



**MINUTES OF THE 13<sup>TH</sup> PLENARY MEETING OF THE EFSA SCIENTIFIC  
COMMITTEE HELD ON 21-22 JUNE 2005**

(adopted by written procedure on 19 August 2005)

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**PARTICIPANTS**

*Scientific Committee (SC):*

Susan Barlow, Andrew Chesson, John D. Collins, Tito H. Fernandes, Anthony R. Hardy, Bo O. Jansson, Ada G.A.C. Knaap (Vice-Chair), Harry Kuiper, Pierre F.G. Le Neindre (Vice-Chair), Vittorio Silano (Chair), Philippe Vannier and Josep Vives-Rego

*Representative*

Andreu Palou (NDA)

*European Food Safety Authority (EFSA):*

Marie-Noëlle Costa (Administrative Secretary of the SC), Bart Goossens (Scientific Co-ordinator of the BSE/TSE Unit)<sup>1</sup>, Marta Hugas (Scientific Co-ordinator of the BIOHAZ Panel), Herman Koëter (Deputy Executive Director and Director of Science)<sup>2</sup>, Djien Liem (Scientific Co-ordinator of the SC), Suzy Renckens (Scientific Co-ordinator of the GMO Panel), Pilar Rodriguez-Iglesias (Scientific Co-ordinator of the NDA Panel), Valérie Rolland (Assistant Scientific Co-ordinator of the SC), Chris Totte (Administrative Assistant of the SC)

*European Commission (EC):*

Michael Walsh (DG Health and Consumer Protection /Unit D5 - Relations with the EFSA)

*Bureau van Dijk Management Consultants/Arcadia International*

Dominique Spaey and Bill Vandaele

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<sup>1</sup> Present on 21 June for agenda item 5

<sup>2</sup> Present on 22 June

## **1 OPENING, APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Albert Flynn and Josef Schlatter. The NDA Panel was represented by Andreu Palou.

## **2 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

The agenda was adopted as proposed.

## **3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Tony Hardy declared an interest in the Interface RA-RM (activity discussed under agenda item 8.4). Harry Kuiper declared an interest in the EMRISK project (activity discussed under agenda item 8.4). No other declarations of interest were made beyond those already made in the annual declarations of interest.

## **4 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF A DRAFT OPINION ON EXPOSURE ASSESSMENTS AT EFSA AS PREPARED BY THE EXPOSURE WORKING GROUP**

The rapporteur introduced the changes incorporated in the draft opinion since the discussions of the Scientific Committee at its 12<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting. The revised draft was discussed and a few modifications were proposed to clarify the Scientific Committee's advice in relation to assessments of dietary exposures to be carried out by the Scientific Panels and Scientific Committee. The Scientific Committee adopted the opinion as prepared by the Exposure Assessment Working Group subject to incorporation of the modifications as suggested by the Committee. The full opinion can be found at [http://www.efsa.eu.int/science/sc\\_committee/sc\\_opinions/1028\\_en.html](http://www.efsa.eu.int/science/sc_committee/sc_opinions/1028_en.html).

## **5 EFSA EVALUATION**

The Chair welcomed Dominique Spaey and Bill Vandaele of Bureau Van Dijk/Arcadia International. Mr. Spaey thanked the Members of the Scientific Committee for their contributions to the EFSA Evaluation as provided so far.

Mr Spaey and Mr. Vandaele explained the objectives and the approach taken in the framework of the EFSA Evaluation and informed the Scientific Committee about the way they would like to further involve the Scientific Panels and Scientific Committee in the Evaluation process.

During the exchange of views following, Mr. Spaey and Mr. Vandaele answered questions from the Members of the Committee about the scope of the Evaluation and the questionnaire that was sent to the stakeholders as well as to the members of the Scientific Committee and the EFSA staff.

The Scientific Committee expressed their willingness to take part in the interviews as requested by the evaluators.

## **6 ORGANISATION OF A MEETING TO PRESENT THE WORK PROGRAMME OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE TO RESEARCH ORGANISATIONS IN EU MEMBER STATES**

The Scientific Committee discussed a proposal of the Chair and the Vice-Chairs to present the work programme of the Scientific Committee to research organisations in the various Member States. The Chair and Vice-Chairs will update their proposal taking into consideration the comments of the Members of the Committee.

## **7 GENERAL FEEDBACK FROM EFSA**

### **7.1 General developments**

Valérie Rolland provided a progress report on the public consultation of the draft opinion on a harmonised approach for the risk assessment of compounds that are both genotoxic and carcinogenic. The GENTOX WG will consider the comments received and will prepare a new draft of the opinion for final adoption by the Scientific Committee, likely at its plenary meeting in October 2005.

The risk assessment approach as described in the GENTOX opinion of the Scientific Committee will be presented at an international conference that will be organised by EFSA in collaboration with the World Health Organization and with support of ILSI Europe. This conference will take place in Brussels from 16-18 November 2005.

### **7.2 New mandates and Working Groups of the Scientific Committee**

The SC Secretariat informed the Scientific Committee that it can soon receive the mandates for the self-tasking activities in the area of safety of botanicals and botanical preparations and of animal welfare. The Chairs of the Scientific Panels were invited to nominate members of their Panels for these new working groups.

### **7.3 Feedback from meetings of the Advisory Forum and the Management Board**

Herman Koëter informed the Scientific Committee about the following issues discussed at meetings of the Advisory Forum of 2-3 June and the Management Board of 20-21 June of relevance for the Scientific Committee and Panels:

- The Advisory Forum considered, among other issues, the GENTOX opinion (the intended planning of an International Conference was very much appreciated) and the Scientific Colloquium on the development of the EU Food Consumption Database. As to EFSA's work programme for 2006, EFSA is seeking input from the Advisory Forum and the Scientific Panels and Committee (see also 7.5).
- A new Ad-hoc Working Group of the Advisory Forum on the Input of National Authorities composed of experts of national authorities, members of the Scientific Panels and Committee and EFSA staff has been created to prepare an advice to the Advisory Forum on how to improve the exchange of information between EFSA and the National Food Authorities. The first meeting took place on 27<sup>th</sup> May and the next meeting is planned for 14 October.
- The Management Board considered, among other issues, EFSA's recruitment plan (EFSA document MB 20.06.2005-5) and the re-establishment of the Scientific Panels and Committee in 2006 (updated document to be prepared for MB's October meeting). At its meeting, the Board approved the establishment of a new Scientific Panel on Plant Health before the end of 2005 and approved EFSA's proposal to create a Stakeholder Consultative Platform.
- Herman Koëter informed the Scientific Committee also about progress made in inviting the permanent representations of the various Member States to co-ordinate the nomination of institutions for the creation of a network in the framework of Article 36. EFSA hopes to have the list established in the autumn of 2005. The Scientific Committee and Panels will receive a copy of the letter to the permanent representations.

### **7.4 Renewal of the Scientific Committee and Scientific Panels in 2006**

Herman Koëter invited the Scientific Committee to provide input on EFSA's document for the Management Board meeting of October 2005.

### **7.5 Preparation of input from the SC on EFSA's workplan 2006**

Pierre Le Neindre and Tito Fernandes offered to start preparing the Scientific Committee's advice for EFSA's work programme of 2006. The input would focus on cross cutting issues. The Committee agreed to discuss its input into EFSA's work programme for 2006 at the plenary meetings of September and October.

## **8 REPORT BACK FROM SCIENTIFIC PANELS AND SCIENTIFIC WORKING GROUPS**

### **8.1 Possible ways to further improve the logistics of meeting in Parma**

The Scientific Committee considered the logistics of meeting in Parma and the experiences of the Scientific Panels gained so far. In response to the suggestions made by the Panels, Herman Koëter announced that the scientific secretariats will make an inventory of the issues raised by the Panels and that sister agencies will be contacted to verify how other European institutions have dealt with similar issues. EFSA will then prepare a document including some proposals to be shared with the Committee for discussion at a future plenary meeting.

### **8.2 Needs for additional in-house support and outsourcing of work**

The Scientific Committee considered a draft discussion paper on needs for additional in-house support and outsourcing of work in the risk assessment area. The document, jointly prepared by Philippe Vannier and Dan Collins, pointed at the following major items:

- encouraging EFSA to provide specialised expertise in specific scientific areas e.g. statistical modeling;
- encouraging EFSA to maintain expert support in the area of quantitative risk assessment;
- to ensure that EFSA's in-house support staff receive adequate training.

Herman Koëter expressed its appreciation for the draft and emphasised that it was indeed EFSA's intention to recruit scientists to provide the requested support, however, further recruitment could not take place before the end of 2005. As an alternative, EFSA could provide the requested support via outsourcing of work to external experts.

### **8.3 Report back from Scientific Panels**

The Chairs of the Scientific Panels provided a brief update of the issues the panels are currently dealing with (see the minutes of the plenary meetings of the Scientific Panels). There were no issues raised that would need further discussion by the Scientific Committee.

### **8.4 Progress report from SC Working Groups**

#### *Emerging Risks WG*

The Chair of the EMRISK WG updated the Committee about the work of the contractor carried out under the WG's supervision. The final report will become available in February 2006. The Chair of

the Scientific Committee asked for the possibility to provide input into the project. The Committee agreed that the contractor would report back on their progress at the September plenary.

*Exposure WG*

The WG focuses on the preparation of a draft opinion on how to deal with uncertainties in exposure assessment.

*Transparency WG*

Draft contributions are being prepared and will be discussed at the next meeting of the WG of 1 July 2005.

*Interface RA-RM*

The WG is preparing a guidance document for adoption by the Scientific Committee at its next plenary meeting. The draft guidance document will be circulated for comment in writing.

## **9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Scientific Committee agreed on the following dates for plenary meetings in Parma: 15/16 September, 17/18 October and 12/13 December.

The Chair closed the meeting on 22 June at 12:30.