Scientific Panel on Plant Protection Products and their Residues

Minutes of the 68h Plenary meeting

Held on 26/27 March 2014, Parma

(Agreed on 21st May 2014)

Participants

- **Panel Members:**

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

- **Hearing Expert (item 4.1):**

  Robert Luttik (Chair of the WG on the risk assessment for non target terrestrial plants)

- **EFSA:**

  Pesticides Unit: Charlotte Bergkvist, Federica Crivellente, Mark Egsmose, Magda Florio, Anja Friel, Luc Mohimont, Hans Steinkellner, Franz Streissl, Jose Tarazona, Andrea Terron, Laura Villamar Bouza.

  Communications Department: Rory Harrington

  GMO Unit: Elisabeth Waigmann

- **Others (item 4.1):**

  Carmen Schweikert and Beate Strandberg (Members of the WG on the risk assessment for non target terrestrial plants)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Alf Aagaard, Ettore Capri, Matthias Liess, Paulo Sousa (Panel Members) and Michael Walsh (DG SANCO).

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 and the Specific Declaration of interest 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 Oral Declaration of interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 67th PPR Plenary meeting.

The minutes of the 67th Plenary meeting held on the 12th and 13th of February 2014 were under the written agreement procedure until the 31st March 2014.

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

5.1. Scientific opinion on Risk Assessment of Plant Protection Products on Non-Target Terrestrial Plants (EFSA-Q-2011-00982)

A draft opinion was submitted to the Panel with a list of issues for which the Working Group was seeking the advice of the Panel. These issues were intensively discussed in the light of the information provided by the Chair of the Working Group, acting in the role of hearing expert and supported by 2 members of the Working Group. Detailed secretarial notes of this discussion were delivered to the Working Group.

The secretariat provided clarifications on the need to present the scientific evidence in the opinion in a way which allows Risk Managers taking informed decisions in particular on the setting of specific protection goals to be considered in the drafting of the EFSA guidance document on the risk assessment for non target terrestrial plants.

5.2 Scientific opinion on a proposal for a Guidance on how aged sorption studies for pesticides should be conducted, analysed and used in regulatory assessment (FERA, 2012)

The Panel was informed that the mandate for the preparation of a scientific opinion on the proposal of the Food & Environment Research Agency of UK for guidance on how aged sorption studies for pesticides should be conducted, analysed and used in regulatory assessments was formally accepted by EFSA. The deadline for adoption of the opinion is the 30th June 2015. The establishment of the Working Group will start after the official notification of the acceptance of the mandate to the Chair of the Panel.

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

5.3 Scientific opinion addressing the state of science on risk assessment for non-target arthropods (EFSA-Q-2011-00975) and Scientific Opinion addressing the state of the science on in-soil risk assessment (EFSA-Q-2011-00978)

The current state of the opinion has been presented to the Panel by the Chair of the Working Group. The 8th Working Group meeting will be held on 22nd - 23rd of May 2014.

A request for the postponement of the deadline for the adoption of the 2 opinions is in preparation.

5.4 Scientific opinion on the effect assessment of pesticides for sediment organisms in edge-of-field surface water (EFSA-Q-2012-00959).

The Chair of the Working Group informed the Panel on the progress of the Working Group. The Working Group had its first meeting on the 10 – 11 December 2013. The Panel was informed that a postponement of the deadline will be needed as the activity was kept on hold in first part of 2014 due to resource constraints in the Secretariat. A need for additional expertise was identified by the WG regarding the effects of PPPs on vertebrates and on microorganisms living in the sediment. Two Panel members volunteered as additional members of the Working Group to cover these areas. The next Working Group meeting will be held on 7th of May 2014.

5.5 Guidance on the establishment of the residue definition for dietary risk assessment.

The Chair of the Working Group informed the Panel on the progress of the Working Group after its second meeting. A need for additional expertise in the area of genotoxicity has been identified and a member of the Panel volunteered as additional member of the Working Group to cover this area.

6. New Mandates

6.1 Request for a mandate for the preparation of a scientific opinion of the PPR Panel investigating experimental toxicity data of pesticides and their potential link to Parkinson's disease and childhood leukaemia.

The Terms of References (ToR) for this new mandate, envisaged as a first follow-up action after the publication of the External Scientific Report on 'Literature review on epidemiological studies linking exposure to pesticides and health effects (University of Ionnina Medical School, 2013)', were discussed and supported by the Panel. The Terms of Reference of this mandate will be presented to the Scientific Committee. As a second follow-up action to the above Report, the Terms of Reference for another mandate on epidemiological findings are in preparation for discussion at an upcoming Plenary meeting of the Panel.

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

7.1 Update on the activities of the Scientific Committee

The Chair informed the Panel about the last meeting of the Scientific Committee. In particular, the Terms of Reference of the mandate of the Panel to prepare guidance on the establishment of the residue definition for risk assessment were presented and the Scientific Committee asked to be kept updated on the progress of this activity.

Panel members involved in various Working Groups of the Scientific Committee (Carvone Assessment, Environmental Risk Assessment overarching Group, review of Guidance documents, Emerging Risks) informed the Panel on the progress in the respective activities.

7.2 EFSA 2014 Communication strategy in the area of pesticide

In line with the Programming Document 2014-2016, the activities of EFSA on pesticides have been selected as key communication theme in 2014. A presentation was given by the Communication Department on the planned actions to show in a compelling way how EFSA's work on pesticides helps protection of human and animal health, and the environment.

8. Any other business

No item was discussed on this point.