

PANEL ON PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS AND THEIR RESIDUES

**56TH PLENARY MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON
PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS AND THEIR RESIDUES**

HELD IN PARMA ON 7-8 MARCH 2012

(ADOPTED BY WRITTEN PROCEDURE ON 13 APRIL 2012)

#	Items
1.	Opening, apologies for absence
2.	Adoption of the draft agenda
3.	Declarations of interest
4.	Guidance on dermal absorption
5.	Opinion on the identification of pesticides to be included in cumulative assessment groups on the basis of their toxicological profile.
6.	Opinion on the evaluation of the toxicological relevance of metabolites and degradates of pesticide active substances for the dietary risk assessment
7.	Opinion on the science behind the development of a risk assessment of plant protection products on bees (<i>Apis mellifera</i> and <i>Bombus spp.</i>)
8.	Opinion on the clustering and ranking of emissions from protected crops
9.	Feed-back from the Scientific Committee and its working groups
10.	Guidance on the use of probabilistic methodologies for modelling dietary exposure to pesticide residues
11.	Guidance on aquatic ecotoxicology
12.	Opinions on the 2009 report of the FOCUS Groundwater working group
13.	Miscellaneous

PANEL ON PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS AND THEIR RESIDUES

PARTICIPANTS

Members of the PPR Panel

Mr J. BOESTEN, Ms C. BOLOGNESI, Mr T. BROCK, Mr E. CAPRI, Mr A. HARDY (Chair), Mr A. HART, Ms K. HIRSCH-ERNST, Ms S. HOUGAARD BENNEKOU, Mr M. KLEIN, Mr R. LUTTIK, Ms K. MACHERA, Ms B. OSSENDORP (7 March only), Ms A. PETERSEN, Ms Y. PICO, Mr A. SCHAEFFER, Mr P.SOUSA, Mr W. STEURBAUT, Ms A. STROMBERG, Ms M. TASHEVA, Mr T. VAN DER LINDEN, Ms C. VLEMINCKX

Apologies

Ms J. HOUINS-ROULET (DG SANCO)

EFSA

Ms M. LAHANIATIS

PPR Panel secretariat: Mr L. MOHIMONT, Ms M. ARENA, Ms S. BOPP, Mr M. EGSMOSE, Mr I. SEBESTYEN, Mr H. STEINKELLNER, Mr F. STREISSL, Mr K. SWAROWSKY, Ms G. BOSCHETTO, Ms A. PASQUIN, Ms M. SODANI, Ms J. RICKETTS

1. OPENING, APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Ms J. HOUINS-ROULET.

2. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with EFSA's policy on Declarations of Interest, EFSA screened the ADoI filled in by the Panel members invited to the meeting. No conflicts of interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting were identified during the screening process and no new interests were declared in the SDoI or at the beginning of this meeting.

4. GUIDANCE ON DERMAL ABSORPTION

The secretariat informed the Panel that a formal response from DG SANCO containing comments to the risk management elements present in the draft guidance (as requested in a letter from EFSA of 30 August 2011) has been received and will be forwarded to the Panel. In agreement with the rapporteur, the secretariat proposed considering these comments in a written procedure of the working group after which the guidance will be distributed to the Panel for a final commenting round. The guidance will be tabled for adoption at the PPR Plenary Meeting on 18-19 April 2012.

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5. OPINION ON THE IDENTIFICATION OF PESTICIDES TO BE INCLUDED IN CUMULATIVE ASSESSMENT GROUPS ON THE BASIS OF THEIR TOXICOLOGICAL PROFILE

The Chair of the working group gave an overview on the progress of the work on the draft opinion since the last Plenary meeting. The draft opinion was restructured based on the proposal agreed by the Panel during the previous meeting. The Panel was also informed about uncertainties and difficulties met by the working group related to the establishment of cumulative assessment groups of pesticides.

The secretariat informed the Panel that the calls for tenders for three data collection projects to support the grouping of the pesticide active substances were launched in February. The deadline for submitting offers had not expired at the time of the meeting.

The Chair of the Panel noted that the activities of the working group should continue according to the agreed workplan, but a revision of the workplan might be necessary in the light of the outcome of the tendering procedure.

6. OPINION ON THE EVALUATION OF THE TOXICOLOGICAL RELEVANCE OF METABOLITES AND DEGRADATES OF PESTICIDE ACTIVE SUBSTANCES FOR THE DIETARY RISK ASSESSMENT

The rapporteur gave an update on the progress of the work within the frame of the mandate. An exposure assessment scheme, TTC values for acute exposure, a toxicity assessment scheme and testing strategies for pesticide metabolites have been developed in the draft opinion. Currently the working group was finalising the assessment of the applicability of these tools for pesticide isomers.

The Chair of the working group added that a consolidated version of the draft opinion will be distributed to the Panel before the next Plenary meeting. She encouraged all Panel Members to review and comment. Adoption of the draft opinion is foreseen for the last meeting of the current Panel on 20 - 22 June 2012, subject to the prior adoption by the Scientific Committee of its opinion on the TTC concept. In this respect, the Chair of the Panel informed the members about on-going consultations on possible diverging views in regard to the TTC concept between EFSA's Scientific Committee and Scientific Committees of the EU.

7. OPINION ON THE SCIENCE BEHIND THE DEVELOPMENT OF A RISK ASSESSMENT OF PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS IN BEES (*Apis mellifera* and *Bombus spp.*)

A presentation was given on the draft opinion summarising each of the chapters. After the presentation comments were collected from the panel members. There was also an opportunity to comment on the draft opinion after the plenary meeting. Suggestions for improving the opinion were related to linking the protection goals with assessment methods and shortening the main text of the opinion. In order not to lose important information for the development of the final Guidance Document, it was proposed to shift parts of the text to an Appendix.

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The Panel noted the importance of the relation between the health status of bees and the impact of pesticides. As this goes beyond the scope of Regulation (EC) 1107/2009, the secretariat of the Panel will refer this issue back to EFSA and in particular the AHAW unit and will give feedback to the Panel on this.

8. OPINION ON THE CLUSTERING AND RANKING OF EMISSIONS FROM PROTECTED CROPS

The Chair and a rapporteur gave an overview on how the opinion had been revised following remarks from the stakeholders in the public consultation launched in July 2011. The opinion was adopted after some discussions and amendments from the Panel members. An EFSA technical report on responses to the stakeholder comments is under preparation and will be published around the same time as the adopted opinion.

9. FEED-BACK FROM THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE AND ITS WORKING GROUPS

The vice Chair informed the Panel about the status of several mandates of the Scientific Committee (Margin of exposure approach for safety assessment of genotoxic and carcinogenic impurities, Threshold of Toxicological Concern, default values, risk assessment terminology).

10. GUIDANCE ON THE USE OF PROBABILISTIC METHODOLOGY FOR MODELLING DIETARY EXPOSURE TO PESTICIDE RESIDUES

The secretariat informed the panel of the preliminary results of the 2nd Public consultation on the draft guidance. Seven organisations and 1 independent expert have sent a total of 111 comments. The working group will start addressing these comments on the 13 March by webconference.

11. GUIDANCE ON AQUATIC ECOTOXICOLOGY

The Chair of the working group gave an overview to the Panel members regarding the progress made by the working group in the last webconference. The Panel agreed that if the mandate on the "Scientific Opinion on the evaluation of the level of protection of FOCUS step 3 surface water scenarios", is approved by EFSA, it can be assigned to the existing working group on Aquatic Ecotoxicology.

12. OPINIONS ON THE 2009 REPORT OF THE FOCUS GROUNDWATER WORKING GROUP

The secretariat informed the Panel about the request from the Commission for two separate opinions on the FOCUS ground water report for assessing potential movement of active substances and their metabolites to ground water in EU (2009).

The hearing experts proposed by the Panel have been accepted by EFSA. The first working group meeting under this mandate is scheduled for the 17 April 2012.

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13. MISCELLANEOUS

EFSA informed the Panel about the pilot project on the attendance of observers at the next plenary meeting of the PPR Panel. Observers will have the opportunity to ask questions in a dedicated session, after they have observed the meeting. The Panel will be informed at least 1 week in advance of the questions that will be raised. This initiative is part of the new EFSA independence policy.

EFSA also informed the Panel about the preparation of a scientific conference and a special issue of the EFSA journal in occasion of EFSA's 10 Year Anniversary.

The next Plenary meeting will take place on 18-19 April 2012 in Parma, starting at 14h00 on 18 April.
