

Scientific Panel on GMO

Minutes of the 128th plenary meeting

Held on 23 January 2019, Parma (Italy)

(Agreed on 23 January 2019)

Participants

■ Panel Members:

Jean-Louis Bresson, Tamas Dalmay, Ian Dewhurst, Michelle Epstein¹, Leslie George Firbank, Philippe Guerche, Ian Hejatko, Francisco Javier Moreno, Ewen Mullins, Hanspeter Naegeli, Fabien Nogué, Nils Rostoks, Jose Juan Sanchez Serrano, Eve Veromann, Fabio Veronesi

■ Hearing Experts²:

None

■ European Commission representatives:

Alexandre Huchelmann¹, Beatriz Marquez-Garrido¹, Hans Moons¹

■ EFSA:

GMO Unit: Fernando Álvarez, Michele Ardizzone, Giacomo De Sanctis, Yann Devos, Antonio Fernández Dumont, Silvia Federici, Andrea Gennaro, José Ángel Gomez Ruiz, Marina Koukoulanaki, Anna Lanzoni, Ana Martin Camargo, Sylvie Mestdagh, Franco Maria Neri, Irina Olaru, Claudia Paoletti, Konstantinos Paraskevopoulos, Nikoletta Papadopoulou, Tommaso Raffaello, Matthew Ramon and Elisabeth Waigmann.

Other EFSA Units/Directorates: none

■ Observers (in application of the guidelines for observers³): None

■ Others: None

¹ Remote attendance

² 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>.

³ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/stakeholders/observers.html>

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Giovanni Savoini.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest⁵, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled in by the experts invited to 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. Report on written adoption procedure since 127th Plenary meeting

None.

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

5.1. Assessment of genetically modified oilseed rape T45 for its authorisation renewal for placing on the market of products containing or produced from genetically modified oilseed rape (EFSA-GMO-RX-012) ([EFSA-Q-2018-00229](#))

Oilseed rape T45 was developed to confer herbicide tolerance. The placing on the market of products containing or produced from this GM oilseed rape was authorised in the European Union (EU) in 2009 regardless of the discontinued commercialisation of the GM oilseed rape in third countries as of 2005. The applicant Bayer CropScience N.V. asked for the renewal of the EU authorisation in case where possible traces of this GM oilseed rape would still be found in the EU.

⁴ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

⁵ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

In this meeting, the GMO Panel scrutinized and revised the draft text, where appropriate. The GMO Panel subsequently adopted the opinion, which will be published on the EFSA website and in the EFSA Journal.

6. New Mandates

6.1. Applications under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003

None

6.2. Annual post-market environmental monitoring reports of GM plants

None

6.3. Other Requests and Mandates

None

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

7.1. Scientific Committee and other Scientific Panel(s) including their Working Groups

The Chairs of the 'Gene Drive' and 'Synthetic Biology' Working Groups (WGs) informed the GMO Panel that WGs discussions are about to start.

7.2. EFSA including its Working Groups /Task Forces

None

7.3. European Commission

The representative of the European Commission provided feedback on meetings held at the European Commission.

8. Other scientific topics for information and/or discussion

8.1. Appropriateness of the GM test material

The production of genetically modified stacked events subject to applications recently received by EFSA involved the segregation of event(s) that was/were not present in the final stack. Null segregant progeny from already assessed events were used to develop the final stack. Similarly, applicants used 'not defined/unknown' events (i.e. that were not subject to a risk assessment by the GMO Panel). In addition, the breeding process is not always informative regarding the presence or absence of these events in the final stack under assessment.

The Panel members shared their questions. A discussion took place on the possible need for information on the events used throughout the breeding

process (e.g. events known vs unknown to the GMO Panel, known events already assessed by the GMO Panel with a conclusive vs inconclusive risk assessment). The GMO Panel acknowledges that information on the effective removal of DNA/genes/events in the final stack is needed.

9. Any other business

9.1. Calendar of plenary meetings in 2020

An updated 2020 calendar of GMO Panel meetings is available [here](#).

9.2. Upcoming training in ERA for Panel members

A member of the EFSA GMO Unit confirmed the upcoming training on PLH/GMO environmental risk assessment on 23 & 24 May 2019.

10. Adoption of the minutes of the current meeting

The minutes of the current meeting were adopted on 23 January 2019.