

**MINUTES OF THE 69TH PLENARY MEETING OF
THE SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS
HELD IN PARMA ON 7-8 DECEMBER 2011**

AGENDA:

- 1. OPENING, APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**
- 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
- 4. NEW REQUESTS TO EFSA/BIOHAZ**
 - 4.1 REQUEST FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ON THE MINIMUM SAMPLE SIZE TO TEST SHOULD AN ANNUAL BSE STATISTICAL TESTING REGIME BE AUTHORIZED IN HEALTHY SLAUGHTERED CATTLE**
 - 4.2 APPLICATION FOR EFSA EVALUATION OF AN ALTERNATIVE METHOD FOR THE TREATMENT OF ANIMAL BY PRODUCTS (BIOMATION)**
 - 4.3 LESSONS LEARNT FROM MODELLING ACTIVITIES IN BIOHAZ MANDATES**
 - 4.4 DEVELOPMENT OF A RISK RANKING TOOL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS**
- 5. OPINIONS FOR POSSIBLE ADOPTION**
 - 5.1 NOROVIRUSES IN OYSTERS: METHODS, LIMITS AND CONTROL OPTIONS**
 - 5.2 2011 UPDATE OF THE QPS LIST OF BIOLOGICAL AGENTS INTENTIONALLY ADDED TO FOOD OR FEED**
 - 5.3 EVALUATION OF THE SAFETY AND EFFICACY OF CECURE (CETYLPYRIDINIUM CHLORIDE) FOR THE REMOVAL OF MICROBIAL SURFACE CONTAMINATION OF POULTRY**
- 6. DRAFT OPINIONS FOR THOROUGH READING**
 - 6.1 ASSESSMENT OF THE SCIENTIFIC ELEMENTS SUPPORTING THE PROHIBITION OF THE PLACING ON THE MARKET OF GM POTATO EH92-527-1 FOR CULTIVATION PURPOSES IN AUSTRIA**
 - 6.2 REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A NEW METHOD OF DISPOSAL OF CATEGORY 2 ANIMAL BY-PRODUCTS – COMPOSTING AND INCINERATION OF DEAD-ON-FARM PIGS**

7. **PROGRESS REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ON THE FOLLOWING MANDATES**
 - 7.1 **PUBLIC HEALTH HAZARDS TO BE COVERED BY INSPECTION OF POULTRY MEAT**
 - 7.2 **PUBLIC HEALTH HAZARDS TO BE COVERED BY INSPECTION OF BOVINE MEAT**
 - 7.3 **PUBLIC HEALTH HAZARDS TO BE COVERED BY INSPECTION OF SHEEP AND GOAT MEAT**
 - 7.4 **PUBLIC HEALTH HAZARDS TO BE COVERED BY INSPECTION OF FARMED GAME MEAT**
 - 7.5 **PUBLIC HEALTH HAZARDS TO BE COVERED BY INSPECTION OF SOLIPEDS MEAT**
 - 7.6 **ESTIMATION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACT OF SETTING A NEW TARGET FOR THE REDUCTION OF *SALMONELLA* IN TURKEYS**
 - 7.7 **PUBLIC HEALTH RISKS REPRESENTED BY CERTAIN COMPOSITE PRODUCTS CONTAINING FOOD OF ANIMAL ORIGIN**
 - 7.8 **MINIMUM HYGIENE CRITERIA TO BE APPLIED TO CLEAN SEAWATER AND ON THE PUBLIC HEALTH RISKS AND HYGIENE CRITERIA FOR BOTTLED SEAWATER INTENDED FOR DOMESTIC USE**
 - 7.9 **EVALUATION OF SAFETY AND EFFICACY OF LISTEX P100 FOR THE REMOVAL OF *L. MONOCYTOGENES* SURFACE CONTAMINATION OF RAW FISH**
 - 7.10 **REVIEW ON THE EUROPEAN UNION SUMMARY REPORT ON ZOOSES IN 2009 – FOR *SALMONELLA*, *CAMPYLOBACTER*, VTEC, *LISTERIA MONOCYTOGENES* AND FOOD-BORNE OUTBREAKS**
8. **FEEDBACK FROM THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE AND FROM OTHER WGS**
9. **STANDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**
 - 9.1 **EMERGING RISKS**
 - 9.2 **FEEDBACK FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION: FOLLOW-UP TO SCIENTIFIC EFSA ADVICE AND ONGOING WORK**
 - 9.3 **BIOHAZ NETWORKS**
10. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
 - 10.1 **2012 BIOHAZ PLENARIES DATES AND VENUES**
12. **CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

PARTICIPANTS

Panel Members:

Olivier Andreoletti, Herbert Budka (Vice-Chair), Sava Buncic (apologies), John D Collins (apologies), John Griffin, Arie Havelaar, Tine Hald, James Hope (apologies), Günter Klein, Kostas Koutsoumanis, James McLauchlin, Christine Müller-Graf, Christophe Nguyen-The, Birgit Noerrung (Chair), Luisa Peixe, Miguel Prieto Maradona, Antonia Ricci, John Sofos (Vice-Chair), John Threlfall, Ivar Vågsholm, Emmanuel Vanopdenbosch.

EFSA:

Marta Hugas, Ernesto Liebana, Renata Leushner, Michaela Hempen, Winy Messens, Pietro Stella, Luis Vivas Alegre, Pablo Romero Barrios, Teresa Da Silva Felicio, Fulvio Barizzone (Scientific staff).

European Commission (EC):

DG Health and Consumers: S. Osaer

1. OPENING AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The meeting started at 9:00 a.m. The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Apologies were received from J.D. Collins, S. Buncic, J. Hope and J. Threlfall (only for 7/12/2011).

2. ADOPTION OF THE 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 interest (ADoI) and the Specific Declaration of interest (SDoI) filled in by the experts invited to the present meeting. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the ADoI and SDoI (as well as the ones declared at the beginning of the meeting), please refer to Annex I of these Minutes.

4. NEW REQUESTS TO EFSA/BIOHAZ

4.1. REQUEST FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ON THE MINIMUM SAMPLE SIZE TO TEST SHOULD AN ANNUAL BSE STATISTICAL TESTING REGIME BE AUTHORIZED IN HEALTHY SLAUGHTERED CATTLE

A new mandate submitted by the EC was received in EFSA and allocated to the BIOHAZ Unit. An ad hoc WG will be established. The terms of reference were presented to the Panel. The WG will be Chaired by a senior member of the BIOHAZ Unit secretariat. The deadline for adoption is 30 September 2012.

4.2. APPLICATION FOR EFSA EVALUATION OF AN ALTERNATIVE METHOD FOR THE TREATMENT OF ANIMAL BY PRODUCTS (BIOMATION)

A new mandate submitted by the UK Competent Authority was received in EFSA and allocated to the BIOHAZ Panel. The standing WG on Assessment of Animal By-Products will be in charge of the mandate. Dr. John Griffin is the Chair person for this WG. The terms of reference were discussed in detail. Adoption is foreseen by 3rd May 2012.

4.3. LESSONS LEARNT FROM MODELLING ACTIVITIES IN BIOHAZ MANDATES

A new EFSA self task mandate was allocated to the BIOHAZ Panel. An ad hoc WG will be established. The terms of reference were discussed in detail. Prof Ivar Vågsholm was appointed as Chair person for this WG. The deadline for adoption is May 2012.

4.4. DEVELOPMENT OF A RISK RANKING TOOL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

A new EFSA self task mandate was allocated to the BIOHAZ Panel. An ad hoc WG will be established. The terms of reference were discussed in detail. Prof Kostas Koutsoumanis was appointed as Chair person for this WG. The deadline for adoption is May 2012.

5. OPINIONS FOR POSSIBLE ADOPTIONS

5.1. NOROVIRUSES IN OYSTERS: METHODS, LIMITS AND CONTROL OPTIONS.

The Draft Opinion was presented by the Chairman of the Working Group, and after a thorough discussion it was adopted by the Panel on the 8th of December 2011.

5.2. 2011 UPDATE OF THE QPS LIST OF BIOLOGICAL AGENTS INTENTIONALLY ADDED TO FOOD OR FEED

The Draft Opinion was presented by the Chairman of the Working Group, and after a thorough discussion it was adopted by the Panel on the 7th of December 2011.

5.3. EVALUATION OF THE SAFETY AND EFFICACY OF CECURE (CETILPYRIDINIUM CHLORIDE) FOR THE REMOVAL OF MICROBIAL SURFACE CONTAMINATION OF POULTRY

The BIOHAZ part of the Draft Opinion was presented by the Chairman of the Working Group, and after a thorough discussion it was endorsed by the Panel. This is a joint opinion adopted by BIOHAZ (sections on the efficacy and development of resistance) and CEF Panel (sections on the toxicological safety and the environmental risks). The complete opinion will be tabled for formal adoption in March 2012.

6. DRAFT OPINIONS FOR THOROUGH READING

6.1. ASSESSMENT OF THE SCIENTIFIC ELEMENTS SUPPORTING THE PROHIBITION OF THE PLACING ON THE MARKET OF GM POTATO EH92-527-1 FOR CULTIVATION PURPOSES IN AUSTRIA

The draft opinion was presented by the WG Chair and thoroughly discussed. A meeting with the Austrian competent authorities is being organised for early January 2012. The deadline for this mandate is January 2012.

6.2. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A NEW METHOD OF DISPOSAL OF CATEGORY 2 ANIMAL BY-PRODUCTS – COMPOSTING AND INCINERATION OF DEAD-ON-FARM PIGS

The standing WG on Animal By Products is addressing the terms of reference of this mandate. The last WG meeting was held on 2nd December in Brussels. The draft opinion was presented by the WG Chair and thoroughly discussed. The opinion will be presented for possible adoption at the BIOHAZ Plenary meeting in January 2012.

7. PROGRESS REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ON THE FOLLOWING MANDATES

7.1. PUBLIC HEALTH HAZARDS TO BE COVERED BY INSPECTION OF POULTRY MEAT

The BIOHAZ “ad hoc” WG on meat inspection of poultry had a meeting on 23rd November in Parma. The draft Opinion was presented to the Panel by the Chair of the WG. The next WG Meeting is scheduled for 26/27 January.

The deadline for the opinion on meat inspection of poultry is June 2012.

7.2. PUBLIC HEALTH HAZARDS TO BE COVERED BY INSPECTION OF BOVINE MEAT

The BIOHAZ “ad hoc” WG on meat inspection of bovines met on 1st December via web-conference. A further web-conference is scheduled for the end of January 2012. The deadline for this Opinion is June 2013.

7.3. PUBLIC HEALTH HAZARDS TO BE COVERED BY INSPECTION OF SHEEP AND GOAT MEAT

The BIOHAZ “ad hoc” WG on meat inspection of small ruminants met on the 27th October 2011 for the first time. The next meeting is scheduled for December 13th as a webconference. The deadline for this opinion is June 2013.

7.4. PUBLIC HEALTH HAZARDS TO BE COVERED BY INSPECTION OF FARMED GAME MEAT

The BIOHAZ “ad hoc” WG on meat inspection of farmed game met for the second time on the 29th November 2011. A new WG meeting is scheduled on the 26/27 January 2012. The deadline for this opinion is June 2013.

7.5. PUBLIC HEALTH HAZARDS TO BE COVERED BY INSPECTION OF SOLIPED MEAT

The BIOHAZ “ad hoc” WG on meat inspection of solipeds has been formed and the first WG meeting will be held on 29 November 2011. The second meeting of the WG will be held on 7 February 2012. The deadline for this opinion is June 2013.

7.6. ESTIMATION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACT OF SETTING A NEW TARGET FOR THE REDUCTION OF *SALMONELLA* IN TURKEYS

The BIOHAZ ad hoc WG on *Salmonella* in turkeys had a meeting in Parma on the 6th December 2011. The Chair of the WG introduced the draft Opinion to the Panel. The next WG meeting will be held on 12th January 2012 by webconference. The deadline of the opinion is March 2012.

7.7. PUBLIC HEALTH RISKS REPRESENTED BY CERTAIN COMPOSITE PRODUCTS CONTAINING FOOD OF ANIMAL ORIGIN

The third WG meeting took place on the 9th of November. The next meeting will be held on the 15th of December by web-conference. The chair of the WG introduced the structure of the draft opinion to the Panel. The deadline for adoption is April 2012.

7.8. MINIMUM HYGIENE CRITERIA TO BE APPLIED TO CLEAN SEAWATER AND ON THE PUBLIC HEALTH RISKS AND HYGIENE CRITERIA FOR BOTTLED SEAWATER INTENDED FOR DOMESTIC USE

The second WG meeting took place on the 28th October in Parma. The next meetings are scheduled for 8/9 December 2011 and 13th January 2012. The deadline for adoption is March 2012.

7.9. EVALUATION OF SAFETY AND EFFICACY OF LISTEX P100 FOR THE REMOVAL OF *L. MONOCYTOGENES* SURFACE CONTAMINATION OF RAW FISH

The BIOHAZ *ad hoc* WG on Listex P100 had a meeting in Brussels on the 7th November 2011. The Chair of the WG introduced the draft Opinion to the Panel. The next WG meeting will be held on 19th December 2011 by webconference. The deadline of the opinion is March 2012.

7.10. REVIEW ON THE EUROPEAN UNION SUMMARY REPORT ON ZOONOSIS IN 2009 – FOR *SALMONELLA*, *CAMPYLOBACTER*, *VTEC*, *LISTERIA MONOCYTOGENES* AND FOOD-BORNE OUTBREAKS

A BIOHAZ “ad hoc” WG on the EUSR Review is been formed and a first WG meeting will be held in January 2011. The deadline for this opinion is May 2012.

8. FEEDBACK FROM THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE AND FROM OTHER WGS

The last SC Plenary meeting took place on the 5 December in Parma. The agenda and minutes of that meeting will be available on the EFSA website (<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/111205.htm>).

9. STANDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

9.1. EMERGING RISKS

Nothing to report

9.2. FEEDBACK FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION INFORMATION FROM EC: FOLLOW-UP TO SCIENTIFIC EFSA ADVICE AND ONGOING WORK

Nothing to report

9.3. BIOHAZ NETWORKS

A reflection paper (*“Possible control options to minimise the selection for antibiotic resistance in the agricultural sector”*) submitted by a member of the MRA Network was presented to the Panel for information and discussion- The Panel acknowledged the paper and decided that no follow up actions were deemed necessary

The 6th Meeting of the MRA Network meeting will be held on 20/21 March 2012 in Brussels.

The 6th Meeting of the Scientific Network on BSE-TSE was held on the 29th and 30th of November in Brussels. During the meeting several BSE-TSE scientific issues were discussed, and an overview of planned future TSE-related legislative activities in the frame of the TSE Road map 2 were presented by the Commission.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A scientific communication published in a peer-reviewed journal on the reporting in Switzerland of two cases of BSE in cattle in Switzerland with an unusual prion protein signature was presented to the Panel for information.

11. 2012 BIOHAZ PLENARIES DATES AND VENUES.

The Panel agreed with the proposed dates for plenaries in 2012.

12. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The meeting closed at 14:30 pm.

ANNEX I

INTERESTS AND ACTIONS RESULTING FROM THE SCREENING OF ADoI OR SDoIs

CONFLICT LEVEL B: In the SDoI filled for the present meeting Dr. Tine Hald declared the following interest for the agenda item “**ESTIMATION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACT OF SETTING A NEW TARGET FOR THE REDUCTION OF *SALMONELLA* IN TURKEYS**”: To be the recipient of an EFSA contract to develop a user friendly interface for a risk assessment model.

In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Declarations of Interests and Implementing documents thereof, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, the interest above was deemed to represent a conflict of Interest (level B). Pursuant to EFSA’s Procedure on Identifying and Handling Declarations of Interest, the said expert incurs the limitations identified under point C.III.b1. That is, she did not take part in the discussions on this agenda item.