

MINUTES OF THE 35TH PLENARY MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS HELD IN PARMA ON 16-18 OCTOBER 2007

AGENDA:

- 1 Opening, apologies for absence
- 2 Adoption of the agenda
- 3 Declarations of interest
- 4 Requests to EFSA/BIOHAZ
- 5 Visit from the Executive Director
- 6 Introduction of new Head of Department of Risk Assessment
- 7 Discussion and possible adoption of opinions
 - 7.1 Public health risks involved in the human consumption of reptile meat
 - 7.2 The monitoring of *Yersinia* spp. and the identification of human pathogenic *Yersinia* types
 - 7.3 The monitoring of VTEC and the identification of human pathogenic VTEC type
 - 7.4 Certain aspects related to the feeding of animal proteins to farm animals
 - 7.5 The monitoring and surveillance of *Toxoplasma* in humans, food, and animals
 - 7.6 MRA on *Salmonella* in meat and meat preparations
 - 7.7 Pig welfare – Food safety issues
- 8 Progress reports and discussion on the following mandates
 - 8.1 QMRA on *Salmonella* in slaughter and breeding pigs
 - 8.2 Update of scientific data on *Listeria monocytogenes* in ready-to-eat-foods
 - 8.3 Reviewing the Community summary report on trends and sources of zoonoses, zoonotic agents, antimicrobial resistance and foodborne outbreaks in the EU in 2005
 - 8.4 Foodborne antimicrobial resistance as a biological hazard
 - 8.5 Microbiological risk assessment in feedingstuffs for food-producing animals
 - 8.6 TSE risk assessment of the use of bovine blood in feeds for fish, in consideration of a report produced by the European Animal Protein Association
 - 8.7 BSE related risk in bovine tongue
 - 8.8 TSE testing
- 9 Feed back from the Scientific Committee and from other WGs
- 10 Standing items on the agenda:
 - 10.1 Networking with Member States
 - 10.2 Food safety issues of Avian Influenza
 - 10.3 Emerging risks
 - 10.4 QRA on Tallow

- 10.5 ABP alternative method from European Lime Association
- 10.6 ABP Spanish dossiers
- 11 Any Other Business
- 12 Closure of the meeting

PARTICIPANTS

Panel Members:

Olivier Andreoletti, Herbert Budka, Pierre Colin, John D Collins, John Griffin, Arie Havelaar, Günter Klein, Simone Magnino (17-18 October), Miguel Prieto Maradona, James McLauchlin, Christophe Nguyen-The (17-18 October), Karsten Noeckler, Birgit Noerrung, Terence Roberts, Ivar Vågsholm and Emmanuel Vanopdenbosch.

EFSA:

Marta Hugas, Bart Goossens, Fulvio Barizzone, Coralie Bultel, Michaela Hempen, Hilde Kruse, Ernesto Liebana Criado, Tobin Robinson, Pietro Stella, Eirini Tsigarida, Luis Vivas-Alegre (Scientific Staff), Angela Cohen, Bianca Bottoni, (Administrative staff).

Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle (item4), Riitta Maijala (item 5), Karen Talbot (Communications) (item 7.4), Pia Mäkelä (Zoonoses Data Collection unit) (item 7.2, 7.3, 7.5 items).

European Commission (EC):

DG Health and Consumer Protection: Taina Sateri (17-18 October).

1. OPENING, APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chair welcomed everyone. Apologies were received from Sava Buncic, Aline De Koeijer, James Hope, Hilde Kruse and Antonio Martínez López. Pietro Stella and Michaela Hempen, being new EFSA staff, were introduced to the Panel.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted. Although quorum could not be attained on 16 October, sufficient experts were present on 17 October to reach quorum.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

4. VISIT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Executive Director¹ (ED) reported on the changes made by EFSA to improve the working conditions of experts engaged in scientific work for EFSA. The ED explained that the work schedules of the Panels are reviewed by EFSA and the EC in order that support to the Panels can be provided where appropriate. Furthermore, EFSA is striving to secure the wider recognition of the work of its experts.

On 11 September the Management Board adopted a Consolidated Decision concerning the establishment and operations of the Scientific Committee and Panels². Documents relating to the handling of Declarations of Interests were also adopted.³

The Chair expressed the gratitude of the Panel for the efforts made by EFSA to facilitate the work of the experts.

5. INTRODUCTION OF NEW HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF RISK ASSESSMENT

The Head of Risk Assessment,⁴ Dr Riitta Maijala, was introduced to the Panel.

6. REQUESTS TO EFSA/BIOHAZ

Please see items 10.6 and 11.1.

7. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF OPINIONS

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

The opinion was reviewed by the Panel members. The opinion was adopted.

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

The WG met on 14 September. The draft opinion was presented to the Panel. The Panel requested that a few minor amendments be made by the WG. The opinion was provisionally agreed and is to be adopted subject to the approval of the Panel by written procedure.

¹ EFSA's Executive Director - Mrs Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle

² www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/DocumentSet/mb_32ndmeet_consolidated_%20decision_en_4_1,0.pdf

³ www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/AboutEfsa/WhoWeAre/efsa_locale-1178620753812_DeclarationsInterest.htm

⁴ Head of Risk Assessment, EFSA - Dr Riitta Maijala

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

The WG on verotoxigenic *Escherichia coli* (VTEC) met on 28 September. The opinion was presented by the Chair of the WG. The opinion was adopted.

7.4. CERTAIN ASPECTS RELATED TO THE FEEDING OF ANIMAL PROTEINS TO FARM ANIMALS

The WG met on 3 October. The draft opinion was presented and discussed by the Panel. The opinion was adopted with minor amendments.

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

The WG met on 4 October. Comments on the draft document had been received from ECDC⁵. The draft document was discussed by the Panel. The opinion was adopted.

7.6. MRA⁶ ON *SALMONELLA* IN MEAT AND MEAT PREPARATIONS

The draft opinion was reviewed.

7.7. PIG WELFARE - FOOD SAFETY ISSUES

The Panel was updated on the food safety chapter, which will be presented for possible adoption at the December Plenary.

8. PROGRESS REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ON THE FOLLOWING MANDATES

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

The WG met on 9 October.

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

The WG met on 28 August. The next WG meeting will be held on 18-19 October.

8.3. 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 3 October. The draft opinion is to be presented for possible adoption at the December Plenary.

⁵ ECDC - European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

⁶ MRA - Microbiological Risk Assessment

8.4. FOODBORNE ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE AS A BIOLOGICAL HAZARD

The next WG meeting will be held on 19 November. It may be presented for possible adoption at the December Plenary.

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

The WG met on 15-16 October and were joined by representatives of three stakeholder organizations. The next WG meeting will be held on 12 December.

8.6. TSE RISK ASSESSMENT OF THE USE OF BOVINE BLOOD IN FEEDS FOR FISH, IN CONSIDERATION OF A REPORT PRODUCED BY THE EUROPEAN ANIMAL PROTEIN ASSOCIATION

The WG met on 4 October. The draft document was presented to the Panel and discussed and an updated version will be discussed in the next Working Group meeting. A final version will be brought for possible adoption at the December Plenary.

8.7. BSE-RELATED RISK IN BOVINE TONGUE

Additional experimental data are expected to be available by end of November. A WG will then be formed in December and will meet in January 2008.

8.8. TSE TESTING

The EC is preparing a call on TSE Testing. Submissions to the call will be reviewed in 2008.

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

The 26th Plenary meeting of the Scientific Committee was held on 17-18 September⁷. The 27th Plenary will be held on 19 November.

10. STANDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA:

10.1. NETWORKING WITH MEMBER STATES

To date 15 Member States (MS) have nominated a contact person for the MRA Network. The first MRA network meeting will be held on 27 November in Parma.

It was noted that the third network meeting of EFSA's BSE-TSE focal points is scheduled to be held in June 2008 in Cyprus.

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

10.2. FOOD SAFETY ISSUES OF AVIAN INFLUENZA

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

10.3. EMERGING RISKS

Panel members were reminded to advise the Chair in the event of any indication of an emerging risk being brought to their attention.

10.4. QRA ON TALLOW

EFSA's opinion on the "human and animal BSE risk posed by tallow with respect to residual BSE risk"⁸ will be discussed at a meeting between BfR/FLI⁹ and EFSA on 26 November 2007 in Berlin.

10.5. ABP ALTERNATIVE METHOD FROM EUROPEAN LIME ASSOCIATION

EFSA is currently assessing additional data sent by EULA.

10.6. ABP SPANISH DOSSIERS

For two from the four dossiers, translations have been received. A WG will be formed to start the assessment of the two translated dossiers.

In addition, another dossier has been received from a MS. Additional data are being requested.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1. COLLABORATION ON TWO MANDATES ON THE ASSESSMENT OF ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE EFFECTS OF BIOCIDES AND ON FOUR SUBSTANCES USED ON POULTRY CARCASSES

The EC sent a request for EFSA to collaborate on two mandates on the assessment of antibiotic resistance effects of biocides and on four substances used on poultry carcasses.

12. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The meeting closed at 14.45.

⁸ www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178620776706.htm

⁹ German Bundesinstitut für Risikobewertung (BfR) and Friedrich-Loeffler Institut (FLI)