



**MINUTES OF THE 25TH PLENARY MEETING OF
THE SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS
HELD IN PARMA ON 12 AND 13 JULY 2006**

AGENDA:

- 1 Opening, apologies for absence
- 2 Welcome from EFSA's new Executive Director
- 3 Adoption of the agenda
- 4 Declarations of interest
- 5 Adoption of minutes
- 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 Breeding for TSE resistance in sheep
 - 7.2 Guidance document on decontamination
 - 7.3 Thermo-mechanical process to convert Cat 2 and Cat 3 ABPs into Bio-fuel
 - 7.4 Review of the Community Summary Report on Zoonoses
- 8 Progress reports and discussion on the following mandates
 - 8.1 Opinion on the update of the GBR methodology
 - 8.2 ABP: Progress on process applications received
 - 8.3 Quantitative Risk Assessment for residual BSE risk in sheep
 - 8.4 Microbiological criteria, testing and other objectives
- 9 Discussion on self tasking activities
 - 9.1 Update on the Avian Influenza situation with respect to food safety
 - 9.2 Antimicrobial resistance issues related to food
 - 9.3 Other topics for consideration
- 10 Meeting dates for 2006 and 2007
- 11 General information from EFSA
- 12 AOB
- 13 Closure of the meeting

PARTICIPANTS

Panel Members:

Olivier Andreoletti, Herbert Budka, Sava Buncic, Pierre Colin (am 12 July), John D Collins, Aline De Koeijer, John Griffin, James Hope, Günter Klein, Hilde Kruse, Simone Magnino, Antonio Martínez López, Christophe Nguyen-The, Karsten Noeckler, Birgit Noerrung, Miguel Prieto Maradona, Terence Roberts, Ivar Vågsholm and Emmanuel Vanopdenbosch.

By telephone conference:

Arie Havelaar (agenda item 6.1 on 13 July)

EFSA:

BIOHAZ: Marta Hugas, Fulvio Barizzone, Paolo Calistri, Bart Goossens, Tobin Robinson, Eirini Tsigarida, Didier Verloo (Scientific Staff); Angela Cohen, Cristiana Ventura (Administrative staff).

AHAW Scientific Staff: Jordi Serratosa Vilageliu, Sandra Potier Rodeia (part of item 7.4. on 13 July)

European Commission (EC):

DG Health and Consumer Protection:

Maija Hatakka am 13 July in particular for 6.1 on 13 July

By telephone conference:

Kris De Smet agenda item 6.1 on 13 July

Ron Dwinger agenda item 7.2 on 12 July

Koen Van Dyck: agenda item 7.1 on 12 July

Invited guest:

Andrea Ammon (ECDC - European Centre for Disease Control) – item 7.3 on 12 July.

1. OPENING, APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chair welcomed everyone. Apologies were received from James McLaughlin and Pierre Colin (pm 12 July and 13 July). Arie Havelaar 12 and 13 July (except item 6.1).

2. WELCOME FROM EFSA'S NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The new Executive Director¹ congratulated the participants on their appointment. She looked forward to meeting them again later this year to discuss the needs of the Panel. The Chair observed that there was a longstanding good working relationship between EFSA, the Panel members and the European Commission.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no new declarations of interest.

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the 24th Plenary of 21-22 June were adopted.

6. OFFICIAL REQUESTS TO EFSA

6.1. PRESENTATION OF NEW MANDATES RECEIVED FROM THE COMMISSION

The following new mandates were received from the European Commission:

6.1.1. QUANTITATIVE MICROBIOLOGICAL RISK ASSESSMENT ON SALMONELLA IN MEAT

The Panel members were invited to send their comments on the Terms of Reference (ToR) to the EFSA Secretariat who will liaise with the European Commission. The Panel decided to establish a WG to deal with the mandate; accordingly the chair and rapporteur were nominated.

6.1.2. REVIEW OF THE OPINION ON MICROBIOLOGICAL RISKS IN INFANT FORMULAE AND FOLLOW-ON FORMULAE WITH REGARD TO ENTEROBACTERIACEAE AS INDICATORS

A WG was initiated and Panel members as well as external experts were nominated and will be invited to participate in the meetings.

¹ Mrs Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle became the Executive Director of EFSA on 3 July 2006.

6.1.3. OTHER MANDATES EXPECTED TO BE RECEIVED FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

A Road map on QMRA with regard to zoonoses and zoonotic agents received from the EC was tabled for discussion. The Panel noted that additional resources from EFSA would be needed in order to tackle the different items on the roadmap. The secretariat expressed the willingness of EFSA to provide such resources from EFSA staff and also through the provisions of Art 36 of Reg 178/2002.

It was noted that EFSA expects shortly to receive three new mandates on Animal By-Products.

6.2. ORGANIZATION OF WORKING GROUPS

See under item 6.1.

7. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF OPINIONS

7.1. BREEDING FOR TSE RESISTANCE IN SHEEP

The Chair of the WG updated the Panel on the main changes made to the draft opinion since the last Plenary. The Panel agreed on this occasion to the inclusion of references to publications which were currently in press. It was noted that the publications included data which were among the most recent available, and that the data were in the meantime available from national bodies for validation. Editorial changes were made on 12 July and the opinion was adopted on 13 July.

7.2. GUIDANCE DOCUMENT ON DECONTAMINATION

The Chair of the WG reported on the WG meeting which was held on 10-11 July. It was noted that, in the afternoon of 11 July, the WG members joined the AFC² WG and the BIOHAZ paper was discussed. On 13 July, following some minor amendments, the BIOHAZ Panel provisionally adopted the opinion. The opinion will be put to the AFC Panel for adoption by written procedure (since the AFC Plenary will not meet until the end of September). After that, the opinion will be formally adopted and published.

7.3. THERMO-MECHANICAL PROCESS TO CONVERT CAT 2 AND CAT 3 ABPS INTO BIO-FUEL

The WG met on 20 June. The Chair of the WG presented the draft opinion to the Panel. The opinion was adopted on 13 July.

² AFC: Panel on food additives, flavourings, processing aids and materials in contact with food.

7.4. REVIEW OF THE COMMUNITY SUMMARY REPORT ON ZONOSSES

The ECDC representative explained the strategy of ECDC in relation to the draft report and provided comments. The Chair of the WG then reviewed the document with the Panel members.

Two members of AHAW secretariat attended the discussion on how the work of the two Panels is to be integrated into one seamless and concise document.

8. PROGRESS REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ON THE FOLLOWING MANDATES

8.1. OPINION ON THE UPDATE OF THE GBR METHODOLOGY

The WG will meet on 18-19 July. Public consultation on the document is envisaged in autumn 2006.

8.2. ABP: PROGRESS ON PROCESS APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

See item 7.3.

8.3. QUANTITATIVE RISK ASSESSMENT FOR RESIDUAL BSE RISK IN SHEEP

The Chair of the WG reported that the 3rd WG meeting was held on 8 June. Some of the members and EFSA scientific staff involved in the WG were also in the Breeding for Resistance WG. The next WG meeting is scheduled for the end of September/ beginning of October and it is intended to present the opinion for adoption at the November Plenary.

8.4. MICROBIOLOGICAL CRITERIA, TESTING AND OTHER OBJECTIVES

The Panel's document, already published for public consultation, was discussed at a WHO (World Health Organisation) meeting held in Kiel (Germany). The Commission representative suggested that the Panel might consider incorporating the criteria concepts in the new regulation (2073/2006) in the document. The next WG meeting will be held on 5 September.

9. DISCUSSION ON SELF TASKING ACTIVITIES

9.1. UPDATE ON THE AVIAN INFLUENZA SITUATION WITH RESPECT TO FOOD SAFETY

The BIOHAZ secretariat briefed the Panel on the current situation and new scientific developments on Avian Influenza and food safety (see annex to the minutes).

9.2. ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE ISSUES RELATED TO FOOD

At the Scientific Committee meeting of 12-13 December 2005 it was agreed that the BIOHAZ Panel would take the lead on the issue of antimicrobial resistance. A Chair and Rapporteur of a new WG were nominated. The Panel members agreed to provide the EFSA secretariat by the end of August with an outline of topics which could be considered by the WG.

9.3. OTHER TOPICS FOR CONSIDERATION

There were no other topics for consideration.

10. MEETING DATES FOR 2006 AND 2007

The following meeting dates were confirmed:

6-7 September 2006

8-9 November 2006 (NB changed from provisional date of 25-26 October)

13-14 December 2006

24-25 January 2007

7-8 March 2007

18-19 April 2007

6-7 June 2007

11-12 July 2007

6-7 September 2007 (Amsterdam – to be confirmed)

17-18 October 2007

5-6 December 2007

It was agreed to reserve 10-11-12 October 2006 for possible Working Group meetings.

11. GENERAL INFORMATION FROM EFSA

11.1. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Following his presentation at the inaugural Plenary of 21-22 June, further clarification was given by EFSA's Legal Department on declarations of interests and confidentiality.

12. AOB

There was no other business.

13. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The meeting closed at 14.00.