

MINUTES OF THE 38TH PLENARY MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS HELD IN PARMA ON 5-6 MARCH 2008

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 Foodborne antimicrobial resistance as a biological hazard
 - 5.2 The effect on antimicrobial resistance of substances used for decontamination of poultry carcasses
- 6 Progress reports and discussion on the following mandates
 - 6.1 QMRA on *Salmonella* in slaughter and breeding pigs
 - 6.2 Microbiological risk assessment on feedingstuffs for food-producing animals
 - 6.3 BSE related risk in bovine tongue
 - 6.4 Follow up of the QPS approach for assessing the safety of microorganisms intentionally added to the food chain
 - 6.5 Overview of source attribution methodology
 - 6.6 Assessment on the risk for human and animal health related to the revision of the BSE monitoring regime in some MS
 - 6.7 Assessment on the risk related to TSEs from carcasses of ovine and caprine animals below 6 months of age intended for human consumption
- 7 Feed back from the Scientific Committee and from other WGs
 - 7.1 Welfare of dairy cows
 - 7.2 Uncertainties in dietary exposure assessment
- 8 Standing items on the agenda:
 - 8.1 Food safety issues of Avian Influenza
 - 8.2 Emerging risks
 - 8.3 QRA on Tallow
- 9 Brainstorming session on upcoming issues
- 10 Any Other Business
- 11 Audio/web training
- 12 Closure of the meeting

PARTICIPANTS

Panel Members:

Olivier Andreoletti, Herbert Budka, Sava Buncic, Pierre Colin, John D Collins, John Griffin, Arie Havelaar, James Hope (5 March, until 14.00), Günter Klein, Hilde Kruse, Simone Magnino, Miguel Prieto Maradona, Antonio Martínez López, James McLauchlin, Christophe Nguyen-The, Karsten Noeckler, Terence Roberts, Ivar Vågsholm and Emmanuel Vanopdenbosch.

EFSA:

Marta Hugas, Fulvio Barizzone, Coralie Bultel, Ernesto Liebana Criado, Michaela Hempen, Tobin Robinson, Pietro Stella, Eirini Tsigarida, Luis Vivas-Alegre (Scientific Staff), Angela Cohen, Bianca Bottoni (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 Aline De Koeijer and Birgit Noerrung.

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. SUBMISSION FROM THE ITALIAN MINISTRY OF HEALTH OF APPLICATION OF NEW ALTERNATIVE METHOD OF DISPOSAL ANIMAL BY PRODUCTS UNDER REGULATION EC 1774/2002

EFSA had requested further data on the two applications for alternative methods of disposal of ABP which were received. The data are still pending.

4.2. DRAFT PROPOSAL FROM EFSA TO ASSESS THE PUBLIC HEALTH SIGNIFICANCE OF METICILLIN RESISTANT *STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS*

The draft Terms of Reference (ToR) were presented to the Panel.

4.3. *SALMONELLA* IN MEAT – PROPOSAL FOR TOR

The Panel members were asked to send their comments on the draft ToR.

4.4. SAFETY IN USE OF NITRATES AND ITS TECHNOLOGICAL NEED IN CERTAIN PRODUCTS FOR PRESERVATION

EFSA will provide the EC with a joint reply from the BIOHAZ and AFC¹ units.

4.5. ASSESSMENT ON THE RISK RELATED TO TSEs FROM CARCASSES OF OVINE AND CAPRINE ANIMALS BELOW 6 MONTHS OF AGE INTENDED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

The Commission presented the mandate to the Panel. A Working Group (WG) will be formed.

5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF OPINIONS

5.1. FOODBORNE ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE AS A BIOLOGICAL HAZARD

The Vice-Chair of the Panel presented the document to the Panel. The Panel agreed to place the document for public consultation.

5.2. THE EFFECT ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE OF SUBSTANCES USED FOR DECONTAMINATION OF POULTRY CARCASSES

The WG met on 31 January and 20 February. Following discussion the opinion was adopted.

6. PROGRESS REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ON THE FOLLOWING MANDATES

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

The Consortium is organising two workshops on 21-22 and 23-24 April to gather scientific inputs from interested parties. The call for data related to *Salmonella* in pigs² was published.

6.2. MICROBIOLOGICAL RISK ASSESSMENT ON FEEDINGSTUFFS FOR FOOD-PRODUCING ANIMALS

The WG met on 13 February. A further meeting will be held on 19 March.

6.3. BSE RELATED RISK IN BOVINE TONGUE

The first WG meeting was held on 29 January. The WG also met on 27 February.

¹ AFC - Panel on additives, flavourings, processing aids and materials in contact with food
² www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178686045320.htm

6.4. FOLLOW UP OF THE QPS APPROACH FOR ASSESSING THE SAFETY OF MICROORGANISMS INTENTIONALLY ADDED TO THE FOOD CHAIN

A WG is being established to review the opinion on the “Introduction of Qualified Presumption of Safety (QPS) approach for assessment of selected microorganisms referred to EFSA³” adopted by the Scientific Committee. The ToR were presented to the Panel.

6.5. OVERVIEW OF SOURCE ATTRIBUTION METHODOLOGY

The WG will meet on 27 March.

6.6. ASSESSMENT ON THE RISK FOR HUMAN AND ANIMAL HEALTH RELATED TO THE REVISION OF THE BSE MONITORING REGIME IN SOME MS

The WG met on 26 February. The deadline for the mandate was extended to June. The draft opinion will be presented to the Panel at the April Plenary.

6.7. ASSESSMENT ON THE RISK RELATED TO TSEs FROM CARCASSES OF OVINE AND CAPRINE ANIMALS BELOW 6 MONTHS OF AGE INTENDED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

The WG met on 4 March.

7. FEED BACK FROM THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE AND FROM OTHER WGS

The 29th Plenary meeting of the Scientific Committee was held on 14-15 February⁴.

7.1. WELFARE OF DAIRY COWS

The AHAW⁵ Panel is addressing the mandate on the welfare of dairy cows. An expert from the BIOHAZ Panel was nominated to draft a chapter on food safety aspects which will be adopted by the BIOHAZ Panel.

7.2. UNCERTAINTIES IN DIETARY EXPOSURE ASSESSMENT

The adoption by Panels of a uniform approach when dealing with uncertainties is under consideration.

8. STANDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA:

8.1. FOOD SAFETY ISSUES OF AVIAN INFLUENZA

There had been no indications of food safety concerns.

³ www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178667590178.htm

⁴ www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178684687414.htm

⁵ AHAW - Panel on Animal Health and Welfare

8.2. EMERGING RISKS

An ESCO⁶ WG on Emerging Risks requested that each Panel consider emerging issues at every Plenary. The BIOHAZ Panel selected “the role of food in the transmission of MRSA” as a candidate emerging issue.

8.3. QRA ON TALLOW

Further clarifications are being sought.

9. BRAINSTORMING SESSION ON UPCOMING ISSUES

This item was deferred to the next Plenary.

10. AUDIO/WEB TRAINING

An audio/web conference system was demonstrated which enables EFSA’s staff and experts to take part in meetings and share working documents *via* the internet.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1. RULE OF PROCEDURES FOR PANELS

It was noted that minutes of WG meetings are now required to be published on EFSA’s website.

11.2. REVIEW OF SCIENTIFIC OPINIONS

On the proposal of the Scientific Committee⁷, certain opinions will be assessed by the BIOHAZ Secretariat with regard to quality assurance. An external review may be conducted by senior scientific staff in the Secretariats of other Panels. This review process is known as “Internal and External Review” (INEX).

12. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The meeting closed at 13.30.

⁶ ESCO - EFSA Scientific Cooperation

⁷ www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178628825410.htm