

Scientific Panel on Plant Protection Products and their Residues

Minutes of the 74th Plenary meeting

Held on 27-28 May 2015, Parma (Italy)

(Agreed on 17/07/2015)

Participants

- **Panel Members:**

Theodorus Brock, Ettore Capri (27th May), Sabine Duquesne, Metka Filipič, Antonio F. Hernandez-Jerez, Karen Ildico Hirsch-Ernst, Susanne Hougaard Bennekou, Michael Klein, Thomas Kuhl, Ryszard Laskowski, Alberto Mantovani, Colin Ockleford, Bernadette Ossendorp, Robert Smith, Paulo Sousa, Ingvar Sundh, Aaldrik Tiktak, Ton van der Linden.

- **Hearing Experts¹:**

- N/A

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

- N/A

- **EFSA:**

- Pesticides Unit: Maria Arena, Arianna Chiusolo, Mark Egsmose, Magda Florio, Anja Friel, Oriol Magrans, Paula Medina, Luc Mohimont, Franz Streissl, Andrea Terron, Csaba Szentes and Jose Tarazona.
 - Biological Hazards and Contaminants Unit: Giusi Amore and Valentina Rizzi (Item 7.1)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair of the Panel, Bernadette Ossendorp, welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Alf Aagaard, Matthias Liess, and Ettore Capri (28th May).

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 73rd Plenary meeting held on 25 – 26 March 2015, Parma (Italy)

The minutes of the 73rd Plenary meeting, held on 25th and 26th March 2015, were agreed by written procedure on 13th May 2015.

5. Report on the written procedures since the 73rd Plenary meeting

No written procedure took place since the 73rd 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. A draft of the Scientific Opinion was circulated to the Panel on 21st May for comments.

The Panel was informed that the underlying experimental data, supporting the guidance and necessary to draw conclusions in a transparent and reproducible way, had not been made available to the Working Group. The Secretariat indicated that this issue would be considered further in the light of the applicable EFSA policies.

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 second draft of the of the Scientific Opinion was circulated to the Panel on 22nd May for comments and the Panel was informed on the progress resulting from the last 4 meetings 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](#))

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

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

The Chair of the Working Group informed the Panel on the development of case studies and on other issues discussed during the last meeting of the Working Group. This meeting included the technical hearing of Andrew Worth, in his private capacity, for his particular expertise in computational toxicology, including QSAR analysis and read across.

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. The Panel was also informed of the state of play regarding the Service Contract on a systematic literature review on Parkinson's disease and childhood Leukaemia and mode of action of pesticides.

The Working Group identified a need for additional external expertise on childhood leukaemia.

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 secretariat informed the Panel on the publication of the report of the stakeholder workshop on the use of epidemiological data in pesticide risk assessment. The Panel was also informed that the Working Group agreed on the inclusion of an additional area of external expertise (practical experience of the integration of epidemiological data in regulatory risk assessment of pesticides).

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 draft of the statement was circulated to the Panel on 12th May and discussed during the Plenary meeting. An agreement was reached on final amendments and the Panel adopted the Statement.

The Scientific Opinion on good modeling practice in the context of mechanistic effect models for risk assessment of plant protection products proved to be a valid tool to evaluate the BEEHAVE model.

The Scientific Committee and Emerging Risks Unit will be informed on this statement as it is part of the MUST-B Project.

7. New Mandate

7.1 Request of the European Commission to EFSA for a Scientific Opinion concerning the risk for public health related to the presence of *Bacillus cereus* and other *Bacillus* spp, including *Bacillus thuringiensis* in foodstuffs.

The Biological Hazards and Contaminants Unit introduced this new mandate to the Panel. This mandate has been allocated to the Panel on Biological Hazards and the draft Scientific Opinion will be submitted to the PPR Panel for endorsement of the sections addressing the 3rd and 5th bullets of the Terms of Reference before adoption. The Pesticides Unit will inform the Panel on the development of this Scientific Opinion as appropriate.

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

8.1 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 22nd and 23rd April and about the progress of the Working Groups of the Scientific Committee with representatives of the Panel. Recent publications were brought to the attention of the Panel:

- a) The Guidance of the Scientific Committee on the review, revision and development of EFSA's cross-cutting guidance documents;
- b) The event report of the EFSA Scientific Colloquium on the harmonization of human and ecological risk assessment of combined exposure to multiple chemicals;
- c) The External Scientific Report on toxicokinetic and toxicodynamic interactions of chemical mixtures for human risk assessment;
- d) The EFSA Scientific report on the principles and process for dealing with data and evidence in scientific assessments, delivered as first outcome of the EFSA PROMETHEUS initiative;
- e) The External Scientific Report on a review of the state of the art of human biomonitoring for chemical substances and its application to human exposure assessment for food safety.

9. Other scientific topics for information and/or discussion

9.1 Exchange of views on future activities of the PPR Panel

The Panel initiated an exchange of views on possible future activities on the basis of its recommendations over the last years.

9.2 Other scientific topics

The publication of the following External Scientific Reports was brought to the attention of the Panel:

- a) A literature search and data collection on risk assessment for human health for microorganisms used as plant protection products;
- b) A retrospective analysis of the immunotoxic effects of plant protection products as reported in the Draft Assessment Reports for their peer review at EU level;
- c) A literature review on in vitro and alternative developmental neurotoxicity (DNT) testing methods.