Scientific Panel on BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

Minutes of the 75th plenary meeting of the Scientific Panel on BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS Held on 12-13 September 2012, Parma

(Agreed on 09 / 10 / 2012[1])

Participants

- **Panel Members**:

  Andreoletti Olivier, Baggesen Dorte Lau, Bolton Declan, Butaye Patrick, Cook Paul, Davies Robert, Fernandez-Escamez Pablo S., Griffin John, Hald Tine, Havelaar Arie Hendrik, Koutsoumanis Konstantinos, Lindqvist Roland, McLauchlin James, Nesbakken Truls, Prieto Miguel, Ricci Antonia, Ru Giuseppe, Sanaa Moez, Simmons Marion, Sofos John, and Threlfall John

- **European Commission (EC):**

  Osaer Sabine (apologies).

- **EFSA:**

  Hugas Marta, Liebana Ernesto, Renata Leuschner, Romero Barrios Pablo, Vivas Alegre Luis, Barizzone Fulvio, Stella Pietro, Da Silva Felicio Maria Teresa, Broglia Alessandro, Hempen Michaela (Scientific staff).

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Dr Antonia Ricci for the 13/09/2012.

2. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes regarding Declarations of Interests (DoIs)[3] and the Decision of the Executive Director implementing this Policy[4], EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest (ADoI)

[1] The publication of the minutes shall be made without delay in compliance with the Founding Regulation and no later than 15 working days following the day of their agreement.

and the Specific Declaration of interest (SDoI) filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the ADoI and SDoI, please refer to Annex I. No further conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified in the Oral Declaration of interest (ODoI) at the beginning of this meeting.

3. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

4. New Mandates

4.1 Request for a scientific opinion on the public health risks related to mechanically separated meat (MSM) derived from poultry and swine (EFSA-Q-2012-00752)

A new mandate for a Scientific Opinion was received in EFSA from the EC and it was allocated to the BIOHAZ Panel. An *ad hoc* WG will be established. The terms of reference were discussed in detail. Prof. John Sofos was suggested as Chair person for this WG pending approval of annual and specific DoIs. The deadline for adoption is 31st March 2013.

4.2 Discussion on possible self tasking mandates

The BIOHAZ Panel discussed areas of interest for possible self-task activities in the mandate of the current Panel. Some thematic areas such as risk ranking tools, molecular typing for attribution models and outbreak investigation, antimicrobial resistance, *Listeria*, *Toxoplasma* were identified for further discussion.

5. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion

5.1 Public health hazards to be covered by inspection of BOVINE meat (EFSA-Q-2011-00364)

The BIOHAZ "ad hoc" WG on meat inspection of bovines will meet on 13th and 14th of September. The deadline for this Opinion is June 2013.

5.2 Public health hazards to be covered by inspection of SHEEP AND GOAT meat (EFSA-Q-2011-00365)

The BIOHAZ "ad hoc" WG on meat inspection of small ruminants met via webconference on September 10th. The next meeting will take place in Parma on October 23rd. The deadline for this opinion is June 2013.

5.3 Public health hazards to be covered by inspection of FARMED GAME meat (EFSA-Q-2011-00366)

The BIOHAZ “ad hoc” WG on meat inspection of farmed game met for the 5th time on the 16 May 2012. The next WG meeting is scheduled on the 18th September 2012. The deadline for this opinion is June 2013.

5.4 Public health hazards to be covered by inspection of SOLIPEDS meat (EFSA-Q-2011-00367)

The BIOHAZ “ad hoc” WG on meat inspection of solipeds had its fourth meeting on 18th July 2012. The next WG meeting is scheduled on the 17/18th October 2012. The deadline for this opinion is June 2013.

In the context of the meat inspection opinions, the methodology for risk ranking of hazards of public health importance was discussed. It was agreed to adopt a similar approach, based on a slightly modified version of the decision tree used in the small ruminants draft opinion, in all four working groups species.

5.5 2012 update of the QPS recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA () (EFSA-Q-2012-00218)

The “ad hoc” WG had a physical WG meeting on 20 September. A web-conference WG meeting is scheduled for 26 October. The deadline for adoption is December 2012.

5.6 Quantitative evaluation of BSE risk in bovine intestines and mesentery (EFSA-Q-2012-00247)

The third WG meeting was held in Parma on 5-6th September. The kick-off meeting with the contractor selected to develop the model on TSE infectivity in animal tissue that will support this opinion was held during the second day of the meeting. The fourth WG meeting is planned for Tuesday 9th November in Parma.

5.7 Risks posed by pathogens in food of non animal origin (EFSA-Q-2012-00237)

A audio web conference of the WG took place on 27 August 2012 and the fifth meeting is scheduled for the 19-20 September 2012. The deadline for adoption of the terms of reference 1 and 2 is December 2012. The preliminary conclusions addressing ToR1 were presented and the modelling approaches proposed by the WG to answer ToR2 were discussed and agreed at this Plenary meeting.

5.8 VTEC-seropathotype concept and scientific criteria regarding pathogenicity assessment (EFSA-Q-2012-00576)

The first meeting of the BIOHAZ ad hoc WG on VTEC-seropathotype was held on 7 September in Parma. Feedback was requested from the Austrian Food Safety Authority on the ToRs that were revised by the WG experts during this first meeting. The second WG meeting is scheduled by webmeeting on 16 October. The third WG meeting is scheduled for 4 December in Parma. The deadline for adoption is end of March 2013 (under negotiation).

5.9 Risk of transmission of TSE’s via in vivo derived embryo transfer in ovine animals (EFSA-Q-2012-00647)

The BIOHAZ "ad hoc" WG has been established and will hold the first meeting on October 9th. The deadline for adoption is March 2013.

5.10 Request for a scientific opinion on the Scrapie situation in the EU after 10 years of monitoring and control in sheep and goats (EFSA-2012-00646)

An ad hoc WG is being established, and is expected to have its firast meeting in October/November 2012. The deadline for adoption is 1st July 2014.

6. Feedback from the Scientific Committee/the Scientific Panel, Working Groups, EFSA, the European Commission

6.1 Scientific Committee and other Scientific Panels

The last SC Plenary meeting took place on the 18th September in Parma. The agenda and minutes of that meeting will be available on the EFSA website (http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/120918-a.htm).

6.2 Other WGs

6.2.1 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 (Art 31 Reg 178/2002) (EFSA-Q-2011-01175)

A meeting of the ad hoc WG took place on 7th September. Following a request for extension of the deadline, completion of this document is foreseen for 15 October 2012.

6.2.2 Revision of the annual monitoring programme for BSE from Norway (Art 31 Reg 178/2002) (EFSA-Q-2012-00577)

The first meeting of the WG took place on 10th July in the form of a webconference. The second WG meeting is foreseen for Tuesday 25th September in Parma.

6.2.3 Request for scientific and technical assistance on the provisional results of the study on genetic resistance to scrapie in goats in Cyprus (Art 31 Reg 178/2002) (EFSA-2012-00669)

The BIOHAZ "ad hoc" WG on genetic resistance to scrapie in goats in Cyprus had its first meeting on 10-12th September 2012. A further meeting may take place in October. The deadline for delivering the scientific report to the requestor was extended until 30 November 2012.

6.2.4 Clarifications on the interpretation of technical issues about the Scientific Opinion on a summary of scientific studies undertaken by the UK Food Standards Agency (FSA) to support a proposed production method for smoked "skin-on" sheep meat (EFSA-Q-2012-00720)

A draft report produced by the BIOHAZ Unit staff has been presented and discussed with the Panel members and finally endorsed. A peer review is on going. Deadline is for the completion of this work is foreseen on 15th October.

6.3 European Commission

Nothing to report.

7. Emerging issues

Nothing to report.

8. BIOHAZ Networks

The meetings of the EFSA Scientific Networks on Microbiological Risk Assessment and on BSE-TSE are scheduled for October 2012.

9. Any Other Business

The panel discussed EFSA policies on Document management, a recent FSIS risk assessment guidance, and the report on the recent external EFSA evaluation.

Annex I

INTERESTS AND ACTIONS RESULTING FROM THE SCREENING OF ADOI OR SDOI

a) **CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** In the SDoI filled for the present meeting **DR. MARION SIMMONS** declared interests for the following agenda items: Quantitative evaluation of BSE risk in bovine intestines and mesentery, Request for a scientific opinion on the risk of transmission of TSE's via in vivo derived embryo transfer in ovine animals, and Request for scientific and technical assistance on the provisional results of the study on genetic resistance to scrapie in goats in Cyprus**.** In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes regarding Declarations of Interests (DoIs) and the Decision of the Executive Director implementing this Policy, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, the interest above was deemed to represent a conflict of Interest. This results in the impossibility for the expert to be present when that item is discussed, voted on or in anyway processed by that concerned scientific group.

b) **CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** In the SDoI filled for the present meeting **DR. PAUL COOK** declared an interest for the following agenda item: Clarifications on the interpretation of technical issues about the Scientific Opinion on a summary of scientific studies undertaken by the UK Food Standards Agency (FSA) to support a proposed production method for smoked "skin-on" sheep meat. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes regarding Declarations of Interests (DoIs) and the Decision of the Executive Director implementing this Policy, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, the interest above was deemed to represent a conflict of Interest. This results in the impossibility for the expert to be present when that item is discussed, voted on or in anyway processed by that concerned scientific group.