



Press Kit

ANSES presents its 2013 work schedule



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The French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety presents its work schedule for 2013

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Maisons-Alfort, 18 March 2013

Press Release

The French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety highlights its priorities for 2013

The Agency's work schedule for 2013 will involve **two major campaigns**:

1. In the **field of air pollution**, studies of **allergens** (especially pollen) and **health risks due to particles** in the atmosphere, particularly those caused by road traffic, will be undertaken or continued this year. A study is currently under way on **air quality in underground rail transport areas**, in order to assess the risks to workers.
2. **Concerning food safety**, the Agency will be reinforcing the **resources** of our reference laboratories for monitoring food products and detecting potential hazards for the authorities. A hundred new screening methods will be developed over the next three years for monitoring the food chain and water intended for human consumption, in order to characterise **emerging risks**. A particular effort will be made to improve detection of **viruses** causing foodborne illnesses, to rapidly identify **virulence genes** in new strains of bacteria, and to develop new ways of **detecting parasites in fish**. Regarding chemical contaminants, **new methods** will be developed **to detect around a hundred pesticides or antimicrobial residues using a single screening protocol**, which will make the process far more efficient.

In 2013 ANSES will also publish several eagerly-awaited reports and Opinions, including:

3. a final **assessment of risks related to exposure to bisphenol A and the other compounds in the bisphenol family**, as a part of its research into **endocrine disruptors**;
4. an updated review of scientific knowledge of **risks related to radiofrequencies**, undertaken by the permanent expert group set up in 2011;
5. an assessment of the **risks related to the consumption of energy drinks**, accompanied by a report on the consumption of such drinks, following several reports of severe adverse effects;
6. an assessment of risks related to the **exposure of workers to asphalt**;
7. a **risk assessment concerning nano-silver** and a summary note by the permanent expert working group on **Nanomaterials and health**, to update previous expert appraisals on this subject;
8. a report, to be issued before the end of the year by the specialised expert group set up in 2011 to study the **risk of the emergence of antimicrobial resistance due to the way antimicrobials are currently used**;



9. in 2013, **two important sets of European guidelines on plant protection products** should be completed. The Agency has contributed to these under the aegis of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), to reinforce the risk assessment criteria for **agricultural workers** and for **bees** respectively. In addition the Agency will continue to assess the **combined risk of exposure to combinations of chemicals**;
10. concerning **bee health**, an expert group was set up at the start of 2013 to study co-exposure of bees and bee colonies to various stress factors. The European surveillance programme on bee mortality and diseases, which has been supervised by the laboratory in Sophia-Antipolis since the autumn of 2012, will be publishing its first results;
11. in the field of **veterinary medicinal products**, negotiations concerning a review will be undertaken in 2013 of EU regulations in the sector of veterinary medicinal products and medicated feed.

Lastly, ANSES is implementing **new ethical requirements for scientists involved in expert appraisal** and has launched its **new web site**.

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1. New work undertaken in 2013

1.1. Air Quality

Air, whether outdoors or in confined environments, is likely to be polluted by chemicals, bio-contaminants or particles and fibres that can have an adverse effect on health. These pollutants can be of natural origin (pollens, volcanic emissions, etc.), or be linked to human activity (particles from industrial activities, agriculture or road transport, volatile organic compounds emitted by building materials, etc.). For indoor air, the nature of the pollutants depends mainly on the characteristics of the building, as well as the inhabitants' activities and behaviour (smoking tobacco, DIY, painting, etc.). ANSES works on both indoor and outdoor air to assess the risks related to pollutants found in these environments. In 2013, various studies on this topic will be published, continued or undertaken.

- Indoor air: three new substances subject to indoor air quality guidelines

The quality of air inside buildings is a public health concern in France. In temperate climates, individuals spend on average 85% of their time in indoor environments—homes, workplaces, public buildings, transportation vehicles in which they may be exposed to many pollutants. Indoor air pollutants may have different sources, and in recent years this subject has received increasing attention. To deal with the health issue of indoor air quality and provide the public authorities with useful information to manage this risk, ANSES has been developing indoor air quality guidelines (IAQGs), based exclusively on health criteria since 2004. These values correspond to concentrations of a chemical in air below which no health effect or nuisance with an impact on health is expected for the general population, given our current state of knowledge. The IAQGs proposed by ANSES are used as a scientific basis by the authorities to set regulatory values for surveillance of indoor air quality.

In 2013, the Agency will publish indoor air quality guidelines for three new substances. These IAQGs are for **nitrogen dioxide** (NO₂) (a major pollutant associated with vehicle traffic), **acrolein** and **acetaldehyde** (gases resulting mainly from indoor combustion or the transfer of ambient air pollution to indoor environments).

- Indoor air: characterising emissions from furniture

Building materials, interior decoration products and furniture are regularly mentioned as potential sources of pollution of indoor environments, due to their emissions of volatile or semi-volatile substances. Following on from previous work on building and decoration materials, and as part of the development of regulations applicable to furniture, ANSES will be examining substances emitted by furniture products, at the request of the Ministries of Health and Ecology. This work will be undertaken in 2013.



Thus, the Agency will be **determining and ranking the chemicals emitted** by furniture products, with the ultimate aim of proposing a list of **ten substances** that could be subject to mandatory labelling, as has been the case since the beginning of 2012 for building and interior decoration products. The Agency was also asked to **recommend a lowest concentration of interest for each of these substances**, determined as an emission threshold for the pollutant in terms of health risks, which could enable the authorities to rank it in the most appropriate risk class for mandatory labelling by identifying the associated hazards.

Pollens and allergies

Over the last few decades, allergies have become increasingly prevalent in the population in several countries, and especially France. The number of people suffering from allergies has more than doubled in the last twenty years. Allergy to pollens (hay fever or pollinosis) currently affects 15 to 20% of the French population.

With the increased quantities of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and global warming, the quantities of pollen emitted are expected to increase over the coming decades and new varieties of pollen may appear in regions where they had not hitherto been found. Furthermore, the atmospheric pollutants resulting from human activities can modify pollen grains by breaking down their outer walls, facilitating the liberation of allergens. Pollen thus modified has a much higher allergenicity. At the same time, atmospheric pollution exacerbates the sensitivity of subjects with a predisposition to hay fever, especially by irritating the respiratory tract.

In view of this situation, the Agency has recently undertaken an expert appraisal of this issue.

Four topics are being investigated in parallel:

- A report on the current **state of knowledge of pollens and their health effects**, the role played by different pollens in the development of respiratory allergies, and the possible existence of allergy thresholds and/or of any dose-response relationship.
- A study of **interactions between pollens and atmospheric pollutants**.
- A report on **current knowledge of the factors affecting the development of pollen-producing plants**, the emission of pollen and its dispersion in the environment, together with the factors affecting the presence of allergens.
- Description and analysis of the **surveillance schemes** in France and abroad so as to be able to propose recommendations to improve management of this issue: On what scale should the surveillance be done? Which pollen varieties should be monitored as a priority? Which surveillance procedures should be used?



- **Urban atmospheric pollution: knowledge of particles emitted by traffic and their impact on health**

Several studies have concluded that urban atmospheric pollution has an effect on public health. According to recent French data from the Aphekom¹ project carried out in nine French cities, life expectancy at the age of 30 could be increased by 3.6 to 7.5 months, depending on the city, delaying almost 3000 deaths per year, if mean annual concentrations of PM_{2.5} particles met WHO guideline values (10 µg/m³). In June 2012, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classified diesel engine exhaust as carcinogenic to humans (Group 1). In mainland France in 2010, road transport was the source of 19% of PM_{2.5} emissions in the air². This varied by region, however: in the Ile-de-France region, for example, road traffic accounts for 26% of PM_{2.5} emissions³, measured in terms of mass concentrations, with no indication of the origin of these particles.

The Agency will be investigating the health risks, to the population related, to particles emitted by road traffic, including diesel engines, and will be looking closely at changes to particle emissions from traffic resulting from new engine technologies. It may be appropriate to undertake an analysis of the measurement techniques and current indicators used for particles as a basis for discussions on a suitable indicator for monitoring road traffic emissions more specifically.

- **Air pollution in underground rail transport areas: what is the risk to workers?**

Since the early 2000s, measurements of air quality in underground rail transport areas have revealed high levels of particles in suspension, with much higher concentrations of PM₁₀ particles than those found in outdoor air. In addition, these particles have a composition that differs from those found in urban outdoor air. Furthermore, other chemical pollutants are also found in the air in these confined spaces.

This specific type of pollution could prove harmful to both passengers and workers. Between 2000 and 2006, the French High Council for Public Health published several Opinions intended to improve air quality in underground rail transport areas. The Regional Health Observatory for Ile-de-France published a note in June 2012 on air pollution in underground rail transport areas and its potential health effects.

1.2 Reinforcement of monitoring and detection methods throughout the food chain

In this context, at the request of its supervisory ministries (of Health, the Environment and Labour), the Agency undertook work in 2012 with a view to producing:

- an account of the current state of knowledge (pollution, toxicity of the various pollutants, exposure of workers and related risks, management policies),
- an assessment of the health risk to workers, if feasible,
- proposals for research topics and management guidelines.

¹ <http://www.invs.sante.fr/Espace-presse/Communiqués-de-presse/2012/Effets-de-la-pollution-atmosphérique-urbaine-sur-la-santé-en-France-publication-du-rapport-sur-les-9-villes-françaises-ayant-participé-a-l'étude-Aphekom>

² CITEPA - <http://www.citepa.org/fr/inventaires-etudes-et-formations/inventaires-des-emissions/secten>

³ Airparif - http://www.airparif.asso.fr/_pdf/publications/ppa-rapport-121119.pdf



Food safety is based on a rationale of accountability covering all those involved in the food chain, from 'farm to fork'. Each player must draw up a risk management plan to prevent microbial and chemical contamination, in accordance with acknowledged HACCP⁴ principles. This plan must include self-checks, i.e., systematic analyses performed by manufacturers and distributors on samples taken both from incoming materials as well as from finished products, to enable early warning in the event of contamination occurring.

Recent events have shown once again the need to support this regulatory scheme with control and surveillance plans implemented by the public authorities themselves, entirely independent of any vested interests. The public authorities must be able to depend upon an infrastructure of reliable laboratories and a wide range of possible analyses to ensure effective monitoring of both products manufactured in France and those imported from abroad.

Through its reference laboratories, ANSES is responsible for developing and validating methods for detection and analysis, which will be deployed in the monitoring laboratories to meet the needs of public health authorities at all stages of the food chain, including water intended for human consumption. The detection and analytical methods developed by ANSES are sent to laboratories throughout the country and used for official inspection of products in the food chain. ANSES regularly inspects these laboratories, to ensure their proficiency and compliance with the methods as well as to ensure the consistency of all analyses performed in France. Many methods have thus been developed over time and shared at the European level, to meet regulatory requirements. Each year the Agency laboratories supervise some sixty inter-laboratory trials to validate new analytical methods or ensure the proficiency of field laboratories.

Surveillance and control of the food chain is a very complex process that must simultaneously take into account the wide variety of foods consumed and the range of possible contaminants, including those that are just emerging. Moreover, for a given contaminant (pathogen or chemical), each type of food (called a "matrix", referring to the medium which is screened for the contaminant) requires the development of a specific detection method.

In this context **ANSES has set a priority on reinforcing the procedures for controlling the food chain, with a view to developing more than a hundred new analytical methods over the next three years** to make them available to laboratories operating in the field, thereby rising to new health challenges characterised by the complexity and the internationalisation of manufacturing channels.

These efforts will be made in two main areas:

- **Detection and improved characterisation of pathogens** suspected of causing foodborne illness, often of unknown origin (viruses, parasites, toxins)
- **Screening for chemical contaminants** that can, even at low levels, have an adverse effect on health.

⁴Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points



1.2.1 Better identification of the pathogens that cause foodborne illness

The French Institute for Public Health Surveillance (InVS) identifies approximately 1100 collective foodborne illnesses per year. The origins of more than a third of them are still unknown, despite systematic investigation of their precise causes. ANSES undertakes the development of targeted screening methods on the main pathways currently held to be the source of this microbial contamination.

- **Identification of the pathogenic “variants” of well known bacteria** in the food chain (*E. coli*, *Bacillus cereus*, etc.): the serious 2011 outbreak of contamination in sprouted seeds by a new strain of Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* (STEC) is evidence of the need for greater vigilance to confront the proliferation of crossbreeding among pathogens brought about by trade globalisation. ANSES has recently introduced a platform for rapid identification of **virulence genes** in bacterial pathogens aimed at anticipating the emergence of new strains that may have a particularly adverse effect on health. Sequences thus identified may then be submitted to the control laboratories to monitor the emergence of these strains. Particular attention will also be paid to the ***Bacillus cereus* bacterium**, which produces an emetic toxin causing outbreaks whose incidence is likely to be greatly underestimated.
- **Virus detection**: detection of viruses in food or water is particularly difficult. This is why viral foodborne illnesses are often wrongly identified. ANSES has therefore made this a priority issue, with the **detection of the norovirus in fishery products**, but also that of the **hepatitis E virus (HEV)** in certain products containing raw pork liver.
- **Testing for the presence of parasites in fish**: increasing consumption of raw fish (which thus precludes the sanitation advantage of cooking) requires greater vigilance to detect parasites (especially *Anisakis*). These parasites pose a risk of which consumers are often unaware. Since current detection methods are mainly visual, ANSES will be developing rapid detection methods to significantly improve screening.

1.2.2 Screening for chemical contaminants identified as emerging risks

The second Total Diet Study (TDS2), completed in 2011, enabled extensive mapping of contaminants found in the different types of foods consumed in France. (40,000 different foods and more than 300 different contaminants were investigated, including many pesticide residues). The study identified several priority areas for improving the analytical methods available in order to reduce uncertainty as to potential health effects. Specifically, it aimed to:

- **detect and quantify chromium (VI)**, a specific form of chromium known to be carcinogenic. ANSES is developing methods of analysis and speciation of the main forms of chromium, including chromium (VI), in food and water.
- **detect some of the most common endocrine disruptors**. ANSES has already developed this type of risk assessment method for Bisphenol A. Similarly, work will be undertaken for the characterisation of certain phthalates in water intended for human consumption, as well as for certain pesticides. To increase its monitoring capacity, ANSES is developing a new analytical strategy using assays to screen for 150 pesticides simultaneously (multi-residue technique).



Moreover, in addition to analyses conducted as part of TDS2, ANSES will develop methods for:

- **detecting the presence of antibiotic residues** of veterinary origin in food (equivalent to the multi-residue approach);
- **analysing the presence of contaminants in food specifically intended for children under 3 years of age**, to prepare for the future infant TDS study.



2. The main tasks for 2013

In 2013 several major studies will be completed: here is a rapid overview of the main studies scheduled for publication this year.

2.1. Endocrine disruptors

Since 2009, the Agency has been preparing an Opinion in response to a major formal request from the authorities to assess some thirty substances identified as being Category 3 reprotoxic (substances of concern owing to possible toxic effects on reproduction) and/or endocrine disruptors affecting reproduction and fertility. This considerable task undertaken by the Agency will take several years to complete and an important milestone will be reached in the spring of 2013.

The Opinion and the risk assessment report on bisphenol A (BPA) and its effects on human health will be published at this time, together with three related documents: a report on the other bisphenols, a report on alternatives to BPA, and a report on the hearings held in the course of this expert appraisal. Work on the other substances will continue.

2.2. Energy drinks

The term “energy drinks” is a marketing expression with no legally-recognised definition. It covers drinks that claim to “vitalise body and mind” by stimulating the nervous system. The marketing claims that these drinks provide mental or physical stimulation are based on the effects of ingredients such as sugar, caffeine, amino acids (taurine), vitamins and plant extracts (ginseng and guarana).

Following reports of several deaths and severe cases of conditions suspected of being related to the consumption of energy drinks, ANSES issued a call through the media in 2012, for improved reporting of cases detected in the context of the nutritional vigilance scheme and took the initiative of investigating the associated health risks. The result of this expert appraisal and a report on the consumption of these drinks are expected in the summer of 2013.

2.3. Occupational exposure to asphalt

Asphalt products are by-products of oil-refining and are used mainly in road works and for waterproofing purposes. The composition of these products is complex, estimated to involve more than 10,000 different compounds, of which the best known belong to the family of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) but which also include other aromatic compounds, volatile or semi-volatile organic compounds, particles, etc.



Following the death by cancer of a worker in the road construction and maintenance industry, the French Construction Workers' Federation, affiliated to the General Workers Confederation (FNSC-CGT) made a formal request to the Agency, which in 2011 launched a health risk assessment concerning the occupational use of asphalt products and their additives.

After a preliminary study to determine the nature of the substances contained in and emanating from asphalt products and their additives during the various operations involving their use and to identify the corresponding health effects, the appraisal compared this information with the data available on worker exposure. The work has therefore involved a qualitative assessment of the health risks related to occupational exposure to these products. The report and the Opinion resulting from the expert appraisal are expected at the end of the first half of 2013.

2.4. Radiofrequencies

The use of wireless communication technologies, involving radio waves at various frequencies, has become far more widespread over the past 20 years. These new technologies inevitably increase the exposure of users or the general public as a whole, which raises numerous issues, especially concerning their possible health effects.

In this context, radiofrequencies are of particular importance for the Agency. To address the concerns raised by this development, ANSES has carried out several expert appraisals on the health effects of radiofrequencies and in 2011 set up a permanent working group to monitor evolving scientific knowledge in this field.

Since its creation, this working group has in particular updated risk assessments concerning radiofrequencies, by incorporating knowledge acquired since the Agency's previous report on the subject, published in 2009. The new expert appraisal report and the accompanying Opinion will be published by the end of June 2013.

2.5. Nanomaterials

Of all emerging risks, those related to manufactured nanomaterials are among the most challenging. Since 2006, the Agency has published the results of several expert appraisals on the health risks from nanomaterials through dietary, environmental and occupational exposure. Along with these activities, the Agency has contributed significantly to the development of new risk assessment methodologies for use by professionals, by defining safety tests and establishing standards.



Several studies on this theme should be completed in the course of 2013: an Opinion and a Report on the development of a practical methodology for assessing the risks related to nanomaterials, an expert appraisal Report and Opinion on risk assessment concerning nano-silver, and lastly an annual summary from the permanent working group on “Nanomaterials and health”, whose mission is to monitor scientific advances in this field. These various studies will be published before the end of 2013.

2.6. Antimicrobial resistance

With the emergence and increasing circulation of bacterial strains resistant to antibiotics, antimicrobial resistance is well-established as a major international issue in terms of both human and animal health. In 2011, the Agency took the initiative of assessing the risks involved in the emergence of antimicrobial resistance arising from the way antibiotics are used in the animal health sector. A dedicated working group was set up in late 2011 for a two-year investigation period. Its final report is due in late 2013. ANSES laboratories are continuing to characterise antimicrobial resistance and detect new resistances.

The group broke its work down into three stages: it first reviewed the use of antibiotics in different sectors as well as tools used for monitoring consumption of antibiotics and antimicrobial resistance. It then drew up a report of the main resistances that had been observed in bacteria populations isolated in animals. Finally, on the basis of the previous work, it assessed current practice of veterinarians while identifying those that incurred a risk of developing antimicrobial resistance.

2.7. Exposure of farm workers to pesticides

From its inception, ANSES initiated an in-house project to investigate the exposure of farm workers to pesticides. This investigation is designed to describe and characterise exposure and subsequently suggest ways of reducing it. The Agency has also instigated an assessment of the effectiveness of personal protective equipment (PPE) worn by farmers when spreading pesticides. The goal is to suggest improvements in current recommendations.



This ongoing research is following two lines of investigation. A working group was set up in early 2012 for three years to study occupational exposure among farmers. An agreement was signed in 2012 with the French Research Institute of Science and Technology for Environment and Agriculture to conduct a study to describe the personal protective equipment (PPE) currently on the market and the actual practices of farm workers. PPE performance will then be characterised on this basis and the results published in 2013. This study will contribute to the new European guide to be published this year under EFSA's responsibility, intended to reinforce the risk assessment criteria for farm workers.



2.8. Bee health

In recent years, several studies have investigated the weakening, collapse or mortality of bee colonies. The Agency's report of 2009 highlighted the multiplicity of factors behind these phenomena and concluded that it was necessary to assess the individual and combined effects of bee and bee colony exposure to infectious agents and plant protection products. ANSES therefore set up a working group to investigate the exposure of bees and bee colonies to concomitant stress factors.

This expert group will review French bee health, studies into interactions between different stress factors and possible mechanisms of action. It will make recommendations for research and measures to improve agricultural and beekeeping practices. The working group was formed in early 2013 for an 18-month period. At the same time, EFSA is preparing a new European guide, soon to be published, aimed at reinforcing risk assessment criteria for bees.

As the European Union Reference Laboratory for bee health, ANSES's Sophia-Antipolis laboratory also directs an epidemiological surveillance programme instigated by the European Commission. This is the first Europe-wide active monitoring programme investigating colony mortality and the main bee diseases. The programme covers 17 countries, including France. A number of apiaries representative of the country's total beekeeping population are being monitored.

A standardised protocol is used to record bee mortality and prevalence of the main diseases during both winter and beekeeping seasons. General information on each beekeeper and apiary is recorded in addition to data on the colonies collected during apiary visits.

The data gathered will not only shed light on bee colony mortality and major bee diseases but also the beekeeping sector and colony management in all participating countries.

The programme's operational phase began in the autumn of 2012 with the first field visit. The second (post-winter) phase is currently continuing, and the third will be initiated by September 2013, during the beekeeping season. The results are being added to an online database developed by the epidemiological surveillance platform, in which ANSES takes part. The 17 participating countries are currently entering data from the first field survey in autumn 2012. The results of this first year of active surveillance will be analysed and made available in 2013.



3. Other ANSES achievements

3.1 Signing of a contract on goals and performance for 2012- 2015

On 26 February 2013, ANSES signed its first goals and performance contract (COP) for 2012 to 2015 with the French government, represented by the Ministers of Agriculture, the Budget, Consumer Affairs, Ecology, Health and Labour.

This contract consolidates the new Agency's scientific watch, expert appraisal, research and reference missions, specified in terms of strategic priorities. It highlights three broad guidelines designed to (i) **consolidate the Agency's cross-cutting, interdisciplinary activities** through a comprehensive approach to determine risks to humans from the environment, including their working environment; (ii) **reinforce vigilance schemes** in order to rapidly detect weak signs and emerging risks; (iii) **adapt the scope of intervention of its laboratories** to address changing health risks affecting animals and plants throughout the food chain.

The contract also sets out ambitious goals in terms of effectiveness, by seeking to optimise all of the Agency's in-house processes.

3.2 Roll-out of ANSES's new website

Intended as a strategic tool for informing the public, the scientific community and interested parties, the ANSES website has been completely revamped. Rolled out in late February, the new version has been redesigned to offer easier access to information—a major component being devoted to an explanation of the Agency's missions and achievements—with more intuitive browsing features.

With its **15,000 or so documents** (including Opinions, Reports, articles, datasheets and brochures), the ANSES website is built like an encyclopaedia and aims to be a veritable **information resource**. The objective is to have a more accessible, user-friendlier site connected to the latest forms of communication. The French and English content has been reworked too, with new synopses describing the Agency's various missions and ongoing work. Each article refers the Internet user to different types of content (Opinions, updates, brochures, periodicals or other) in addition to other subjects of interest.

Browsing is more intuitive, with key-word searches, an **alphabetical index** of articles and **direct access to ANSES Opinions and Reports** from the home page.

Finally, to help users **feel at home**, ANSES proposes new features, such as creating a **personal account**, or **sharing pages** via social networks, particularly **twitter@Anses_fr**, through which the Agency has been communicating since January 2013.



3.3 Consolidating ANSES's code of ethical conduct and transparency

ANSES has always sought to reconcile very strict rules assuring the independence of its expert appraisals with a very open model of governance, ensuring transparency for all stakeholders. The Agency aims to keep abreast of society's expectations and quickly pick up its signals. In 2012 it made further progress with complementary measures being taken.

All the rules applied to guarantee the independence of the Agency's expert appraisals are available for consultation on the new ANSES website. These include systematic calls for applications to open up participation in expert committees and the selection of experts after a detailed examination of their public declaration of interests in liaison with ANSES's Scientific Board, its collective processes and adversarial expert appraisals according to French standard NF X 50-110, the most exhaustive review possible of available data and scientific literature and finally, full transparency through the systematic publication of the Agency's Reports and Opinions, including mention of minority Opinions.

Several points were consolidated in 2012:

- The model of a public declaration of interests was laid down in a ministerial order forming part of the new legislation on the reform of medicinal products. It is applicable to all health and safety agencies. ANSES has already integrated this new model, which is now systematically applied. All experts working for the Agency and all employees involved in an expert appraisal process will have their public declaration of interests published on the website. It is regularly updated and may be filled in online following the Agency's development of a tool to facilitate the task of experts.
- In addition to a strict selection of experts taking into consideration each one's interests, the Agency now systematically establishes a table prior to each meeting of an expert group, which identifies the interests of each expert for each point on the agenda. If there is any risk of a conflict of interests, the expert is not allowed to participate in this point of the agenda.
- Finally, beyond publishing Reports and Opinions, the Agency will now also publish minutes of expert committee meetings when these address subjects that could lead to administrative decisions. This new rule applies to several ANSES collective expert groups.

3.4 Highlights of 2013

27 March 2013 – Meeting with national reference laboratories and accredited laboratories

ANSES will host all the reference laboratories and accredited laboratories for a day to kick off a new plan of action that will meet the detection needs of field laboratories.

16 April 2013 – Scientific conferences – Health risks arising from air and water pollution

These conferences will present the results of research funded by the National Research Programme for Environmental and Occupational Health (PNREST), with a comparative review of the Agency's risk assessment studies on two subjects: atmospheric pollution and epidemiological investigations, and contamination of air and water environments in relation to human exposure.



5 to 7 June 2013 – ANSES will host an international seminar between the WHO and stakeholders on health risks related to RF electromagnetic fields, and risk management practices in the world

18 June 2013 - Sciences Po/ANSES conference: Governance of scientific expert appraisals

An annual conference is held as part of the research agreement with the Chair of sustainable development at the French university Sciences Po. The 2013 conference will address the issue of plurality, the transformation of expert appraisal systems, the professional and ethical conduct of appraisal participants and the management of weak signs.

10 to 13 September 2013 – International livestock trade show (SPACE)

ANSES will participate alongside other professionals in the livestock breeding sector. This show provides a unique opportunity for discussions among farming professionals.

9 to 13 October 2013 – Science Festival

ANSES laboratories will open their doors to the public to highlight the Agency's scientific activities through fun presentations.

October 2013 – ANSES Scientific conferences – Antimicrobial resistance in animal health

Every year, ANSES dedicates a day to current and future considerations on antimicrobial resistance and its implications for human and animal health. Participants from the animal health sector include scientists, decision-makers or professionals working in the field. Their aim in addressing this issue is to explore new paths of action for a better use of antibiotics in veterinary medicine.

November 2013 – ANSES Scientific conferences – Bee health

The ANSES Sophia Antipolis laboratory is the European Union Reference Laboratory on bee health. The Agency is therefore holding a one-day conference to review the latest risk assessment studies and publications in addition to bee health research.

December 2013 – ANSES Scientific conferences – Effects of cumulative exposure to chemicals

This international conference aims to present the latest research results on the issue of cumulative effects and to review the methodology and science of ongoing projects in France and abroad.