

Parma, 4 March 2011

Minutes of the 5th meeting of the Networking Group on Pesticide Monitoring

Parma, 2-3 March 2011

EFSA / Pesticides Unit

Agreed by the Networking Group on 8 November 2011

Participants

NG Experts

Roland GROSSGUT (Austria), Jean-François SCHMIT (Belgium), Terry Lyubina DONKOVA (Bulgaria), Pinelopi ZIEGLER (Cyprus), Petr CUHRA (Czech Republic), Jana KACHYNOVA (Czech Republic), Kaja SEPPER (Estonia), Reimo ROOSILEHT (Estonia), Kalevi SIIVINEN (Finland), Ulla KARLSTRÖM (Finland), Joëlle BAYLE (France), Angela GÖBEL (Germany) Maria GASPARI (Greece), Eva VISI (Hungary), Katrin GUDJONSDOTTIR (Iceland), John ACTON (Ireland), Roberta ALOI (Italy), Michele DE MARTINO (Italy), Julijonas PETRAITIS (Lithuania), Fabienne CLABOTS (Luxembourg), Charles BORG (Malta), Henk VAN DER SCHEE (The Netherlands), Lise Gunn SKRETTEBERG (Norway), Katarzyna GORALCZYK (Poland), Božena MORZYCKA (Poland), Maria João LINO (Portugal), Ileana MIRON (Romania), Mária MATÚŠOVÁ (Slovakia), Jarmila DURKANSKA (Slovakia), Primož MAROLT (Slovenia), Stanislav GOMBOC (Slovenia), Emma MARTÍN DENIA (Spain), Anders JANSSON (Sweden), David FOSTER (Sweden), Helena COOK (The UNITED KINGDOM).

Observes

Michelangelo ANASTASSIADES (EURL-SRM), Luis MARTIN PLAZA (EU Commission - DG SANCO), Amadeo RODRIGUEZ FERNANDEZ ALBA (EURL-FV)

EFSA:

Daniela BROCCA (Chair)

Agenda

1. Welcome and practicalities
2. Declaration of potential conflict of interests
3. Agenda adoption
4. Adoption of the minutes of the 4th NG meeting
5. Reporting back from the SCoFCAH meeting
6. EFSA Guidance on the use of the SSD for the pesticide monitoring data submission: outstanding issues
7. Review of the “validation report”
8. 2009 monitoring data analysis: preliminary recommendations for the reporting organisations/laboratories
9. 2010 data collection - EFSA support and scheduling
10. News from the Commission
11. Future meetings
12. AOB

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Jens Hinge ANDERSEN (Denmark) and Zanda AUCE (Latvia).

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Adoption of the minutes of the 3rd meeting of the Networking Group

The minutes of the 4th meeting of the Networking Group (NG) were adopted without changes.

4. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Declarations of Interests, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of Interests (ADol) 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.

5. Discussions

The 3 main key objectives of the 5th meeting of the NG were the planning the 2010 pesticide monitoring data collection, the amendment of the EFSA validation report and the discussion

of specific issues to be covered in the future revision of the Guidance Document on the use of the EFSA Standard Sample Description for the reporting of data on the control of pesticide residues in food and feed according to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005.

EFSA reported back from the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health (SCoFCAH – pesticide residue section) meeting held in December 2010. The Committee expressed favourable opinion by unanimity on the use of the Standard Sample Description (SSD) for the future reporting and submission of the pesticide monitoring data; the Commission took note of the EFSA Guidance document for the use of the SSD for the reporting of the pesticide monitoring data - starting with the 2010 data collection taking place in 2011 - according to Regulation EC (No) 396/2005.

EFSA presented the tools developed in support to the national monitoring data preparation in line with the SSD; the tools are intended to facilitate the results codification and conversion to xml format and to facilitate the laboratories in detecting MRL exceedances. The NG did not requested additional *ad-hoc* support for the use of the SSD for the 2010 monitoring data reporting. In 2010, all reporting countries were able to provide the results of the 2009 control activities in line with the new requirements of the SSD. However, on the basis of the analysis of the 2009 monitoring data, it was noted that analytical determinations were not reported to EFSA for certain food/active substance combinations, otherwise requested by legislation. In particular, the results of analysis of food commodities of animal origin were under-reported. A common problem appeared to be a lack of coordination or communication between different organisations/departments at national level, one dealing with Regulation 396/2005 on pesticide residues MRLs and the other with Directive 96/23 on the monitoring of certain substances and residues thereof in live animals and animal products. COM informed the meeting that in 2013 a review of Regulation 882/2004 on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law will harmonise these two pieces of legislation for food of animal origin. EFSA recommended the members of the NG to liaise with national competent bodies dealing with animal products pesticide monitoring.

The meeting discussed also the difficulties encountered by the laboratories and enforcement authorities in analysing and/or reporting the pesticide residues levels in line with the full enforcement residue definition, as requested by EU legislation. The reporting of the monitoring results according to the residue definition is important to perform accurate assessment of the consumer's exposure. It was considered important to identify the reasons why the full residue definition is not always enforced. A future data network meeting will be devoted to look at this complex issue. As a first step in solving the difficult situation, the European Reference Laboratories (EURLs) will prepare a compilation of the mathematical formulas to express the analytical results in line with the MRL legislation.

Transitional measures with regard the entry into force date of certain MRLs were discussed at the last PRIMA meeting in Brussels and at the SCoFCAH meetings; COM is waiting for legal advice on the wordings to be used in dealing with processed commodities when MRLs are being lowered. In the meantime there no change will be made to the GD on this issue.

EFSA informed that the test environment on the on the EFSA web application Data Collection Framework (DCF) for the 2010 data submission was open on 01/02/2011; the environment for the final data transmission will open on 01/04/2011. The 2010 data collection will close on 31/08/2011 (legal deadline).

Some members of the NG proposed changes to be brought to the EFSA validation reports, which are prepared by EFSA upon the transmission of the national data trough the DCF by single countries and which are intended to summarise and validate the 2010 pesticide monitoring data. Wherever feasible, these changes will be implemented in the reports.

The amendments of the Guidance Document on the use of the EFSA Standard Sample Description for the reporting of data on the control of pesticide residues in food and feed according to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 were discussed and agreed. In particular, the meeting discussed the summing of the Limit of Quantifications (LOQs) in analytical measurements of pesticide residue levels in cases of complex legal residue definitions and how pesticide MRLs set at the LOQ are enforced at national level. The document No SANCO/10684/2009¹ – which will be revised at the end of 2011 – will take into consideration the outcome of the meeting discussion and will bring more guidance on the issue.

Finally, the NG discussed the importance in maintaining uniformity in reporting measurement results with regard to the rounding of the numerical results; this is particularly true when the results are used to decide on the number of MRL exceedences. The meeting participants informed that - to a large extent - the approach on data rounding and reporting explained in document No SANCO/10684/2009 is followed by laboratories and competent enforcement bodies throughout Europe. At the September workshop organised by the EURLs there will be the possibility to discuss and to propose alternative rounding methods.

AOB

No additional issues were raised at the meeting.

Next meeting date

The 6th Networking Group meeting is scheduled for 8-9 November 2011.

¹ Document available at: http://www.crl-pesticides.eu/docs/public/tmplt_article.asp?CntID=727&LabID=100&Lang=EN