Scientific Panel on Plant Protection Products and their Residues

Minutes of the 63rd Plenary meeting

Held on 17/18 April 2013, Parma

(Agreed on 5th July 2013 by written procedure)

Participants

- **Panel Members:**

  Theodorus Brock, Ettore Capri (17 April), Sabine Duquesne, Antonio F. Hernandez-Jerez, Karen Ildico Hirsch-Ernst, Susanne Hougaard Bennekou, Michael Klein, Thomas Kuhl, Metka Filipič, Ryszard Laskowski (18 April), Matthias Liess, Alberto Mantovani, Colin Ockleford, Bernadette Ossendorp, Daniel Pickford, Robert Smith, Ingvar Sundh, Aaldrik Tiktak and Ton van der Linden

- **EFSA:**
  - Pesticides Unit: Luc Mohimont, Maria Arena, Charlotte Bergkvist, Alessandra Caffi, Federica Crivellente, Stephanie Bopp, Mark Egsmose, Hans Steinkellner, Franz Streissl and Andrea Terron
  - Scientific Evaluation of Regulated Products Directorate: Per Bergman
  - Legal & Regulatory Affairs Unit: Dirk Detken
  - Editorial & Media Relations Unit: Simon Terry

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Michael Walsh (DG SANCO), Alf Aagaard and Paulo Sousa.

Michael Klein and Aaldrik Tiktak did not participate in the discussion relating to agenda item 6.7 and 6.8.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes[1] and the Decision of the Executive Director implementing this Policy regarding Declarations of Interests[2], EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest (ADoI) 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 SDoI as well as the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of the meeting, please refer to Annex I.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 62nd PPR Plenary meeting held on 13/14 February 2013.

The minutes of the 62nd Plenary meeting held on the 13th and 14th of February 2013 were agreed by written procedure on the 15th of April 2013.

5. Report on written procedures since 62nd PPR Plenary meeting.

No written procedure has taken place since the 62nd Plenary meeting.

6. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion and/or possible adoption.

6.1 Scientific Opinion on the identification of pesticides to be included in cumulative assessment groups on the basis of their toxicological profile (EFSA-Q-2009-00860)

The Chair of the Panel reported that during the meeting of the Scientific Committee on the 11th and 12th of April 2013, the Scientific Committee members expressed some reservation about proposing only one of the possible approaches and suggested that also other approaches should be explored for the identification of a set of candidates chemicals to be included in a cumulative assessment group.

A technical hearing was organised by the Working Group on cumulative assessment groups of pesticides on the 17th of April during which three members of the Scientific Committee took part as hearing experts to convey the reservations and suggestions expressed by the Scientific Committee.

The secretariat informed the Panel that an extended deadline for the adoption of the opinion by 2 months had been agreed by the Mandate Review Committee in order to allow a proper consideration of the reservations of the Scientific Committee and to proceed with further consultation if needed. The new deadline is now set for June 30th 2013.

The Chair of the Working Group introduced the draft opinion to the Panel. The written comments received from Panel members after distributing the opinion on the 25th of March have been thoroughly discussed at the WG meeting and addressed in the present draft of the opinion. Also, some changes resulting from the technical hearing have been added to the draft opinion.

The Panel agreed to table the opinion again for possible adoption at the next Plenary meeting in June. The Chair of the Panel will provide with feedback to the Scientific Committee on how the Panel intends to address the expressed reservations. A revised

[1] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf
[2] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules.pdf

version of the draft opinion will be prepared by the Working Group with the support of the Secretariat of the Panel and sent to the Secretariat of the Scientific Committee for further consultation with the Scientific Committee.

6.2 Scientific Opinion on the relevance of dissimilar mode of action and its appropriate application for cumulative risk-assessment of pesticide residues (EFSA-Q-2011-01020)

The Chair of the Working Group gave an update. The first meeting of the Working Group will be in June. The scientific opinion will be complementary to the opinion on the identification of pesticides to be included in cumulative assessment groups on the basis of their toxicological profile. For this reason and in order to keep consistency, the Panel agreed that external expertise was needed. The area of external expertise and the scientific profiles to be identified from the expert database will be discussed further following a consultation between the Chair of the Working Group and the Head of Unit.

6.3 Scientific Opinion on the potential developmental neurotoxicity of acetamiprid and imidacloprid (EFSA-Q-2012-00958)

The Chair of the Working Group informed the Panel on the progress on this mandate. A first draft of the opinion will be discussed at the meeting of the Working Group which will take place after the plenary meeting.

6.4 Scientific Opinion addressing the state of science on risk assessment for non-target arthropods (EFSA-Q-2011-00975), Scientific Opinion addressing the state of science on in-soil risk assessment (EFSA-Q-2011-00978), Scientific Opinion on good modelling practice in the context of mechanistic effect models for risk assessment of plant protection products (EFSA-Q-2011-00989)

The Panel was informed that the selection process of external experts was close to be completed.

6.5 Guidance on aquatic Ecotoxicology (EFSA-Q-2009-00001)

The Panel was informed about the progress made in the meeting of the Working Group Aquatic Ecotoxicology on the 15th – 17th of April 2013. The Working Group discussed the most controversial issues from the public consultation and agreed to the changes in the updated draft Guidance. The draft Guidance will be scheduled for adoption at the Plenary meeting in June.

6 .6 Scientific opinion on the effect assessment of pesticides for sediment organisms in edge-of-field surface water (EFSA-Q-2009-00001)

The Working Group in charge of preparing this opinion is not yet established. The Working Group will start their work in autumn 2013. The Chair of the Working Group is still to be nominated by the Chair of the Panel following consultation with the Secretariat.

6.7 Scientific Opinion on the 2009 report of the FOCUS Groundwater working group (Lower tier assessment). (EFSA-Q-2011-00753)

The proposed corrections of the adopted Scientific Opinion on the report of the FOCUS groundwater working group (FOCUS, 2009): assessment of lower tiers were presented and endorsed by the Panel. The opinion will be republished with the agreed corrections.

6.8 Scientific Opinion on the 2009 report of the FOCUS Groundwater working group (Higher tier assessment). (EFSA-Q-2011-00754)

The rapporteur presented an update on the progress of the second Scientific Opinion on the report of the FOCUS groundwater working group (FOCUS, 2009): assessment of higher tiers. The Working Group will meet again in May and June before the adoption foreseen at the plenary meeting in June 2013.

7. New Mandates

No new mandate has been adopted by the Mandate Review Committee since the 62nd Plenary meeting**.**

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

8.1 Scientific Committee

The Chair informed the Panel about relevant agenda items that were discussed at the 61st plenary meeting of the Scientific Committee which took place on the 11th and 12th of April 2013. This included the work programme of the Scientific Committee working groups and the exposure to multiple chemicals.

9. Other scientific topics for information and/or discussion

No further scientific topics were added to the agenda for information and/or discussion.

10. Any Other Business

No further topics were on the agenda.

Annex I

INTERESTS AND ACTIONS RESULTING FROM THE SCREENING OF ADOI OR SDOI

In the ADoI or in the SDoI filled for the present meeting, Dr. Michael Klein and Dr. Aaldrik Tiktak declared the following interest: membership of the FOCUS Groundwater Working Group of DG SANCO that prepared the 2009 report. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes and the Decision of the Executive Director implementing this Policy regarding Declarations of Interests, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, the interest above was deemed to represent a conflict of Interest regarding item 6.7 and 6.8 (Scientific Opinions on the 2009 report of the FOCUS Groundwater working group).

This resulted in the impossibility for the experts to be present when the item was discussed by the Panel.