

Parma, 19 November 2010

Minutes of the 3rd meeting of the Networking Group on Pesticide Monitoring

Parma, 14-15 June 2010

EFSA / Unit /PRAPeR

Agreed by the Group on 19 November 2010

Participants

NG Experts	Roland GROSSGUT (Austria), Jean-François SCHMIT (Belgium), Tanya MIHAYLOVA ARABADZHIEVA (Bulgaria), Petr CUHRA (Czech Republic), Jens HINGE ANDERSEN (Denmark), Kaja SEPPER (Estonia), Reimo ROOSILEHT (Estonia), Ulla KARLSTRÖM (Finland), David TUBERT (France), David TUBERT (France), Angela GÖBEL (Germany), Komninos STOUGIANNIDIS (Greece), Eva VISI (Hungary), John ACTON (Ireland), Roberta ALOI (Italy), Michele DE MARTINO (Italy), Andra VILCINA (Latvia), Julijonas PETRAITIS (Lithuania), Fabienne CLABOTS (Luxembourg), Shirley MIFSUD (Malta), Henk VAN DER SCHEE (The Netherlands), Katarzyna GORALCZYK (Poland), Manuel SERAFIM (Portugal), Jarmila DURKANSKA (Slovakia), Mária MATÚŠOVÁ (Slovakia), Stanislav GOMBOC (Slovenia), Alicia YAGÜE MARTÍN (Spain), (Sweden), David FOSTER (Sweden), Frida BROMAN (Sweden), Helena COOKE (United Kingdom)
Observers	Lise Gunn SKRETTEBERG (Norway); Luis MARTIN PLAZA (DG SANCO)
EFSA:	Daniela BROCCA (Chair), Pietro FERRARI, Luc MOHIMONT, Olaf MOSBACH SHULZ, Marco LEONI, Hermine REICH, Jane RICHARDSON

Agenda

Session 1: Plenary session

1. Welcome and practicalities
2. New EFSA decision on Networking Groups and Declaration of Interests
3. Outstanding potential IT and technical difficulties relating the implementation of the *Standard Sample Description* at national level
4. Organisation of the Discussion Groups (DGs)

Session 2: DG session

DG 1: Content and format of the national validation reports, the “two-page summaries” and the updated national control programmes

DG 2: Future data analysis and results to be reported in the EU Annual Report

DG 3: Future exposure assessment methodology

Session 3: Plenary session

5. Report back from DG 1 and plenary discussion
6. Report back from DG 2 and plenary discussion
7. Report back from DG 3 and plenary discussion
8. General discussion and agreements
9. Future NG Meetings
10. AOB

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Pinelopi Ziegler (Cyprus) and Monica Maria Cojanu (Romania).

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Declarations of Interests, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of Interests (ADoI) filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Discussions

EFSA informed the meeting that on the 7th of April 2010 a new EFSA decision concerning the establishment and operation of EFSA Networks was adopted by the Management Board. The decision specifications and rules apply also to the Networking Group (NG) on Pesticide Monitoring.

At the 3rd meeting of the Networking Group, two main issues were addressed:

1) The solving of outstanding potential scientific and IT technical difficulties relating the implementation of the Standard Description (SD) at national level. The SD is a standardised framework developed by EFSA in 2009, which allows data files to be submitted via the EFSA web portal DCF and uses eXtensible Markup Language (XML) technology to facilitate data transfer and validation. The SD, used for the first time in 2010 for the reporting of the 2009 pesticide monitoring data, allows the reporting of the results of the pesticide monitoring at single determination/sample level. As a result, the volume of data that will be submitted to the PRAPeR Unit of EFSA will increase significantly compared with previous residue data submissions, where data were reported in aggregated format.

EFSA acknowledged the hard work done so far by the colleagues in the MS and EFTA countries in implementing the SD. Some countries have already successfully tested the 2009 monitoring results reporting in line with the SD and the data submission to the EFSA DCF portal. It was noted that few countries never tested the data uploading. EFSA asked all the courtiers represented at the meeting to report on the status of the SD implementation at national level. The few outstanding issues on the SD implementation at national level were addressed. No country reported technical difficulties that would request additional support from EFSA. The meeting participants reiterated their willingness to put all efforts and resources available on the implementation of the SD and the 2009 monitoring data reporting by the legal deadline (31st of August 2010). Nevertheless, a few countries anticipated that the legal deadline may not be met.

EFSA informed that the test environment on the DCF will remain open until October 2010, while the environment for the final transmission will open in June 2010.

Finally, some NG members appreciated the benefits of the SD and the DCF for the reporting and transmission of monitoring data.

2) The discussion on the following topics related to the preparation of the future EFSA Annual Reports on Pesticide Residues:

- a) Content and format of the national validation reports, of the “two-page summaries” and of the updated national pesticide control programmes for 2011-2013;
- b) Future data analysis and results to be published in the EFSA Annual Report on Pesticide Residues;
- c) Future dietary exposure assessment methodology to pesticide residues.

Agreements

“Validation report” template: The meeting agreed on the final version of the format and content of the national “validation report” prepared by EFSA, on a yearly basis, upon the submission of each single national monitoring datasets. This report is intended to check the national monitoring data accurately reflect the data submitted/received to EFSA and to support the Member States in the preparation of the National Annual Report on Pesticide Residues to mandatory be published on the Web on a yearly basis.

“Two-page summary” template: A final agreement on the structure and content of the proposed template for the “two-page summary” document was not reached. The meeting participants felt that more discussion was necessary on this issue. As a result, for the

reporting of the additional information on the national findings concerning the 2009 pesticide monitoring it was suggested to use the “two-page” template used in 2009 for the reporting of the 2008 monitoring information.

“Updated national control programmes” template: The meeting participants discussed the purpose and the use of the updated national control plans which have to be submitted by the reporting countries according to Art. 30.2 of Reg (EC) No 396/2005 to EFSA and the Commission. It is known that these plans are used for the Commission services (Food and Veterinary Office) to organise inspections in the Member States. However, it is not clear how and what information reported in these plans is used by other Commission colleagues. The meeting agreed that in order to develop a useful template the following issues should be clarified:

- what is the purpose of the submission of the national plans,
- what information were extracted and used from the plans submitted in the past and
- what information the Commission, EFSA and the reporting countries wish to see reported in the future plans.

EFSA proposed to contact and co-ordinate with the Commission colleagues to collect the above clarification/information.

5. AOB

For the first time in 2009, the EU-coordinated monitoring programme included samples of animal origin. The reporting of the results of the pesticide analysis in animal origin samples was discussed and some participants were able to anticipate these results. The largest majority of the 2009 samples do not contain measurable residues of the pesticides analysed in the framework of the 2009 EU-coordinated monitoring programme. A few persistent organochlorine pesticides (e.g. DDT/DDE) were detected in butter samples. Even though the positive detections are limited, it was considered important to collect this information to gain knowledge on the actual pesticide residue situation in products of animal origin.

6. Next meeting date

The 4th NG meeting will be held in Parma on 29-30 November 2010.

It was anticipated that the 4th meeting of the NG will focus on the assessment of the Standard Description model implementation (project review) and on the revision of the catalogues with standardised terminologies part of the SD.