MINUTES OF THE 51ST PLENARY MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS HELD IN PARMA ON 9-10 SEPTEMBER 2009

AGENDA :

1. OPENING, APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
4. NEW REQUESTS TO EFSA/BIOHAZ
5. DRAFT OPINIONS FOR POSSIBLE ADOPTION

5.1 BSE-RELATED RISK OF BOVINE INTESTINES

6. PROGRESS REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ON THE FOLLOWING MANDATES

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

6.2 FOOD IRRADIATION (EFFICACY AND MICROBIOLOGICAL SAFETY)

6.3 QUANTITATIVE ESTIMATION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACT OF SETTING A NEW TARGET FOR THE REDUCTION OF SALMONELLA IN LAYING HENS (GALLUS GALLUS)

6.4 QUANTITATIVE ESTIMATION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACT OF SETTING A NEW TARGET FOR THE REDUCTION OF SALMONELLA IN BROILERS (GALLUS GALLUS)

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

6.6 QMRA ON SALMONELLA IN SLAUGHTER AND BREEDING PIGS

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

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

6.9 ABP ALTERNATIVE METHOD FROM EUROPEAN LIME ASSOCIATION (EULA)

6.10 THE RISK OF TRANSMISSION OF TSES VIA SEMEN AND EMBRYOS IN SMALL RUMINANTS (SHEEP AND GOATS)

6.11 TRENDS IN ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (AMR) IN ZOONOTIC INFECTIONS

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

6.13 MAINTENANCE OF THE LIST OF QPS MICRO-ORGANISMS INTENTIONALLY ADDED TO FOOD OR FEED (2009 UPDATE)

6.14 PARASITES IN FISHERY PRODUCTS

6.15 REQUEST FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE RELATED TO THE EFSA OPINION ON TRANSFORMATION OF ANIMAL BY-PRODUCTS INTO BIOGAS AND COMPOST

6.16 EVALUATION TSE TESTS

6.17 ANALYTICAL SENSITIVITY OF APPROVED TSE RAPID TESTS**7. FEED BACK FROM THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE AND FROM OTHER WGS**

8. DISCUSSION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TRANSPARENCY AND UNCERTAINTY OPINIONS FROM THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

9. STANDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA:

9.1 FOOD SAFETY ISSUES OF INFLUENZA VIRUSES

9.2 EMERGING RISKS

10. BIOHAZ NETWORKS

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

12. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

MINUTES

PARTICIPANTS

Panel Members:

Olivier Andreoletti, Herbert Budka, Sava Buncic, John D Collins, John Griffin, , James Hope, Günter Klein, James McLauchlin, Winy Messens, Christine Müller-Graf, Christophe Nguyen-The, Luisa Peixe, Miguel Prieto Maradona, Antonia Ricci, John Sofos, John Threlfall, Ivar Vågsholm, Emmanuel Vanopdenbosch.

EFSA:
Marta Hugas, Fulvio Barizzone, Alessandro Broglia, Bart Goossens, Michaela Hempen, Renata Leuschner, Ernesto Liebana, Pietro Stella, (Scientific staff), and Rita De Bon (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 Arie Havelaar, Tine Hald, Birgit Noerrung and Christine Muller-Graf (9th September p.m.).

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Declarations of Interests, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of Interest (ADoI) and Specific Declaration of Interest (SDoI) filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the beginning of this meeting.

4. NEW REQUESTS TO EFSA/BIOHAZ

4.1. FOODBORNE VIRUSES

Following information received during the 3rd Meeting of the EFSA Network on Microbiological Risk Assessment, an EFSA draft self mandate with the purpose to provide an update on the present state of knowledge on the occurrence and control of food- and water-borne viral infections was presented and discussed.

4.2. RISK BASED CONTROL OF BIOGENIC AMINES IN FERMENTED FOOD.

Following information received during the 3rd Meeting of the EFSA Network on Microbiological Risk Assessment and the 32nd meeting of the Advisory Forum, an EFSA draft self mandate on the risk based control of biogenic amine formation in fermented food was presented and discussed.

4.3. REQUEST FOR A JOINT SCIENTIFIC OPINION ON ANY POSSIBLE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL OR MOLECULAR ASSOCIATION BETWEEN TSEs IN ANIMALS AND HUMANS.

EFSA received a mandate from the European Commission (DG SANCO) asking to examine any possible epidemiological or molecular association between TSE's in animals and humans. The opinion is requested to be a joint opinion between EFSA and the ECDC. The mandate and its Terms of Reference were discussed and changes to the ToR will be discussed with ECDC and suggested to the EC. Discussions with ECDC are taking place as to how to prepare the opinion.

5. DRAFT OPINIONS FOR POSSIBLE ADOPTIONS

5.1. BSE-RELATED RISK OF BOVINE INTESTINES

The draft opinion was presented. After some discussions and amendments to the text the opinion was adopted.

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

The last WG meeting was held on 2nd of September. A draft document was presented and discussed in detail. The draft opinion, subject to its endorsement by the BIOHAZ Panel at the October Plenary, will be published for public consultation. The adoption by BIOHAZ is foreseen for December 2009.

Representatives from SCHER, SCENIHR and the CRL for antimicrobial resistance are members of the WG.

6.2. FOOD IRRADIATION (EFFICACY AND MICROBIOLOGICAL SAFETY)

The working group last met on 8th of September. An overview of the progress made to-date with the draft opinion was presented. The next meeting will be in late October or early November 2009.

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

There has been no working group meeting since last plenary in July. The next meeting will be held on 5th and 6th October in Brussels. The draft opinion will be tabled in October for discussion.

6.4. QUANTITATIVE ESTIMATION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACT OF SETTING A NEW TARGET FOR THE REDUCTION OF *SALMONELLA* IN BROILERS (*GALLUS GALLUS*)

There has been no working group meeting since last plenary in July. The next meeting will be held on 11th September in Parma. The table of content was presented. The modelling part for this mandate will be outsourced. The feasibility of collection and the usefulness of data provided by the Member States were discussed.

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

There has been no meeting since the last Plenary in July. The next meeting is scheduled for the 29th September in Brussels. A draft of the opinion will be tabled in October for information and discussion.

6.6. QMRA ON SALMONELLA IN SLAUGHTER AND BREEDING PIGS

The on-going work was presented to the Panel. An interim report was received from the consortium. The contractor will deliver their final report by the end of November. A workshop organized by the Contractor on 9-10 November will present the results of their risk assessment to the Working Group and other stakeholders.

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

There has been no working group meeting since last plenary in July. The next meetings will be held on 25th September in Amsterdam and on 19th November in Parma. The structure of the document and its sections were briefly presented to the Panel. Adoption is foreseen by 31 December 2009.

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

There has been no working group meeting since last plenary in July. The next meeting will be held on 24th September in Amsterdam. Two projects have been outsourced to provide input to the mandate.

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

Consideration of this mandate has been suspended since 25th February 2009. The reason was a delay in receiving a response to EFSA's request to EULA for additional data related to the mandate. These additional data were sent to EFSA on 31 August 2009. The working group will now resume its activities in order to assess the application.

6.10. THE RISK OF TRANSMISSION OF TSES VIA SEMEN AND EMBRYOS IN SMALL RUMINANTS (SHEEP AND GOATS)

The second Working Group meeting was held in Parma on 7th September 2009. Next meeting is foreseen for 20th October 2009 in Barcelona. The draft opinion will be tabled at the October Plenary and adoption is foreseen at the December Plenary.

6.11. TRENDS IN ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (AMR) IN ZOONOTIC INFECTIONS

A draft document for the opinion was presented. The last EFSA WG meeting was on the 30th July 2009. An Overarching WG meeting (EMEA, ECDC, EFSA and SCENIHR) took place on the 3rd September in London. The next meeting of the Overarching WG is foreseen for the 1st October 2009 in Brussels. Adoption by the BIOHAZ Panel is expected at the October Plenary.

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

The 4th meeting of this WG took place on 8th of September 2009. The draft opinion was presented and discussed. The revised draft will be presented at the October Plenary for possible adoption.

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

The 3rd meeting took place on the 24th August 2009. The chair gave an update on progress and the proposed structure of the draft opinion. The next meeting will be held on the 20th October in Barcelona. The draft opinion will be tabled at the October Plenary and adoption is foreseen at the December Plenary.

6.14. PARASITES IN FISHERY PRODUCTS

The second Working Group meeting is scheduled on 11th September. The chair gave an overview of the progress made. The next meeting is foreseen on 26th November in Berlin and 15th January in Madrid. The draft opinion will be tabled for discussion at the December plenary.

6.15. REQUEST FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE RELATED TO THE EFSA OPINION ON TRANSFORMATION OF ANIMAL BY-PRODUCTS INTO BIOGAS AND COMPOST

The first Working Group meeting was held in Brussels on 4th September 2009. A draft document was presented by the Chair of the WG and adoption is foreseen at the October Plenary.

6.16. EVALUATION OF TSE TESTS

The next meeting of the working group is foreseen for 18th of September. The reports on the pre-evaluation stage of the TSE tests under evaluation will be forwarded for assessment to EFSA by the JRC-IRMM.

6.17. ANALYTICAL SENSITIVITY OF APPROVED TSE RAPID TESTS

A working group has been established. The first meeting of the working group is foreseen for 18th of September. A deadline extension to December 2009 has been agreed with the EC.

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

The last meeting of SC was held on 21-22 July 2009. The minutes of that meeting are available on the EFSA website.

8. DISCUSSION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TRANSPARENCY AND UNCERTAINTY OPINIONS FORM THE SC

This subject was deferred to the October Plenary.

9. STANDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA:

9.1. FOOD SAFETY ISSUES OF INFLUENZA VIRUSES

The Panel is keeping a watching brief on the situation. There have been no indications of food safety concerns.

9.2. EMERGING RISKS

The recent reported outbreak of Q-fever in goats and sheep and its transferability to humans in the Netherlands is under review. No new findings were reported.

10. BIOHAZ NETWORKS

The BIOHAZ unit coordinates two networks of Member States representatives dealing with topics concerning Biological Hazards. The MRA (Microbiological Risk Assessment) Network held its third meeting on 17 June in Parma when Member States gathered to discuss the work related to Microbiological Risk Assessment within EFSA. The next MRA Network meeting will be on 16th June 2010.

The BSE Network will hold its fourth meeting on 15-16 October 2009.

11. INFORMATION SESSION

EFSA informed the plenary that a series of information sessions on horizontal issues has been planned. The first session will take place during the October Plenary.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The next BIOHAZ Plenary will be held in Barcelona (Spain).

Concern was expressed about recent directions from EFSA regarding the arrangements for booking airline flights to meetings. Due to recent cutbacks in the number of flights and destinations served by various airlines, it has become advisable, and sometimes necessary, for experts to book suitable flights well in advance of scheduled Plenary and WG meetings in Parma in particular, and elsewhere, in order to allow them to attend with the least disruption of their normal duties. There are also price implications when flights are booked within two weeks or so of the scheduled flight.

It was also mentioned that when visiting the EFSA web, it is sometimes difficult to locate certain documents.

13. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The meeting closed at 15.00.