Scientific Panel on Plant Protection Products and their Residues

Minutes of the 69th Plenary meeting

Held on 21 – 22 May 2014, Parma

(Agreed on 11 July 2014)

Participants

- **Panel Members:**

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

- **Hearing Expert (Item 5.1):**

  Robert Luttik (Chair of the Working Group on the risk assessment for non-target terrestrial plants)

- **European Commission:**

  Karin Nienstedt (DG SANCO)

- **EFSA:**

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

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Alf Aagaard, Bernadette Ossendorp and Paulo Sousa (Panel Members) and Michael Walsh (DG SANCO). In the absence of Bernadette Ossendorp, Susanne Hougaard Bennekou, Vice Chair of the Panel, chaired the meeting and welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without change.

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 and 68th PPR Plenary meeting

The minutes of the 67th Plenary meeting held on the 12th and 13th of February 2014 were agreed by written procedure on the 31st of March 2014. The minutes of the 68th Plenary meeting held on the 26th and 27th of March 2014 were agreed by written procedure on the 21st of May 2014.

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

5.1 Scientific opinion addressing the state of science on risk-assessment for non-target terrestrial plants. (EFSA-Q-2011-00982)

A revised draft of the Scientific opinion was discussed and an agreement was reached on the final changes to make. The Chair of the Working Group was entrusted to prepare the final draft of the opinion including the agreed changes with the support of the Working Group. The final draft will be circulated to Panel for the adoption by written procedure.

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) (EFSA-Q-2014-00217)

The approval of the mandate was officially notified to the Chair of the Panel. The Panel agreed to appoint Ton van der Linden and Michael Klein as Chair and Vice-Chair of this Working Group. The areas of scientific expertise needed in order to carry out the mandate were identified and included sorption and degradation studies, conceptual understanding of sorption and degradation (and their interaction), fate and behaviour modelling in soil compartment, inverse modelling/fitting data to models/statistics and regulatory risk assessment for the soil compartment. The need for external expertise in the Working Group was acknowledged. The Working Group met the first time on the 20th /21st of May 2014 and established a plan to finalise the scientific opinion within the agreed deadline. Two rapporteurs were nominated by the Chair of the Working Group. The Panel agreed to invite three Hearing Experts to answer questions from the Working Group members on the guidance proposal from FERA (2012).

[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 Panel was updated by the Secretariat on the new planning for the adoption of the 2 opinions. The Chair of the Working Group gave a short presentation on the progress of the development of the Scientific Opinion on non-target arthropods.

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 which met on the 7th of May 2014. The Panel was informed that a request for the postponement of the deadline for the adoption of the opinion is in preparation.

5.5 Scientific Guidance of the PPR Panel on the establishment of the residue definition to be used for dietary risk assessment (EFSA-Q-2013-01001)

The Panel was informed that the Secretariat will provide support to the Working Group in the area of (Q)SAR analysis, chemical grouping and read across. In addition, the Secretariat indicated the intention of EFSA to outsource through a grant agreement a data collection regarding genotoxicity endpoints of pesticide active substances and metabolites for possible use of (Q)SAR analysis, grouping approaches and read across.

5.6 Scientific Opinion of the PPR Panel investigating experimental toxicological properties of plant protection products having a potential link to Parkinson's disease and childhood leukaemia (EFSA-Q-2014-00480)

The panel was informed that this mandate is in the EFSA internal approval process. The EFSA Management recommended to add this mandate in the context of a broader project involving national and international organisations. The Pesticide Unit is therefore preparing a work programme in order to meet this recommendation.

6. New Mandates.

6.1 Request for a mandate for the preparation of a Scientific Opinion of the PPR Panel on the follow-up of the findings of the External Scientific report 'Literature review on epidemiological studies linking exposure to pesticides and health effects' (University of Ioannina Medical School, 2013) (EFSA-Q-2014-00481)

The Terms of References for this new mandate on the interpretation of the epidemiological findings from the External report in a pesticide risk assessment context were presented to the Panel. The Panel discussed and supported these Terms of References.

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 Panel was informed on the outcome of the last meeting of the Scientific Committee and about the progress of the Working Groups of the Scientific Committee with representatives of the Panel or of the Pesticides Unit (Working Groups on guidance review, on environmental risk assessment (overarching issues), on uncertainties in risk assessment and on emerging risks).

7.2 EFSA

The Panel was informed about the state of development of the EFSA guidance on the pesticide exposure assessment for workers, operators, bystanders and residents. A public consultation was closed on 20th of May 2014 and more than 400 comments were submitted by interested parties. The draft guidance will be updated on the basis of the results of the public consultation and a final consultation of risk managers on the revised draft will be considered before the approval of the EFSA guidance.

8. Any other business

The Panel was informed that the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health did not take note of the Scientific Guidance adopted by the Panel in June 2013 on tiered risk assessment for plant protection products for aquatic organisms in edge-of-field surface water at the meeting on the 15th and 16th of May 2014 of the Section Phytopharmaceuticals. The Secretariat is currently investigating if the comments submitted by Member States can be addressed scientifically. The support of the Panel might be needed on this issue.

The manufacturers of the active substances of acetamiprid and imidacloprid have provided with comments to the scientific opinion adopted by the Panel in November 2013 on the potential developmental neurotoxicity of these substances. The comments will be considered by the European Commission in the context of the follow-up actions to be adopted by the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health. In view of providing scientific advice to the European Commission in this process, the comments from the manufacturers were considered by EFSA with the support of the Chair of the Working Group in charge of the preparation of the opinion. The Panel will be informed of eventual further actions requested by the European Commission.

The Panel was informed about:

- The publication of the 2011 European Union Report on Pesticide Residues (Scientific Report of EFSA);
- The publication of the Conclusion on the peer review of the pesticide human health risk assessment of the active substance chlorpyrifos;
- The EFSA Scientific Colloquium “Harmonisation of human and ecological risk assessment of combined exposure to multiple chemicals”, which will take place in Edinburgh in September 2014.