

Parma, 10 December 2011

Minutes of the 6th meeting of the Networking Group on Pesticide Monitoring

Parma, 8-9 November 2011

EFSA/PRAS Unit

Adopted by written procedures by the Networking Group

on 25 February 2012

Participants

NG Experts

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Observes

Paula PASTOR MEDINA (EURL) and Luis MARTIN PLAZA (EU Commission - DG SANCO)

EFSA:

Daniela BROCCA (Chair), Hermine REICH and Giuseppe TRIACCHINI

Agenda

1. Welcome and practicalities
2. Declaration of potential conflict of interests
3. Agenda adoption
4. Adoption of the minutes of the 5th NG meeting
5. 2011 EFSA scientific survey experts
6. 2010 pesticide monitoring data collection: EFSA/reporting countries experience and feedback
7. 2012 EU-coordinated programme Regulation
8. **Review of the EFSA Guidance Document on the use of SSD for the pesticide monitoring data submission**
9. **Review of the controlled terminologies used to report the 2011 pesticide monitoring data**
10. **Review of the template for “National Summary Report”**
11. Review of the “Validation report”
12. 2011 MRL database
13. News from the Commission
14. Agreements
15. Future meetings
16. AOB

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed the participants.

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 5th meeting of the Networking Group were adopted taking into account the corrections (typos) proposed by the Czech Republic.

4. 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.

5. Discussions

The 3 main key objectives of the 6th meeting of the Networking Group (NG) were the revision and approval 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*, the annual revision of the template for the "National summary report" (as part of the Guidance Document above mentioned), and the annual review of the catalogues for the standardised terminology of the Standard Sample Description (SSD) to be used for the preparation of 2011 datasets on pesticide residue monitoring.

The NG went through the Guidance document on the use of the SSD. EFSA addressed all comments received and more clarification was brought on some specific topics. EFSA informed that if the meeting agrees on the revised version of the guidance document and on the changes of the SSD catalogues, these will be presented at the meeting of the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health (SCoFCAH – pesticide residue section). There, it will be proposed to include a reference in the EU Regulation on the 2012, 2013 and 1014 EU pesticide control plans to the use of the SSD for the future reporting and submission of the pesticide monitoring data. With this action, the use of the SSD will be legally binding at European level.

EFSA reviewed the 2010 pesticide data collection and acknowledged the hard work done by the colleagues in the Member States and EFTA countries in reporting the control results in line with the SSD. However, in comparison to the previous year's data submissions, 4 reporting countries had not yet submitted the results of the control activities or had submitted the data with an important delay. EFSA encouraged the experts to put more effort in finalising the data submission within the legal deadline. To save time in the next data collections, the NG proposed to share with the Member States the EFSA validations procedures to perform a data pre-validation before the official data submission to EFSA. EFSA will check the technical feasibility of the NG proposal. In order to improve the future data collections, EFSA proposed to present at the next NG meeting the analysis of the major mistakes in the 2010 data reporting.



The revision (correction and extension) of the pesticide name catalogue is recommended by the reporting organisations. EFSA clarified that amendments to the catalogues will be kept to a minimum, while the XSD schema will remain unchanged.

The SSD standardised terminology were reviewed. In particular, the following changes were taken into account: the amendment of the MATRIX codes for the reporting of baby food samples, the introduction of a new SRCTYP (Programme type) code for the samples taken in the framework of Regulation 669/2009 on reinforced imported food control, the correction, introduction and deprecation of certain PARAM codes for the pesticide names. The updating of the COUNTRY names according to the latest revision of the ISO country name list was also proposed. In EU control Regulation it is not specified whether food products taken under the EU co-ordinated monitoring programme should be taken as processed or unprocessed. The NG clarified that the samples taken for this specific control programme should be considered as raw, unprocessed – unless clearly specified in the legal document (e.g. olive oil). EFSA recalled that Directive 91/414 was repealed by Regulation 1107/2009. In the latter Regulation, residues of synergists and safeners are considered as residues of pesticides and therefore will be covered by Regulation 396/2005. Nevertheless, an implementation Regulation on how to assess these substances still has to set up. Additionally, in the future biocides will also be covered by Regulation 396/2005. For the time being, monitoring results concerning safeners, synergists and biocides should not be transmitted to EFSA. The NG discussed also the use of the SSD codes for the reporting the MRL compliances in cases where only a part of a complex residue definition was analysed; from the discussion, it appeared that MS use different approached in deciding if a sample is compliant with the legal limits as in the control EU Regulation it is not defined was compliance means; there, only non-compliance samples are defined.

The meeting agreed to add in the “National summary report” a new table in which the national competent authorities will be invited to report the details of the samples found exceeding the ARfD and that could have posed and acute risk to the consumer’s health. This would facilitate some tasks allocated to the Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) while organizing FVO inspections and missions.

The validation report was discussed as well. The NG proposed to make use of the sampling date to check the samples compliance against the MRLs. In addition, the NG requested to reduce the number of pages of the report (e.g. a feasible page reduction could be performed by combining the A3 tables for two or three different groups in one single table and not summing by groups). Furthermore, the meeting proposed to make an attempt in order to reduce the number of error messages attached to the validation report; e.g. the distinction between the processed and unprocessed samples and the proper consideration of the reference substance (whole product or fat content) in case of products of animal origin were proposed in order to avoid MRL exceedance warnings on processed commodities. Other changes to the summary report were proposed; these will be taken into account by EFSA.

During the meeting the outcome of the “2011 EFSA scientific expert Satisfaction survey” was presented; the bottom 10 items - as identified by the Networking Group - were discussed in order to better understand the reasons behind the relatively low level of satisfaction and to discuss measures for improvement. The EFSA procedure for the electronic transmission of the Declaration of Interests were discussed. The NG considered also the possibility to have the NG meeting organised outside Parma e.g. to save travelling time.

COM introduced the NG to the changes foreseen in the 2012 EU-coordinated programme. The NG proposed to add in the future EU control Regulation reference to the MATRIX and PARAM codes of the SSD. The use of the processing factors to check sample compliance with the MRL was also addressed.



EFSA announced that the 2009 Annual Report has been published on 9/11/2011. EFSA thanked all MS and COM experts involved in the report preparation/revision. COM thanked EFSA for the last report and said the EFSA Annual Reports are much more comprehensive than the US reports. EFSA highlighted that in fact the Annual Report should be considered as a MS report. The interpretation of the reduced MRL exceedance rate indicated in the 2009 Annual Report is partially ascribed to the new EU legislation on pesticide MRL system, which entered into force in 2008 and brought more clarity on what MRL are applicable.

The EURL gave a speech on the SANCO Guidance document No 10684/2009 on the method validation and quality control procedures for pesticide residues analysis in food and feed. There, the amendments foreseen in the next revision of this document were presented.

Agreements

“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”: The NG agreed on the final changes of the document. The document will be presented at the December meeting of the SCoFCAH (pesticide residues section) for inclusion of its reference in the EU legislation.

“National summary report” template: A final agreement on the changes in the content of the template for the national summary report was reached.

“Catalogues for standardised terminology to be used for the preparation of 2010 datasets on pesticide residue monitoring”: the meeting agreed on the changes in the list of the terminologies to be used to the 2011 data collection. EFSA will revise the standardised terminology accordingly and make it available in January 2012, before the opening of the test environment for the 2011 data submission.

EFSA proposed to revised the text of the 3 above documents in line with the discussion and decision of the NG. Once finalised, these documents will be posted on the EFSA Extranet.

AOB

No additional issues were raised at the meeting.

Next meeting date

The date and the venue of the 7th Networking Group meeting have not be decided. It is anticipated that only two meetings of the NG will take place in 2012.

