

Scientific Panel on Plant Protection Products and their Residues

Minutes of the 73rd Plenary meeting

Held on 25 – 26 March 2015, Parma, (Italy)

(Agreed on 13 May 2015)

Participants

- **Panel Members:**

Theodorus Brock, Ettore Capri (25th March), Sabine Duquesne, Metka Filipič, Antonio F. Hernandez-Jerez, Karen Ildico Hirsch-Ernst, Susanne Hougaard Bennekou, Michael Klein, Thomas Kuhl, Ryszard Laskowski, Matthias Liess, Alberto Mantovani, Colin Ockleford, Robert Smith, Ingvar Sundh, Aaldrik Tiktak, Ton van der Linden.

- **Hearing Experts¹:**

- Robert Luttik (point 8.1)

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

- N/A

- **EFSA:**

- Pesticides Unit: Maria Arena, Arianna Chiusolo, Mark Egsmose, Magda Florio, Anja Friel, Luc Mohimont, Marize Solano, Franz Streissl, Andrea Terron, and Jose Tarazona.
- Scientific Committee and Emerging Risks Unit: Agnès Rortais and Reinhilde Schoonjans (point 8.1)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Alf Aagaard, Bernadette Ossendorp, Paulo Sousa and Ettore Capri (26th March). In the absence of Bernadette Ossendorp, Susanne Hougaard Bennekou, Vice-Chair of the Panel, chaired the meeting and welcomed the participants.

¹ As defined in Article 11 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Scientific Committee/Scientific Panel/ Members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest and the Specific Declarations of Interest filled in by the Scientific Panel Members 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 at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 72nd Plenary meeting held on 11-12 February 2015, Parma (Italy)

The minutes of the 72nd Plenary meeting, held on 11th and 12th February 2015, were under the written agreement procedure until the 1st of April.

5. Report on the written procedures since 72nd Plenary meeting

No written procedure took place since the 72nd Plenary meeting.

6. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion and/or possible adoption

6.1. Scientific Opinion on a proposal for a Guidance on how aged sorption studies for pesticides should be conducted, analysed and used in regulatory assessment (FERA, 2012) ([EFSA-Q-2014-00217](#))

The Chair of the Working Group informed the Panel on the issues discussed during the last 2 meetings of the Working Group.

6.2. Scientific Opinion addressing the state of the science on in-soil risk assessment ([EFSA-Q-2011-00978](#))

The Chair of the Working Group informed the Panel on the issues discussed during the last meeting of the Working Group.

6.3. Scientific Opinion on the effect assessment of pesticides for sediment organisms in edge-of-field surface water ([EFSA-Q-2012-00959](#))

A first draft of the Scientific Opinion on the effect assessment of pesticides for sediment organisms in edge-of-field surface water was circulated to the Panel on 20th March for comments.

The Chair and one of the rapporteurs of the Working Group informed the Panel on the issues discussed during the last meeting of the Working Group.

6.4. Scientific Guidance of the PPR Panel on the establishment of the residue definition to be used for dietary risk assessment ([EFSA-Q-2013-01001](#))

The Chair of the Working Group informed the Panel on the issues discussed during the last meeting of the Working Group.

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

³ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

6.5. Scientific Opinion of the PPR Panel investigating experimental toxicological properties of plant protection products having a potential link to Parkinson's disease and childhood leukaemia ([EFSA-Q-2014-00480](#))

The Chair of the Working Group informed the Panel on the issues discussed during the last meeting of the Working Group.

6.6. Scientific Opinion of the PPR Panel on the follow-up of the findings of the External Scientific report 'Literature review on epidemiological studies linking exposure to pesticides and health effects' (University of Ioannina Medical School, 2013) ([EFSA-Q-2014-00481](#))

The Panel was informed on the outcome of the Stakeholder Workshop on the "Use of Epidemiological findings in Regulatory Pesticide Risk Assessment", which took place in Paris on the 18th February 2015.

The Chair of the Working Group informed the Panel on the issues discussed during the last meeting of the Working Group, which included a technical hearing of an expert from the US Environmental Protection Agency about the experience of this organisation on the integration of epidemiological studies into the risk assessment process.

6.7. Statement of the PPR Panel on the suitability of the BEEHAVE model for its potential use in a regulatory context and for the RA on multiple stressors in honeybees at the landscape level ([EFSA-Q-2014-00904](#))

A first draft of the Statement on the suitability of the BEEHAVE model for its potential use in a regulatory context and for the RA on multiple stressors in honeybees at the landscape level was circulated to the Panel on 19th March for comments.

The Chair of the Working Group informed the Panel on the issues discussed during the last 2 meetings of the Working Group.

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

7.1 Scientific Committee and/or Scientific Panel(s) including their Working Groups

The Panel was informed on the outcome of the last meeting of the Scientific Committee which took place on 18th and 19th February 2015, and about the progress of the Working Groups of the Scientific Committee with representatives of the Panel.

The Panel was informed on the involvement of Ettore Capri and Colin Ockleford as representatives of the Panel to the EFSA PROMETHEUS initiative, for promoting methods for evidence use in science and led by the Assessment and Methodological Support Unit (AMU) in close collaboration with the Scientific Committee, especially through their participation to the EFSA Working Group in charge of preparing the deliverable 2 of the project "Analysis of methods for dealing with evidence applied by EFSA".

8. Other scientific topics for information and/or discussion

8.1 Consultation of the PPR Panel on the draft Scientific Opinions on the temporal and spatial ecological recovery of non-target organisms for environmental risk assessments and on the coverage of endangered species as non-target organisms in single-stressor environmental risk assessments at

EFSA and on the draft Scientific Guidance on accounting for biodiversity and ecosystem services to define protection goals for environmental risk assessment.

The 3 draft outputs of the Scientific Committee were circulated to the Panel on 10th and 11th March 2015. Robert Luttik attended the plenary meeting as a hearing expert and presented the information in his capacity as Chair of the Working Group on overarching elements of environmental risk assessment of the Scientific Committee.

An extensive exchange of views took place during the plenary meeting. A procedure was agreed in order to prepare a consolidated feedback of the Panel to the Scientific Committee by the 17th April.

8.2 Other scientific topics

The following was brought to the attention of the PPR Panel:

- a) On 7-8 October, 2015 the European Chemicals Agency (Helsinki), in partnership with the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), will hold a Topical Scientific Workshop on Soil Risk Assessment with academics, regulators, representatives of industry and other stakeholders. The aim of the workshop is to develop new or improved scientific approaches in support of European regulations in this area.
- b) The draft conclusions and recommendations of the EFSA/WHO expert working group on the TTC approach were published in February 2015 for public consultation.
- c) The EFSA Scientific report on the 2013 European Union report on pesticide residues in food was approved on 27th February 2015 and published on the EFSA website.