



EFSA
European Food Safety Authority

MINUTES OF THE 26TH PLENARY MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS HELD IN PARMA ON 6 AND 7 SEPTEMBER 2006

AGENDA:

- 1 Opening, apologies for absence
- 2 Adoption of the agenda
- 3 Declarations of interest
- 4 Official requests to EFSA
 - 4.1 Presentation of new mandates received from the Commission
 - 4.2 Organization of Working Groups
- 5 Discussion and possible adoption of opinions
 - 5.1 Update on Guidance document on decontamination
 - 5.2 Review of the Community Summary Report on Zoonoses
- 6 Progress reports and discussion on the following mandates
 - 6.1 Opinion on the update of the GBR methodology
 - 6.2 ABP: Progress on process applications received
 - 6.3 Quantitative Risk Assessment for residual BSE risk in sheep
 - 6.4 Cattle SRM related back calculations
 - 6.5 Microbiological criteria, testing and other objectives
 - 6.6 Revision of the opinion on Microbiological risks in infant formulae
 - 6.7 QMRA on *Salmonella* in meat and meat preparations
- 7 Discussion on self tasking activities
 - 7.1 Update on the Avian Influenza situation with respect to food safety
 - 7.2 Antimicrobial resistance self mandate
 - 7.3 Other suggestions
- 8 Feedback from the Scientific Committee and from other WG
- 9 AOB
 - 9.1 Active and intelligent packaging
- 10 Closure of the meeting

PARTICIPANTS

Panel Members:

Olivier Andreoletti, Herbert Budka, Sava Buncic, Pierre Colin, John D Collins, Aline De Koeijer, John Griffin, Arie Havelaar, Günter Klein, Hilde Kruse, Simone Magnino (7 September), Antonio Martínez López, Christophe Nguyen-The, Karsten Noeckler, Birgit Noerrung, Miguel Prieto Maradona, Terence Roberts, Ivar Vågsholm and Emmanuel Vanopdenbosch.

EFSA:

Biological Hazards (BIOHAZ): Marta Hugas, Paolo Calistri, Bart Goossens, Didier Verloo, Stef Bronzwaer (SES)¹ item 7.2, Dimitrios Spyropoulos (AFC² Panel) item 9.1 (Scientific Staff); Angela Cohen, Cristiana Ventura (Administrative staff).

Apologies: Fulvio Barizzzone, Tobin Robinson, Eirini Tsigarida

European Commission (EC):

DG Health and Consumer Protection: Taina Sateri, Kirsten Sander-Vornhagen (item 4.1), Kris De Smet (7 September), Maija Hatakka (7 September).

1. OPENING, APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chair welcomed everyone. Apologies were received from James Hope, James McLaughlin and Simone Magnino (6 September).

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no new declarations of interest.

4. OFFICIAL REQUESTS TO EFSA

4.1. PRESENTATION OF NEW MANDATES RECEIVED FROM THE COMMISSION

The following new mandates were received from the European Commission:

¹ Scientific Expert Services

² Additives, flavourings, processing aids and materials in contact with food

4.1.1. BSE risk in fish meal

The European Parliament requested a risk assessment of BSE in fish meal. A small working group (WG) was being formed and a Chair had been appointed. The JRC³ and Directorate-General (DG) of Research of the European Commission (EC) will be invited to attend the WG meetings.

4.1.2. Treatment of animal by-products in mesophilic biogas fermenters

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4.1.3. Use of certain low risk Category 2 animal by-products⁴

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4.1.4. Use of certain Category 1 and 2 animal by-products for technical purposes

The EC explained the background to the animal by-product (ABP) Regulation 1774/2002 and presented three new related mandates as listed above. For point 4.1.2 it was agreed that the mandate would fall under the expertise of the BIOHAZ Panel but EFSA would ask to extend the deadline. For the other two mandates the BIOHAZ Panel stated that they would only deal with aspects directly falling under their expertise. The EFSA Secretariat explained that EFSA would discuss internally how to deal with these complex and multidisciplinary mandates. It was indicated to the Commission that the extremely tight deadlines were not feasible concerning the amount of work involved.

5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF OPINIONS

5.1. UPDATE ON GUIDANCE DOCUMENT ON DECONTAMINATION

The Panel approved the document for publication.

³ Joint Research Centre

⁴ An indicative summary of the Categories given in the ABP Regulation 1774/2002 and subsequent modifications is as follows:

Category 1: Animal by-products presenting a risk of contamination with BSE or scrapie agent, or with residues of prohibited substances (e.g. hormones used for growth promotion) or environmental contaminants (e.g. dioxins and PCBs) (Article 4).

Category 2: Animal by-products presenting a risk of contamination with other animal disease agents (e.g. animals which have died on the farm or were killed in the context of disease control measures on the farm) or at risk of residues of veterinary drugs (Article 5).

Category 3: Parts of slaughtered animals that are not consumed by humans but that come from animals declared fit for human consumption following veterinary inspection (Article 6).

5.2. REVIEW OF THE COMMUNITY SUMMARY REPORT ON ZONOSSES

The Panel adopted the sections of the report which addressed the terms of reference (ToR) of the mandate pertaining to the BIOHAZ Panel. The sections of the mandate under the AHAW⁵ Panel were to be put for adoption by the AHAW Panel on 8 September.

6. PROGRESS REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ON THE FOLLOWING MANDATES

6.1. OPINION ON THE UPDATE OF THE GBR METHODOLOGY

The Rapporteur of the WG presented the draft opinion. Public consultation on the document is planned later this year.

6.1.1. ABP: Progress on process applications received

The WG met on 13 July. An extension of the deadline to the end of the year had been agreed.

6.2. QUANTITATIVE RISK ASSESSMENT FOR RESIDUAL BSE RISK IN SHEEP

An oral presentation was given on the progress of the WG. The next WG meeting will be held on 18 October. The opinion is expected to be proposed for adoption at the November Plenary.

6.3. CATTLE SRM RELATED BACK CALCULATIONS

The Chair reported that the next WG is scheduled for 17 October. The deadline had been extended from September to the end of the year and clear timelines have been provided to the EC supporting the extension of the deadline. Adoption of the opinion is foreseen at the November Plenary.

6.4. MICROBIOLOGICAL CRITERIA, TESTING AND OTHER OBJECTIVES

The Chair of the WG presented a discussion paper on the revision of the terms of reference on microbiological criteria following comments received after public consultation. A new title was agreed. Further WG meetings are planned.

6.5. REVISION OF THE OPINION ON MICROBIOLOGICAL RISKS IN INFANT FORMULAE

The Chair gave an oral report. The next meeting will be on 27 September.

⁵ Animal Health and Welfare

6.6. QMRA ON SALMONELLA IN MEAT AND MEAT PREPARATIONS

The Terms of Reference were discussed by the Panel. The Panel requested some clarifications in the text of the mandate. The WG will progress the work with a view to defining the subsequent work plan. A meeting will be held on 8 September.

7. DISCUSSION ON SELF TASKING ACTIVITIES

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

The Secretariat introduced a background paper for information to the Plenary. Several areas of risk identified as requiring clarification were summarised.

7.2. ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE SUGGESTION FOR SELF MANDATE

This item was first raised at the 17th BIOHAZ Plenary⁶. A discussion paper on antimicrobial resistance in a zoonotic and food safety perspective was introduced. The ToR will be updated and submitted for approval at the November Plenary. After adoption at the Plenary level, the Chair will submit the paper to the Executive Director for EFSA's approval.

8. FEEDBACK FROM THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE AND FROM OTHER WG

The Scientific Committee was scheduled to meet on 14-15 September.

9. AOB

9.1. MEETING BETWEEN THE CHAIRS OF THE PANELS AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF EFSA

The Chair of the BIOHAZ Panel invited the participants to inform him of any items they wished to be discussed at a meeting with EFSA's Executive Director, due to be held on 7 September.

⁶ www.efsa.europa.eu/etc/medialib/efsa/science/biohaz/biohaz_meetings/1106.Par.0002.File.dat/biohaz_minutes_17th_plenmeet1.pdf

9.2. ACTIVE AND INTELLIGENT PACKAGING

An introduction was given by the AFC Secretariat to the use of active packaging systems which actively change the environmental conditions of the packed food, and intelligent packaging systems which monitor the state of the packed foods. A discussion followed on packaging material and any effects of the substances released on micro organisms as well as the role and remit of the BIOHAZ Panel on this issue.

9.3. ORGANIGRAM OF DG SANCO

An updated organigram of DG SANCO (Health and Protection) of EC was presented to the Panel. Within DG SANCO, BIOHAZ has most contact with the following units: D1 (Animal Health and Standing Committees), E2 (Hygiene and Control measures) and 03 (Science and Stakeholder relations).

10. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The meeting closed at 13.30.