

Scientific Panel on BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

Minutes of the 77th plenary meeting of the Scientific Panel on BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

Held on 5-6 December 2012, Parma

(Agreed on 04/ 01 / 2013¹)

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, Lindqvist Roland, McLauchlin James, Nesbakken Truls (apologies 5/12/2012), Prieto Miguel, Ricci Antonia, Ru Giuseppe, Sanaa Moez, Simmons Marion, Sofos John, and Threlfall John.

- **European Commission (EC):**

Osaer Sabine.

- **EFSA:**

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

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Dr Tine Hald, and Truls Nesbakken (only for 5/12/2012).

2. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes regarding Declarations of Interests (DoIs)³ and the Decision of the Executive Director implementing this Policy⁴, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest (ADoI)

¹ The publication of the minutes shall be made without delay in compliance with the Founding Regulation and no later than 15 working days following the day of their agreement.

and the Specific Declaration of interest (SDol) filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the ADol and SDol, please refer to Annex I. No further conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified in the Oral Declaration of interest (ODol) at the beginning of this meeting.

3. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

4. New Mandates

4.1 External mandates

None

4.2 Discussion on possible self tasking mandates

The BIOHAZ Panel finalised discussions for self-task activities in the areas of: (i) risk ranking tools, (ii) molecular typing for attribution models and outbreak investigation, (iii) QPS assessment of microbial species likely to be notified to EFSA and (iv) carbapenemase resistance. Self tasking mandates will be sent to EFSA management for approval.

5. Scientific outputs submitted for adoption

5.1 2012 update of the QPS recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA ([EFSA-Q-2012-00218](#))

The Draft Opinion was presented by the Chairman of the Working Group, and after a thorough discussion it was adopted by the Panel on the 5th of December 2012.

5.2 Risks posed by pathogens in food of non animal origin. Part I: Outbreak data analysis and Risk ranking of food/pathogen combinations ([EFSA-Q-2012-00237](#))

The Draft Opinion was presented by the Chairman of the Working Group, and after a thorough discussion it was adopted by the Panel on the 6th of December 2012.

6. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion (thorough reading)

6.1 Risk of transmission of TSE's via in vivo derived embryo transfer in ovine animals ([EFSA-Q-2012-00647](#))

The BIOHAZ “ad hoc” WG held the second meeting on November 19th. The draft was presented for thorough reading at the Plenary, and some recommendations were made to improve the draft. Given the document is already in good shape no further meetings of the WG will be required. The deadline for adoption is March 2013.

7. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion

7.1 Public health hazards to be covered by inspection of BOVINE meat ([EFSA-Q-2011-00364](#))

The BIOHAZ “ad hoc” WG on meat inspection of bovines met in Parma on 3th and 4th of December. The next meeting will take place in February in Parma. The deadline for this Opinion is June 2013.

7.2 Public health hazards to be covered by inspection of SHEEP AND GOAT meat ([EFSA-Q-2011-00365](#))

The BIOHAZ “ad hoc” WG on meat inspection of small ruminants met via webconference on December 3rd. The next meeting will take place in Parma on January 22nd. The deadline for this opinion is June 2013.

7.3 Public health hazards to be covered by inspection of FARMED GAME meat ([EFSA-Q-2011-00366](#))

The BIOHAZ “ad hoc” WG on meat inspection of farmed game met for on the 19/20 November . The next WG meeting is scheduled on the 21/22 January 2013 . The deadline for this opinion is June 2013.

7.4 Public health hazards to be covered by inspection of SOLIPEDS meat ([EFSA-Q-2011-00367](#))

The BIOHAZ “ad hoc” WG on meat inspection of solipeds had a meeting on 17-18th October 2012. The next WG meeting is scheduled on the 12th December 2012. The deadline for this opinion is June 2013.

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

The WG meeting was held in Parma on 9th November 2012. The rational for the model was presented and discussed. The next WG meeting is planned for Wednesday 19th December in the form of a web conference.

7.6 VTEC-seropathotype concept and scientific criteria regarding pathogenicity assessment ([EFSA-Q-2012-00576](#))

The last meeting of the BIOHAZ WG on VTEC-seropathotype was held on 4 December in Parma. The next WG meeting will be organised in January 2013 (date to be agreed).

7.7 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 first meeting of the BIOHAZ WG on Scrapie situation in the EU took place on 13th November 2012. The next meeting is scheduled for 22nd January 2013. The Chair presented to the Panel the discussions held in the first WG meeting on the approach to be taken to reply to the terms of reference. The deadline for adoption is 1st July 2014.

7.8 Request for a scientific opinion on the public health risks related to mechanically separated meat (MSM) derived from poultry and swine ([EFSA-Q-2012-00752](#))

The draft opinion was presented for first reading. The binary logistic regression model developed by the WG was presented and discussed. The next meeting is foreseen on 10 January in Brussels. The deadline for adoption is 31st March 2013.

7.9 Risks posed by pathogens in food of non animal origin. Part II: Risk factors, mitigating options, and microbiological criteria ([EFSA-Q-2012-00237](#))

A new WG will be established in January 2013. The European Commission will be consulted to decide which food/pathogen combinations should be given priority on the basis of the Part I (Outbreak data analysis and Risk ranking of food/pathogen combinations) adopted. J. McLaughlin was nominated as WG Chair. The deadline for this opinion is end of December 2013.

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

6.1 Scientific Committee and other Scientific Panels

The last SC Plenary meeting took place on the 26th November in Parma. The agenda and minutes of that meeting will be available on the EFSA website (<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/121126-a.htm>).

6.2 Other WGs

6.2.1 Revision of the annual monitoring programme for BSE from Norway (Art 31 Reg 178/2002) ([EFSA-Q-2012-00577](#))

The last WG meeting took place on Wednesday 14th November in Parma. The draft document is in an advanced stage and will be presented for endorsement at the next BIOHAZ Plenary meeting.

6.3 European Commission

A full update was presented summarising actions taken/planned from BIOHAZ opinions adopted in the last 6 months.

9. Emerging issues

Nothing to report.

10. BIOHAZ Networks

The last meeting of the EFSA Scientific Network on Microbiological Risk Assessment was held on the 9th and 10th of October 2012. The next MRA Network meeting will be in spring 2013.

The meeting of the EFSA Scientific Network on BSE-TSE was held on the 10th and 11th of October 2012. The next BSE-TSE Network meeting will be held in late 2013.

Annual reports for the Networks will be published before the end of 2012.

11. Presentations to the Panel

EFSA staff from the BIOHAZ, BIOMO and SAS Units respectively gave the following presentations:

- Specialized courses on advanced aspects of risk assessment for EFSA panel members and staff
- *Listeria* baseline survey and ongoing activities on molecular typing
- EFSA activities on Expert Elicitation

12. Any Other Business

None.

Annex I

INTERESTS AND ACTIONS RESULTING FROM THE SCREENING OF ADOI OR SDOI

a) **CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** In the SDOI filled for the present meeting **DR. MARION SIMMONS** declared interests for the following agenda items: Quantitative evaluation of BSE risk in bovine intestines and mesentery, Request for a scientific opinion on the risk of transmission of TSE's via in vivo derived embryo transfer in ovine animals. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes regarding Declarations of Interests (Dols) and the Decision of the Executive Director implementing this Policy, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, the interest above was deemed to represent a conflict of Interest. This results in the impossibility for the expert to be present when that item is discussed, voted on or in anyway processed by that concerned scientific group.