

CHAIR'S REPORT TO THE BOARD

Report by Heather Hancock

1. As usual, I will be providing an oral update at the Board meeting on 14th March, 2018. There is quite a lot to cover from my recent visit to Brussels, however, so I have included a summary of that trip here. My engagements since the previous Board Meeting on 6th December, 2017 are set out below.

Visit to Brussels

2. At the end of January, I visited Brussels to meet stakeholders and FSA colleagues, to discuss common priorities and share approaches, particularly in relation to our regulatory reform programme and preparing for EU Exit.
3. At a Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) reception, members including FVE President, Rafael Laguens, and FVE Executive Director, Jan Vaarten reinforced the close working relationship they have with professional colleagues in the UK, and were interested in the supply of official veterinarians working in the food chain here, and how to ensure veterinary students have the necessary training and incentives to embark on a career in public health.
4. At the European Parliament, I had separate meetings with Julie Girling MEP and Adina Valean MEP. With both MEPs, I explained how the FSA delivers our responsibilities across administrations in the UK, Wales and Northern Ireland, as well as working closely with our sister department in Scotland, to deliver a consistent and coherent food safety system across the UK. I explained the FSA's approach to preparing for EU Exit, as set out in our Board paper in September 2017. Julie Girling MEP provided insight into how her colleagues from other Member States viewed the UK food safety regime following EU Exit, and commented on how EU policymaking might operate without UK input as a Member State. Adina Valean MEP, Chair of the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee was keen to see that the UK maintain the same high levels of food safety standards following EU Exit, and discussed the importance of scientific expertise for regulators such as the FSA.
5. I had a very informative meeting with Gisken Thoen, Counsellor for Food Safety and the Food Chain, part of Norway's EU Mission. Gisken explained how the Norway Mission works with EU partners. In Norway's case, this is achieved through their membership of the European Free Trade Agreement (EFTA), where Norway makes decisions in cooperation with other EFTA members, Iceland and Liechtenstein.

6. Finally, I met with Monique Goyens, Director General of the European Consumer Organisation (BEUC), who also expressed a hope that the UK will maintain high levels of food safety standards following EU Exit, and who was concerned about the loss of the UK's evidence-led input from EU decision-making. Monique wished for close regulatory cooperation between the FSA, the EU and its 27 Member States following EU Exit. We discussed wider consumer interests in relation to food, and I asked Monique to explain how different member countries of the BEUC dealt with consumer engagement. Monique was very impressed with the work the FSA had done on *Campylobacter*, and expressed her support for the way the FSA is being run.

Table 1 - Chair's engagements

Date	Organisation Visited/ Event	Purpose of Visit/ Subject
12.12	David Simpson MP, Upper Bann and Jim Shannon MP, Strangford	Parliamentary
08.01	Noli Dinkovski, Assistant Editor of Food Manufacture	Media interview
09.01	Minette Batters, Deputy President of National Farmers Union	Stakeholder
10.01	Mark Drakeford AM, Cabinet Secretary for Finance, and Lesley Griffiths AM, Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs	Ministerial
15.01	Dr Ian Hudson, CEO of Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), and Prof Sir Mike Rawlins, Chair of MHRA	Stakeholder
16.01	Emma Howard Boyd, Chair of Environment Agency	Stakeholder
23.01	FSA Board Retreat	Board
24.01	Hattingley Valley Wines and Wine GB	Stakeholder
29.01	Federation of Veterinarians of Europe reception	Stakeholder
30.01	Adina-Ioana Valean MEP, The Committee for Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	Parliamentary
30.01	Meeting with Julie Girling MEP	Parliamentary
	Gisken Thoen, Counsellor for the Food Chain and Food Safety Mission of Norway to the EU	Stakeholder
30.01	Monique Goyens, The European Consumer Organisation	Stakeholder
30.01	British Veterinary Association Dinner	Stakeholder

Date	Organisation Visited/ Event	Purpose of Visit/ Subject
07.02	Neil Parish MP, Chair of the EFRA Select Committee	Parliamentary
20.02	Meeting with meat industry representatives. Conall Donally, Northern Ireland Meat Exporters. Liz Murphy, International Meat Trade Association. Andy Essom, National Association of Catering Butchers. Martin Morgan, Scottish Association of Meat Wholesalers. Nick Allen and David Lindars, British Meat Processors Association. Norman Bagley, Association of Independent Meat Suppliers. Máire Burnett, British Poultry Council. Richard Stevenson, National Federation of Meat and Food Traders. Stephen Crouch, Hampshire Game. Charlotte Priddy, Farmer's Union of Wales.	Stakeholder
20.02	Lord Lindsay, Chairman of United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS Ltd)	Stakeholder
20-21.02	National Farmers Union Annual Conference	Stakeholder