

MINUTES OF THE 34TH PLENARY MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS HELD IN ROTTERDAM ON 6 AND 7 SEPTEMBER 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 (*ante-mortem* cattle protocol)
 - 5.2 Public health risks involved in the human consumption of reptile meat
- 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 *Yersinia* spp. and the identification of human pathogenic *Yersinia* types
 - 6.4 The monitoring of VTEC and the identification of human pathogenic VTEC type
 - 6.5 The monitoring and surveillance of *Toxoplasma* in humans, food, and animals
 - 6.6 Microbiological risk assessment in feedingstuffs for food-producing animals
 - 6.7 Update of scientific data on *Listeria monocytogenes* in ready-to-eat-foods
 - 6.8 Foodborne antimicrobial resistance as a biological hazard
 - 6.9 Reviewing the Community summary report on trends and sources of zoonoses, zoonotic agents, antimicrobial resistance and foodborne outbreaks in the EU in 2005
 - 6.10 BSE risk in blood cells
 - 6.11 Certain aspects related to the feeding of meat and bone meal to farm animals
 - 6.12 BSE related risk in bovine tongue
- 7 Feed back from the Scientific Committee and from other WGs
- 8 Standing items on the agenda:
 - 8.1 Networking with member states
 - 8.2 Food safety issues of Avian Influenza
 - 8.3 Emerging risks
- 9 AOB
 - 9.1 BIOHAZ Plenary - October 2007
 - 9.2 EFSA management plan 2008
- 10 Closure of the meeting

PARTICIPANTS

Panel Members:

Olivier Andreoletti, Herbert Budka, John D Collins, Aline De Koeijer, John Griffin, Arie Havelaar, James Hope, Günter Klein, Hilde Kruse, Simone Magnino, Antonio Martínez López, James McLauchlin, Christophe Nguyen-The, Karsten Noeckler, Birgit Noerrung, Terence Roberts, Ivar Vågsholm and Emmanuel Vanopdenbosch.

EFSA:

Marta Hugas, Bart Goossens, Coralie Bultel, Ernesto Liebana Criado, Tobin Robinson, Eirini Tsigarida, (Scientific Staff), Angela Cohen, Rita De Bon (Administrative staff).

European Commission (EC):

DG Health and Consumer Protection: Taina Sateri.

1. OPENING, APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chair welcomed everyone. Apologies were received from Sava Buncic, Pierre Colin and Miguel Prieto Maradona.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no new declarations of interest. The Panel members were asked to submit their annual declarations of interest to the EFSA Secretariat, if they had not already done so.

4. REQUESTS TO EFSA/BIOHAZ

The EC sent two new mandates on biological hazards to EFSA. However, the EC is currently reviewing the mandates and will contact EFSA again as to the work required.

5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF OPINIONS

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

The Working Group (WG) Chairman presented the draft opinion to the Panel. The document was discussed and revised. The opinion was adopted.

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

The WG met on 29 August. The draft document was discussed and it was decided to defer adoption pending changes to the draft opinion. The CONTAM¹ Panel will review and possibly adopt the chapter relating to contaminants. The document, within the BIOHAZ scope, will be presented for possible adoption at the October Plenary.

6. PROGRESS REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ON THE FOLLOWING MANDATES

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

The selection process for grant proposals on “QMRA² on *Salmonella* in slaughter and breeding pigs³” is entering its final stages. The WG will meet on 8-9 October.

6.2. MRA *SALMONELLA* IN MEAT AND MEAT PREPARATIONS

The WG on MRA⁴ *Salmonella* in meat and meat preparations will meet on 21 September. The Chair of the WG outlined the draft opinion and invited Panel members to send any comments. The draft opinion may be presented for possible adoption at the October Plenary.

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

The next WG meeting will be held on 14 September. The draft opinion may be presented for possible adoption at the October Plenary.

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

The WG on verotoxigenic *Escherichia coli* (VTEC) met on 25 July. The draft opinion may be presented for possible adoption at the October Plenary.

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

The WG met on 30-31 August and condensed the text of the draft document. The WG will meet on 4 October and the draft opinion may be presented for possible adoption at the October Plenary.

¹ CONTAM - Panel on contaminants in the food chain
² QMRA - Quantitative Microbiological Risk Assessment
³ www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/1178622332239/efsa_locale-1178620753812_call_for_proposals.htm
⁴ MRA - Microbiological Risk Assessment

6.6. MICROBIOLOGICAL RISK ASSESSMENT IN FEEDINGSTUFFS FOR FOOD-PRODUCING ANIMALS

The WG met on 23 August. The WG includes representatives from FEEDAP⁵ and AHAW⁶. The next meeting will be held on 15-16 October.

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

The WG met on 28 August. The Chair of the WG presented the latest version of the draft opinion. The next WG meeting will be held on 19 October.

6.8. FOODBORNE ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE AS A BIOLOGICAL HAZARD

The Rapporteur of the WG updated the Panel on the progress of the group, which met on 30 July and 5 September. The draft opinion may be presented for possible adoption at the December Plenary. This will depend on the outcome of the next WG meeting which will be held on 19 November.

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

The WG met on 18 July and comprises experts from the BIOHAZ and AHAW Panels. The next meeting will be held on 3 October. The draft opinion is to be presented for possible adoption at the October Plenary.

6.10. BSE RISK IN BLOOD CELLS

The WG met on 3 September and will meet again on 4 October. The Chair of the WG reported on the progress made to date.

6.11. CERTAIN ASPECTS RELATED TO THE FEEDING OF ANIMAL PRODUCE TO FARM ANIMALS

The WG met on 30 July. The next meeting will take place on 3 October. The draft will be updated and presented for possible adoption at the October Plenary.

⁵ FEEDAP - Panel on additives and products or substances used in animal feed

⁶ AHAW - Animal Health and Welfare

6.12. BSE-RELATED RISK IN BOVINE TONGUE

EFSA wrote to inform the EC that new data are expected in October. Consideration of the mandate is postponed, therefore, pending receipt of the data.

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

The 26th Plenary meeting of the Scientific Committee will be held on 17-18 September⁷.

7.1. QPS

The document is to be presented for possible adoption at the next SC meeting.

7.2. AHAW WG PIG WELFARE - FOOD SAFETY ISSUES

The BIOHAZ Panel proposes to adopt a chapter on food safety aspects of the AHAW pig welfare opinion which will be presented at the October Plenary.

8. STANDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA:

8.1. NETWORKING WITH MEMBER STATES

EFSA wrote to Member States to establish a network on MRA. The network will be discussed at the Advisory Forum meeting on 20 September and the first MRA network meeting will possibly be held on 27 November.

8.2. FOOD SAFETY ISSUES OF AVIAN INFLUENZA

There were no developments relating to food safety issues of Avian Influenza.

8.3. EMERGING RISKS

EFSA is establishing an emerging risks unit. Panel members were requested to advise the Chair in the event of any indication of an emerging risk being brought to their attention.

9. AOB

9.1. BIOHAZ PLENARY - OCTOBER 2007

The date of the next BIOHAZ Plenary was confirmed as 16-18 October, starting at 13.00 on 16 October.

⁷ www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/ScientificPanels/ScientificCommittee/efsa_locale-1178620753812_Meetings414.htm

9.2. EFSA MANAGEMENT PLAN 2008

The Panel were invited to comment on the items in the EFSA Management Plan 2008 concerning the BIOHAZ Panel. Comments were gathered and will be included in the draft, as suggestions to the EFSA Management.

10. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The meeting closed at 14.30.