and the national bodies therefore this programme will give special consideration to the role of Member States in the Advisory Forum and the work of the AF working groups plus information on the scientific networks.
- **Handling Crises - TURKEY** including a Crises exercise and speeches by experts from the Member States on specific crises and how they had been handled.
- **GMO - TURKEY** and **CROATIA** Provide an overview of how GMO risk assessment is carried out in the EU and inform about the close collaboration between EFSA and the EU Member States, including reports from 2 MS on their experience
- **Data collection and analysis - PARMA**
- Information on data collection and analysis activities in EFSA (e.g. Zoonoses and food consumption data) and of data collection procedures and experiences in 2 MS. This seminar will also be an opportunity to bring EFSA experts on data analysis and modelling to provide hands-on training to smaller group.
- **The 9 EFSA Panels and their tasks – PARMA 2 seminars**
- EFSA representatives will present the work of the 9 EFSA Panels in 2 separate seminars, using as much as possible case studies (scientific opinions that were delivered). The Panels dealing with authorisations of regulated substances will present the details of their guidance to Industry on what information on applications needs to be submitted.

EFSA meetings

Experts from Turkey and Croatia were invited as observers to the regular meetings of EFSA, such as meetings of the Management Board and the Advisory Forum as well as the Advisory Forum Working Groups. Experts from Turkey and Croatia were also invited to other working groups at EFSA (e.g. the PRAPeR meetings, Zoonoses Task Force, European Network of Food Consumption Database Managers), scientific seminars, conferences and colloquia, attended by scientific experts from the EU Member States and abroad.

EFSA meeting 2006/2007

List of meetings and events the Croatian and Turkish experts have participated/will participate in during 2006-2007

- 5 Management Board meetings: 12 September 2006 Parma, 19 December 2006 Helsinki, 27 March 2007 Berlin, 19 June 2007 Parma, 11 September 2007 Bucharest.
- 4 Advisory Forum Plenary meetings: *14 Apr. 2007 Berlin, 28-29 Jun. 2007 Bratislava, 20 Sep. 2007 Lisbon, 6 Dec. 2007 The Hague.*
- 4 Advisory Forum Working Group on IT: *9-10 Oct. 2006 Dublin, 6 Mar. 2007 Sofia, 04-05 Jun. 2007 Berlin, 24-25 Sep. 2007 Oslo.*
- 5 Advisory Forum Working Group on Communication: *24-25 Oct. 2006 The Hague, 1 Mar. 2007 Brussels, 24 Apr. 2007 Larnaca, 6 Jul. 2007 Helsinki, 24 Oct. Parma*
- 1 Conference with Stakeholders: *24-25 Oct. 2007 Toulouse*
- 33 Scientific Panels: *PRAPeR meetings in Parma*
- 2 Working Groups: *Zoonoses Task Force Meeting 11-12 September 2007 Parma and 8 November 2007 in Glasgow*
- 5 Conferences and Colloquiums: *20-24 Sep. 2006 Dubrovnik, 8-10 Nov. 2006 Bologna, 28-29 Nov. 2006 Parma, 20 - 21 Jun. 2007 Tabiano, 6-7 Dec. 2007 Parma*
- 2 IT Web and Videoconferences: *3 August 2007, 11 December 2007*
- EFSA Scientific Forum and Food Safety Summit, 20-22 Nov. Brussels

Questionnaires

- The results of questionnaires distributed to the participants from Turkey and Croatia during all the seminars and workshops were used in order to improve further activities within the programme.
- The participants gave many good suggestions on the written materials and the agenda, the speakers and their presentations, the overall value of the interpretation and the overall value of each seminar.
- A questionnaire was also sent to the authorities on the Programme and we got the following feedback:

Questionnaire on Programme

- The overall value of the Programme, seminars and meetings was very high.
- The seminars were very useful for the future accession to the EU.
- It was very useful to participate in EFSA meetings.
- It would be better for the participants in seminars if they received the presentations a few days before the seminars.
- Could it be possible for the participants to get the reimbursement faster?
- The interpretation was very good