

Scientific Panel on Biological Hazards
Minutes of the 89th plenary meeting
Held on 21-22 May 2014, Parma

(Agreed on 03 07 2014)

Participants

- **Panel Members:**

Andreoletti Olivier, Baggesen Dorte Lau, Bolton Declan (on 22 May), Butaye Patrick, Cook Paul, Davies Robert, Fernandez-Escamez Pablo S., Griffin John, Hald Tine¹ (for items 5.1, 6.2 and 6.4), Havelaar Arie Hendrik, Koutsoumanis Konstantinos, Lindqvist Roland, McLauchlin James, Nesbakken Truls, Prieto Miguel (apologies), Ricci Antonia (on 22 May), Ru Giuseppe, Sanaa Moez, Simmons Marion, Sofos John (apologies), and Threlfall John.

- **European Commission and/or member States representatives:**

Sabine Osaer (DG-SANCO).

- **EFSA:**

- o BIOCONTAM Unit: Liebana Ernesto, Messens Winy, Correia Sandra, Da Silva-Felicio Maria Teresa, Hempen Michaela, Romero-Barrios Pablo, Stella Pietro (Scientific staff).
- o Other EFSA Units/Directorates: Martino Laura (RASA, AMU¹, for item 6.2.).

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair of the BIOHAZ Panel welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from M. Prieto and J. Sofos. D. Bolton and A. Ricci only attended on 22 May. T. Hald participated by web conference for some items only.

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 Processes² and the Decision of the Executive Director implementing this Policy regarding

¹ Assessment and Methodological Support (AMU) Unit of the Risk Assessment and Scientific Assistance (RASA) Department.

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

Declarations of Interests³, 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. No conflicts of interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of interest (ODoI) at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 88th Plenary meeting held on 09-10 04 2014

The minutes of the 88th BIOHAZ Plenary meeting (09-10 04 2014) were agreed by written procedure on 15 05 2014 and published on the EFSA website 15 05 2014⁴.

5. Scientific outputs submitted for possible adoption

5.1 Scientific opinion on the risk posed by pathogens in food of non-animal origin. Part 2 *Salmonella* and Norovirus in berries ([EFSA-Q-2013-00179](#))

The last WG meeting took place on 29-30 Apr. 2014 in Parma. The draft Opinion was presented by the WG Chair and after a thorough discussion it was adopted by the BIOHAZ Panel on 22 May 2014.

6. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion (thorough reading)

6.1 Scientific opinion on the scrapie situation in the EU after 10 years of monitoring and control in sheep and goats ([EFSA-2012-00646](#))

The last WG meeting took place on 19-20 May 2014 in Parma. The Chair of the WG updated the Panel on the progress made, and presented thoroughly some sections of the draft opinion, for which feedback was collected. No more WG meetings are currently scheduled. The deadline for adoption is 15 July 2014.

6.2 Scientific opinion on the public health risks of eggs due to deterioration and development of pathogens ([EFSA-Q-2013-00400](#))

The seventh WG meeting took place on 12 May via web conference. The modelling results were reviewed, with Panel members providing feedback. The next WG meeting will take place on 3-4 June in Parma. The deadline to deliver the opinion is 15 July 2014.

6.3 Scientific opinion on the public health risks related to the maintenance of the cold chain during storage and transport of meat. Part 2 (minced meat from all species) ([EFSA-Q-2013-00648](#))

The third WG meeting took place on 25 Mar. 2014 as a web conference. The draft opinion was presented, as well as the modelling approaches used to address the Terms of References. The date for the next WG meeting is still under discussion. The deadline to deliver the opinion is 15 July 2014.

6.4 Scientific opinion on the evaluation of molecular typing methods for major food-borne microbiological hazards and their use for attribution modelling, outbreak investigation and scanning surveillance. Part 2 (surveillance and data management activities) ([EFSA-Q-2013-00906](#))

³ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/140409a-m.pdf>

The last WG meeting took place on 23 Apr. 2014 in Parma. The draft opinion was presented by the WG Chair and thoroughly discussed. The next WG meeting will take place on 5 June 2014 by web conference. The deadline to deliver the opinion is end of July 2014.

6.5. Scientific and technical assistance to establish a protocol for further laboratory investigations into the distribution of infectivity of Atypical BSE ([EFSA-Q-2013-01015](#)) (Art. 31)

The third WG meeting was held on 6 May 2014 by web conference. The scientific coordinator and a WG member presented the draft report. The next WG meeting will take place on 5 June 2014 in Parma. The deadline to deliver the report is 15 July 2014.

7. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion (progress reports)

7.1 Scientific opinion on the risk posed by pathogens in food of non animal origin. Part 2 (other): *Salmonella* and Norovirus in tomatoes ([EFSA-Q-2013-00177](#)), *Salmonella* in melons ([EFSA-Q-2013-00178](#)), and *Salmonella*, *Yersinia*, *Shigella* and Norovirus in bulb and stem vegetables and carrots ([EFSA-Q-2013-00176](#))

The last WG meeting took place on 29-30 Apr. 2014 in Parma. The Chair of the WG gave an overview of the roadmap for the four opinions. The next WG meeting will take place on 10 June 2014 in Brussels. The deadline to deliver the respective opinions are end of Sep. 2014, end of Sep. 2014 and end of Dec. 2014.

7.2 Scientific opinion on the development of a risk ranking toolbox for EFSA BIOHAZ Panel ([EFSA-Q-2013-00014](#))

The last WG meeting took place on 20 May 2014 in Parma. The Chair gave a short update on the progress made on this opinion. The next WG meeting will be held on 8 July 2014 in Parma. The deadline for adoption is end of Dec. 2014.

7.3 Scientific opinion on the public health risks related to the consumption of raw drinking milk ([EFSA-Q-2013-01026](#))

The second WG meeting took place on 3 Apr. by web conference. The Chair of the WG presented the approach to answering the terms of reference and the progress made. The next meeting is planned for 28 May 2014 as a web conference. The deadline to deliver the opinion is end of Dec. 2014.

7.4 Scientific opinion on the maintenance of the list of QPS recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA ([EFSA-Q-2014-00189](#))

It was briefed that an *ad hoc* WG was established. The dates for the four meetings to be held in 2014 were defined; the first one will take place on 4-5 June in Parma. The list of microorganisms notified to the EFSA Units has been updated. The deadline for adoption of the opinion is end of Dec. 2016 but Panel statements will be published in the meantime if the QPS recommended list needs to be updated and according to the needs of those EFSA Units.

8. New Mandates

8.1 Self-tasking mandates

The draft self-tasking mandate from the BIOHAZ panel on the public health risks associated with Enterotoxigenic *Escherichia coli* (EAggEC) was discussed. Changes will be made to the Terms of Reference based on the comments received.

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

9.1 Scientific Committee and other Scientific Panels

No plenary meeting of the Scientific Committee took place since the last BIOHAZ plenary meeting. The next meeting will be held on 8-9 Jul. 2014 in Parma. The draft agenda can be found on the EFSA website⁵.

9.2 Working Groups

9.2.2. Standing Working Group (SWG) on Emerging Risks

Nothing to report as there have been no meetings since the last BIOHAZ plenary meeting. The WG will meet on 3-4 June 2014 in Parma. The BIOHAZ Panel Members are invited to provide feedback on Novel Phleboviruses.

9.2.3. Working Group on Uncertainty in Risk Assessment

Nothing to report as there have been no meetings since the last BIOHAZ plenary meeting. The WG will meet on 27-28 May 2014 and 10-11 June 2014, both in Brussels.

9.3 EFSA

9.4 European Commission

The Commission representative gave an update on the feedback to opinions adopted by the BIOHAZ panel and presented possible new activities. This was followed by a discussion.

10. BIOHAZ Networks

The 10th meeting of the Scientific Network on Microbiological Risk Assessment (MRA Network) took place on 12-13 May 2014 in Parma. The agenda of this meeting is available on the EFSA website⁶. The minutes will be made available through the same link. A feedback of this meeting was provided.

11. Other scientific topics for information and/or discussion

The final selection of the participants of the EFSA's Scientific Colloquium N°20 "Whole Genome Sequencing of food-borne pathogens for public health protection" has been made⁷. The colloquium will take place in Parma on 16-17 June 2014.

The call for tender "Closing gaps for performing a risk assessment on *Listeria monocytogenes* in ready-to-eat (RTE) foods: activity 2, a quantitative risk characterisation of

⁵ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/140708.htm>

⁶ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/140512.htm>

⁷ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/140616.htm>

L. monocytogenes in RTE foods; starting from the retail stage” has been announced on the EFSA website⁸.

The Panel was informed that the paper “Defining pathogenic verocytotoxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (VTEC) from cases of human infection in the European Union, 2007-2010 based on the Scientific Opinion on VTEC-seropathotype and scientific criteria regarding pathogenicity assessment⁹ has been accepted for publication in *Epidemiology and Infection*.

12. Any other business

The proposed dates for the BIOHAZ plenary meetings to be held in 2015 were distributed to the Panel Members. The dates will be fixed during the July BIOHAZ plenary meeting. The Panel Members were reminded that the BIOHAZ Plenary meeting on 22-23 Oct. 2014 will be held in Madrid.

The Panel Members were also reminded that the deadline for applications of the call to renew membership of the Scientific Committee and eight panels is 18 June 2014¹⁰.

⁸ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/tenders/tender/ocefsabiocontam201402.htm>

⁹ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/fr/efsajournal/pub/3138.htm>

¹⁰ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/press/news/140409.htm>
