

# 8<sup>th</sup> Working Group meeting on azole-resistant *Aspergillus* – risk factors, prevention and control



18-19 March 2024

13:00-17:00 / 9:00-13:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 05 April 2024

**Location:** Physical, Parma, EFSA

**Attendees:**

- Working Group Members:  
Tamara COJA (Chair), Henrik Elvang JENSEN, Thomas KUHL, Sijmen SCHOUSTRAS, Frank SCHREIBER<sup>1</sup>, Paul VERWEIJ
- Hearing Experts<sup>2</sup>:  
Not applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:  
Teresa LETTIERI (JRC)
- EFSA:  
Dimitra KARDASSI (PREV), Alexandra PITI (PREV), Pietro STELLA (BIOHAW), Andras SZORADI (PREV)
- Others:  
Not applicable

## I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apology for absence was received from Frank SCHREIBER, who could not join the second day of the meeting.

## II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

## III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence<sup>3</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management,<sup>4</sup> EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group 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, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> Attended only the first day of the meeting.

<sup>2</sup> As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/policy\\_independence.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/competing\\_interest\\_management\\_17.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf)



#### **IV. Actions from previous meeting & reporting back from other ToRs**

The state of play on the actions from the previous meeting was reviewed. Update was given on the progress of ToR7 and the link with the work under ToR5.

#### **V. Methodology for the selection of relevant azoles for further assessment**

After a fruitful discussion, the Working Group members agreed on the methodology for the selection of relevant azoles for further assessment.

#### **VI. Progress on the work on VMPs**

Henrik Elvang JENSEN gave an update on the work on VMPs, as well as the related uncertainties.

#### **VII. Progress on the work on pesticides**

Thomas KUHL gave a status update on progress made along with a proposal for finalising the methodology.

#### **VIII. Progress on the work on biocides**

Frank SCHREIBER gave a status update on progress made along with the uncertainties he encountered while writing the chapter on azole biocides.

#### **IX. Closure of the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the meeting**

The Chair thanked the constructive and fruitful debate and suggested to continue the reflection and discussion the next day.

#### **X. Data gaps & uncertainties**

The Working Group clarified and amended the proposed data gaps.

#### **XI. Discussing drafted sections in Annex E**

The Working Group revisited the structure of the report to be delivered and discussed how to address the questions posed in the problem formulation.

#### **XII. Next steps**

Next steps and actions were assigned and agreed throughout the meeting.

#### **XIII. Any other business & date of next meeting**

The next Working Group meeting will take place as an online meeting on 17 April 2024.

#### **XIV. Closure of the meeting**

The Chair thanked the active participation of Working Group members throughout the meeting and closed the meeting.

# 7<sup>th</sup> Working Group meeting on azole-resistant *Aspergillus* – risk factors, prevention and control



31 January 2024

13:00-17:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 9 February 2024

**Location:** Webconference

**Attendees:**

- Working Group Members:  
Tamara COJA (Chair), Henrik Elvang JENSEN, Thomas KUHL, Frank SCHREIBER, Paul VERWEIJ, Sijmen SCHOUSTRA
- Hearing Experts<sup>1</sup>:  
Not applicable
- EFSA:  
Dimitra KARDASSI (PREV), Alexandra PITI (PREV), Andras SZORADI (PREV)
- Others:  
Not Applicable

## I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apology for absence was received.

## II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

## III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence<sup>2</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management,<sup>3</sup> EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group 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, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

## IV. Actions from previous meeting

The state of play on the actions from the previous meeting was reviewed.

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<sup>1</sup> As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/policy\\_independence.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/competing\\_interest\\_management\\_17.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf)



## **V. Presentation of appropriate PNEC values and assessment factor for resistance selection in *A. fumigatus***

Paul VERWEIJ gave a presentation on the progress made with respect to identifying what would be the most appropriate assessment factor to use when calculating PNEC values.

## **VI. Progress on the work on pesticides**

Thomas KUHL gave a status update on the progress made with respect to the azole pesticides considered under ToR5.

## **VII. Progress on the work on biocides**

Frank SCHREIBER gave a status update on the progress made with respect to the azole biocides considered under ToR5.

## **VIII. Progress on the work on VMPs**

Henrik JENSEN gave a status update on his contribution for VMPs under ToR5.

## **IX. Comparison of highest residue values with PNECs – summary and discussion**

The most appropriate assessment factors to use when calculating PNEC values was discussed and agreed. In the area of pesticides, the next step will be to compare the highest residue values with the PNEC values.

## **X. Next steps**

Next steps and actions were assigned and agreed throughout the meeting.

## **XI. Any other business & date of next meeting**

The next Working Group meeting will take place as a physical meeting on 18-19 March 2024.

## **XII. Closure of the meeting**

The Chair thanked the active participation of Working Group members throughout the meeting and closed the meeting.

# 6<sup>th</sup> Working Group meeting on azole-resistant *Aspergillus* – risk factors, prevention and control



12-13 December 2023

13:00-17:00 / 9:00-13:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 21 December 2023

**Location:** Webconference

**Attendees:**

- Working Group Members:  
Tamara COJA (Chair), Henrik Elvang JENSEN, Thomas KUHL, Frank SCHREIBER, Paul VERWEIJ
- Hearing Experts<sup>1</sup>:  
Not applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:  
Isabella Sanseverino (JRC), Teresa Lettieri (JRC)
- EFSA:  
Dimitra KARDASSI (PREV), Alexandra PITI (PREV), Pietro STELLA (BIOHAW), Andras SZORADI (PREV)
- Others:  
Not Applicable

## I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apology for absence received from Sijmen SCHOUSTRA.

## II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted with the change that Paul VERWEIJ wished to present his work on PNEC calculations. The presentation was allotted to the JRC timeslot.

## III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence<sup>2</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management,<sup>3</sup> EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group 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, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

## IV. Actions from previous meeting

The state of play on the actions from the previous meeting was reviewed.

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<sup>1</sup> As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/policy\\_independence.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/competing\\_interest\\_management\\_17.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf)



## **V. Activity of azoles and non-azole substances against *A. fumigatus* in clinical and environmental samples – experiments performed by the JRC**

JRC presented the outcome of the experiments they have performed on some substances. The discussion focused on how the results can be considered for the work undertaken in this Working Group for ToR5.

## **VI. Debriefing from other ToRs and meetings with relevance to ToRs 5&6**

EFSA reported back from the different meetings they have attended in relation to this joint mandate. Information relevant to ToRs 5&6 was shared and discussed.

## **VII. Progress on the work on pesticides**

Thomas KUHL gave a status update on the progress made with respect to the azole pesticides considered under ToR5.

## **VIII. Progress on the work on biocides**

Frank SCHREIBER gave a status update on the progress made with respect to the azole biocides considered under ToR5.

## **IX. Feedback on conclusions reached for VMPs under ToR1**

Henrik JENSEN gave a status update on the conclusions reached for VMPs under ToR1 and how this impacts the assessment under ToR5.

## **X. Closure of the 1st day of the meeting**

The Chair thanked the group for the constructive and fruitful debate and suggested to continue the reflection and discussion the next day.

## **XI. How to record uncertainties, data gaps & research needs?**

Based on past EFSA outputs, the Chair presented some options on how to capture identified uncertainties, data gaps & research needs in the final report from this Working Group. As an outcome of the discussion a format was agreed on how best to present this information in the final report.

## **XII. 'Heat Map' for visualising results – an idea**

The Chair presented an example of a possible 'heat map' for visualising complex results in a simplified manner.

## **XIII. Discussing drafted sections in Annex E**

The Working Group reviewed some sections of the draft report. Roles and responsibilities for drafting the missing sections were agreed.



#### **XIV. Next steps**

Next steps and actions were assigned and agreed throughout the meeting.

#### **XV. Any other business & date of next meeting**

The next Working Group meeting will take place as an online meeting on 31 January 2024, and the one after as a physical meeting on 18-19 March 2024.

#### **XVI. Closure of the meeting**

The Chair thanked the active participation of Working Group members throughout the meeting and closed the meeting.

# 5<sup>th</sup> Working Group meeting on azole-resistant *Aspergillus* – risk factors, prevention and control



6-7 November 2023

13:00-17:00 / 9:00-13:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 14 November 2023

**Location:** EFSA - Parma (Meeting Room M03)

**Attendees:**

- Working Group Members:  
Tamara COJA (Chair), Henrik Elvang JENSEN, Thomas KUHL, Sijmen SCHOUSTRA,  
Frank SCHREIBER, Paul VERWEIJ
- Hearing Experts<sup>1</sup>:  
Not applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:  
Not applicable
- EFSA:  
Dimitra KARDASSI (PREV), Pietro STELLA (BIOHAW), Andras SZORADI (PREV)
- Others:  
Not Applicable

## I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

## II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

## III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence<sup>2</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management,<sup>3</sup> EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group 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, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

Tamara COJA (Chair) declared that she simply resubmitted her previous ADoI to EFSA and that no new interest was declared.

## IV. Actions from previous meeting

The state of play on the actions from the previous meeting was reviewed.

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<sup>1</sup> As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/policy\\_independence.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/competing\\_interest\\_management\\_17.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf)





## **V. Debriefing from the ToR4 meeting held on 25 October 2023**

EFSA reported back from the ToR4 meeting held on 25 October 2023 with relevance to ToRs 5&6. It was agreed that EFSA will act as a bridge between the ECDC Expert Panel on ToR4 and the EFSA Working Group on ToRs 5&6.

## **VI. Debriefing from the ASPAR\_KR workshop held on 1-3 November 2023**

Sijmen SCHOUSTRA reported back from the ASPAR\_KR workshop held on 1-3 November 2023 in Wageningen, with specific focus on new information/research on hotspots linked to azole-resistant *Aspergillus fumigatus*.

## **VII. Normalisation of data on the use of azole pesticides (based on AgbioInvestor summary)**

EFSA presented the outcome of the normalisation of data (as received from AgbioInvestor) on the use of azole pesticides and how it compares with the normalised sales data on azole pesticides (as collected under ToR1). It was also discussed in which context to best use this data/information.

## **VIII. Questions from the Working Group on the 3-year survey in Denmark (based on progress reports)**

Based on the progress reports received from the Danish Ministry of Environment on a 3-year survey in Denmark (titled: Investigations for environmental hotspots and application practices for azole resistant *Aspergillus fumigatus*), the Working Group reviewed the list of questions to be shared with Prof. Maiken Cavling Arendrup. The intention is to invite Prof. Arendrup (as a Hearing Expert) to the December 2023 meeting of this Working Group to present the conclusions and recommendations of this Danish survey.

## **IX. Progress on the work on pesticides**

Thomas KUHLE gave a status update on progress made along with the assumptions he made while running the methodology agreed for azole pesticides.

## **X. Progress on the work on biocides**

Frank SCHREIBER gave a status update on progress made along with the uncertainties he encountered while further defining the methodology for azole biocides.

## **XI. Closure of the 1st day of the meeting**

The Chair thanked the constructive and fruitful debate and suggested to continue the reflection and discussion the next day.

## **XII. Discussing drafted sections in Annex E**

The Working Group revisited the structure/skeleton of the report to be delivered and made some modifications to the overall structure & headings of the report. Roles and responsibilities for drafting the missing sections were agreed.



### **XIII. Next Steps**

Next steps and actions were assigned and agreed throughout the meeting.

### **XIV. Any other business & date of next meeting**

The next Working Group meeting will take place as an online meeting on 12-13 December 2023, and the one after also as an online meeting on 31 January 2024.

### **XV. Closure of the meeting**

The Chair thanked the active participation of Working Group members throughout the meeting and closed the meeting.

# 4<sup>th</sup> Working Group meeting on azole-resistant *Aspergillus* – risk factors, prevention and control



9-10 October 2023

13:00-17:00 / 14:00-18:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 16 October 2023

**Location:** Webconference

**Attendees:**

- Working Group Members:  
Tamara COJA (Chair), Henrik Elvang JENSEN, Thomas KUHL, Sijmen SCHOUSTRA,  
Frank SCHREIBER, Paul VERWEIJ
- Hearing Experts<sup>1</sup>:  
Not applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:  
Not applicable
- EFSA:  
Dimitra KARDASSI (PREV), Andras SZORADI (PREV)
- Others:  
Not Applicable

## I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

## II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

## III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence<sup>2</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management,<sup>3</sup> EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group 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, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

Dr. Tamara COJA (Chair) declared that she simply resubmitted her previous ADoI to EFSA and that no new interest was declared.

## IV. Actions from previous meeting

The state of play on the actions from the previous meeting was reviewed.

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<sup>1</sup> As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/policy\\_independence.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/competing\\_interest\\_management\\_17.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf)



## **V. Presenting MIC50 values identified from literature**

An introductory presentation on how MIC (Minimum Inhibitory Concentration) testing is done and which definitions are being used was provided. The MIC50 values identified from literature for a series of azole substances was discussed.

## **VI. Presenting an overview of the progress reports from the Danish authorities in connection with the 3-year survey in Denmark**

EFSA presented a summary of the information received from the Danish Ministry of Environment in connection with a 3-year survey in Denmark. The final survey report is expected to be available in December 2023.

## **VII. Proposed methodology to be followed for biocides**

A methodology (similar to the one developed for pesticides) was presented and discussed. At the end of the discussion the Working Group agreed to test the methodology with a handful of biocide products.

## **VIII. Proposed methodology to be followed for VMP**

For the time being the Working Group agreed not to go ahead with the development of a dedicated methodology for VMP. The rationale for that will be explained in the final report. Nevertheless, the Working Group also agreed to revisit this point in case new information/evidence suggest that there is a need for such methodology.

## **IX. Progress on the agreed methodology to be followed for pesticides**

The list of active substances to be considered for the first steps of the methodology has been agreed. It was discussed that only data from uses submitted, evaluated and published can be taken into account.

## **X. Closure of the 1st day of the meeting**

The Chair thanked the constructive and fruitful debate and suggested to continue the reflection and discussion the next day.

## **XI. Outcome of ToR1 (normalisation of sales data for PPP)**

EFSA presented the normalised sales data on pesticides. It was also discussed in which context to best use this data/information.

## **XII. Data on the use of azole pesticides (AgbioInvestor summary)**

EFSA presented additional information/data shared by AgbioInvestor/Kynetec on use of azoles in crop protection. It was agreed to seek for additional information data on some of the non-crop categories.



### **XIII. Problem formulation for ToR5 and ToR6 – discussion on the drafted sections**

Working Group members revisited the structure/skeleton of the final report. The content elaboration for the various sections to be drafted were assigned to the different Working Group members.

### **XIV. Next Steps**

Next steps and actions were assigned and agreed throughout the meeting.

### **XV. Any other business & date of next meeting**

The next Working Group meeting will take place as a physical meeting at EFSA premises on 6-7 November 2023, and the one after as an online meeting on 12-13 December 2023.

### **XVI. Closure of the meeting**

The Chair thanked the active participation of Working Group members throughout the meeting and closed the meeting.

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Working Group meeting on azole-resistant *Aspergillus* – risk factors, prevention and control



14-15 September 2023

13:00-17:00 / 9:00-13:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 22 September 2023

**Location:** Webconference

**Attendees:**

- Working Group Members:  
Tamara COJA (Chair), Henrik Elvang JENSEN, Thomas KUHL, Sijmen SCHOUSTRA,  
Frank SCHREIBER, Paul VERWEIJ
- Hearing Experts<sup>1</sup>:  
Not applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:  
Not applicable
- EFSA:  
Dimitra KARDASSI (PREV), Pietro STELLA (BIOHAW), Andras SZORADI (PREV)
- Others:  
Not Applicable

## I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

## II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

## III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence<sup>2</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management,<sup>3</sup> EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group 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.

## IV. Actions from previous meeting

The state of play on the actions from the previous meeting was reviewed.

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<sup>1</sup> As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/policy\\_independence.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/competing\\_interest\\_management\\_17.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf)



## **V. Update on new literature search and relevant parameters: discuss outcome**

After a brief recap on the search methodology/protocol, the high-level findings of the new literature search were presented and discussed in the Working Group.

## **VI. Outcome of ToR1 - Data on sales (collected by ECHA) and uses of selected compounds (collected by CropLife Europe) and proposal for categorisation of crops (undertaken by the Working Group)**

EFSA presented the updated information collected under ToR1 and the high-level data received from CropLife Europe on use of azoles in horticulture. The Chair then presented a proposal for the categorisation of crops (incl. other crops) from the ToR1 survey linked to pesticides. The discussion focused on how these different data streams can be used to address the ToRs of this Working Group.

The Working Group also discussed whether starting at crop level or at substance level would be the best point of departure and if any criteria can be defined to exclude a particular crop or substance from the overall assessment.

## **VII. Closure of the 1st day of the meeting**

The Chair thanked the constructive and fruitful debate and suggested to continue the reflection and discussion the next day.

## **VIII. Outcome of the evaluations of stability/metabolism data of azoles on the target crops (Article 12 evaluations)**

A methodology for the use of azole residue data for *Aspergillus fumigatus* hotspot assessment was presented and discussed. At the end of the discussion the Working Group agreed to start the assessment at substance, rather than at crop/commodity level and only thereafter to consider the crop/commodity dimension along with other factors and considerations.

## **IX. Problem formulation for ToR5 and ToR6 – discussion on the drafted sections**

Working Group members briefly revisited the problem formulation questions and all members were encouraged to provide their suggested changes/revisions on the formulated questions. The content elaboration for the various sections to be drafted were assigned to the different Working Group members.

## **X. Feedback from Experts' Panel meeting risk assessment (under ToR 4)**

The feedback from the meeting was provided under agenda item 2. The Working Group will provide input to ECDC on environmental hotspots to support their work under ToR4.



## **XI. Next Steps**

Next steps and actions were assigned and agreed throughout the meeting.

## **XII. Any other business & date of next meeting**

The next Working Group meeting is scheduled to take place as an online meeting on 9-10 October 2023. It was also agreed to have the subsequent meeting as a physical meeting at EFSA premises on 6-7 November 2023.

## **XIII. Closure of the meeting**

The Chair thanked the active participation of Working Group members throughout the meeting and closed the meeting.



# 2<sup>nd</sup> Working Group meeting on azole-resistant *Aspergillus* – risk factors, prevention and control



14-15 June 2023

13:00-17:00 / 9:00-13:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 23 June 2023

**Location:** EFSA - Parma (Meeting Room M04 / M08)

**Attendees:**

- Working Group Members:  
Tamara COJA (Chair), Henrik Elvang JENSEN, Thomas KUHL, Sijmen SCHOUSTRA, Frank SCHREIBER, Paul VERWEIJ
- Hearing Experts<sup>1</sup>:  
Jane GILBERT (Carbon Clarity), Laurent OGER (CropLife Europe), Helge SIEROTZKI (Syngenta)
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:  
Teresa LETTIERI (DG JRC), Mark WILLIAMS (DG SANTE)
- ECHA:  
Ales FRONTINI
- EFSA:  
Dimitra KARDASSI (PREV), Pietro STELLA (BIOHAW) Andras SZORADI (PREV)
- Others:  
Not Applicable

## I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

## II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

## III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence<sup>2</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management,<sup>3</sup> EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group 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.

## IV. Actions from previous meeting

Relevant actions from the previous meeting were completed.

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<sup>1</sup> As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/policy\\_independence.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/competing\\_interest\\_management\\_17.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf)



## **V. Update from ToR1 ('Use azole fungicides'): reporting on data collection, overview of responses and next step**

ECHA, as ToR 1 Coordinator, was invited to the Working Group meeting (for this agenda item only) to present the data collected from Members States on azole fungicides, other than as human medicines. The discussion focused on how the collected data can be best used and integrated into the work of this Working Group that is linked to ToR 5 (Risk factors) and ToR 6 (Prevention and Control) of the interagency mandate on azole-resistant *Aspergillus*<sup>4</sup>.

## **VI. Research to prevent/minimise the development of environmental resistance from the use of azole fungicides**

Hearing Experts from CropLife Europe and Syngenta were invited to the Working Group meeting (for this agenda item only) to present the industry view on azole-resistance, along with the activities they have initiated to prevent/minimise the development of azole-resistant *Aspergillus fumigatus* in the environment. In addition, they replied to specific questions from the Working Group during the meeting.

## **VII. Discussion on the drafted sections**

The structure of the Scientific Report was presented and the problem formulation (i.e. questions to be answered) was reviewed and refined by the Working Group.

## **VIII. & IX. Conclusions from the first day & closure of the meeting**

The Chair concluded that further reflection is needed on how the information presented by ECHA can be considered. It was also clarified that should there be a need to report the views of the hearing experts in the final report then this will be clearly distinguished from the opinion of the Working Group.

## **X. Composting practices and their possible impact on azoles-resistant *Aspergillus* development**

A Hearing Expert from Carbon Clarity was invited to the Working Group meeting (for this agenda item only) to answer specific questions from the Working Group on composting practices and their possible impact on azoles-resistance *Aspergillus* development.

## **XI. Data on azole concentrations in surface and ground waters**

The JRC was invited to the Working Group meeting (for this agenda item only) to present their monitoring work on azole concentrations in surface and ground waters under the EU Water Framework Directive. The discussion focused on how the collected data can be used and integrated into the work of this Working Group that is linked to ToR 5 (Risk factors) and ToR 6 (Prevention and Control) of the interagency mandate on azole-resistant *Aspergillus*.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/study-inventory/EFSA-Q-2022-00040>



## **XII. Discussion on the drafted sections (continued)**

The discussion continued on the relevance of the different data streams presented and how they could be used and integrated into the work of this Working Group.

## **XIII. Next Steps**

The planning for the next steps was shared and discussed and tasks were allocated to the Working Group members.

## **XIV. Any other business**

The next Working Group meeting is scheduled to take place on 14-15 September 2023 as an online meeting. It was also agreed to have the subsequent meeting sometime in October 2023.

## **XV. Closure of the meeting**

The Chair thanked the active participation of Working Group members throughout the meeting and closed the meeting.

# 1<sup>st</sup> Working Group meeting on azole-resistant *Aspergillus* – risk factors, prevention and control



24 April 2023

13:00-17:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 5 May 2023

**Location:** Webconference

**Attendees:**

- Working Group Members:  
Tamara COJA (Chair), Henrik Elvang JENSEN, Thomas KUHL, Frank SCHREIBER
- Hearing Experts<sup>1</sup>:  
Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:  
Not Applicable
- EFSA:  
Dimitra KARDASSI (PREV), Pietro STELLA (BIOHAW) Andras SZORADI (PREV)
- Others:  
Not Applicable

## I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologise were received.

## II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

## III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence<sup>2</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management,<sup>3</sup> EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group 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.

Certain interests were declared orally by the members before the beginning of the meeting. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Oral Declaration of Interest made at the beginning of the meeting, please refer to the Annex.

## IV. Brief introduction from participants

As it was the first meeting of the Working Group, meeting participants briefly introduced themselves.

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<sup>1</sup> As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/policy\\_independence.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/competing\\_interest\\_management\\_17.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf)



## V. Interagency mandate on azole-resistant *Aspergillus*<sup>4</sup>

EFSA introduced the interagency mandate from the European Commission to develop a Scientific Report on the impact of the azole fungicides, other than as human medicines, on the development of azole-resistant *Aspergillus spp.* The background information and the terms of references (ToRs) were presented to the experts. The interdependence amongst the different ToRs was highlighted. It was clarified that the present Working Group was established to address ToR 5 (Risk factors) and ToR 6 (Prevention and Control) of the interagency mandate (find specific ToRs below). The ToRs 5 and 6 were presented and discussed. The Working group was informed about the completed and ongoing work from the other ToRs and how those deliverables will facilitate the discussion in the Working Group in addressing ToRs 5 and 6.

ToR 5 (Risk factors):

Review the drivers/selection dynamics behind the development of environmental resistance in *Aspergillus* (in so called "hotspots"), in particular identification of: i) specific types of uses, ii) individual classes of substances, iii) use conditions that lead to the development of environmental resistance (including conditions during storage and processing of (waste) materials with azole residues); providing, if possible, an indication of the selection risk from different uses and the contribution of sectoral uses of azoles. Experimental work should be considered in order to provide additional information on this point.

ToR 6 (Prevention and Control):

Identify measures that could be implemented with respect to the use of azole fungicides and storage/processing of (waste) materials with azole residues and metabolites to prevent or minimise the development of environmental resistance or minimise the spread of resistant *Aspergillus* into patients.

The discussion focused on the following elements:

- i) problem formulation and methodology to be followed to address ToRs 5 and 6;
- ii) the input/deliverables needed to address ToRs 5 and 6;
- iii) conditions favouring the growth of *Aspergillus fumigatus* in the environment and factors contributing to the development of azole-resistant *Aspergillus fumigatus* in the environment;
- iv) definition of hotspots and identification of potential hotspots that favour the development of azole-resistant *Aspergillus fumigatus* in the environment;
- v) collaboration space for exchanging and working on documents.

The structure of the Scientific Report was presented and tasks were allocated to the Working Group members. The planning for the next steps was shared and discussed with the Working Group.

## VI. Next meeting

The next Working Group meeting is scheduled to take place on 14-15 June 2023, in Parma.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/study-inventory/EFSA-Q-2022-00040>



## **Annex**

### **Interests and actions resulting from the Oral Declaration of Interest done at the beginning of the meeting**

With regard to this meeting, Dr. Tamara COJA (Chair) declared the following interest: Project Coordinator (on behalf of the Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES) as beneficiary) of an EFSA grant (GP/EFSA/FDP/2022/02) on GLP criteria covering different regulatory areas within EFSA's remit. It was noted that the EFSA grant falls outside the scope/remit of this Working Group. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence<sup>5</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management<sup>6</sup>, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, the interest above was not deemed to represent a Conflict of Interest for the expert concerned.

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<sup>5</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/policy\\_independence.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/competing\\_interest\\_management\\_17.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf)