



PESTICIDE PEER REVIEW UNIT

Scientific Panel on Plant Protection Products and their Residues

Minutes of the 115th Plenary meeting

Held on 7 April 2022 (webconference)

(Agreed on 25 April, 2022)

Participants

■ Panel Members:

Paulien Adriaanse, Annette Aldrich, Tamara Coja, Sabine Duquesne, Andreas Focks, Antonio Hernandez-Jerez (chair), Marina Marinovich, Maurice Millet, Olavi Pelkonen, Silvia Pieper, Aaldrik Tiktak, Christopher Topping, Anneli Widenfalk, Martin Wilks, Gerrit Wolterink.

■ Hearing Experts:

Not Applicable

■ European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

Not Applicable

■ EFSA:

PREV Unit: Maria Arena, Marco Binaglia, Anna Castoldi, Arianna Chiusolo, Federica Crivellente, Isabella De Magistris, Laia Herrero, Frederique Istace, Dimitra Kardassi, Aude Kienzler, Anna Lanzoni, Alberto Linguadoca, Christopher Lythgo, Iris Mangas, Laura Padovani, Martina Panzarea, Juan Parra Morte, Francisco Rocha, Simone Rizzato, Rositsa Serafimova, Nikolaos Tagaras, Manuela Tiramani, Laura Villamar

PLANTS: Anja Friel, Renata Leuschner, Andrea Mioc

■ Observers:

Not Applicable

■ Others:

Not Applicable

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Philippe Berny. Annette Aldrich and Andreas Focks could not attend the entire meeting.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Scientific Committee/Scientific Panel/ Members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Panel members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process. At the beginning of the meeting an interest related to agenda item 6.1 was declared orally by Tamara Coja, as team member of the beneficiaries for an EFSA grant in support to the development of the PPR Panel output. The Chair asked Tamara to disconnect from the web-conference during the agenda item 6.1.

4. On-going activities of the Scientific Committee

The chair updated the Panel on a number of activities of the Scientific Committee (SC), and in particular on:

- Revision of the benchmark dose (BMD) guidance document
- Draft protocol for opinion on fluoride in food and drinking water
- Draft review of the existing HBGVs for copper and its exposure assessment from all sources
- Food and feed safety vulnerabilities in a circular economy: preliminary results of an outsourced project
- Possible review of the GD on the Margin of Exposure (MOE) approach
- PoD for reasons other than adversity – Biomarkers of effect
- Evaluation of existing GD for their adequacy for the food and feed R.A. of microorganisms obtained through SynBio

Moreover, the chair reported the feedback received from the SC on the work programme of PPR Panel for the next years.

5. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion and/or possible endorsement

5.1. Update on the Working Group 'IATA DNT - VGSC AOP'

The Panel was updated on the status of the project regarding the appraisal, data extraction, creation of AOP and Key event relationships (KERs) in AOP Wiki. The Panel was also informed on the timelines and planning for the finalisation of the output.

5.2 Development of Adverse Outcome Pathways relevant for the identification of substances having endocrine disruptors properties (EFSA-Q-2019-00492)

The Panel was updated on plan and timelines of the project. In particular, the related outsourced activity will be finalised by end of August 2022 while the adoption by the Panel is foreseen in December 2022.

5.3 Common metabolites to Pyrethroids (EFSA-Q-2021-00118)

The Panel was informed on the progress for the first 2 steps of the terms of reference in the Commission mandate, i.e., preparatory work and toxicological characterisation. The planning and the possible items to be discussed at the next Working Group (WG) meeting were also presented.

5.4 Request for a Statement on the design and conduct of groundwater monitoring studies supporting groundwater exposure assessments of pesticides (EFSA-Q-2021-00788)

The terms of reference of the mandate were presented. The public consultation on the paper by Gimsing et al. (2019) closed on 8th March. The Panel was updated about the number of comments received and main contributors. The Panel was also informed on the progress made regarding the establishment of the WG. Aaldrik Tiktak was appointed as chair of the WG via written procedure.

6. Other scientific topics for information and/or discussion

6.1. Use and reporting historical control data (HCD) for regulatory studies

EFSA presented the timelines and scope of the one-year partnering grant (GP/EFSA/ENCO/2020/02) with public institutions from two Member States (AGES and BPI) as preparatory work on how to report, use and interpret

historical control data in (eco)toxicity studies. As captured in the submitted deliverable 1, information obtained from the screening of literature on HCD as well as publicly available databases on HCD (activity 1) and from a survey submitted to stakeholders (activity 2) were presented to the Panel.

6.2. European stakeholders' workshop on new approach methodologies (NAMs) for developmental neurotoxicity (DNT) and their use in the regulatory risk assessment of chemicals

The Panel was informed on the main goal and outcomes of the DNT workshop held in March 2022. In particular, main gaps and steps forward were identified and a roadmap of future activities presented.

6.3. RIVM Report on data gaps in the currently required toxicological database for pesticides with respect to neurodegenerative diseases (2021)

The Panel was informed about a project run at RIVM on neurodegenerative diseases upon request from the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality. The main conclusions and recommendations were discussed.

7. AOB

The Panel was informed that the PPR plenary meeting (open to observers) in November was moved to the 7th of December. Moreover, the Panel was also informed that the meeting in September, 14th, will be a physical meeting.