

Scientific Panel on BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

Minutes of the 82nd plenary meeting of the Scientific Panel on BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

Held on 10-11 July 2013, Parma

(Agreed on 02/09/2013)

Participants

- **Panel Members:**

Andreoletti Olivier, Baggesen Dorte Lau, Bolton Declan, Butaye Patrick, Cook Paul, Davies Robert, Fernandez-Escamez Pablo S., Griffin John, Hald Tine, Havelaar Arie Hendrik, Koutsoumanis Konstantinos, Lindqvist Roland, McLauchlin James, Nesbakken Truls, Prieto Miguel, Ricci Antonia, Ru Giuseppe, Sanaa Moez, Simmons Marion (apologies), Sofos John (apologies), and Threlfall John.

- **European Commission (EC):**

Apologies.

- **EFSA:**

Hugas Marta, Liebana Ernesto, Renata Leuschner, Romero-Barrios Pablo, Messens Winy, Vivas-Alegre Luis, Barizzone Fulvio, Stella Pietro, Da Silva-Felicio Maria Teresa, Hempen Michaela (Scientific staff).

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Apologies were received from J. Sofos Chair of the BIOHAZ Panel, and from M. Simmons. The meeting was co-chaired by A. Havelaar and J. Griffin, Vice-Chairs of the Panel who welcomed the participants.

2. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director implementing this Policy regarding

¹ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

Declarations of Interests², EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest and the Specific Declaration of interest filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of interest at the beginning of this meeting.

3. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

4. New Mandates

4.1 Request for a scientific opinion on the evaluation of the safety and efficacy of peroxyacetic acid solution for reduction of pathogens on poultry carcasses and meat ([EFSA-Q-2013-00601](#))

A new request for a Scientific Opinion on an application dossier submitted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) was received in EFSA from the European Commission. It was allocated to the BIOHAZ Unit for ToR 2 and 3 (leading Panel), and the Food Ingredients and Packaging (FIP) Unit for ToR 1 and 4. An *ad hoc* WG has been established to help with the preparatory work in the development of the Opinion. The terms of reference and a summary of the dossier were presented. A discussion on the missing information in the dossier and clarifications needed was held. The completeness check of the dossier needs to be finalised within 6 weeks after receipt of the dossier, i.e. by 5 August 2013. Dr. Arie Havelaar has been appointed as Chair for this WG. The first meeting of the WG will take place on 12 August 2013 via web-conference. The deadline to deliver the Opinion is 6 months after receipt of the missing information.

4.2 Application for EFSA approval sought for on-farm containment using bioreduction ([EFSA-Q-2013-00609](#))

A new request for a Scientific Opinion was received in EFSA from the UK Competent Authority and it was allocated to the BIOHAZ Unit. An *ad hoc* WG will be established to help with the preparatory work in the development of the Opinion. The terms of reference were presented. Dr. John Griffin was appointed as Chair for this WG. The deadline to deliver the Opinion is 7th December 2013.

4.3 Request for a scientific opinion on the public health risks related to the maintenance of the cold chain during storage and transport of meat ([EFSA-Q-2013-00646/00648](#))

A new request for a Scientific Opinion was received in EFSA from the European Commission and it was allocated to the BIOHAZ Unit. An *ad hoc* WG will be established to help with the preparatory work in the development of the Opinion. The terms of reference were presented. Dr. Declan Bolton was appointed as Chair for this WG. The deadline to deliver the Opinion is under negotiation.

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules.pdf>

5. Scientific outputs submitted for adoption

None

6. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion (thorough reading)

None

7. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion (progress reports)

7.1 Quantitative evaluation of BSE risk in bovine intestines and mesentery ([EFSA-Q-2012-00247](#))

The last WG meeting was held on 9th July 2013 in Parma. The next WG meeting is planned for mid October 2013. The draft opinion was tabled for information and discussion. The deadline for adoption is end of January 2014.

7.2 Request for a scientific opinion on the Scrapie situation in the EU after 10 years of monitoring and control in sheep and goats ([EFSA-2012-00646](#))

The fourth meeting of the WG took place on 6th-7th June 2013. The draft opinion was tabled for information and discussion. The next meeting is scheduled for 26th-27th September 2013. The deadline for adoption is 1st July 2014.

7.3 Self-tasking mandate for a scientific opinion on the development of a risk ranking toolbox for EFSA BIOHAZ Panel ([EFSA-Q-2013-00014](#))

The second WG meeting was held on the 3-4th June in Barcelona, where a selection of tools were presented according to the framework of the previous risk ranking opinion. The Chair of the WG presented the approach used for the first ToR. The draft opinion was tabled for information and discussion. The next meeting will be a teleconference on the 30th August. The deadline for this mandate is end of December 2014.

7.4 Self-tasking mandate for a scientific opinion on Evaluation of molecular typing methods for major food-borne microbiological hazards and their use for attribution modelling, outbreak investigation and scanning surveillance ([EFSA-Q-2013-00032](#))

The third meeting of the WG took place on 8th and 9th July 2013. The Chair of the WG presented and update on progress made since the last meeting. The next WG meeting is scheduled for the 5th of September 2013 via web-conference. The deadline for this mandate is end of December 2013.

7.5 Self-tasking mandate for a scientific opinion on Carbapenem resistance in food animal ecosystems ([EFSA-Q-2013-00010](#))

The third meeting of the WG took place on the 4/07/2013 in Brussels. The draft Opinion was presented by the WG Chair. The next WG meeting will take place as a teleconference in Brussels on the 17/09/2013. The deadline for this mandate is end of December 2013.

7.6 Risk posed by pathogens in food of non animal origin (ToRs 3, 4 and 5): *Salmonella* and Norovirus in leafy greens eaten raw as salads ([EFSA-Q-2012-00238](#)), *Salmonella*, *Yersinia*, *Shigella* and Norovirus in bulb and stem vegetables and carrots ([EFSA-Q-2013-00176](#)), *Salmonella* and Norovirus in tomatoes ([EFSA-Q-2013-00177](#)), *Salmonella* in melons ([EFSA-Q-2013-00178](#)), and *Salmonella* and Norovirus in berries ([EFSA-Q-2013-00179](#))

The fourth meeting of the WG took place as a webconference on 2 July 2013. The progress of the WG was presented to the BIOHAZ Panel. The next WG meeting is scheduled from 25 to 26 September 2013 in Brussels. A second technical consultation with industry (Freshfel) representatives will take place on 25 September 2013. Five opinions for the mentioned pathogen/commodity combinations have been requested in the scope of this mandate, and the deadlines have been agreed as follows: 31/03/2014, 31/06/2014, 30/09/2014, 30/09/2014 and 31/12/2014.

7.7 Self-tasking mandate for a scientific opinion on the maintenance of the list of QPS recommended biological agents intentionally added to the food chain notified to EFSA (2013 update) ([EFSA-Q-2013-00009](#))

A draft Opinion was tabled for information and commenting. A virtual WG meeting is scheduled for 28 August. The deadline for this mandate is end of December 2013.

7.8 Request for an assessment of the public health risks of eggs due to deterioration and development of pathogens ([EFSA-Q-2013-00400](#))

The first meeting of the WG will take place in Parma on 11 and 12 July 2013. The deadline to deliver the Opinion is under negotiation.

8. Feedback from the Scientific Committee/the Scientific Panel, Working Groups, EFSA, the European Commission

8.1 Scientific Committee and other Scientific Panels

The last SC Plenary meeting took place on the 11 April in Parma. The agenda and minutes of that meeting will be available on the EFSA website (<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/130411.htm>).

8.2 Other WGs

8.2.1. Request for a revision of the annual monitoring programme for BSE from Norway ([EFSA-Q-2013-00336](#))

The first WG meeting was held on 10th June 2013 in the form of a web-conference. The next WG meeting is planned on 18th July. The draft report was tabled and discussed during the meeting. The report will be presented for endorsement by the BIOHAZ Panel at the plenary meeting in September 2013.

8.3 European Commission

None.

9. Emerging issues

The Standing Working Group of the Scientific Committee on Emerging Risks and the EFSA secretariat of the Scientific Committee and Emerging Risk (SCER) Unit organised an expert consultation with the BIOHAZ Panel members on emerging biological risks that took place on the 11/July/2013. The objective was to identify priority emerging risks and drivers of biological emerging risks to human and animal health for the next 5-10 years. The practical outputs of this exercise will include a list of priority areas for consideration in EFSA's work programme. The outcome of the exercise will also support the future BIOHAZ Panels' work and the future allocation of EFSA's resources to address emerging biological risks. This activity is also linked to the Horizon 2020 activity for future research priorities of DG-Research.

A more depth analysis of the results of these consultations will be prepared and discussed during a follow-up workshop with experts from the BIOHAZ and AHAW Panels, as well as additional external experts will take place before the end of 2013.

10. BIOHAZ Networks

The last meeting of the EFSA Scientific Network on Microbiological Risk Assessment was held on 23rd and 24th April 2013 in Brussels. The next MRA Network meeting will be on 19/20 November 2013 in Parma.

The next BSE-TSE Network meeting has being scheduled for the 8th and 9th of October 2013 in Parma. The draft Agenda of the meeting is currently being prepared.

11. Any Other Business

- Dates for the 2014 plenaries were confirmed as follows: 22-23 January, 5-6 March, 9-10 April, 21-22 May, 9-10 July, 10-11 September, 22-23 October, 3-4 December.
- Feedback from a recent CEN/TC275/WG6 meeting was presented by the BIOHAZ Unit staff.
- The BIOMO Head of Unit gave an update on current and future activities to the Panel members. This was followed by a discussion session on matters of interest for the BIOHAZ Panel.