

**MINUTES OF THE 49TH PLENARY MEETING OF
THE SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS
HELD IN PARMA ON 10-11 JUNE 2009**

1. WELCOME AND OPENING OF THE MEETING, GENERAL INTRODUCTION TO EFSA

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

4. ROUND TABLE PRESENTATION OF PANEL MEMBERS AND OF SECRETARIAT

5. PRESENTATION OF EFSA

5.1. INTRODUCTION TO THE RISK ASSESSMENT DIRECTORATE AND THE SCIENTIFIC WORK OF EFSA (DR. HUBERT DELUYCKER, DIRECTOR OF SCA)

5.2. SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE AND ADVISORY FORUM (DR. DJIEN LIEM, HEAD OF UNIT OF SC)

5.3. SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE DIRECTORATE (DR. HUBERT DELUYCKER, DIRECTOR OF SCA)

5.4. COMMUNICATION STRATEGY OF EFSA (MRS. ANNE-LAURE GASSIN, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS)

5.5. LEGAL ASPECTS / DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (MR. DIRK DETKEN, HEAD OF UNIT)

5.6. FINANCIAL ASPECTS (MR. FRANCOIS MONNAERT, HEAD OF UNIT)

6. ELECTION OF PANEL CHAIR AND VICE CHAIRS

7. ROLE AND ACTIVITIES OF THE BIOHAZ PANEL.

8. MANDATES IN PROGRESS FOR BIOHAZ PANEL

9. NEW MANDATES RECEIVED FROM EC

10. MEETING DATES FOR 2009 – 2010

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

PARTICIPANTS

Panel Members:

Oliver Andreoletti, Herbert Budka, Sava Buncic, John Collins, John Griffin, Tine Hald, Arie Havelaar, Jim Hope, Guenter Klein, James McLaughlin, Winy Messens, Christine Müller-Graf, Christophe Nguyen-The, Birgit Noerrung, Luisa Peixe, Miguel Prieto Maradona, Antonia Ricci, John Sofos, John Threlfall, Ivar Vågsholm, Emmanuel Vanopdenbosch.

EFSA:

Marta Hugas, Fulvio Barizzone, Alessandro Broglia, Bart Goossens, Michaela Hempen, Renata Leuschner, Ernesto Liebana, Pietro Stella, Luis Vivas-Alegre, Bianca Bottoni.

European Commission (EC):

DG Health and Consumers : Apologies

1. WELCOME AND OPENING OF THE MEETING, GENERAL INTRODUCTION TO EFSA

The Chair (Dr. Marta Hugas) opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the new BIOHAZ Panel 2009-2013. Apologies were received from Herbert Budka, James Hope, Arie Havelaar (for 10 June), Christopher Nguyen-The,

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

EFSA secretariat screened the ADoI and SDoI filled in by the scientific experts invited at this meeting in accordance with EFSA's Policy on Declarations of Interests.

With regard to the ADoI, SDoI and this meeting no other interest than those already declared in the ADoI or in a previous SDoI and screened by EFSA in accordance with its Policy on Declarations of Interests and implementing documents thereof was declared by the experts.

4. ROUND TABLE PRESENTATION OF PANEL MEMBERS AND OF SECRETARIAT

All BIOHAZ Panel members and EFSA staff introduced her/him self in turn.

5. PRESENTATION OF EFSA

A series of general introductory presentations were made giving an overview of the different departments and their responsibilities within EFSA: a) Introduction to the Risk Assessment Directorate and the scientific work of EFSA b) Introduction to the Scientific Committee and Advisory Forum. c) Introduction to the Scientific Cooperation and

Assistance Directorate. d) Communication strategy of EFSA. e) Legal aspects / Declarations of Interest and f) Financial aspects

6. ELECTION OF PANEL CHAIR AND VICE CHAIRS

The election of a chair person and two vice chairs took place following the procedure as established by EFSA. Prof. John Daniel Collins was elected unanimously as Chair. Prof Budka and Dr. Birgit Noerrung were also elected unanimously as vice chairs. As from then the newly elected chair took over from Dr. Hugas as chair.

7. ROLE AND ACTIVITIES OF THE BIOHAZ PANEL.

The Head of the BIOHAZ unit gave a presentation on the mandate and remit of the BIOHAZ panel and the organisation of the work related to meetings and delivering of opinions.

8. MANDATES IN PROGRESS FOR BIOHAZ PANEL

An overview was presented of the on-going mandates in the area of BIOHAZ. Five areas were distinguished: BSE/TSE, Food Borne Zoonoses, Food Hygiene, Animal By Products as well as food safety implications from welfare issues.

9. NEW MANDATES RECEIVED FROM EC

Three new mandates were allocated to BIOHAZ by EFSA.

9.1. REQUEST FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE RELATED TO THE EFSA OPINION ON TRANSFORMATION OF ANIMAL BY-PRODUCTS INTO BIOGAS AND COMPOST

A request from the European Commission (EC) was received asking for technical assistance related to the previous EFSA opinion on the safety vis -à-vis biological risks of biogas and compost treatment standards of animal by-products (EFSA-Q-2003-097). The Panel decided to establish an “*ad hoc*” Working Group. An extension of the deadline will be requested for end of December 2009.

9.2. TECHNICAL ADVICE ON A PROTOCOL FOR ADDITIONAL DATA COLLECTION BASED ON THE EFSA RECOMMENDATIONS ABOUT RESISTANCE TO SCRAPIE IN GOATS IN CYPRUS.

Request from the EC for a technical advice on a protocol for additional data collection, prepared by the TSE CRL (Community Reference Laboratory) following a request from DG SANCO and based on the EFSA recommendations of the Scientific Opinion of the Panel on Biological Hazards on genetic TSE resistance in goats in Cyprus. A working group is to be established. Deadline July 2009.

9.3. TSE RAPID TESTS SENSITIVITY.

A mandate was received from the EC to provide a scientific evaluation of a study carried out by the CRL for TSE on the assessment of the analytical sensitivity of current approved rapid TSE tests for ruminants. The deadline given is 1 September 2009. The Panel recommended to extend the deadline to December 2009 due to the workload.

10. MEETING DATES FOR 2009 – 2010

The dates for the plenary meetings for 2009 and for 2010 was agreed.

July 2009	8 th – 9 th
September 2009	9 th -10 th
October 2009	21 st -22 nd
December 2009	9 th -10 th
January 2010	20 th -21 st
March 2010	10 th -11 th
April 2010	21 st -22 nd
May 2010	26 th -27 th
July 2010	7 th -8 th
September 2010	8 th -9 th
October 2010	20 th -21 st
December 2010	8 th -9 th

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

12. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The meeting closed at 12.00.