

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

2nd Working Group meeting on fresh produce packaging

5 November 2025

09:00-17:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 11 November 2025



Location: Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Ana Allende, Maria Luisa Amodio, Kaye Burgess, Hanne Larsen, Liesbeth Jacxsens, Fernando Perez-Rodriguez
- Hearing Experts¹:
Not Applicable
- Applicants participating in a technical hearing²:
Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not Applicable
- EFSA:
BIOHAW Unit: Sandra Correia, Winy Messens, Natisha Vatwani
- Others:
Not applicable

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Gianfranco Romanazzi.

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 Independence³ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management,⁴ 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 I.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 1st Working Group meeting held on 7 October 2025, via web-conference

¹ As defined in Article 34 of the document "Implementing Rule of the Management Board of the European Food Safety Authority laying down the rules on the selection, appointment and operations of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and of their Working Groups":
<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/paneloperation.pdf>

² As defined in the "EFSA's Catalogue of support initiatives during the life cycle of applications for regulated products":
<https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.2903/sp.efsa.2021.EN-6472>

³ https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf

⁴ https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-2024.pdf



The minutes of the 1st Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 15 October 2025.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. Draft opinion on Implementation of point 2 of Annex V of Regulation (EU) 2025/40 on Packaging and Packaging Waste (EFSA-Q-2025-00456)

EFSA provided feedback of the 181st BIOHAZ Plenary meeting (22-23 October 2025) during which the clarifications to the mandate were discussed. The Panel suggested to include in the assessment those packaging materials that can create passive modified atmosphere, due to permeability properties and micro-perforation technologies. They also suggested to consider whether the fresh whole fruit, vegetables and herbs were already refrigerated before the packaging. The WG Chair presented the translation of the terms of reference of the mandate into assessment questions and sub-questions and their relationship through a conceptual model. Changes were proposed and the questions were agreed. The planning of the methods to conduct the assessment was discussed and feedback was received. The protocol will be presented for approval at the next plenary meeting.

The WG members further discussed the methods that will be applied for conducting the assessment. The proposed approach and first considerations of available evidence to answer the various assessment questions were presented. Tasks were allocated to EFSA staff and WG experts.

VI. Next meeting

The next WG meeting will be held on 25 and 28 November 2025 via web conference.



Annex I (adapt numbering according to specific situation)

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

With regard to this meeting, Dr Ana Allende declared the following interest: Project AgriFoodtech Sandbox – Biocides for the CENTRO NACIONAL DE TECNOLOGÍA Y SEGURIDAD ALIMENTARIA. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁵ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁶, 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.

⁵ https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf

⁶ https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-2024.pdf

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

1st Working Group meeting on fresh produce packaging

7 October 2025

09:00-13:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 15 October 2025



Location: Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Ana Allende, Maria Luisa Amodio, Kaye Burgess, Hanne Larsen, Liesbeth Jacxsens, Fernando Perez-Rodriguez, Gianfranco Romanazzi
- Hearing Experts¹:
Not Applicable
- Applicants participating in a technical hearing²:
Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
EC: Ioannis Antonopoulos, Maja Desgrees Du Lou (DG ENV/Unit B.3), Martial Plantady (DG SANTE/Unit G.5), Sandrine Amsler (Unit E.1)
- EFSA:
BIOHAW Unit: Sandra Correia, Winy Messens, Hanne Rabbas
- 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 Independence³ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁴, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting and the preparatory meetings listed under agenda item "Preparatory meeting/s with Risk Assessment". No conflicts of interest related to the issues discussed in these meetings have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the Working Group members at the beginning of these meetings.

IV. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

¹ As defined in Article 34 of the document "Implementing Rule of the Management Board of the European Food Safety Authority laying down the rules on the selection, appointment and operations of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and of their Working Groups": <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/paneloperation.pdf>

² As defined in the "EFSA's Catalogue of support initiatives during the life cycle of applications for regulated products": <https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.2903/sp.efsa.2021.EN-6472>

³ https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf

⁴ https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-2024.pdf



a. Draft opinion on Implementation of point 2 of Annex V of Regulation (EU) 2025/40 on Packaging and Packaging Waste (EFSA-Q-2025-00456)

EFSA provided an introductory presentation on: a) the remit and governance of EFSA and the way the scientific advice is produced; b) administrative and logistical matters, the use of Microsoft Teams as the platform for communications and repository of data and documents during the lifespan of the mandate; c) the work plan, meetings planned and technical and scientific support provided by EFSA; d) uncertainty and protocol development guidance documents to be followed. The chair presented the background and Terms of Reference (ToR) of the mandate. Clarifications to the mandate were discussed in the presence of EC colleagues. The ToRs were translated into draft assessment questions (AQs) and sub-questions (SQs) ahead of the meeting. The planning of the methods to conduct the assessment was shortly discussed. WG members were assigned to the different parts of the risk assessment and tasks were allocated to EFSA staff and WG experts. A timeline for plenary and WG meetings was presented.

V. Next meeting

The next WG meeting will be held on 5 November 2025 via web conference.
