

**MINUTES OF THE 53RD PLENARY MEETING OF
THE SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS
HELD IN PARMA ON 8-9-10 DECEMBER 2009**

AGENDA :

- 1. OPENING, APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**
- 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
- 4. NEW REQUESTS TO EFSA/BIOHAZ**
 - 4.1 THE ROLE OF FOOD AS A VEHICLE FOR INFLUENZA A H1N1**
- 5. DRAFT OPINIONS FOR POSSIBLE ADOPTION**
 - 5.1 QUANTIFICATION OF THE RISK POSED BY BROILER MEAT TO HUMAN CAMPYLOBACTERIOSIS IN THE EU**
 - 5.2 THE RISK OF TRANSMISSION OF TSEs VIA SEMEN AND EMBRYOS IN SMALL RUMINANTS (SHEEP AND GOATS)**
 - 5.3 MAINTENANCE OF THE LIST OF QPS MICRO-ORGANISMS INTENTIONALLY ADDED TO FOOD OR FEED (2009 UPDATE)**
 - 5.4 ANALYTICAL SENSITIVITY OF APPROVED TSE RAPID TESTS**
- 6. PROGRESS REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ON THE FOLLOWING MANDATES**
 - 6.1 REVISION OF THE JOINT CEF/BIOHAZ GUIDANCE DOCUMENT ON THE SUBMISSION OF DATA FOR THE EVALUATION OF THE SAFETY AND EFFICACY OF SUBSTANCES FOR THE REMOVAL OF MICROBIAL SURFACE CONTAMINATION OF FOODS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN INTENDED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION**
 - 6.2 IRRADIATION OF FOOD (EFFICACY AND MICROBIOLOGICAL SAFETY)**
 - 6.3 QUANTITATIVE ESTIMATION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACT OF SETTING A NEW TARGET FOR THE REDUCTION OF *SALMONELLA* IN LAYING HENS (*GALLUS GALLUS*)**

- 6.4 QUANTITATIVE ESTIMATION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACT OF SETTING A NEW TARGET FOR THE REDUCTION OF SALMONELLA IN BROILERS (*GALLUS GALLUS*)
- 6.5 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ON THE LINK BETWEEN *SALMONELLA* CRITERIA AT DIFFERENT STAGES OF THE POULTRY PRODUCTION CHAIN
- 6.6 QMRA ON *SALMONELLA* IN SLAUGHTER AND BREEDING PIGS
- 6.7 *CAMPYLOBACTER* IN BROILER MEAT PRODUCTION: CONTROL OPTIONS AND PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES AND/OR TARGETS AT DIFFERENT STAGES OF THE FOOD CHAIN
- 6.8 ABP ALTERNATIVE METHOD FROM EUROPEAN LIME ASSOCIATION (EULA)
- 6.9 PARASITES IN FISHERY PRODUCTS
- 6.10 EVALUATION OF TSE TESTS
- 6.11 EPIDEMIOLOGICAL AND MOLECULAR ASSOCIATION BETWEEN THE ANIMAL AND HUMAN TSE CASES
- 6.12 RISK BASED CONTROL OF BIOGENIC AMINE FORMATION IN FERMENTED FOODS
- 6.13 APPLICATION FOR NEW ALTERNATIVE METHOD OF DISPOSAL OR USE OF ANIMAL BY-PRODUCTS UNDER REGULATION (EC)N. 1774/2002.
- 6.14 RISK ASSESSMENT OF FOOD AND WATER-BORNE VIRUSES (FBV)
- 6.15 USE OF RECYCLED HOT WATER AS DECONTAMINATION TECHNIQUE OF CARCASSES.
- 7. FEED BACK FROM THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE AND FROM OTHER WGS
- 8. STANDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA:
 - 8.1 FOOD SAFETY ISSUES OF INFLUENZA VIRUSES
 - 8.2 EMERGING RISKS
 - 8.3 FEEDBACK FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION
- 9. BIOHAZ NETWORKS
- 10. INFORMATION SESSIONS
 - 10.1 GUIDANCE ON THE USE OF TEMPLATES FOR EFSA'S SCIENTIFIC OUTPUTS
 - 10.2 SC OPINIONS ON TRANSPARENCY AND UNCERTAINTY
 - 10.3 DATA COLLECTION SUPPORT, FOOD CONSUMPTION DATABASE
 - 10.4 LIBRARY SUPPORT FOR PANEL EXPERTS

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

12. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

PARTICIPANTS

Panel Members:

Olivier Andreoletti, Herbert Budka, Sava Buncic, John D Collins, John Griffin, Arie Havelaar, Tine Hald, Günter Klein, James McLauchlin (only 9-10/12/2009), Winy Messens, Christine Müller-Graf, Christophe Nguyen-The, Luisa Peixe, Miguel Prieto Maradona, Antonia Ricci, John Sofos, John Threlfall, Ivar Vågsholm, Emmanuel Vanopdenbosch.

EFSA:

Marta Hugas, Fulvio Barizzzone, Alessandro Broglia, Bart Goossens, Michaela Hempen, Renata Leuschner, Ernesto Liebana, Pablo Romero-Barrios, Pietro Stella, (Scientific staff), and Bianca Bottoni (Administrative staff).

European Commission (EC):

DG Health and Consumers: Marina Marini (8/12/2009) and Josiane Houins-Roulet (09/12/2009)

1. OPENING AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The meeting started at 14:00, and the Chair welcomed everyone. Apologies were received from Birgit Noerrung, James Hope, and James McLauchlin (8/12/2009).

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Declarations of Interests, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest (ADoI) and the Specific Declaration of interest (SDoI) filled in by the experts invited to the present meeting. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the ADoI and SDoI (as well as the ones declared at the beginning of the meeting), please refer to Annexes I of these Minutes

4. NEW REQUESTS TO EFSA/BIOHAZ

4.1. THE ROLE OF FOOD AS A VEHICLE FOR INFLUENZA A H1N1.

A draft Background and Terms of Reference for a self-task were presented and discussed by the Panel Members. The proposal will be sent to EFSA's Mandate Review Committee for consideration.

5. DRAFT OPINIONS FOR POSSIBLE ADOPTIONS

5.1. QUANTIFICATION OF THE RISK POSED BY BROILER MEAT TO HUMAN CAMPYLOBACTERIOSIS IN THE EU

The document was presented by the chair of the Working Group. After a thorough discussion the document was adopted by the Panel.

5.2. THE RISK OF TRANSMISSION OF TSES VIA SEMEN AND EMBRYOS IN SMALL RUMINANTS (SHEEP AND GOATS)

The document was presented by the chair of the Working Group. After a thorough discussion the document was adopted by the Panel.

5.3. MAINTENANCE OF THE LIST OF QPS MICRO-ORGANISMS INTENTIONALLY ADDED TO FOOD OR FEED (2009 UPDATE)

The document was presented by the chair of the Working Group. After a thorough discussion the document was adopted by the Panel.

5.4. ANALYTICAL SENSITIVITY OF APPROVED TSE RAPID TESTS

The document was presented by the chair of the Working Group. After a thorough discussion the document was adopted by the Panel.

6. PROGRESS REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ON THE FOLLOWING MANDATES

6.1. 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

The document was presented by the chair of the Working Group. After a thorough discussion the document was endorsed and will be published for Public Consultation for four weeks. The Panel will subsequently discuss the comments received. Adoption of the guidance is foreseen in March.

6.2. IRRADIATION OF FOOD (EFFICACY AND MICROBIOLOGICAL SAFETY)

The working group last met on 22nd and 23rd October. The deadline has been extended up to December 2010.

6.3. QUANTITATIVE ESTIMATION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACT OF SETTING A NEW TARGET FOR THE REDUCTION OF SALMONELLA IN LAYING HENS (GALLUS GALLUS)

The working group last met on the 17th and 18th of November, and the next meeting will take place on the 14th of January 2010. The Opinion will be tabled for possible adoption at the March's Plenary.

6.4. QUANTITATIVE ESTIMATION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACT OF SETTING A

NEW TARGET FOR THE REDUCTION OF SALMONELLA IN BROILERS (GALLUS GALLUS)

The working group last met on 11th of September, and the next meeting will take place on 16th of December. A Call for tenders has been published with a deadline of 12th of January.

6.5. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ON THE LINK BETWEEN SALMONELLA CRITERIA AT DIFFERENT STAGES OF THE POULTRY PRODUCTION CHAIN

The draft Opinion as prepared by the “ad hoc” working group was tabled and discussed. The working group last met on 30th November, and the next meeting will take place on 5th of January 2010. The Opinion will be presented for adoption at the March’s Plenary.

6.6. QMRA ON SALMONELLA IN SLAUGHTER AND BREEDING PIGS

The Final report from the contracted consortium has been submitted to EFSA on 30th November. The working group last met on 7/8 December, and the next meeting will take place on 12/13 January 2010. The Opinion will be presented for possible adoption at the March Plenary.

6.7. CAMPYLOBACTER IN BROILER MEAT PRODUCTION: CONTROL OPTIONS AND PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES AND/OR TARGETS AT DIFFERENT STAGES OF THE FOOD CHAIN

The working group last met on 20th November, and the next meeting will take place on 26/27 January 2010.

6.8. ABP ALTERNATIVE METHOD FROM EUROPEAN LIME ASSOCIATION (EuLA)

Following a suggestion from the WG, a letter requesting clarification on the mixing device used in the experimental validation has been sent to EuLA.

6.9. PARASITES IN FISHERY PRODUCTS

The draft Opinion was tabled and discussed. The working group last met on 26th November, and the next meeting will take place on 15th January. The Opinion will be presented for possible adoption at the March 2010 Plenary.

6.10. EVALUATION OF TSE TESTS

The last meeting of the working group was held on 18th of November. The reports on the pre-evaluation stage of the two TSE tests under evaluation were forwarded for assessment to EFSA by the JRC-IRMM and discussed at the WG meeting. EFSA will transmit to the Commission the final recommendations following the pre-evaluation of the tests.

6.11. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL AND MOLECULAR ASSOCIATION BETWEEN THE ANIMAL AND HUMAN TSES

This is a joint mandate to EFSA and to ECDC. A first WG will be held on 9th February 2010. An extension of the deadline to end of 2010 has been requested from the European Commission.

6.12. RISK BASED CONTROL OF BIOGENIC AMINE FORMATION IN FERMENTED FOODS

A bibliographic review is currently ongoing. An “ad hoc” WG will be established in January 2010.

6.13. APPLICATION FOR NEW ALTERNATIVE METHOD OF DISPOSAL OR USE OF ANIMAL BY-PRODUCTS UNDER REGULATION (EC) N. 1774/2002.

There was nothing new to report since the last plenary meeting.

6.14. RISK ASSESSMENT OF FOOD AND WATER-BORNE VIRUSES (FBV)

The composition of the working group was discussed and agreed by the Chair of the WG and the Chair of the Panel. A first WG is being organised for the 5th of February 2010.

6.15. USE OF RECYCLED HOT WATER AS DECONTAMINATION TECHNIQUE OF CARCASSES

The Panel decided to establish an “ad hoc” working group. The WG chair has been appointed.

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

The last meeting of the SC was held on 17th November. The minutes of that meeting are available on the EFSA website (<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/sc091117.htm>).

8. STANDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

8.1. FOOD SAFETY ISSUES OF INFLUENZA VIRUSES

The Panel is keeping a watching brief on the situation. There have been no indications of food safety concerns.

8.2. EMERGING RISKS

Nothing new to report.

8.3. FEEDBACK FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

The feedback from the EC was deferred to the next Plenary meeting in January 2010.

9. BIOHAZ NETWORKS

Nothing new to report.

10. INFORMATION SESSIONS

10.1. GUIDANCE ON THE USE OF TEMPLATES FOR EFSA'S SCIENTIFIC OUTPUTS

A presentation was given to the Panel by the SCO Unit, including the presentation of the new EFSA Journal. The Panel members had the opportunity to discuss several issues after the presentation.

10.2. SC OPINIONS ON TRANSPARENCY AND UNCERTAINTY

A presentation was given to the Panel by the HoU of SCAF. The Panel members had the opportunity to discuss several issues after the presentation.

10.3. DATA COLLECTION SUPPORT, FOOD CONSUMPTION DATABASE

A presentation was given to the Panel by DATEX Unit. The Panel members had the opportunity to discuss several issues after the presentation.

10.4. LIBRARY SUPPORT FOR PANEL EXPERTS

Discussion on this topic was deferred to the next Panel meeting in January.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other issues were raised for discussion.

12. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The meeting closed at 15.00.

ANNEX I

INTERESTS AND ACTIONS RESULTING FROM THE SCREENING OF ADoI OR SDoIs

CONFLICT LEVEL B: In the SDoI filled for the present meeting Dr. Tine Hald declared the following interest for the agenda item “Report on the **QMRA ON SALMONELLA IN SLAUGHTER AND BREEDING PIGS**”: She is part of the consortium that won the research grant (article 36) entitles "Quantitative Microbial Risk Assessment of Salmonella in Slaughter and Breeder Pigs". The work is funded by the EU commission through EFSA.

In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Declarations of Interests and Implementing documents thereof, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, the interest above was deemed to represent a conflict of Interest (level B). Pursuant to EFSA’s Procedure on Identifying and Handling Declarations of Interest, the said expert incurs the limitations identified under point C.III.b1. That is, she did not take part in the discussions on this agenda item.