

MINUTES OF THE 47TH PLENARY MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS HELD IN PARMA ON 22-23 APRIL 2009

AGENDA:

1. OPENING, AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST
4. NEW REQUESTS TO EFSA/BIOHAZ
 - 4.1 Parasites in fishery products
5. POSSIBLE ADOPTIONS
 - 5.1 Update BSE monitoring regime for EU15, Slovenia and Cyprus
 - 5.2 Use and mode of action of bacteriophages in food production
6. PROGRESS REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ON THE FOLLOWING MANDATES
 - 6.1 Revision of the joint BIOHAZ/CEF guidance document on the submission of data for the evaluation of the safety and efficacy of substances for the removal of microbial contamination of foods of animal origin intended for human consumption
 - 6.2 Microbiological efficacy of food irradiation
 - 6.3 Quantitative estimation of the public health impact of setting a new target for the reductions of *Salmonella* in laying hens
 - 6.4 Quantification of the risk posed by broiler meat to human campylobacteriosis in the EU
 - 6.5 *Campylobacter* in broiler meat production: control options and performance objectives and/or targets at different stages of the food chain
 - 6.6 Technical assistance on the link between *Salmonella* criteria at different stages of the poultry production chain
 - 6.7 QMRA on *Salmonella* in slaughter and breeding pigs
 - 6.8 Food safety aspects from the welfare of dairy cows
 - 6.9 ABP alternative method from the European Lime Association (EULA)
 - 6.10 BSE-related risk of bovine intestines
 - 6.11 Welfare aspects of stunning and killing of fish
 - 6.12 Trends of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in zoonotic infections
 - 6.13 Genetic TSE resistance in goats – all the TSEs in all the EU (except classical scrapie in Cyprus)
 - 6.14 Maintenance of the list of QPS microorganisms intentionally added to food or feed (2009 update)
7. FEED BACK FROM THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE AND FROM OTHER WGs
 - 7.1 Default assumptions used by EFSA's Scientific Panels and Committee in the absence of actual measured data

- 7.2 Transparency in risk assessment – Scientific Aspects – Guidance of the Scientific Committee on Transparency in the Scientific Aspects of Risk Assessments carried out by EFSA. Part 2: General Principles
- 8. **STANDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**
- 8.1 Food safety issues of Avian Influenza
- 8.2 Emerging risks
- 8.3 Update on other EFSA activities related to biological hazards issues
- 9. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
- 9.1 Letter on BIOHAZ and AHAW Mandates
- 9.2 EFSA Experts Survey
- 10 **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, 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, Bart Goossens, Michaela Hempen, Renata Leuschner, Ernesto Liebana, Tobin Robinson, Pietro Stella, Eirini Tsigarida, Luis Vivas-Alegre, Bianca Bottoni (Administrative staff).

European Commission (EC):

DG Health and Consumers : Sabine Osaer.

1. OPENING AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chair welcomed everyone. Apologies were received from James McLaughlin.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

EFSA secretariat screened the ADoI and SDoI filled in by the scientific experts invited at this meeting in accordance with EFSA's Policy on Declarations of Interests.

With regard to the ADoI, SDoI and this meeting no other interest than those already declared in the ADoI or in a previous SDoI and screened by EFSA in accordance with its Policy on Declarations of Interests and implementing documents thereof was declared by the experts.

4. NEW REQUESTS TO EFSA/BIOHAZ

4.1. PARASITES IN FISHERY PRODUCTS

A request for a scientific opinion on parasites in fishery products was received from the Commission. Clarification is being sought on a number of details. The Panel decided to establish an "ad hoc" Working Group. A deadline extension has been requested to March 2010.

5. ADOPTIONS

5.1. UPDATE BSE MONITORING REGIME FOR EU15, SLOVENIA AND CYPRUS

The draft opinion was adopted pending some editorial changes.

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

The draft opinion was presented following consideration of the comments received during public consultation, and adopted pending some editorial changes.

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

The draft BIOHAZ-GMO joint opinion was adopted by the BIOHAZ Panel following the written procedure process on the 26th of April. Two panel members expressed minority opinions and were recorded in the opinion.

6. PROGRESS REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ON THE FOLLOWING MANDATES

6.1. REVISION OF THE JOINT BIOHAZ/CEF GUIDANCE DOCUMENT ON THE SUBMISSION OF DATA FOR THE EVALUATION OF THE SAFETY AND EFFICACY OF SUBSTANCES FOR THE REMOVAL OF MICROBIAL CONTAMINATION OF FOODS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN INTENDED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

Last WG meeting was held on 29th April in Parma. Representatives from SCHER, SCENIHR and CRL for antimicrobial resistance are part of the WG, they contribute to the chapters about environmental issues and risks related to acquired reduced susceptibility. They refer to the relative scientific committees about the work in progress in the WG.

Next working group meeting will be on 28th-29th May. The deadline has been extended to the end of 2009.

6.2. MICROBIOLOGICAL EFFICACY OF FOOD IRRADIATION

Working group last met on the 2 April. The outline of the draft opinion was presented.

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

The approach for addressing this mandate was elaborated at the WG meeting on 13 March 2009. Outsourcing will be used to support this work. Data on serovars from human cases has been requested from ECDC.

6.4. QUANTIFICATION OF THE RISK POSED BY BROILER MEAT TO HUMAN CAMPYLOBACTERIOSIS IN THE EU

Working group last met on the 15 April. The discussions held during the working group meeting and the outline of the draft opinion was presented. The single original working group in charge of this draft opinion and the one under point 6.5 is going to be split into two separate ones.

6.5. CAMPYLOBACTER IN BROILER MEAT PRODUCTION: CONTROL OPTIONS AND PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES AND/OR TARGETS AT DIFFERENT STAGES OF THE FOOD CHAIN

The previous WG has been split in two. This WG addresses the terms of reference 2 and 3 from the original mandate. Two additional members will be invited to join this

WG. The first meeting of the split WG will be 24/25th June at VLA Weybridge. Two outsourcing projects are foreseen for this mandate. One procurement on the development of a QMRA model and a grant on data harvesting to support the developed model. A request for an extension of the deadline to October 2010 has been sent to the COM.

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

The WG last met on 29 January. The approach being proposed for this task was discussed. A meeting will be held in May with the contractors carrying out the outsourced project, to report on progress.

6.7. QMRA ON SALMONELLA IN SLAUGHTER AND BREEDING PIGS

Progress on the draft opinion was presented.

6.8. FOOD SAFETY ASPECTS FROM THE WELFARE OF DAIRY COWS

A combined food safety chapter addressing all four related AHAW opinions is being prepared. The draft document was presented and discussed.

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

Nothing new to report.

6.10. BSE-RELATED RISK OF BOVINE INTESTINES

The first meeting of the “ad hoc” WG will be held on the 7th of May.

6.11. WELFARE ASPECTS OF STUNNING AND KILLING FISH

First WG Meeting on 21/04/09. The draft opinion was presented to the Panel for discussion. Adoption is foreseen for July 2009.

6.12. TRENDS OF ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (AMR) IN ZOO NOTIC INFECTIONS

An Interagency (EMEA, EDCDC and EFSA) plus the non-food Committee SCENHIR coordination meeting is organized for the 24th of April. The roadmap for adoption by all parties involved will be discussed.

6.13. GENETIC TSE RESISTANCE IN GOATS – ALL THE TSES IN ALL THE EU (EXCEPT CLASSICAL SCRAPIE IN CYPRUS)

The approach for addressing this mandate was presented. A questionnaire has been sent to MS through the Commission. The last WG meeting took place on the 26th of March.

6.14. MAINTENANCE OF THE LIST OF QPS MICROORGANISMS INTENTIONALLY ADDED TO FOOD OR FEED (2009 UPDATE)

The first meeting of the WG will be held on the 26th of May.

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

7.1. DEFAULT ASSUMPTIONS USED BY EFSA'S SCIENTIFIC PANELS AND COMMITTEE IN THE ABSENCE OF ACTUAL MEASURED DATA

Due to time constraints, discussion on this item agenda was postponed to the next Plenary meeting on May 2009.

7.2. TRANSPARENCY IN RISK ASSESSMENT – SCIENTIFIC ASPECTS – GUIDANCE OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON TRANSPARENCY IN THE SCIENTIFIC ASPECTS OF RISK ASSESSMENTS CARRIED OUT BY EFSA. PART 2: GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The Panel Members discussed the guidance adopted by the Scientific Committee, reflecting on transparency in past, current and future BIOHAZ risk assessments. Comments on the document were gathered, focusing on the peculiarities of its implementation in the areas of competence of the BIOHAZ Panel.

8. STANDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA:

8.1. FOOD SAFETY ISSUES OF AVIAN INFLUENZA

There have been no recent indications of food safety concerns.

8.2. EMERGING RISKS

No indications from panel members on Emerging Risks.

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

Recent work and publications from the Zoonoses Data Collection Unit were brought to the attention of the Panel.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

9.1. LETTER ON BIOHAZ AND AHAW MANDATES

The EFSA guidelines for allocating mandates and procedure for collaboration between AHAW and BIOHAZ Panels were tabled for information.

9.2. EFSA EXPERTS SURVEY

The results of the survey were presented.

10. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The meeting closed at 14.45.