

EFSA Pre-Accession Seminar on Microbial Risk Assessment

Zagreb, Croatia, 26-27 November

Draft agenda

This seminar is organized within the EFSA Pre-Accession Programme 2008 for Turkey, Croatia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia financed by the European Commission under the IPA Component. Introduction to the microbial risk assessment carried out by EFSA as well as an in-depth overview on the risk assessment of mycotoxins in food and feed will be presented by scientists from EFSA BIOHAZ and CONTAM panels. Reports from the Member States on their experience as well as presentations from the Candidate Countries are foreseen. The representatives from the competent authorities of the three beneficiary countries will participate in this meeting.

Wednesday 26 th November 2008	
11.00 – 11.15	Welcome by the Croatian authorities, Croatian Food Agency
11.15 – 11.50	Welcome speech and Presentation on EFSA and its role in the EU Enlargement by Prof. Milan Pogačnik , Member of EFSA's Management Board, Dean of the Veterinary Faculty at the University of Ljubljana
11.50– 12.25	Risk assessment of microbiological hazards at EU level: the role and activities of BIOHAZ Panel by Dr. Eirini Tsigarida , Senior Scientific Officer, Biological Hazards Unit, EFSA
12.25– 13.00	Presentations on the work and organization on microbial food safety in Croatia, Croatian Food Agency
13.00 – 14.15	Lunch break
14.15 – 15.00	Microbiological Risk Assessment in The Netherlands: Optimizing the gain in public health at reasonable costs by Dr. Benno ter Kuile , Office for Risk Assessment, Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority, Den Haag, The Netherlands, Member of the MRA Network of BIOHAZ
15.00 – 15.45	Assessment of the safety of microorganisms introduced deliberately in the food chain: Qualified Presumption of Safety (QPS) by Prof. Pier Sandro Cocconcelli , Istituto di Microbiologia, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Piacenza, Italy, Centro Ricerche Biotecnologiche, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Cremona, Member of the WG of the BIOHAZ Panel on QPS
15.45 – 16.00	Coffee break
16.00-16.45	The BIOHAZ Panel perspective on food microbiology and hygiene by Dr. Eirini Tsigarida , Senior Scientific Officer, Biological Hazards Unit, EFSA
16.45-17.15	Questions and comments
20.00	Dinner

Thursday 27 th November 2008	
09.30 – 10.15	Presentations on the work on mycotoxins in food in Turkey by Dr. Betül Vazgeçer , Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, General Directorate of Protection and Control, Feed and Food Registration Services Department, Food Codex Division
10.15 – 10.45	The work of the EFSA Panel on contaminants in the food chain – CONTAM risk assessment on aflatoxins in almonds, hazelnuts and pistachios by Diane Benford , Food Standards Agency, UK, Member of the CONTAM Panel
10.45 – 11.15	Coffee break
11.15 – 11.45	Presentations on the work and organization of microbial food safety in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia by Dr. Marina Popovska-Domazetova , Director of the Food Directorate, Ministry of Health
11.45 - 12.15	An overview of the current risk assessments of <i>Salmonella</i> : from farm to table by Dr. Eirini Tsigarida , Senior Scientific Officer, Biological Hazards Unit, EFSA
12.15 – 12.30	General discussions and exchange of information.
12.30 – 12.45	Conclusions by Prof. Milan Pogačnik , Member of EFSA's Management Board, Dean of the Veterinary Faculty at the University of Ljubljana
12.45 – 14.00	Lunch