

PARMA, 16/06/2010

**Minutes of the
4th Meeting of the EFSA Network on
Microbiological Risk Assessment**

Parma, 16 June 2010

Agenda

Welcome and apologies
Declarations of interest
Adoption of the agenda
Current and recent MRA activities of EFSA's Panel on Biological Hazards
Presentations from new Network members on their national institutions their past and current MRA activities
First 5 years of the Norwegian Scientific Committee for Food Safety
Extended spectrum Beta-Lactamase producers (ESBL): How much does the agricultural sector contribute to cost for human health care?
Recent trends in listeriosis in the UK and in other parts of Europe
Quantitative MRAs of EFSA's BIOHAZ Panel and its potential use by MS
EFSA's strategy for the identification of emerging risks
General discussion and follow-up
Date and venue for next meeting and AOB
Closure of the meeting

Participants

Members States and other National representatives:

Austria (Guenther Kraus), Belgium (Isabel De Boosere), Bulgaria (Hristo Miladinov Naydenski), Finland (Pirkko Tuominen), France (Coralie Bultel), Greece (Eirini Tsigarida), Hungary (László Mészáros), Ireland (Wayne Anderson), Italy (Dario De Medici), the Netherlands (Benno ter Kuile), Norway (Danica Grahek-Ogden), Poland (Halina Ścieżyńska), Portugal (Alexandra Brandao da Veiga), Romania (Anca-Violeta Stoicescu), Slovak Republic (Ľubomír Valík), Spain (Elena Carrasco), Sweden (Roland Linqvist), Switzerland (Richard S.J. Felleisen), Croatia (Brigita Hengl), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (Vaso Taleski), Turkey (Betul Vazgecer)

EFSA

Ernesto Liebana (Chair), Michaela Hempen, Luis Vivas-Alegre, Renata Leuschner (Biological Hazards Unit), Tobin Robinson (Emerging Risks Unit)

Minutes

1. Opening, welcome and apologies for absence

The chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Cyprus (Georgios T. Papageorgiou), Czech Republic (Renáta Karpíšková), Denmark (Kristen Barfod), Germany (Bernd Appel), Latvia (Aija Kazocina), Lithuania (Ruta Bubuliene/Jurgita Savickaite), United Kingdom (Paul Cook).

The chair made the Network aware of the new Decision of EFSA's Executive Director on the establishment and operation of European Networks of scientific organisations operating in the fields within the Authority's mission. This decision has the following consequences for the MRA Network (the full document was provided in the folders):

- The draft minutes shall be circulated for comments and agreed on either at the next meeting or in writing and after adoption shall be placed on EFSA's website.
- Travel and subsistence allowance of the network members shall be reimbursed by the Authority unless already covered by reimbursements from the relevant organisation (see expert compensation guide).

2. Adoption of the agenda

The draft agenda was adopted.

BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS UNIT

3. Declaration of interest

None of the participants declared an interest related to the subjects of the meeting.

4. Current and recent MRA activities of Scientific Panel on Biological Hazards (BIOHAZ)

The Biological Hazards Unit presented current and recent MRA activities of the BIOHAZ Panel.

The ongoing mandates presented were:

- biogenic amines in fermented food
- food-borne viruses
- public health risk of *Salmonella* Typhimurium-like strains
- resistance caused by bacterial strains producing ESC
- food irradiation.

It was specifically pointed out that the mandates on biogenic amines and food-borne viruses were initiated after the Network raised the issues. EFSA has tasked the Biological Hazards Panel with self-mandates on both issues.

The main conclusions of two adopted opinions were introduced:

- parasites in fishery products
- guidance document on carcass decontamination

The summaries of the recently adopted and relevant opinions were provided in the folders.

In addition a new mandate received from the EC on the modernisation of meat inspection was presented to the network and the members were informed that EFSA will ask for their support in this mandate in the near future. The members agreed to provide data and other support if possible provided the EFSA sends more information on this topic and specifies its request.

5. Presentations from new Network members on their national institutions their past and current MRA activities

Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Greece and Hungary presented their institutions and current or recent MRA activities. The three candidate countries Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey also presented this information for their institutions.

6. First five years of the Norwegian Scientific Committee for Food Safety

Danica Grahek-Ogden (NO) presented the Norwegian Scientific Committee for Food Safety which was established in 2004. Its structure is very similar to EFSA with a scientific steering committee and nine panels. One of them is the panel for hygiene and infection agents with expertise in virology, bacteriology, parasitology, food microbiology, antimicrobial resistance and TSE. Risk assessments are published on www.vkm.no (soon also available in English).

7. Extended spectrum Beta-Lactamase producers (ESBL): How much does the agricultural sector contribute to cost for human health care?

Benno ter Kuile (NL) gave a presentation on ESBLs and the potential interaction interaction between the occurrence of ESBLs in the human health sector and the agricultural sector. The network agreed that the increasing occurrence of ESBLs may pose a considerable risk for public health and appreciated that the EC has already asked EFSA to deliver an opinion on this issue.

8. Recent trends in listeriosis in the UK and in other parts of Europe

Paul Cook (UK) presented results of UK studies on listeriosis via teleconference call which show an increase of listeriosis cases in UK and in some European countries mostly in patients aged over 60 years with bacteraemia without evidence of a common source relationship.

France reported that a similar assessment was done last year reaching similar conclusions.

9. Quantitative MRAs of EFSA's BIOHAZ Panel and its potential use by MS

The BIOHAZ Unit presented the opinions on *Salmonella* in laying hens and on *Salmonella* in slaughter and breeder pigs which were both adopted by the BIOHAZ Panel in March 2010. The summaries of the adopted opinions were provided in the folders.

The terms of reference of the ongoing mandates on QMRA on *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella* in the broiler meat chain in were mentioned.

EFSA informed that the developed models could be made available to MS so that they could be applied to the national situation.

This suggestion was appreciated by the network but it was also pointed out that not many national institutions have the expertise to apply and interpret quantitative risk models. The network members highlighted that there is a general need for training in quantitative modelling.

10. EFSA's strategy for the identification of emerging risks

The Emerging Risks Unit (EMRISK) introduced EFSA's strategy to identify emerging risks in the food/feed chain. The overall strategy relies on three steps: data collection, data analysis and exchange of information. Collected data are first screened by the EMRISK Unit, interesting observations are then presented to EFSA's Scientific Panels. EMRISK is also setting up a emerging Risks Exchange Network to exchange MS's emerging risks identification activities and to facilitate access to relevant databases. The network will consist of representatives from MS and third countries, EU agencies, international agencies and EC which will be nominated via EFSA's Advisory Forum.

11. General discussion and follow up

After an interesting discussion, the Network agreed that the secretariat will provide the MRA Network with the following information:

- details of requested support from MS in relation to meat inspection mandate
- use of the MRA Network extranet and access to the Information Exchange Platform

12. Date and venue for next meeting and AOB

Discussion evolved around the frequency of the Network meetings. It was decided to have one meeting once per year and to use the available electronic tools for discussion if needed.

The next meeting will be 15 June 2011. Norway offered to investigate whether the meeting could be held in Oslo.

13. Closure of the meeting

The meeting was closed at 17 h.