

BIOHAZ UNIT

Scientific Panel on BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

Minutes of the 79th plenary meeting of the Scientific Panel on BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

Held on 6-7 March 2013, Parma

(Agreed on 27/ 03 / 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, Havelaar Arie Hendrik, Koutsoumanis Konstantinos, Lindqvist Roland, McLauchlin James, 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, Leuschner Renata, Romero Barrios Pablo, Messens Winy, 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. No apologies were received.

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 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

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.

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

None

5. Scientific outputs submitted for adoption

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

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 7th of March 2013.

5.2 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 by the Chairman of the Working Group, and after a thorough discussion it was adopted by the Panel on the 7th of March 2013.

6. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion (first reading)

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

The draft Opinion of the BIOHAZ “ad hoc” WG on meat inspection of bovines was presented. The next meeting will take place in April via web-conference. The deadline for this Opinion is June 2013.

6.2 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 March 5th and the updated draft was reviewed by the Panel. The next meeting of the WG is scheduled for April 24th as a webconference. The deadline for this opinion is June 2013.

6.3 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.

6.4 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 25th February 2013. An additional WG meeting may take place in May 2013. The deadline for this opinion is June 2013.

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 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.

7.2 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 second meeting of the BIOHAZ WG on Scrapie situation in the EU took place on 22nd January 2013. The next meeting is scheduled for 14th-15th March 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](#))

A new ad hoc WG is being formed. Kostas Koutsoumanis has been appointed as Chair for the WG and the first WG meeting was held on 5th March in Parma and a following one is scheduled for 3-4th June. 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](#))

A new ad hoc WG has been established, and the first meeting is scheduled for the 8th of March 2013. 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](#))

A new ad hoc WG is being formed, and the first meeting is scheduled for the 15th March 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 fruit and vegetables grown on soil, intended to be eaten raw ([EFSA-Q-2013-00178](#)), and *Salmonella* and Norovirus in berries ([EFSA-Q-2013-00179](#))

A revised version of the terms of reference (ToRs 3 to 5) received from European Commission was presented. A new WG has been established, Jim McLauchlin has been nominated as Chair for this WG and the first meeting has been scheduled for the 11th of April 2013 in Parma. Five opinions have been requested in the scope of this mandate, and the respective deadlines are under negotiation.

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](#))

The first virtual WG meeting is scheduled for 20 March. 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 27th and 28th February in Parma. The agenda and minutes of that meeting will be available on the EFSA website (<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/130227.htm>).

A short questionnaire on the use of SC Guidance Documents available was distributed to the Panel Members.

8.2 Other WGs

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 established and a meeting took place on 4 March. The deadline for this mandate is end of December 2013.

8.3 European Commission

Nothing to report.

9. Emerging issues

Arie Havelaar presented to the Panel on behalf of the Standing Scientific Committee WG on: *“Emerging risks and update on Emerging Risk identification and 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 next BSE-TSE Network meeting will be held in late 2013.

11. Any Other Business

11.1. Discussion on approached to take for QMRA mandates

A presentation of a short paper, and a follow up discussion on this item took place during the meeting

12.2. Impact of new quality procedures on Panel/WG activities

The BIOHAZ Head of Unit presented to the Panel an update on EFSA new Standard Operating Procedures.

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. 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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