



EFSA
European Food Safety Authority

Brussels, May 2005

MINUTES OF THE 14th PLENARY MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS Held in Valencia on 26th and 27th April 2005

AGENDA:

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Self tasking issues
 - 4.1 Guidance document on setting microbiological criteria and other food safety objectives - Organization of a Working Group (WG).
5. Official requests to EFSA.
 - 5.1 Presentation of new mandates received from the Commission
 - 5.2 Organization of Working Groups
6. Discussion and possible adoption of opinions
 - 6.1 Washing of eggs
 - 6.2 Assessment of age limit for the removal of certain Specified Risk Material (SRM) in cattle.
 - 6.3 Quantitative Risk Assessment (QRA) for residual BSE risk in bovine derived products. Draft opinion on safety of tallow.
7. Progress reports and discussion on the following mandates:
 - 7.1 The risk of feeding farmed animals with ready-to-use milk-based products and milk-derived products
 - 7.2 Risk assessment of a reduced inspection system for pigs slaughtered in areas with a very low prevalence of *Trichinella*
 - 7.3 Risk reduction options of *Salmonella* in pig production
 - 7.4 Safety vis-à-vis biological risk of biogas and compost treatment standards of Animal by Products (ABP)
 - 7.5 Safety vis-à-vis biological risk of heat treatment of manure

- 7.6 Quantitative Risk Assessment for residual BSE risk. Progress reports on Gelatine, Meat and Bone Meal (MBM), Vertebral Column, Di-Calcium Phosphate, Tri-Calcium Phosphate (*DCP, TCP.*)
- 7.7 Quantitative assessment of risk posed to humans by tissues of small ruminants in case BSE is present in these animal populations.
- 8. Feed-back by the Chairman on subjects discussed in the SC of interest to the Panel
- 9. Feed-back by the Panel members attending WG from other Panels
- 10. AOB
- 11. Closure of the meeting

PARTICIPANTS

Panel Members:

Herbert Budka, Sava Buncic, Pierre Colin, John D. Collins, Christian Ducrot, James Hope, Mac Johnston, Günter Klein, Antonio Martinez López, Christophe Nguyen-The, Riitta Maijala, Birgit Noerrung, Servé Notermans, Hilde Kruse, Maurice Pensaert, Ivar Vågsholm, Emmanuel Vanopdenbosch.

EFSA

Marta Hugas, Bart Goossens, Lucia Pena Alberdi, Didier Verloo and Eirini Tsigarida (Scientific Staff); Angela Cohen and Sylvie Volante (Administrative staff)

Commission

DG Health and Consumer Protection: Joaquim Ordeig

1. WELCOME

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming everybody.

2. APOLOGIES AND DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The following apologies were received:

Ernst Lücker, George- John Nychas, Simone Magnino and Terence Roberts

No additional declaration of interests were received.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

4. SELF-TASKING ISSUES

4.1. GUIDANCE DOCUMENT ON "MICROBIOLOGICAL TESTING, CRITERIA AND OTHER OBJECTIVES" ORGANIZATION OF A WG

The Secretariat informed that EFSA has approved the self-tasking mandate from the BIOHAZ Panel. It was understood that Dr Koeter will soon send a letter to the Chair of the Panel stating his approval for the establishment of a working group. The Panel decided in the first instance to establish the WG solely comprised of members of the Panel and the chair was appointed. During the development of the mandate a decision will be taken whether to invite external experts to provide specific information. The Secretariat informed the Panel about the possibility of opening a public consultation process in order to invite comments on a draft opinion produced by the Panel.

The first WG meeting will be held in Brussels on 11th July.

5. OFFICIAL REQUESTS TO EFSA.

5.1. NEW MANDATES ON ANIMAL BY-PRODUCTS

Two new mandates from the Commission were received requesting assessment of applications of alternative methods for the safe disposal of animal by-products (ABP). As was discussed before in the Panel, there is a need for a different approach to the involvement of EFSA and the BIOHAZ Panel in assessments of this nature. This matter will also be discussed with the Commission and in the meantime the Commission will be informed by a letter from EFSA that these mandates, which cannot be refused, will however be given a lower priority.

6. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF OPINIONS

6.1. WASHING OF EGGS

The Chair/Rapporteur presented the draft opinion to the Panel. The Panel members suggested editorial and structural changes to the body of the text. These will be incorporated into the revised version which will then be circulated to the Panel members before next plenary meeting in June. The revised document will be tabled at the next plenary meeting of June for discussion and possible adoption.

6.2. ASSESSMENT OF AGE LIMIT FOR THE REMOVAL OF CERTAIN SPECIFIED RISK MATERIAL (SRM) IN CATTLE

The Chair/Rapporteur presented the report of the Working Group and the draft opinion to the Panel. After a short discussion on the report and the opinion both documents were adopted by the panel.

6.3. QUANTITATIVE RISK ASSESSMENT FOR RESIDUAL BSE RISK IN BOVINE DERIVED PRODUCTS

This opinion has been split in 5 different opinions (tallow, meat and bone meal, gelatine, [Di-Calcium Phosphate, Tri-Calcium Phosphate (DCP/TCP) and vertebral column). The first one opinion, assessing the residual risk in tallow, was presented by the Chair/Rapporteur. The opinion was adopted by the Panel.

7. PROGRESS REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ON THE FOLLOWING MANDATES:

7.1. THE RISK OF FEEDING FARMED ANIMALS WITH READY-TO-USE MILK-BASED PRODUCTS AND MILK-DERIVED PRODUCTS

The first meeting of this Working Group will take place immediately after the plenary meeting. The secretariat informed the Panel that since this is a mandate which is being addressed by both the AHAW Panel and the BIOHAZ Panel, the Chair of the AHAW working group has been invited to be a member of the BIOHAZ Working Group.

7.2. RISK ASSESSMENT OF A REDUCED INSPECTION SYSTEM FOR PIGS SLAUGHTERED IN AREAS WITH A VERY LOW PREVALENCE OF *TRICHINELLA*

The first meeting of this Working Group took place on the 21st April. The Chair of the WG explained that during this meeting the mandate of the Commission was discussed and a draft of the table of contents was established. The tasks were distributed among the members of the WG. The next meeting of the WG was scheduled on 13th June in Brussels.

7.3. RISK REDUCTION OPTIONS OF *SALMONELLA* IN PIG PRODUCTION

The discussion was focussed on several outline documents, drafted by the Chair of the WG and members of the WG. A preliminary WG meeting with Panel members will take place after the BIOHAZ plenary meeting. A Working Group with external experts has been established and will have the first meeting in Parma on the 18th May.

7.4. SAFETY VIS-À-VIS BIOLOGICAL RISK OF BIOGAS AND COMPOST TREATMENT STANDARDS OF ANIMAL BY PRODUCTS (ABP)

7.5. SAFETY VIS-À-VIS BIOLOGICAL RISK OF HEAT TREATMENT OF MANURE

Both these draft opinions (7.4 AND 7.5) were discussed and a number of remarks and additions by the members were noted. In addition, the Commission extended the deadline for both of these opinions. Further WG meetings were planned and these will discuss the comments provided by the Panel members. These meetings are to be held on 13th May and 17th June 2005.

7.6. QUANTITATIVE RISK ASSESSMENT FOR RESIDUAL BSE RISK. PROGRESS REPORTS ON GELATINE, MBM, VERTEBRAL COLUMN, DCP, TCP

The opinion on MBM has been prioritized by the Commission and will be presented at the plenary in June. The opinions on gelatine and DCP/TCP will be presented in July. Thereafter the opinion on DCP/TCP will be finalised followed by the opinion on the vertebral column.

7.7. QUANTITATIVE ASSESSMENT OF RISK POSED TO HUMANS BY TISSUES OF SMALL RUMINANTS IN CASE BSE IS PRESENT IN THESE ANIMAL POPULATIONS

The draft report of this mandate was presented by the Chair of the Working Group. A final meeting is foreseen on 12th May and the final draft will be presented at the next plenary meeting in June.

8. FEED-BACK BY THE CHAIRMAN ON SUBJECTS DISCUSSED IN THE SC OF INTEREST TO THE PANEL

The chair briefed the Panel with the items discussed at the last Scientific Committee meeting held in Brussels on 14th - 15th April, 2005.

http://www.efsa.eu.int/science/sc_committee/sc_meetings/catindex_en.html

9. FEED-BACK BY THE PANEL MEMBERS ATTENDING WG FROM OTHER PANELS

Several Panel members attending WGs of other Scientific Panels and the Scientific Committee briefed the panel on the progress status of the questions.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

10.1. REQUEST FOR A SCIENTIFIC OPINION CONCERNING THE ANIMAL WELFARE AND HEALTH ASPECTS OF DIFFERENT SPACES ALLOWANCES AND FLOOR TYPES FOR WEANERS AND REARING PIGS

The panel discussed the draft Opinion provided by the Animal Health and Welfare panel (AHAW) on “The welfare of weaners and rearing pigs: effects of different space allowances and floor types”. This document was prepared by the Working Group on pig welfare and will be tabled in the next plenary meeting of the AHAW panel in May for adoption. After reading and discussing the document, the BIOHAZ Panel suggested avoiding dealing with public health issues in this opinion since the Terms of Reference do not mention explicitly the impact on public health when mentioning “carcass safety”.

11. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The meeting was closed at 15.00.