



Parma, September 2005

**MINUTES OF THE 17th PLENARY MEETING OF
THE SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS
Held in Parma on 7 and 8 September 2005**

AGENDA:

- 1 Welcome
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Adoption of the agenda
- 4 Minutes of the previous plenary
- 5 Self tasking issues – new proposals
- 6 Official requests to EFSA.
 - 6.1 Presentation of new mandates received from the Commission
 - 6.2 Organization of Working Groups
- 7 Discussion and possible adoption of opinions
 - 7.1 Washing of eggs
 - 7.2 Request for an opinion on the feasibility of establishing *Trichinella* free areas, and if feasible on the risk increase to public health of not examining pigs from those areas for *Trichinella* spp
 - 7.3 Quantitative Risk Assessment for residual BSE risk. Opinion on gelatine
 - 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.
- 8 Progress reports and discussion on the following mandates:
 - 8.1 The risk of feeding farmed animals with ready-to-use milk-based products and milk-derived products (ABP)
 - 8.2 Decontamination of poultry carcasses
 - 8.3 Risk reduction options of *Salmonella* in pig production
 - 8.4 Scientific advice on somatic cell count in goat milk
 - 8.5 Opinion on classification of atypical scrapie cases in small ruminants

- 8.6 Quantitative Risk Assessment for residual BSE risk. Progress reports on Vertebral Column, di-calcium phosphate (DCP) and tri-calcium phosphate (TCP).
- 8.7 Opinion on the update of the GBR methodology.
- 8.8 Microbiological testing, criteria and other objectives.
- 9 Feed-back by the Chairman on subjects discussed in the SC of interest to the Panel
- 10 Feed-back by the Panel members attending WG from other Panels
- 10.1 Rift Valley Fever – adoption on Public Health issues
- 11 AOB
- 12 Closure of the meeting

PARTICIPANTS

Panel Members:

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

EFSA

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

Commission

DG Health and Consumer Protection: Rosella Brozzi Bettio

1. WELCOME

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming everybody.

2. APOLOGIES AND DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The following apologies were received: Mac Johnston, George- John Nychas, Terence Roberts, Simone Magnino (morning 7th) and James Hope (the 8th).

No additional declarations of interests were received.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PLENARY

The minutes of the previous Plenary were adopted.

5. SELF-TASKING ISSUES –UPDATE

A self-tasking issue on antimicrobial resistance from a food safety perspective was proposed. After discussion, it was agreed that the Chair of the BIOHAZ Panel will introduce the draft background and terms of reference at the next meeting of the Scientific Committee and inform the members at the October's plenary.

6. OFFICIAL REQUESTS TO EFSA

There were no new official requests to the BIOHAZ Panel.

7. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF OPINIONS

7.1. WASHING OF EGGS

The Chair/Rapporteur presented the draft opinion to the Panel. The discussion was centered on the changes introduced in the new draft, conclusions and recommendations. The opinion was unanimously adopted pending some editorial changes. The new version of the opinion will be circulated to the Panel members before publication.

7.2. REQUEST FOR AN OPINION ON THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING *TRICHINELLA* FREE AREAS, AND IF FEASIBLE ON THE RISK INCREASE TO PUBLIC HEALTH OF NOT EXAMINING PIGS FROM THOSE AREAS FOR *TRICHINELLA* spp

The Chair/Rapporteur introduced the draft opinion to the Panel. The draft opinion was thoroughly discussed. Several clarifications as well as structural changes in the draft were suggested and agreed. The Chair will prepare an amended draft Opinion taking into account the comments/suggestion of the Panel members. The revised version will be circulated to the Panel members before the next plenary meeting in October and will then be tabled for adoption.

7.3. QUANTITATIVE RISK ASSESSMENT FOR RESIDUAL BSE RISK. OPINION ON GELATINE

The Chair/Rapporteur introduced the draft Opinion to the Panel. Following discussion it was agreed that the opinion needed some structural changes. The revised and edited Opinion will be presented at the plenary in October 2005.

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

The draft Opinion was presented and outlined by the Chairman of the Working Group and discussed by the members of the Panel. Comments made during the last Plenary had been taken into account for the draft version and following further discussion the Opinion was adopted.

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

The draft Opinion was presented and outlined by the Chairman of the Working Group and discussed by the members of the Panel. Comments made during the last plenary were taken into account for the draft version and following further discussion the opinion was adopted.

8. PROGRESS REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ON THE FOLLOWING MANDATES:

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

The Chairman of the Working Group introduced the draft Opinion and reported on the outcome of the discussions of the third working group meeting and the progress made to-date. The importance of obtaining data on the volumes of the relevant dairy-by-products available for feeding to animals was noted. Such information would be welcomed. The next working group meeting is scheduled to be held following the October's plenary.

8.2. DECONTAMINATION OF POULTRY CARCASSES

The mandate concerns the evaluation of the efficacy of peroxyacids, lactic acid and acidic calcium sulphate which, if permitted, could be used by the food business operator as antimicrobial substances during the processing of slaughtered poultry. The New Hygiene Regulation provides a legal basis for permitting the use of substances to remove surface contamination from products of animal origin (Article 3(2) of Regulation (ED) No 853/2004¹). During the first meeting of the WG on the 1st of September 2005, it was agreed that the WG would deal with each of the three mandates sequentially: EFSA-Q-2005-106 (peroxyacids), EFSA-Q-2005-107-A (lactic acid) and EFSA-Q-2005-108-A (acidic calcium sulphate). The discussion was mainly based on the definition of the 'efficacy' and the evaluation of the submitted studies. The WG is addressing the development of guidelines for dealing with future mandates regarding the same legislation. The second meeting of this WG is scheduled on the end of September.

¹ O J L 226, 25.6.2004, p.22

8.3. RISK REDUCTION OPTIONS OF *Salmonella* IN PIG PRODUCTION

The Rapporteur introduced the mandate and the Terms of Reference. The importance of this Opinion (1) in defining the critical elements for the identification of options for monitoring schemes and (2) when to use immunological or bacteriological methods was highlighted. The Secretariat informed the Panel that a sub-working group will now be established to develop the protocol for a draft baseline study on *Salmonella* in pigs. The next meeting is scheduled to be held in November.

8.4. SCIENTIFIC ADVICE ON SOMATIC CELL COUNT IN GOAT MILK

The Chairman of the Working Group presented the first draft of the opinion. The structure of the draft opinion was outlined as well as an overview of the further work to be done on the draft. A next meeting will take place on 11th of October. It is foreseen that a draft for adoption will be presented at the next plenary meeting in October.

8.5. OPINION ON CLASSIFICATION OF ATYPICAL TSEs CASES IN SMALL RUMINANTS

The Chairman of the Working Group presented the first draft of the opinion which was prepared in collaboration with the experts of the CRL (Community Reference Lab). The structure of the draft opinion was outlined as well as an overview of the further work to be done on the draft. Some suggestions for additional parameters to be covered were made. An updated draft will be sent to the members of the joint WG comprised of EFSA and CRL experts, for comments. It is foreseen that a draft for adoption will be presented at the next plenary meeting in October.

8.6. QUANTITATIVE RISK ASSESSMENT FOR RESIDUAL BSE RISK. PROGRESS REPORTS ON VERTEBRAL COLUMN, DI-CALCIUM PHOSPHATE (DCP) AND TRI-CALCIUM PHOSPHATE (TCP)

As the outline of the draft DCP/TCP opinion is very similar to the “Gelatine” Opinion it was decided to take the amendments made to the “Gelatine” Opinion (see 7.3) into account before presenting this draft Opinion to the Plenary in October.

8.7. OPINION ON THE UPDATE OF THE GBR METHODOLOGY

The Chairman of the Working Group presented the outcome of the first Working Group meeting which was held on 5th September. The structure of the draft report Opinion was outlined and an overview of the further work to be done was presented by the Rapporteur. It is intended to present a draft Opinion at the plenary meeting of December 2005, at the earliest. It is further envisaged that after the draft Opinion has been accepted by the Panel, it will be published on the EFSA website for a public consultation.

8.8. MICROBIOLOGICAL TESTING, CRITERIA AND OTHER OBJECTIVES

There had been no meeting of this WG since the last BIOHAZ plenary meeting. The next meeting will be held late in September, when the first draft Opinion will be discussed.

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

There had been no meeting of the Scientific Committee since the last BIOHAZ plenary meeting. However, the Chair presented the food research priorities identified to-date by the SC and asked for any comments or additional proposals.

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

10.1. RIFT VALLEY FEVER – ADOPTION ON PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES

The Rapporteur presented the changes made in the draft Opinion following the discussion which had taken place at the last Plenary meeting of BIOHAZ. The Animal Health and Welfare Sections of the Opinion had already been adopted by the Animal Health and Welfare Panel (AHAW). The responsibility of the BIOHAZ Panel was to address the Public Health aspects of the Opinion under the heading, “Human Infection and relevant Public Health (PH) aspects” when answering the Terms of Reference relating to PH. The Opinion was adopted.

10.2. OTHER WORKING GROUPS

The BIOHAZ Panel members involved in the Working Groups, listed below, of other Scientific Panels and of the Scientific Committee briefed the Panel on the progress made on the following issues:

- Stunning and killing commercially farmed species of deer, goats, rabbits, ostriches, ducks, geese and quail (AHAW)
- Qualified Presumption of Safety (SC)
- Exposure assessment (SC)

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1. AVIAN INFLUENZA

The Panel agreed on a paragraph in an EFSA information update about avian influenza

http://www.efsa.eu.int/press_room/press_statements/1130/comm_statement_avian_flu_20050912_en1.pdf

The Panel supported the WHO Recommendations with respect to food safety and will continue to actively monitor the situation and assess any new data that may

become available at a future date with a view to providing further scientific advice, as required. It was agreed to include the update on avian influenza as a standing item on the agenda for forthcoming Plenaries. Three Panel experts were designated to follow the situation and to brief future Plenary on the matter.

11.2. TSE ROADMAP

The Panel members were informed of the publication of the 'TSE road map', a document prepared by DG Sanco outlining the mid-term and long-term proposals for Risk Management measures in the area of TSE. This document illustrates the collaboration between RA and RM, *i.e.* the impact of the EFSA opinions in terms of TSE and the consequent actions taken by the European Commission.

12. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The meeting was closed at 14.00