

MINUTES OF THE 44TH PLENARY MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS HELD IN PARMA ON 10-11 DECEMBER 2008

AGENDA:

1. OPENING, AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST
4. NEW REQUESTS TO EFSA/BIOHAZ
 - 4.1 Genetic TSE resistance in goats
 - 4.2 Request to AHAW Panel on *Echinococcus multilocularis* and EFSA reply
 - 4.3 Self task mandate on the revision of the guidance document on poultry decontamination
5. POSSIBLE ADOPTIONS
 - 5.1 QPS approach for assessing the safety of microorganisms intentionally added to the food chain
6. PROGRESS REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ON THE FOLLOWING MANDATES
 - 6.1 Evaluation of TSE tests
 - 6.2 Technical guide for the scientific data collection on antimicrobial resistance within the frame work of the use of AMTs for the decontamination of poultry carcasses
 - 6.3 Use and mode of action of bacteriophages in food production
 - 6.4 Microbiological efficacy of food irradiation
 - 6.5 Public health significance of meticillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA)
 - 6.6 Quantitative estimation of the public health impact of setting a new target for the reductions of *Salmonella* in breeding hens
 - 6.7 Quantitative estimation of the public health impact of setting a new target for the reductions of *Salmonella* in laying hens
 - 6.8 Quantitative estimation of the public health impact of setting a new target for the reductions of *Salmonella* in broilers
 - 6.9 Request for an update and quantification of the risk posed by *Campylobacter* in broiler meat production
 - 6.10 Technical assistance on the link between *Salmonella* criteria at different stages of the poultry production chain
 - 6.11 Special measures to reduce the risk for consumers through *Salmonella* in table eggs – e.g. Cooling of table eggs
 - 6.12 QMRA on *Salmonella* in slaughter and breeding pigs
 - 6.13 Food safety aspects from the welfare of dairy cows
 - 6.14 The use of antibiotic resistance genes as marker genes in genetically modified plants
 - 6.15 Use of Fuel Cal® technology as a new alternative method of disposal or use of ABP
 - 6.16 ABP bunker system for carcass treatment

- 6.17 ABP alternative method from the European Lime Association (EULA)
- 6.18 Update BSE monitoring regime for EU15, Slovenia and Cyprus
- 7. FEED BACK FROM THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE AND FROM OTHER
WGs
- 8. STANDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA
- 8.1 Food safety issues of Avian Influenza
- 8.2 Update on other EFSA activities related to Biological Hazards issues
- 9. The Emerging Risks Unit
- 10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS
- 10.1 Information about the Panel's renewal
- 10.2 Financial statement application
- 10.3 Joint workshop with MS on the assessment of alternative methods for processing
ABPs
- 10.4 Uncertainty in Risk Assessment
- 10.5 Feedback from industry on Feedingstuffs
- 11 CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

PARTICIPANTS

Panel Members:

Olivier Andreoletti, Herbert Budka, Sava Buncic, Pierre Colin, John D Collins, Aline De Koeijer, James Hope, Günter Klein (10th Dec only), Simone Magnino, Antonio Martínez López, James McLaughlin, Karsten Noeckler, Birgit Noerrung, Miguel Prieto Maradona, Terence Roberts, Ivar Vågsholm and Emmanuel Vanopdenbosch.

EFSA:

Marta Hugas, Fulvio Barizzzone, Alessandro Broglia, Michaela Hempen, Ernesto Liebana, Tobin Robinson, Pietro Stella, Eirini Tsigarida, Luis Vivas-Alegre, Bianca Bottoni (Administrative staff).

European Commission (EC):

DG Health and Consumer Protection: Marina Marini.

1. OPENING AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chair welcomed everyone. Apologies were received from John Griffin, Arie Havelaar, Hilde Kruse and Christophe Nguyen-The.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no new declarations of interest.

4. NEW REQUESTS TO EFSA/BIOHAZ

4.1. GENETIC TSE RESISTANCE IN GOATS

An urgent request was received from the Commission for an opinion on genetic TSE resistance in goats. The Commission presented the mandate, explained the reasons for the short deadline, and responded to questions on clarification.

4.2. REQUEST TO AHAW PANEL ON *ECHINOCOCUS MULTILOCULARIS* AND EFSA REPLY

A request was received from the Commission concerning a proposition from a Member State to update the 2007 Opinion of the AHAW Panel on the fox tapeworm. The Executive Director has replied indicating that the data referred to by the MS was already taken into account in the previous opinion.

4.3. SELF-TASK MANDATE ON THE REVISION OF THE GUIDANCE DOCUMENT ON POULTRY DECONTAMINATION

The mandate was presented and the Chair of the Working group appointed.

5. POSSIBLE ADOPTIONS

5.1. QPS APPROACH FOR ASSESSING THE SAFETY OF MICROORGANISMS INTENTIONALLY ADDED TO THE FOOD CHAIN

The draft opinion was adopted pending some editorial changes.

6. PROGRESS REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ON THE FOLLOWING MANDATES

6.1. EVALUATION OF TSE TESTS

IRMM is now dealing with the pre-evaluation phase, which should be completed during the first months of 2009.

6.2. TECHNICAL GUIDE FOR THE SCIENTIFIC DATA COLLECTION ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE USE OF AMTs¹ FOR THE DECONTAMINATION OF POULTRY CARCASSES

The WG met on 23 September. At the request of the Commission, further work is suspended pending a possible revision of the terms of reference, to be notified in January 2009.

6.3. USE AND MODE OF ACTION OF BACTERIOPHAGES IN FOOD PRODUCTION

The draft opinion was presented. Adoption of the opinion is anticipated in January 2009.

6.4. MICROBIOLOGICAL EFFICACY OF FOOD IRRADIATION

The WG is being established and a first meeting is foreseen for February 2009.

6.5. PUBLIC HEALTH SIGNIFICANCE OF METICILLIN RESISTANT STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS (MRSA)

The draft opinion was presented for comments. An extension to the deadline for adoption has been granted, adoption being foreseen in March 2009.

¹ Antimicrobial treatments

6.6. QUANTITATIVE ESTIMATION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACT OF SETTING A NEW TARGET FOR THE REDUCTION OF *SALMONELLA* IN BREEDING HENS

The table of contents of the draft opinion was presented. The next meeting of the working group will be on 17 December 2009. Adoption of the draft opinion is foreseen for March 2009.

6.7. QUANTITATIVE ESTIMATION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACT OF SETTING A NEW TARGET FOR THE REDUCTION OF *SALMONELLA* IN LAYING HENS

The approach to addressing this mandate will be elaborated at the WG meeting on 13 March 2009. The possibility for outsourcing part of the work is being investigated.

6.8. QUANTITATIVE ESTIMATION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACT OF SETTING A NEW TARGET FOR THE REDUCTION OF *SALMONELLA* IN BROILERS

This mandate has not yet been addressed by the WG due to the prioritisation of mandates covered under points 6.7 and 6.8 above. The approach to be adopted will be addressed at the WG meeting in March 2009.

6.9. REQUEST FOR AN UPDATE AND QUANTIFICATION OF THE RISK POSED BY *CAMPYLOBACTER* IN BROILER MEAT PRODUCTION

The first meeting was held on 27-28 November 2008. The proposed structure of the document was presented. The new working group meeting will be on 10-11 February 2009.

6.10. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ON THE LINK BETWEEN *SALMONELLA* CRITERIA AT DIFFERENT STAGES OF THE POULTRY PRODUCTION CHAIN

The first meeting of the WG was held on 3 October. The data provided through a call was reviewed. An outsourced project is being initiated.

6.11. SPECIAL MEASURES TO REDUCE THE RISK FOR CONSUMERS THROUGH *SALMONELLA* IN TABLE EGGS – E.G. COOLING OF TABLE EGGS

The working group met on the 3 December. The draft opinion was discussed in detail and modifications proposed. The draft opinion will be presented at the January plenary with a view to adoption.

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

The table of contents of the draft opinion was presented. The Commission has identified a contractor for outsourcing the cost-benefit analysis for slaughter pigs. The work of the cost-benefit analysis will be coordinated with that of the WG. Adoption will probably be delayed due to delays foreseen in the delivery of the breeder pigs baseline study. An intermediate report on slaughter pigs is foreseen in June 2009. Next meeting is planned for January 2009.

6.13. FOOD SAFETY ASPECTS FROM THE WELFARE OF DAIRY COWS

A combined food safety chapter addressing all four related AHAW opinions will be prepared.

6.14. THE USE OF ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE GENES AS MARKER GENES IN GENETICALLY MODIFIED PLANTS

An update on the progress of the joint BIOHAZ-GMO working group was presented. Following a request from EFSA, the Commission has agreed to extend the deadline for the opinion to March 2009. A draft of the opinion will be presented to the panel for discussion in the January plenary.

6.15. FUEL CAL[®] TECHNOLOGY AS NEW ALTERNATIVE METHOD OF DISPOSAL OR USE OF ABP

The necessary information has now been received, and the working group can now commence its work.

6.16. ABP BUNKER SYSTEM FOR CARCASS TREATMENT

The necessary information has now been received, and the working group can now commence its work.

6.17. ABP ALTERNATIVE METHOD FROM EUROPEAN LIME ASSOCIATION (EULA)

The necessary information has now been received, and the working group can now commence its work.

6.18. UPDATE BSE MONITORING REGIME FOR EU 15, SLOVENIA AND CYPRUS

The first WG meeting will be held in January.

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

The 32nd Plenary meeting of the Scientific Committee was held on 25-26 July².

8. STANDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA:

8.1. FOOD SAFETY ISSUES OF AVIAN INFLUENZA

There had been no recent indications of food safety concerns.

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1211902088103.htm

8.2. UPDATE ON OTHER EFSA ACTIVITIES RELATED TO BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS ISSUES

Current activities of the Unit on Zoonoses Data Collection were presented to the panel.

9. THE EMERGING RISKS UNIT

The head of the emerging risks unit presented their activities.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

10.1. INFORMATION ABOUT THE PANEL'S RENEWAL

The inaugural meeting of the third mandate of the panel will be held on the 10-11 June 2009. Problems with completing the application form for panel membership should be forwarded to the secretariat.

10.2. FINANCIAL STATEMENT APPLICATION

A representative from the financial department presented the Financial Statement Application.

10.3. JOINT WORKSHOP WITH MS ON THE ASSESSMENT OF ALTERNATIVE METHODS FOR PROCESSING ABPs

The Panel was informed on the workshop that was held on 17 November, in order to advise the MS on compiling the dossiers on alternative methods for processing animal by-products, before submission.

10.4. UNCERTAINTY IN RISK ASSESSMENT

The Panel's attention was drawn to the opinion of the Scientific Committee on Uncertainties in Dietary Exposure Assessment (EFSA-Q-2004-019)

10.5. FEEDBACK FROM INDUSTRIES ON FEEDINGSTUFFS

A letter was received from the European Feed Manufacturers Federation (FEFAC) providing detailed comments on the recently published BIOHAZ opinion on Microbiological Risk Assessment in feedingstuffs for food producing animals. EFSA will reply, thanking the Federation for their detailed comments. If appropriate, a corrigendum to the opinion will be published; this will not affect the conclusions and recommendations.

11. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The meeting closed at 13.20.