

Scientific Panel on Plant Protection Products and their Residues

Minutes of the 90th Plenary meeting

Held on 22-23 November 2017, Parma (Italy)
(Agreed on 02 February 2018)

Participants

■ Panel Members

Paulien Adriaanse, Philippe Berny, Theodorus Brock, Sabine Duquesne, Sandro Grilli, Antonio Hernandez-Jerez (22 November), Susanne Hougaard Bennekou, Michael Klein, Ryszard Laskowski, Colin Ockleford, Olavi Pelkonen, Silvia Pieper, Robert Smith, Michael Stemmer, Ingvar Sundh, Ivana Teodorovic, Aaldrik Tiktak, Christopher Topping, Gerrit Wolterink.

■ Hearing Experts ¹:

Not Applicable

■ European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

Not Applicable

■ EFSA:

Pesticides Unit: Maria Arena, Arianna Chiusolo, Mark Egsmose, Luc Mohimont, Alexandre Nougadère, Franz Streissl, Jose Tarazona.

Scientific Committee and Emerging Risks Unit: Agnès Rortais

■ Observers:

Not Applicable

■ Others:

Not Applicable

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>.

1. Welcome, apologies for absence and adoption of the draft agenda.

The Chair of the Panel, Colin Ockleford, welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Thomas Kuhl, Kyriaki Machera, Antonio Hernandez-Jerez (23 November).

The agenda was adopted without changes.

2. 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.

3. Agreement of the minutes of the 89th Plenary meeting held on 20-21 September 2017, Parma (Italy).

The minutes of the 89th plenary meeting held on 20-21 September 2017, were agreed on 17 November 2017 and published on the EFSA website.⁴

4. Report on the written procedures since the 89th Plenary meeting

No written procedure took place since the 89th plenary meeting.

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

5.1 Scientific Opinion addressing the state of the science on risk assessment for amphibians and reptiles ([EFSA-QN-2011-00985](#))

The Chair of the Working Group informed the Panel on the outcome of the last meeting of the Working Group. A revised draft of the opinion was finalized and circulated to the Panel on the 10th of November.

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

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

⁴ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/170322>

The latest changes to the opinion, related to the estimation of the body burden in amphibians, the relevant life stages, exposure routes, acute and chronic endpoints, the higher tier refinement options and the risk mitigation options were reviewed.

After agreeing on a few last changes, the Panel adopted the opinion.

5.2 Scientific Opinion on the state of Toxicokinetic/Toxicodynamic models for regulatory risk assessment of pesticides for aquatic organisms ([EFSA-Q-2012-00960](#))

The chair of the Working Group informed the Panel on the outcome of the last meeting of the Working Group which included a technical hearing of 3 experts. The hearing experts provided information and replied to questions on TKTD models (GUTS, DEBtox and TKTD for primary producers) and on their possible use in regulatory assessments.

5.3 Scientific Opinion on the Guidance proposal on how aged sorption studies for pesticides should be conducted, analyzed and used in regulatory assessments (Chemical Regulation Directorate, UK, 2016) ([EFSA-Q-2017-00620](#))

The Chair of the Working Group informed the Panel on the outcome of the last meeting of the Working Group. It was decided to test the guidance document on the basis of 3 case studies. An outline of the opinion was prepared, which will include the description of the case studies and the eventual encountered issues. The opinion will also include sections dealing with the applicability of using the guidance for metabolites and field studies.

5.4 Scientific opinion on pesticides in foods for infants and young children ([EFSA-Q-2016-00702](#))

A very brief update of the status was given by the Chair of the Working Group as no meeting took place since the last plenary meeting.

The Secretariat informed the Panel that EFSA sent a reply to the letter received from SNE (Specialised Nutrition Europe) and discussed at the last plenary meeting.

6. Feedback from the Scientific Committee/Scientific Panels, EFSA, the European Commission

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

The Scientific Committee and Emerging Risks Unit reported on the joint EFSA-VKM Symposium on risk assessment and risk management cooperation on environmental protection goals which took place in Oslo on 26 and 27 October 2017. The purpose of this symposium was to foster dialogue and cooperation between risk assessors and risk managers and to gather views on the establishment of operational protection goals for use in environmental risk assessment across regulated sectors.

Susanne Hougaard informed the Panel on the outcome of the meeting of the Scientific Committee which took place on 15 and 16 November 2017. The draft guidance on risk assessment of nanomaterial was endorsed for public consultation. Furthermore, the Scientific Committee adopted an opinion on genotoxicity assessment and the guidance on uncertainty analysis in scientific assessment.

6.2. EFSA including its Working Groups /Task Forces

The Secretariat presented an overview of the activities related to methodological development ongoing or planned to be started in 2018. This includes Scientific Opinions of the Panel and other activities undertaken by the EFSA staff and leading to a number of EFSA guidance documents or Scientific reports. The Panel noted that its overall level of activities is currently low and that the 3 Scientific Opinions it is still working on are to be adopted by June 2018. At this point, no mandate has been sent to the PPR Panel for topics to be addressed after its renewal in July 2018.

This prompted some members of the Panel to call for a discussion on new activities to engage in the forthcoming months and 3 of them tabled a short document providing an overview of the activities and needs related to effect modelling of pesticides at landscape scales with the aim of stimulating further discussion and its development within the activities of the PPR Panel. This topic is included in the implementation plan of the EFSA Strategy 2020 and was also largely addressed during the EFSA conference on "Environmental risk assessment of pesticides: 25 years of scientific advancements", organised in November 2016. Furthermore, it was one of the recommendations on possible future activities supporting the risk assessment of plant protection products agreed during the 75th Plenary meeting (24-25 June 2015) of the Panel. It was agreed that this initiative should not be restricted to terrestrial landscapes but also to develop further guidance on population-level modelling for water

organisms, including the further development of ecological/environmental scenarios for aquatic environmental risk assessments.

The Panel and the Secretariat welcomed this initiative and it was agreed to further develop this proposal and to cover both the environmental and residential effects of pesticides. Three members of the Panel were invited to join their efforts to prepare a road map including practical objectives, tasks, milestones and deliverables for further discussion and to support the development of an EFSA project involving the PPR Panel.

The Secretariat thanked the Panel for the comments on the draft document prepared by EFSA at the request of the European Commission SAM Unit (Scientific Advice Mechanism) and summarising the EFSA experience with the EU regulations applicable to plant protection products. The final version is still under preparation and will be circulated to the Panel for information once finalised.

7. Any other business

The next open plenary meeting of the PPR Panel will take place on 14 and 15 March 2018.