

Scientific Committee
Minutes of the 1st meeting of the Standing Working Group on Genotoxicity
Held on 10 October 2014, Parma, Italy

(Agreed on 26 November 2014)

Participants

- **Working Group Experts:**

Eugenia Dogliotti (chair), Gabriele Aquilina, Riccardo Crebelli, Metka Filipič, Rainer Gürtler, Pasquale Mosesso, Hans Verhagen, Christiane Vleminckx*.

- **EFSA:**

Daniela Maurici (SCER Unit, coordinator of the WG), Maria Vittoria Vettori (FEED Unit), Annamaria Rossi and Rositsa Serafimova** (FIP Unit), Andrea Terron**, Anja Friel**, Juan Parra Morte** (PRAS Unit)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Claudia Bolognesi, Peter Farmer and Hanspeter Naegeli.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director implementing this Policy regarding Declarations of Interests², EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest and the Specific Declaration of interest filled in by the experts invited to the present meeting. No conflicts of interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting were identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of interest at the beginning of this meeting.

¹ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules.pdf>

* Participated via teleconference

** Participated only for agenda item 7

4. Brief introduction to the mandate of the Genotoxicity standing Working Group

Daniela Maurici briefly introduced the mandate of the Scientific Committee standing WG on Genotoxicity.

The WG has the mandate to:

- Provide support to the different EFSA Units/Panels in the evaluation of genotoxicity data sets/scientific literature for assessments where different views have been expressed in the respective Panels or within the same Panel,
- Provide advice on the interpretation of equivocal genotoxicity test results,
- Provide advice on the interpretation of the genotoxicity data, e.g. in the light of the genotoxicity testing strategy opinion (EFSA, 2011).

The support will be in the form of an *ad hoc* overall conclusion to be considered by the Unit/Panel that has requested the advice. The request should be put forward by the Chair(s) of the Panel(s) in time before finalisation of the opinion.

5. Scientific topics for discussion

The agenda of the meeting included 4 items where advice of the standing WG was requested:

- a. Question in relation to Brilliant Black as feed additive;
- b. Question on the relevance of genotoxicity testing for living microorganisms;
- c. Question on the draft strategy for the assessment of terminal residues of pesticide active substances in food and feed commodities;
- d. Question on the relevance and appropriateness of the yeast Comet assay to detect genotoxic potential of chemicals.

For each of the items on the agenda there was a presentation of the specific question by EFSA colleagues or the expert of the panel that requested the advice. The WG discussed the different data submitted for consultation and a conclusion was drawn for each of the questions raised. Feedback will be given by the secretariat of the WG to the respective requestors who may consider the advice given by the WG in order to finalise their work.

During the discussion, it was highlighted that the Scientific Committee guidance on genotoxicity testing strategies, published in 2011, needs to be updated to include some consideration of the carcinogenicity studies in the evaluation of the genotoxicity data of a substance. The WG will discuss this proposal in more detail at the next meeting.

6. Any Other Business

Nothing to report.

The date of the next meeting will be discussed once new requests for advice are received by the secretariat of the Scientific Committee WG.