

BIOHAZ UNIT

Scientific Panel on BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS
Minutes of the 78th plenary meeting of the Scientific Panel on BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS
Held on 23-24 January 2013, Parma

(Agreed on 14 / 02 / 2013¹)

Participants

- **Panel Members:**

Andreoletti Olivier, Baggesen Dorte Lau (apologies 24/01), 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 (apologies), Nesbakken Truls, Prieto Miguel, Ricci Antonia, Ru Giuseppe, Sanaa Moez, Simmons Marion, Sofos John, and Threlfall John.

- **European Commission (EC):**

Osaer Sabine (apologies).

- **EFSA:**

Hugas Marta, Liebana Ernesto, Renata Leuschner, Romero Barrios Pablo, Winy Messens, Vivas Alegre Luis, Barizzzone 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, Dr. James McLauchlin and Dr. Dorte Lau Baggesen (only for 4/01/2013).

2. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes regarding Declarations of Interests (Dols)³ and the Decision of the Executive

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.

Director implementing this Policy⁴, 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. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the ADoI and SDoI, 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 (ODoI) 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

None

5. Scientific outputs submitted for adoption

5.1 Risk of transmission of classical scrapie via in vivo derived embryo transfer in ovine animals ([EFSA-Q-2012-00647](#))

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 24th of January 2013.

6. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion (thorough reading)

6.1 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 14 January in London. The opinion was presented for thorough reading, and some recommendations were made to improve the current draft. The next WG meeting is scheduled as a teleconference on 4th February 2013.

6.2 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 thorough reading. Comments and inputs from the Panel were raised, they will be processed by the WG and included in the opinion. The binary logistic regression model developed by the WG was presented and discussed. The next telemeeting is foreseen on 12th February. The deadline for adoption is 31st 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 in Parma on January 22nd. The next meeting is scheduled for March 5th in Parma. 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 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 12th December 2012. The next WG meeting is scheduled on the 29th January 2013. 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 on 19th December 2012 in the form of a web conference. During the meeting particular aspects of the model were clarified. Agreement on the assumptions to be used was reached. The next WG meeting is planned for Tuesday 26th March.

7.6 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 22nd January 2013. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 2013. The deadline for adoption is 1st July 2014.

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

A new ad hoc WG is being formed. Kostas Koutsoumanis has been appointed as Chair for the WG. The deadline for this mandate is end of December 2014

7.8 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](#))

A new ad hoc WG is being formed, and the first meeting is expected to take place in March 2013. Dorte L. Baggesen has been appointed as Chair for the WG. The deadline for this mandate is end of December 2013.

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

A new ad hoc WG is being formed, and the first meeting is expected to take place in March 2013. John Threlfall has been appointed as Chair for the WG. The deadline for this mandate is end of December 2013.

7.10 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 is being established. The European Commission has been consulted on which food/pathogen combinations will be given priority. A revised version of the terms of reference is expected soon. The deadlines for the final outcomes are under negotiation.

7.11 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 new WG is being established. Miguel Prieto has been nominated as Chair for the WG. The deadline for this mandate is end of December 2013.

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 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>).

8.2 Other WGs

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

The draft document was endorsed by the BIOHAZ Panel on 24/01/2013.

8.2.2. Anticipation of future notifications to EFSA of microbial taxonomic units intentionally introduced into the food chain (related to the annual QPS update) ([EFSA-Q-2013-00019](#))

An internal WG is being established. The deadline for this mandate is end of December 2013.

8.3 European Commission

Nothing to report.

9. Emerging issues

The Head of the Emerging Risks Unit in EFSA presented to the Panel an Update on EFSA's approach to identifying emerging risks, and the involvement of Panels in this task. He also introduce the panel's role in the Standing WG on Emerging Risk established by the Scientific Committee where the panel vice chair Arie Havelaar is chairing a sub WG on the area of biological hazards.

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 23rd and 24th April 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.

The 2012 Annual reports for the Networks have been published.

11. Presentations to the Panel

The Head of the Scientific Assessment Support unit in EFSA presented to the Panel an update on the recent and ongoing activities of the unit.

A representative of the ECDC gave a presentation on "Challenges and opportunities in estimating the burden of infectious diseases: the BCoDE experience"

12. Any Other Business

12.1. Discussion on approaches to take for QMRA mandates

Discussions on this item were postponed to the March Plenary meeting

12.2. Venues for 2013 plenaries

It was decided that the June Plenary meeting (5 – 6 June) will take part in Barcelona, Spain.

Annex I

INTERESTS AND ACTIONS RESULTING FROM THE SCREENING OF ADOI OR SDOI

- a) **CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** In the SDol 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.
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