

MINUTES OF THE 32ND PLENARY MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS HELD IN PARMA ON 6 AND 7 JUNE 2007

AGENDA:

- 1 Opening, apologies for absence
- 2 Adoption of the agenda
- 3 Declarations of interest
- 4 Requests to EFSA/BIOHAZ
- 5 Discussion and possible adoption of opinions
 - 5.1 Review of protocol for TSE test evaluation (small ruminants protocol)
 - 5.2 Review of protocol for TSE test evaluation (*post-mortem* cattle protocol)
 - 5.3 Review of protocol for TSE test evaluation (*ante-mortem* cattle protocol)
- 6 Progress reports and discussion on the following mandates
 - 6.1 QMRA on *Salmonella* in slaughter and breeding pigs
 - 6.2 MRA *Salmonella* in meat and meat preparations
 - 6.3 The monitoring of VTEC and the identification of human pathogenic VTEC type
 - 6.4 The monitoring of *Yersinia* spp. and the identification of human pathogenic *Yersinia* types
 - 6.5 The monitoring and surveillance of *Toxoplasma* in humans, food, and animals
 - 6.6 Public health risks involved in the human consumption of reptile meat
 - 6.7 Feeding of non-ruminant MBM to chickens and pigs
 - 6.8 Opinion on microbiological risk assessment in feedingstuffs for food-producing animals
 - 6.9 Update of scientific data on *Listeria monocytogenes* in ready-to-eat-foods
 - 6.10 EFSA opinion QRA tallow
 - 6.11 Foodborne antimicrobial resistance as a biological hazard
- 7 Feed back from the Scientific Committee and from other WGs
 - 7.1 SC WG on the In- and External Review of EFSA's Scientific Work
 - 7.2 AHAW WG Fish Welfare
 - 7.3 AHAW WG Pig Welfare
- 8 AOB
 - 8.1 Avian Influenza – updates
 - 8.2 Location of forthcoming BIOHAZ Plenaries
 - 8.3 BIOHAZ Extranet
 - 8.4 Information on BSE/TSE
- 9 Closure of the meeting

PARTICIPANTS

Panel Members:

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

EFSA:

Marta Hugas, Bart Goossens, Fulvio Barrizone, Ernesto Liebana Criado, Tobin Robinson, Eirini Tsigarida, Luis Vivas-Alegre (Scientific Staff); Angela Cohen, Cristiana Ventura (Administrative staff).

European Commission (EC):

DG Health and Consumer Protection: Taina Sateri

1. OPENING, APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chair welcomed everyone. Ernesto Liebana Criado, a new scientific officer in EFSA's BIOHAZ unit, was introduced to the Panel. Apologies were received from Sava Buncic and Karsten Noeckler.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no new declarations of interest.

4. REQUESTS TO EFSA/BIOHAZ

4.1. REVIEWING THE COMMUNITY SUMMARY REPORT ON TRENDS AND SOURCES OF ZOOSES, ZONOTIC AGENTS, ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE AND FOOD-BORNE OUTBREAKS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION IN 2005

This self-tasking mandate was presented to the Panel members. The BIOHAZ and AHAW¹ Panels will cover the remit of the mandate. BIOHAZ, being responsible for the review of most of the hazards, will chair the WG.

¹ AHAW - Animal Health and Welfare

4.2. SAFETY OF BOVINE SPRAY-DRIED CELLS

EFSA is requested by the EC to evaluate a report and its conclusions on a semi-quantitative risk assessment concerning the design and use of spray dried bovine red cells in feeds for fish. Clarification on a number of points is to be sought and a WG will be established to address the mandate.

5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF OPINIONS

5.1. REVIEW OF PROTOCOL FOR TSE TEST EVALUATION (SMALL RUMINANTS PROTOCOL)

The opinion was adopted.

5.2. REVIEW OF PROTOCOL FOR TSE TEST EVALUATION (POST-MORTEM CATTLE PROTOCOL)

The opinion was adopted.

5.3. REVIEW OF PROTOCOL FOR TSE TEST EVALUATION (ANTE-MORTEM CATTLE PROTOCOL)

The draft opinion was discussed and will be presented for adoption at the next Plenary in July.

6. PROGRESS REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ON THE FOLLOWING MANDATES

6.1. QMRA ON *SALMONELLA* IN SLAUGHTER AND BREEDING PIGS

The deadline for the submission of applications following the call for grant proposals on “QMRA² on *Salmonella* in slaughter and breeding pigs³” is 11 June. The secretariat briefed the Panel on the evaluation process. It is intended that the successful applicant will commence work on 1 September 2007. The WG met on 23 May and will meet again on 8-9 October.

6.2. MRA *SALMONELLA* IN MEAT AND MEAT PREPARATIONS

The WG on MRA⁴ *Salmonella* in meat and meat preparations met on 17 April. The next WG meeting will be held on 21 June in Barcelona.

² QMRA - Quantitative Microbiological Risk Assessment
³ www.efsa.europa.eu/en/about_efsa/cooperation/call_for_proposal.html
⁴ MRA - Microbiological Risk Assessment

6.3. THE MONITORING OF VTEC AND THE IDENTIFICATION OF HUMAN PATHOGENIC VTEC TYPE

The WG on verotoxigenic *Escherichia coli* (VTEC) met on 20 April. Issues relating to the terminology to be used are to be clarified. A draft document is to be presented for discussion at the September Plenary.

6.4. THE MONITORING OF *YERSINIA* SPP. AND THE IDENTIFICATION OF HUMAN PATHOGENIC *YERSINIA* TYPES

The WG met on 31 May. The draft opinion will be tabled for discussion at the July Plenary, with a view to possible adoption at the September or October Plenary.

6.5. THE MONITORING AND SURVEILLANCE OF *TOXOPLASMA* IN HUMANS, FOOD, AND ANIMALS

The WG met on 31 May. Toxoplasmosis is regarded as a re-emerging issue and a case definition which is being developed by ECDC⁵ will be highly relevant. The draft opinion will be presented to the Panel at the September Plenary, with the intention of tabling the document for possible adoption at the October Plenary.

6.6. PUBLIC HEALTH RISKS INVOLVED IN THE HUMAN CONSUMPTION OF REPTILE MEAT

The WG met on 5 June and will meet again on 29 August. The draft opinion will be presented to the Panel at the September Plenary, with the intention of tabling the document for possible adoption at the October Plenary.

6.7. FEEDING OF NON-RUMINANT MBM TO CHICKENS AND PIGS

The WG met for the first time on 23 April. The Chair of the WG gave a report to the Panel on the status of the draft document. The WG is to address other TSEs as well as BSE but will not consider bacteriological or other microbiological hazards. The next meeting is scheduled for 21 June in Parma.

6.8. OPINION ON MICROBIOLOGICAL RISK ASSESSMENT IN FEEDINGSTUFFS FOR FOOD-PRODUCING ANIMALS

The first meeting will be held on 14 June.

6.9. UPDATE OF SCIENTIFIC DATA ON *LISTERIA MONOCYTOGENES* IN READY-TO-EAT-FOODS

The WG met on 25 May. EFSA sent the EC a suggestion on the re-wording of the Terms of Reference. The next meeting will be held on 28 August.

⁵ ECDC – European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

6.10. EFSA OPINION QRA TALLOW

A WG was formed comprising the developer of the QRA⁶ tallow model, EFSA experts and representatives of the BfR/FLI⁷. The review of the QRA model is being commissioned by EFSA and after the report is delivered by the end of June, the WG will meet and discuss the conclusions and suggest the next steps.

6.11. FOODBORNE ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE AS A BIOLOGICAL HAZARD

The WG met twice since the April Plenary. An outline of the draft document was presented to the Panel.

7. FEED BACK FROM THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE (SC) AND FROM OTHER WGS

The Chair of EFSA's Management Board will prepare a paper on workload, work conditions and recognition of experts.

7.1. SC WG ON THE IN- AND EXTERNAL REVIEW OF EFSA'S SCIENTIFIC WORK

The draft SC proposal for a review system for EFSA's scientific activities was discussed by the Panel. Comments were compiled and sent to the SC WG.

7.2. AHAW WG FISH WELFARE - FOOD SAFETY ISSUES

The draft chapter on food safety issues that could arise from good fish welfare production systems was presented to the Panel. The Panel agreed that a single chapter which addressed these issues, as they related to all the fish species considered in the AHAW opinion, was most appropriate.

7.3. AHAW WG PIG WELFARE - FOOD SAFETY ISSUES

The draft chapter on food safety issues that could arise from good pig welfare production systems was discussed.

7.4. SC WG EMERGING RISKS

The Panel members were invited to indicate if they were interested in joining the WG, which currently comprises SC and Advisory Forum members. The objective of the WG is to create an international structure for co-operation on emerging risks. The SC has requested each of the Panels to inform the WG of any potential emerging risks they identify at any time.

⁶ Quantitative Risk Assessment

⁷ BfR - Bundesinstitut für Risikobewertung (German Risk Assessment group).
FLI - Friedrich-Loeffler Institut

7.5. SC WG QPS

The WG on Qualified Presumption of Safety (QPS) met in April following the public consultation, which closed on 5 March.

7.6. SC WG RISK-BENEFIT

The initial meeting of this multi-disciplinary WG was held on 25 May.

7.7. OTHER NEW SC WGS

An expert WG on animal cloning is being formed. An internal WG on nanotechnology is also being formed. Experts were invited to express their interest in joining the WGs.

8. AOB

8.1. AVIAN INFLUENZA – UPDATES

The Panel was updated on the latest food safety issues related to Avian Influenza.

8.2. FORTHCOMING BIOHAZ PLENARIES

The Panel agreed on the following dates for Plenary meetings in 2008:

23-24 January 2008	9-10 July 2008
5-6 March 2008	3-4 September 2008
16-17 April 2008	22-23 October 2008
4-5 June 2008	10-11 December 2008

8.3. BIOHAZ EXTRANET

An introductory training session on the new BIOHAZ extranet was provided for the experts. The extranet is intended to facilitate the exchange of documents and comments between the Panel, WG members and EFSA's staff. A guidance manual will be produced and issued to the Panel members.

8.4. INFORMATION ON BSE/TSE

Various recent articles and position papers on BSE/TSE were brought to the attention of the Panel.

9. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The meeting closed at 13.30.