

MINUTES OF THE 45TH PLENARY MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS HELD IN PARMA ON 21-22 JANUARY 2009

AGENDA:

1. OPENING, AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST
4. NEW REQUESTS TO EFSA/BIOHAZ
 - 4.1 Request for a common short report on AMR focused on zoonotic infections
 - 4.2 Request for a scientific opinion on BSE-related risk of bovine intestines
5. POSSIBLE ADOPTIONS
 - 5.1 Special measures to reduce the risk for consumers through *Salmonella* in table eggs – e.g. Cooling of table eggs
 - 5.2 Use and mode of action of bacteriophages in food production
 - 5.3 Use of Fuel Cal® technology as a new alternative method of disposal or use of ABP
 - 5.4 ABP bunker system for carcass treatment
6. PROGRESS REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ON THE FOLLOWING MANDATES
 - 6.1 Evaluation of TSE tests
 - 6.2 Technical guide for the scientific data collection on antimicrobial resistance within the frame work of the use of amts for the decontamination of poultry carcasses
 - 6.2.1 Revision of the joint BIOHAZ/CEF guidance document on the submission of data for the evaluation of the safety and efficacy of substances for the removal of microbial contamination of foods of animal origin intended for human consumption
 - 6.3 Microbiological efficacy of food irradiation
 - 6.4 Public health significance of meticillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA)
 - 6.5 Quantitative estimation of the public health impact of setting a new target for the reductions of *Salmonella* in breeding hens
 - 6.6 Quantitative estimation of the public health impact of setting a new target for the reductions of *Salmonella* in laying hens
 - 6.7 Quantitative estimation of the public health impact of setting a new target for the reductions of *Salmonella* in broilers
 - 6.8 Request for an update and quantification of the risk posed by *Campylobacter* in broiler meat production
 - 6.9 Technical assistance on the link between *Salmonella* criteria at different stages of the poultry production chain
 - 6.10 QMRA on *Salmonella* in slaughter and breeding pigs
 - 6.11 Food safety aspects from the welfare of dairy cows
 - 6.12 The use of antibiotic resistance genes as marker genes in genetically modified plants

- 6.13 ABP alternative method from the European Lime Association (EULA)
- 6.14 Update BSE monitoring regime for EU15, Slovenia and Cyprus
- 6.15 Genetic TSE resistance in goats
- 7. FEED BACK FROM THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE AND FROM OTHER WGs
- 8. STANDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA
- 8.1 Food safety issues of Avian Influenza
- 8.2 Update on other EFSA activities related to Biological Hazards issues
- 9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS
- 9.1 Feedback from Industries on Feedingstuffs
- 11 CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

PARTICIPANTS

Panel Members:

Olivier Andreoletti, Herbert Budka, Sava Buncic, Pierre Colin, John D Collins, Aline De Koeijer, James Hope, Günter Klein, Simone Magnino, Antonio Martínez López, James McLaughlin, Karsten Noeckler, Birgit Noerrung, Miguel Prieto Maradona, Terence Roberts, Ivar Vägsholm and Emmanuel Vanopdenbosch.

EFSA:

Marta Hugas, Fulvio Barizzone, Alessandro Broglia, Michaela Hempen, Ernesto Liebana, Tobin Robinson, Pietro Stella, Eirini Tsigarida, Luis Vivas-Alegre, Bianca Bottoni (Administrative staff).

European Commission (EC):

DG Health and Consumer Protection: Sabine Osaer, Michael Walsh (item 6.12).

1. OPENING AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chair welcomed everyone. Apologies were received from Terence Roberts.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted, bringing forward two further items for consideration for adoption, that on Use of Fuel Cal® technology as a new alternative method of disposal or use of ABP, and that on ABP bunker system for carcass treatment.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no new declarations of interest.

4. NEW REQUESTS TO EFSA/BIOHAZ

4.1. REQUEST FOR A COMMON SHORT REPORT ON AMR FOCUSED ON ZOONOTIC INFECTIONS

A request was received from DG SANCO and DG Enterprise, for an opinion on antimicrobial resistance, from three agencies and one committee (EFSA, ECDC, EMEA, SCENIHR). A meeting was held on 16 January between the three agencies and committee to discuss the approach to be taken. The June 2009 deadline suggested by the Commission is considered to be difficult to respect due to the renewal of the Panel. The Zoonoses data collection unit will be involved in helping to draft EFSA's contribution.

4.2. REQUEST FOR A SCIENTIFIC OPINION ON BSE-RELATED RISK OF BOVINE INTESTINES

A request was received from the Commission to evaluate the scientific validity of a report produced for the Swiss Cervelas task force on TSE risk assessment for use of bovine casings. A working group will be convened to address this issue.

5. POSSIBLE ADOPTIONS

5.1. SPECIAL MEASURES TO REDUCE THE RISK FOR CONSUMERS THROUGH SALMONELLA IN TABLE EGGS – E.G. COOLING OF TABLE EGGS

The draft opinion was adopted pending some editorial changes.

5.2. USE AND MODE OF ACTION OF BACTERIOPHAGES IN FOOD PRODUCTION

The draft opinion was endorsed for public consultation. A revised deadline of April 2009 has been agreed on for adoption.

5.3. FUEL CAL® TECHNOLOGY AS NEW ALTERNATIVE METHOD OF DISPOSAL OR USE OF ABP

The draft opinion was discussed. Following editorial changes, it was proposed to adopt the draft opinion by written process.

5.4. ABP BUNKER SYSTEM FOR CARCASSE TREATMENT

The draft opinion was discussed. Following editorial changes, it was proposed to adopt the draft opinion by written process.

6. PROGRESS REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ON THE FOLLOWING MANDATES

6.1. EVALUATION OF TSE TESTS

Nothing to report.

6.2. TECHNICAL GUIDE FOR THE SCIENTIFIC DATA COLLECTION ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE USE OF AMTs¹ FOR THE DECONTAMINATION OF POULTRY CARCASSES

The status of the work of the WG on technical guide on poultry decontamination (Q-2008-341) is changed from “in progress” to “stop-clock”, waiting for clarifications from EC.

6.2.1 REVISION OF THE JOINT BIOHAZ/CEF GUIDANCE DOCUMENT ON THE SUBMISSION OF DATA FOR THE EVALUATION OF THE SAFETY AND EFFICACY OF SUBSTANCES FOR THE REMOVAL OF MICROBIAL CONTAMINATION OF FOODS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN INTENDED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

¹ Antimicrobial treatments

A WG will be established to address this self-tasking mandate. The next meeting will be held in March 2009. The deadline for adoption is 30th June 2009.

6.3. MICROBIOLOGICAL EFFICACY OF FOOD IRRADIATION

The WG has been established and a first meeting is foreseen in February 2009. The secretariat has prepared a literature review to support this work.

6.4. PUBLIC HEALTH SIGNIFICANCE OF METICILLIN RESISTANT STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS (MRSA)

The draft opinion was presented for comments, adoption being foreseen in March 2009.

6.5. QUANTITATIVE ESTIMATION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACT OF SETTING A NEW TARGET FOR THE REDUCTION OF *Salmonella* IN BREEDING HENS

The draft opinion was presented. The next meeting of the working group will be on 4 February 2009. Adoption of the draft opinion is foreseen in March 2009.

6.6. QUANTITATIVE ESTIMATION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACT OF SETTING A NEW TARGET FOR THE REDUCTION OF *Salmonella* IN LAYING HENS

The approach for addressing this mandate will be elaborated at the WG meeting on 13 March 2009. The possibility for outsourcing part of the work is being investigated.

6.7. QUANTITATIVE ESTIMATION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACT OF SETTING A NEW TARGET FOR THE REDUCTION OF *Salmonella* IN BROILERS

This mandate has not yet been addressed by the WG due to the prioritisation of mandates covered under points 6.5 and 6.6 above. The approach to be adopted will be considered at the WG meeting in March 2009.

6.8. REQUEST FOR AN UPDATE AND QUANTIFICATION OF THE RISK POSED BY *Campylobacter* IN BROILER MEAT PRODUCTION

The working group met for a first time on 27-28 November and the next working group meeting will be held on 11 February 2008.

6.9. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ON THE LINK BETWEEN *Salmonella* CRITERIA AT DIFFERENT STAGES OF THE POULTRY PRODUCTION CHAIN

The first meeting of the WG was held on 3 October. An outsourced project has been awarded to Campden BRI and Bristol University. Next meeting will be on 29 January and adoption is anticipated in March 2010.

6.10. QMRA ON *Salmonella* IN SLAUGHTER AND BREEDING PIGS

The working group's approach was presented. The consortium responsible for the outsourced project will present their 12-month report at the next working group

meeting, in 27 – 28th January. The EC contractor responsible for carrying out the cost-benefit analysis will also be present.

6.11. FOOD SAFETY ASPECTS FROM THE WELFARE OF DAIRY COWS

A combined food safety chapter addressing all four related AHAW opinions is being prepared. A first draft will be presented at the March Plenary.

6.12. THE USE OF ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE GENES AS MARKER GENES IN GENETICALLY MODIFIED PLANTS

An update on the progress of the joint BIOHAZ-GMO working group was presented. The secretariat for the WG is provided by the Scientific Cooperation unit, and is chaired by Prof. Vittorio Silano (Chair of the Scientific Committee). Adoption of the draft opinion by both Panels is due in March 2009.

6.13. ABP ALTERNATIVE METHOD FROM EUROPEAN LIME ASSOCIATION (EULA)

The first working group meeting will take place on 10 February.

6.14. UPDATE BSE MONITORING REGIME FOR EU 15, SLOVENIA AND CYPRUS

The draft opinion was presented. An extension of the deadline to April 2009 will be requested in order to be able to take into account the full 2008 dataset. A WG meeting will be held on 7 April.

6.15. GENETIC TSE RESISTANCE IN GOATS

The first meeting of the WG was held on 16 January. The draft opinion was presented, with a view to its submission for adoption at the March plenary meeting, after a second WG meeting on 24 February.

7. FEED BACK FROM THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE AND FROM OTHER WGS

No meeting has been held since the last BIOHAZ plenary.

8. STANDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA:

8.1. FOOD SAFETY ISSUES OF AVIAN INFLUENZA

A draft inter-agency risk assessment on the public health impact of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza virus in poultry, shell eggs and egg products prepared by the USDA was brought to the attention of the Panel.

8.2. UPDATE ON OTHER EFSA ACTIVITIES RELATED TO BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS ISSUES

The EFSA and ECDC have published on-line the Community Zoonoses Report for 2007. In 2007, infections with Campylobacter were again the most frequently reported cause of zoonotic disease in humans across the EU.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

9.1. FEEDBACK FROM INDUSTRIES ON FEEDINGSTUFFS

Two letters have been received from the European Feed Manufacturers Federation (FEFAC) providing detailed comments on the recently published BIOHAZ opinion on Microbiological Risk Assessment on feedingstuffs for food producing animals. The draft response to these comments was discussed. A corrigendum to the opinion will be considered.

10. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The meeting closed at 14.45.