

Scientific Panel on BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

Minutes of the 81st plenary meeting of the Scientific Panel on BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

Held on 5-6 June 2013, Barcelona

(Agreed on 01 / 07 / 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, Prieto Miguel, Ricci Antonia, Ru Giuseppe, Sanaa Moez, Simmons Marion, Sofos John (apologies), and Threlfall John.

- **European Commission (EC):**

Osaer Sabine , Arie Ottevanger.

- **EFSA:**

Hugas Marta, Liebana Ernesto, Romero Barrios Pablo, Vivas-Alegre Luis (Scientific staff).

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Apologies were received from J. Sofos Chair of the BIOHAZ Panel, and from T. Hald. 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 Processes regarding Declarations of Interests (Dols)³ and the Decision of the Executive Director implementing this Policy⁴, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest (ADol)

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

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. A. Ricci will Chair this WG. The deadline to deliver the Opinion is under negotiation.

5. Scientific outputs submitted for adoption

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

The Draft Opinion was presented by the Vice-chair of the BIOHAZ Panel on behalf of the Chairman of the Working Group, and after a thorough discussion it was adopted by the Panel on the 6th of June 2013. It was unanimously proposed by the Panel Members to dedicate this Scientific Opinion to the memory of Prof. J. D. Collins, former BIOHAZ Panel Chair and WG Member.

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

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 June 2013.

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

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 June 2013.

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

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 June 2013.

The BIOHAZ Panel Members acknowledged the contribution provided by the Panel on Contaminants of the Food Chain and the Panel on Animal Health and Welfare for the support providing in the drafting of the relevant Appendices of the four Scientific Opinions on meat inspection adopted at this meeting.

6. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion (progress reports)

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

The WG meeting was held on 14-15th May 2013 in Brussels. During this meeting the feedback received from the BIOHAZ plenary members after the presentation of the draft model was discussed. EU Member States have been requested to update the date up to 2012. The deadline for the contractor will be extended in order to be able to receive and process the data related to 2012. The next WG meeting is planned for Tuesday 9th July in Parma.

6.2 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 third meeting of the BIOHAZ WG on Scrapie situation in the EU took place on 14th-15th March 2013. The progress of the WG was presented to the BIOHAZ Panel. The next meeting is scheduled for 6th-7th June 2013. The deadline for adoption is 1st July 2014.

6.3 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 next meeting will be a teleconference on the 30th August. The deadline for this mandate is end of December 2014.

6.4 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 WG meeting via web-conference took place on the 8th of May 2013. The next WG meeting is scheduled for the 8th and 9th of July 2013 in Parma. The deadline for this mandate is end of December 2013.

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

The second meeting of the WG took place as a teleconference on the 23/05/2013. The draft Opinion was presented by the WG Chair. The next WG meeting will take place in Brussels on the 04/07/2013. The deadline for this mandate is end of December 2013.

6.6 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](#))

The second meeting of the WG took place as a webconference on 22 May 2013. The next WG meeting is scheduled from 6 to 7 June 2013 in Barcelona. A technical consultation with industry representatives will take place on 6 June 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.

6.7 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 virtual and a physical WG meeting took place on 20 March and 16 April, respectively. A virtual WG meeting is scheduled for 28 August. The deadline for this mandate is end of December 2013.

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

7.1 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>).

7.2 Other WGs

7.2.1. 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](#))

A draft scientific report was tabled and the report was endorsed by the BIOHAZ Panel.

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

The first WG meeting is scheduled for the 10th June 2013. Once completed, the report is intended to be presented for endorsement by the BIOHAZ Panel at the plenary meeting in September 2013. The deadline for publication is 30th September 2013.

7.3 European Commission

A presentation was given on recent risk management decisions in the area of meat inspection for swine. In addition the representative from the European Commission gave an update on follow up actions from recently adopted BIOHAZ Opinions.

In addition, the Commission representative expressed his appreciation for all the work and effort done by the EFSA's Panels and staff to produce the scientific opinions on Meat Inspection in the different species.

8. Emerging issues

A discussion session on: "*Emerging risks and update on Emerging Risk identification and biological hazards*" will be organised for the July BIOHAZ Plenary meeting.

9. 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.

10. Any Other Business

Preliminary dates for the 2014 plenaries were presented.

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. 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.