

Scientific Panel on Biological Hazards
Minutes of the 87th plenary meeting
Held on 05-06 Mar 2014, Parma

(Agreed on 27 03 2014)

Participants

- **Panel Members:**

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

- **European Commission and/or member States representatives:**

Apologies.

- **EFSA:**

- BIOCONTAM Unit: Liebana Ernesto, Messens Winy, Romero-Barrios Pablo, Stella Pietro, Da Silva-Felicio Maria Teresa, Hempen Michaela, Correia Sandra (Scientific staff).
- Other EFSA Units/Directorates: Pintado Citlali (LRA/RESU¹, for items 5 and 6), Broglia Alessandro (RASA, ALPHA², for item 7.3) and Maria Luisa Escudero Hernandez (REPRO, FIP³, for item 7.3).

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The first part of the meeting was chaired by W. Messens, the Acting Team Leader of the BIOHAZ Panel and Networks Team. The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from T. Hald, K. Koutsoumanis, and J. Sofos.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

¹ Legal and Regulatory Affairs (LRA) Unit of the Resources and Support (RESU) Directorate.

² Animal and Plant Health Unit (ALPHA) of the Risk Assessment and Scientific Assistance (RASA) Directorate.

³ Food Ingredients and Packaging (FIP) of the Scientific Evaluation of Regulated Products (REPRO) Directorate.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director implementing this Policy regarding Declarations of Interests⁵, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest (ADoI) and the Specific Declaration of interest (SDoI) filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of interest (ODoI) at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 86th Plenary meeting held on 22-23 01 2014

The minutes of the 86th BIOHAZ Plenary meeting (22-23 01 2014) were agreed by written procedure on 20 02 2014 and published on the EFSA website 21 02 2014⁶.

5. Procedure for the Election of the Chair and vice-Chairs of the Scientific Committee and Scientific Panels

Prof. John Sofos communicated his resignation as Chair of the BIOHAZ Panel. Therefore an election was held for the Chair and/or Vice-Chair of the BIOHAZ Panel. The procedure for this election was explained by the representative of the EFSA's Legal and Regulatory Affairs Unit.

6. Election of a new Chair and, if applicable, vice-Chair(s) of the BIOHAZ Panel

The election took place under the guidance and supervision of EFSA's Legal and Regulatory Affairs Unit. John Griffin was elected as new Chair of the BIOHAZ Panel. As one Vice-Chair position became vacant, an election for the Vice-Chair was held and Paul Cook was elected. The rest of the Plenary meeting was Chaired by the newly appointed Chair.

7. Scientific outputs submitted for possible adoption

7.1 Scientific opinion on the risk posed by pathogens in food of non-animal origin. Part 2 (*Salmonella* and Norovirus in leafy greens eaten raw as salads) (EFSA-Q-2012-00238)

The last WG meeting took place on 24 Feb. 2014 as a web conference. The draft Opinion was presented by the WG Chair and after a thorough discussion it was adopted by the BIOHAZ Panel on 6 Mar. 2014.

7.2 Scientific opinion on the public health risks related to the maintenance of the cold chain during storage and transport of meat. Part 1 (meat of domestic ungulates) (EFSA-Q-2013-00646)

The last WG meeting took place on 11 Feb. 2014 as a web conference. The Chair of the WG presented the draft opinion to the BIOHAZ Panel and after a thorough discussion it was adopted by the BIOHAZ Panel on 6 Mar. 2014.

⁴ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

⁵ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules.pdf>

⁶ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/131204-m.pdf>

7.3 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](#))

The last WG meeting took place on 13 Feb. 2014 as a web conference. The chapters 2 and 5 were endorsed by written procedure by the CEF Panel. The Chair of the WG presented the draft opinion to the BIOHAZ Panel and after a thorough discussion it was adopted by the BIOHAZ Panel on 6 Mar. 2014.

8. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion (thorough reading)

None.

9. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion (progress reports)

9.1 Scientific opinion on the scrapie situation in the EU after 10 years of monitoring and control in sheep and goats ([EFSA-2012-00646](#))

The last WG meeting took place on 9-10 Jan. 2014 in Parma. The Chair of the WG updated the Panel on the structure of the draft opinion and on the progress made. The next WG meeting will take place on 26-27 Mar. 2014 in Parma. The deadline for adoption is 15 July 2014.

9.2 Scientific opinion on the public health risks of eggs due to deterioration and development of pathogens ([EFSA-Q-2013-00400](#))

The fourth WG meeting took place on 23-24 Jan. in Parma. The draft opinion was reviewed with Panel members providing feedback. The next WG meeting will take place on 6-7 Mar. 2014 in Parma. The deadline to deliver the opinion has been extended to 15 July 2014.

9.3 Scientific opinion on the public health risks related to the maintenance of the cold chain during storage and transport of meat. Part 2 (minced meat from all species) ([EFSA-Q-2013-00648](#))

The second WG meeting took on 11 Feb. 2014 as a web conference. The next WG meeting will take place on 25 Mar. 2014 as a web meeting. The deadline to deliver the opinion is 15 July 2014.

9.4 Scientific opinion on the evaluation of molecular typing methods for major food-borne microbiological hazards and their use for attribution modelling, outbreak investigation and scanning surveillance. Part 2 (surveillance and data management activities) ([EFSA-Q-2013-00906](#))

The Chair of the WG gave a presentation on the foreseen roadmap for the Part 2 of this mandate. The first WG meeting of the Part 2 of this mandate took place on 10-11 Feb. 2014 in Copenhagen. The next WG meeting will take place on 25 Mar. 2014 as a web conference. The deadline to deliver the opinion is end of July 2014.

9.5 Scientific opinion on the risk posed by pathogens in food of non animal origin. Part 2 (other): *Salmonella* and Norovirus in berries ([EFSA-Q-2013-00179](#)), *Salmonella* and Norovirus in tomatoes ([EFSA-Q-2013-00177](#)), *Salmonella* in melons ([EFSA-Q-2013-00178](#)), and *Salmonella*, *Yersinia*, *Shigella* and Norovirus in bulb and stem vegetables and carrots ([EFSA-Q-2013-00176](#))

The last WG meeting took place on 24 Feb. 2014 as a web conference. The Chair of the WG gave an overview of the roadmap for the four opinions. The next WG meeting is scheduled

for 31 Mar. 2014 as a web conference. The deadline to deliver the respective opinions are end of Jun. 2014, end of Sep. 2014, end of Sep. 2014 and end of Dec. 2014.

9.6 Scientific opinion on the development of a risk ranking toolbox for EFSA BIOHAZ Panel ([EFSA-Q-2013-00014](#))

The fifth WG meeting took place on 5 Feb. 2014 in Munich. A presentation was given by the members of the WG on progress made since the last Plenary meeting. The next WG meeting will be held on 16 Apr. 2014 via web conference. A workshop about the assessment of uncertainty in risk ranking models is scheduled for 8 Apr. 2014 in Parma. The deadline for adoption is end of Dec. 2014.

9.7 Scientific opinion on the public health risks related to the consumption of raw drinking milk ([EFSA-Q-2013-01026](#))

The first WG meeting took place on 4 Mar. 2014 in Parma. The next meeting is planned for 3 Apr. 2014 as a web conference. The deadline to deliver the opinion is end of Dec. 2014.

10. New Mandates

10.1 Self-tasking mandates

10.1.1. Self-tasking mandate on the maintenance of the list of QPS recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA

The self-task mandate from the BIOHAZ Panel for a scientific opinion on the maintenance of the list of QPS recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA was discussed and finalised. Once accepted by EFSA, an *ad hoc* WG will be established to help with the preparatory work in the development of the opinion. Miguel Prieto was appointed as Chair for this WG.

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

11.1 Scientific Committee and other Scientific Panels

The 66th Scientific Committee Plenary meeting took place on 18-19 Feb. 2014 in Parma. The agenda of that meeting is available on the EFSA website⁷. The minutes will be made available through the same link. At this meeting two presentations were given from the BIOHAZ Panel: (a) update on BIOHAZ activities on Qualified Presumption of Safety (QPS) and (b) mandate of the BIOHAZ Panel for the evaluation of molecular typing methods for major food-borne microbiological hazards and their use for attribution modelling, outbreak investigation and scanning surveillance. The Scientific Committee experts agreed with the proposed future QPS activities and gave a positive feedback on the molecular typing work.

The next meeting will be held on 3-4 Apr. 2014 in Parma. The draft agenda can be found on the EFSA website⁸.

11.2 Working Groups

11.2.1. Scientific and technical assistance to establish a protocol for further laboratory investigations into the distribution of infectivity of Atypical BSE ([EFSA-Q-2013-01015](#))

⁷ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/140218.htm>

⁸ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/140403.htm>

An *ad hoc* WG has been established to help with the preparatory work in the development of the report. The first meeting of this WG was held on 4 Mar. in Parma. The Chair of the WG gave a short feedback on the progress. The next WG meetings will take place on 7 Apr. 2014 by webconference and 6 May 2014.

11.2.2. Standing Working Group (SWG) on Emerging Risks

The SWG on Emerging Risks (biological hazards) had the last WG meeting on 28 Feb. 2014 as a web-meeting. The next meeting is planned for early April (date to be confirmed) and the report of the sWG on Emerging Risks is expected to be finalised by end of Apr. 2014. The BIOHAZ Panel Members are invited to provide comments to this draft report until the end of Mar. 2014.

11.3 EFSA

None.

11.4 European Commission

None.

12. BIOHAZ Networks

The next meeting of the Scientific Network on Microbiological Risk Assessment (MRA Network) will take place on 12 and 13 May 2014 in Brussels.

13. Other scientific topics for information and/or discussion

None.

14. Any other business

14.1 Venues for 2014 plenaries

The proposed venue for one BIOHAZ Plenary meeting outside Parma was discussed. Issues were raised and therefore feedback from Panel experts was requested. Other proposals are welcomed.

14.2 Uploading of documents

The timelines for uploading documents for the BIOHAZ Panel were discussed. It was agreed that all documents for thorough reading and/or adoption would be uploaded at least one week before the Panel meeting. If this deadline cannot be reached, the most up-to-date draft will be uploaded one week before the Panel meeting. An update can then be uploaded closer to the meeting with any changes highlighted.
