



SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

MINUTES OF THE 134th PLENARY MEETING

**Held on 18-19 March 2020, web-conference
(Agreed on 6 April 2020)**

Participants

■ **Panel Members:**

Ana Allende, Avelino Alvarez-Ordóñez, Declan Bolton, Sara Bover-Cid, Marianne Chemaly, Robert Davies, Alessandra De Cesare, Lieve Herman, Friederike Hilbert, Konstantinos Koutsoumanis, Roland Lindqvist, Maarten Nauta, Giuseppe Ru, Luisa Peixe, Marion Simmons, Panagiotis Skandamis, Elisabetta Suffredini.

■ **Hearing Experts¹:**

Not applicable

■ **European Commission (EC) and/or Member States representatives:**

Jean-Baptiste Perrin (EC, DG Health and Food Safety, Unit G4; for item 5.2)
Kris De Smet (EC, DG Health and Food Safety, Unit G4; for item 5.3)
Paolo Caricato, Patricia Herrero-Sancho (EC, DG Health and Food Safety, Unit G4; for item 5.4)

■ **EFSA:**

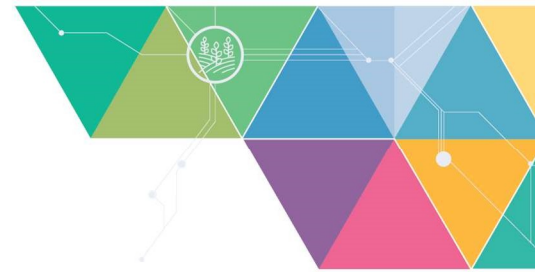
■ **BIOCONTAM Unit:**

Sean Ashe, Katrin Bote, Federica Ceriani, Maria Teresa da Silva Felício, Beatriz Guerra, Michaela Hempen, Ernesto Liébana, Winy Messens, Karoline Noerstrud, Angel Ortiz-Peláez, Valentina Rizzi, Pietro Stella

■ **Observers:**

Not applicable

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.



1. Welcome and apologies for absence

No apologies were received. This meeting, originally scheduled as a physical meeting, was converted into a teleconference to avoid traveling to EFSA in line with the measures established to reduce the risk of coronavirus infection.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Panel members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 133rd Plenary meeting held on 29-30 January 2020, Parma (Italy)

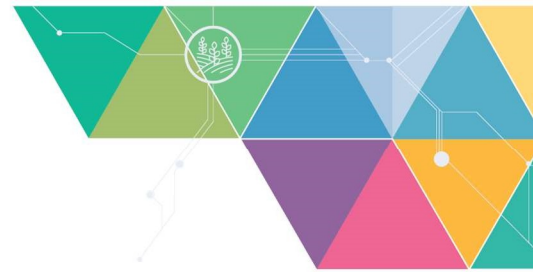
The minutes of the 133rd Plenary meeting were agreed by written procedure on 13 February 2020.

5. Scientific outputs submitted for possible adoption or endorsement

5.1. Application for the evaluation of an alternative method for the production of biodiesel from processed fats derived from category 1,2 and 3 animal by-products⁴

The WG Chair presented the draft opinion for adoption. The changes required by the Panel during thorough reading had been addressed in the version submitted for adoption. The Panel reviewed all the comments submitted by the members in advanced and actions were taken for each of them. Then the WG Chair read the conclusions, recommendations, abstract and summary. The Panel discussed in detail a draft recommendation from the WG for revising and updating the EFSA Statement on technical assistance on the format for applications for new alternative methods for animal by-products (EFSA Journal, 2010), to include the qualification of prion reduction associated with the treatment of Category 1 material and to take into account recent progress in prion detection and quantification methods, as explained in Appendix B of the opinion. The Panel agreed to remove it from the opinion and requested EFSA to ensure that the recommendation is taken forward to the European Commission for further implementation

⁴ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2019-00432>



in the most appropriate manner and report back to the Panel in the next plenary. The opinion was adopted by the BIOHAZ Panel on 18 March 2020.

5.2. Scientific opinion providing an update and review of control options for *Campylobacter* in broilers at primary production⁵

The WG Chair presented the draft opinion for adoption. The Panel suggested a few changes regarding population attributable fractions (PAF) to improve clarity of the conclusions. The Panel discussed in detail the description of the methodology used for the expert knowledge elicitation that was applied to rank control options. The Panel generally agreed with the methodology, conclusions and recommendations. Few, mostly editorial, improvements were made throughout the text. The concluding remarks and conclusions were reviewed in detail and the scientific opinion was adopted by the BIOHAZ Panel on 18 March 2020.

5.3. Scientific opinion on the public health risk posed by *Listeria monocytogenes* in frozen fruit and vegetables including herbs, blanched during processing⁶

The last WG meeting took place on 30-31 January 2020 in Parma. During this WG meeting, the comments from the Panel were addressed and the uncertainty assessment for term of reference 1 was completed after discussion with members of the EFSA AMU unit. The uncertainty assessment for terms of reference 2 and 3 were also addressed by the WG. The proposal for assessing intermediate levels of *L. monocytogenes* at the end of the production process of blanched frozen vegetables that would be compatible with 100 CFU/g at the moment of consumption without cooking was discussed. The WG Chair presented the points for discussion to the Panel. The concluding remarks and conclusions were reviewed in detail and the scientific opinion was adopted by the BIOHAZ Panel on 19 March 2020.

5.4. Scientific opinion on the use of the so called "tubs" for transporting and storing fresh fishery products⁷

The last WG meeting was held on 2 March 2020 by web-conference (postponed from foreseen on 24 February 2020). During the WG meeting, the BIOHAZ Panel comments were discussed, and the concluding remarks finalized. The WG Chair presented the points for discussion to the Panel. The concluding remarks and conclusions were reviewed in detail and the scientific opinion was adopted by the BIOHAZ Panel on 19 March 2020.

6. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion

6.1. Application for the evaluation of the alternative method ECN tunnel composting⁸

Discussion on this agenda item was postponed to the next plenary meeting (25 March 2020, see also agenda item 10).

⁵ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2018-00676>

⁶ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2018-01006>

⁷ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2019-00053>

⁸ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2019-00583>



6.2. Scientific opinion on potential BSE risk posed by the use of ruminant collagen and gelatine in feed for non-ruminants farmed animals⁹

Discussion on this agenda item was postponed to the next plenary meeting (25 March 2020, see also agenda item 10).

6.3. Scientific opinions providing guidance on date marking and related food information¹⁰

Discussion on this agenda item was postponed to the next plenary meeting (25 March 2020, see also agenda item 10).

6.4. Scientific opinion on the evaluation of public and animal health risks in case of a delayed *post-mortem* inspection in ungulates¹¹

Discussion on this agenda item was postponed to the next plenary meeting (25 March 2020, see also agenda item 10).

6.5. Statement on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. 12: Suitability of taxonomic units notified to EFSA until March 2020¹²

Discussion on this agenda item was postponed to the next plenary meeting (25 March 2020, see also agenda item 10).

6.6. Request for a scientific opinion on specific maximum levels of cross-contamination for 24 antimicrobial active substances in non-target feed¹³

Discussion on this agenda item was postponed to the next plenary meeting (25 March 2020, see also agenda item 10).

6.7. Self-tasking mandate for a scientific opinion on the role played by the environment in the emergence and spread of antimicrobial resistance through the food chain¹⁴

Discussion on this agenda item was postponed to the next plenary meeting (25 March 2020, see also agenda item 10).

6.8. Scientific opinion on the use of the so-called "superchilling" technique for the transport of fresh fishery products¹⁵

The first meeting to discuss this mandate has been scheduled on 2 April 2020 (instead of 24 February 2020) by web-conference. The deadline for adoption is December 2020. Discussion on this agenda item was postponed to the 2020 April plenary meeting.

6.9. Scientific opinion on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA¹⁶

⁹ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2019-00436>

¹⁰ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2019-00438> and

<http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2019-00439>

¹¹ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2019-00124>

¹² <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2020-00077>

¹³ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2019-00221>

¹⁴ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2019-00343>

¹⁵ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2019-00437>

¹⁶ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2020-00083>



Discussion on this agenda item was postponed to the next plenary meeting (25 March 2020, see also agenda item 10).

7. New Mandates

7.1. Request for a scientific opinion on the efficacy and safety of high pressure processing of food

Discussion on this agenda item was postponed to the next plenary meeting (25 March 2020, see also agenda item 10).

8. Feedback from the Scientific Committee/Scientific Panels, EFSA, the European Commission

8.1. Scientific Committee

The 97th Plenary meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC) took place on 18-20 February 2020. The BIOHAZ Chair briefly reported to the Panel about the main topics discussed at the SC meeting. In particular, he briefly reported about the endorsement of the Draft framework for protocol development for EFSA's non-application scientific assessments, suggesting the item to be presented more in detail in a future BIOHAZ plenary meeting. During the next SC meeting, the BIOHAZ Panel Chair will present the BIOHAZ work programme, including feedback on lessons learnt by the BIOHAZ Panel from the implementation of the uncertainty guidance. For further details refer to the minutes of the SC Plenary meeting¹⁷.

8.2. Update on Rapid Outbreak Assessments and related activities

Discussion on this agenda item was postponed to the 2020 April plenary meeting.

8.3. European Commission

There were no new updates on this agenda item.

8.4. Request for scientific and technical assistance on the use of alkaline phosphatase and possible alternative testing to verify pasteurisation of raw milk, colostrum, dairy and colostrum-based products

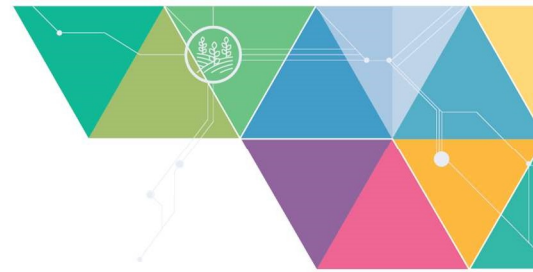
Discussion on this agenda item was postponed to the next plenary meeting (25 March 2020, see also agenda item 10).

9. Other scientific topics for information and/or discussion

9.1. Implementation of the guidance on uncertainty analysis in scientific assessments

Discussion on this agenda item was postponed to the 2020 April plenary meeting.

¹⁷ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/97th-plenary-meeting-scientific-committee>



9.2. Update on the EMA expert group on the establishment of the criteria for the designation of antimicrobials to be reserved for humans

Discussion on this agenda item was postponed to the 2020 April plenary meeting.

9.3. Topics of scientific concern in the area of biological hazards and BIOHAZ self-tasks

Discussion on this agenda item was postponed to the 2020 April plenary meeting.

9.4. Presentation on the EU One Health 2018 Zoonoses Report

Due to lack of time this presentation was postponed to a future plenary meeting.

9.5. Presentation on the EU Summary Report on surveillance for the presence of transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE) in 2018

Due to lack of time this presentation was postponed to a future plenary meeting.

10. Any other business

As anticipated at the previous plenary meeting, the Panel confirmed the need to add one extra plenary meeting (25 March 2020, web-conference) to discuss some items not covered during the present meeting.