MINUTES OF THE 52ND PLENARY MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS HELD IN BARCELONA ON 21-22 OCTOBER 2009

AGENDA :

1. **OPENING, APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

2. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

4. **NEW REQUESTS TO EFSA/BIOHAZ**

4.1 **RISK BASED CONTROL OF BIOGENIC AMINE FORMATION IN FERMENTED FOODS**

4.2 **APPLICATION FOR NEW ALTERNATIVE METHOD OF DISPOSAL OR USE OF ANIMAL BY-PRODUCTS UNDER REGULATION (EC) N° 1774/2002.**

4.3 **USE OF RECYCLED HOT WATER AS DECONTAMINATION TECHNIQUE OF CARCASSES**

4.4 **FOOD BORNE VIRUSES (FBV)**

5. **DRAFT OPINIONS FOR POSSIBLE ADOPTIONS**

5.1 **TRENDS IN ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (AMR) IN ZOONOTIC INFECTIONS**

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

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

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

6.12 **PARASITES IN FISHERY PRODUCTS**

6.13 **EVALUATION TSE TESTS**

6.14 **ANALYTICAL SENSITIVITY OF APPROVED TSE RAPID TESTS: ANALYTICAL SENSITIVITY OF APPROVED TSE RAPID TESTS**

6.15 **EPIDEMIOLOGICAL AND MOLECULAR ASSOCIATION BETWEEN THE ANIMAL AND HUMAN TSE CASES**

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

8. **STANDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA:**

8.1 **FOOD SAFETY ISSUES OF INFLUENZA VIRUSES**

8.2 **EMERGING RISKS**

9. **BIOHAZ NETWORKS**

10. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

11. **CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

Minutes

PARTICIPANTS

Panel Members:

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

EFSA:
Marta Hugas, Fulvio Barizzone, Bart Goossens, Renata Leuschner, Ernesto Liebana, Pietro Stella, (Scientific staff), and Rita De Bon (Administrative staff).

European Commission (EC):
DG Health and Consumers: Sabine Osaer, Josiane Houins-Roulet.

1. OPENING AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chair welcomed everyone. Apologies were received from James McLauchlin and John Threlfall.

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 the Specific Declaration of interest (SDoI) filled in by the experts invited to the present meeting. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the ADoI and SDoI (as well as the ones declared at the beginning of the meeting), please refer to Annexes I of these Minutes.

4. NEW REQUESTS TO EFSA/BIOHAZ

4.1. 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 EFSA Advisory Forum, a self mandate on the risk based control of biogenic amine formation in fermented food was presented and discussed. The self-task mandate was accepted by EFSA and a WG will be formed. Prof Sava Buncic was appointed as chair.

4.2. APPLICATION FOR NEW ALTERNATIVE METHOD OF DISPOSAL OR USE OF ANIMAL-BY-PRODUCTS UNDER REGULATION (EC) 1774/2002.

A new request was received under Reg. (EC) 1774/2002 from Finland related to an application for an alternative method of disposal or use of animal by-products. The intended use of the alternative method is to produce biofuel. The mandate was discussed and it was highlighted that the documentary report where the MS Competent Authority lays down its findings on examining whether the Application responds to the basic presentation requirements as set out in the Guidelines for Applications for new alternative methods of disposal or use of Animal By-Products was lacking. It was decided to wait for such a report before starting the assessment of the Application.

4.3. USE OF RECYCLED HOT WATER AS DECONTAMINATION TECHNIQUE OF CARCASSES.

A new mandate was received by the EC related to the treatment of carcasses by using recycled hot water as decontamination technique. EC regulations 852 and 853 (2004) only allow the use of potable water on carcasses. The mandate was discussed and a Working Group will be set up.

4.4. FOOD BORNE VIRUSES (FBV).

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.

5. DRAFT OPINIONS FOR POSSIBLE ADOPTIONS

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

A draft document, to which EFSA contributed in part as a proposed EFSA opinion, was presented. The last overarching WG meeting (EMEA, ECDC, EFSA and SCENIHR) took place on the 1st October 2009 in Brussels. The overall draft document was adopted by the EMEA on 14th October 2009. The document and in particular its conclusions were presented and discussed in depth. The document was adopted.

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

The document was presented by the chair of the Working Group. After a short discussion the document was adopted.

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

The document was presented by the chair of the Working Group. After a short discussion the document 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.

There was no WG meeting since the last plenary. The draft document was presented and discussed. The draft opinion will be tabled for endorsement by the BIOHAZ panel at the next Plenary meeting and if endorsed will be published for public consultation. . The adoption by BIOHAZ is foreseen for March 2010.

6.2. FOOD IRRADIATION (EFFICACY AND MICROBIOLOGICAL SAFETY).

The working group last met on 8th of September and a new meeting will be held after this plenary meeting. In order to allow publication together with the corresponding opinion from the CEF Panel, the deadline has been extended up to December 2010.

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

A draft opinion was tabled and discussed. The next WG meeting will be held on 17/18th November in Budapest.

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 a working group meeting on 11th September. Part of modelling work will be outsourced through procurement.

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

There has been a meeting on 29th September. The next WG meetings are scheduled for the 3rd and 30th November in Brussels.

6.6. QMRA ON SALMONELLA IN SLAUGHTER AND BREEDING PIGS.

A workshop has been organized by the Contractor to be held on 9-10 November to present the results of their risk assessment to the Working Group and other stakeholders. The contractor will deliver the final report by the end of November. The next WG meeting will be held on the 7th December.

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

The working group last met on 25th September in Amsterdam and the next meeting will be held on 19th November in Parma. The draft opinion was presented to the Panel and the comments collected will be discussed with the working group. Adoption is foreseen at the December Plenary.

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

The working group had its last meeting on 24th September in Amsterdam. The selected contractor for Service contract CT/EFSA/BIOHAZ/2009/01 attended the meeting.

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

EULA has now replied to the WG's questions. These will be considered by the WG at its next meeting.

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

The third Working Group meeting was held in Barcelona on 20th October 2009. The draft opinion was discussed and comments received. Adoption is foreseen at the December Plenary.

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

The 4th meeting of the WG took place on the 20th October 2009. The chair gave an update on progress and the proposed structure of the draft opinion. The draft opinion was tabled for discussion and adoption is foreseen at the December Plenary.

6.12. PARASITES IN FISHERY PRODUCTS.

The next meetings are foreseen on 26th November in Berlin and 15th January in Madrid. The chair gave an overview of the progress made. The draft opinion will be tabled for discussion at the December plenary.

6.13. EVALUATION OF TSE TESTS.

The last meeting of the working group was held on 18th of September. The report on the pre-evaluation stage of one of the two TSE tests under evaluation was forwarded for assessment to EFSA by the JRC-IRMM and discussed at the WG meeting. EFSA has requested some additional information from the JRC-IRMM and will consider this when available.

6.14. ANALYTICAL SENSITIVITY OF APPROVED TSE RAPID TESTS.

The last meeting of the working group was held on 14th October and the next meeting is foreseen in mid November.The draft opinion was discussed at the plenary. Comments were received and taken into account. The next WG meeting will be held in November. Adoption is foreseen at the Plenary in December 2009.

6.15. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL AND MOLECULAR ASSOCIATION BETWEEN THE ANIMAL AND HUMAN TSEs.

The composition of the working group was discussed and agreed by the Chair of the WG and the Chair of the Panel. A first WG will be organised by early 2010. An extension of the deadline to end of 2010 has been requested [from the EC].

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

The last meeting of SC was held on 17th November 2009. The minutes of that meeting are available on the EFSA website.

8. STANDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA:

8.1. 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.

8.2. EMERGING RISKS.

An information update of *Clostridium difficile* in relation to the food chain was presented. It was decided to continue to collect information.

9. BIOHAZ NETWORKS:

The BIOHAZ unit coordinates two networks of Member States representatives dealing with topics concerning Biological Hazards. The next MRA Network meeting will be on 16th June 2010. A tentative date for the next meeting of the BSE network has been set to precede or follow the Prion 2010 conference in Salzburg (Austria).

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The meeting closed at 15.00.

Annex I

INTERESTS AND ACTIONS RESULTING FROM THE SCREENING OF ADOI OR SDOIs

a) **CONFLICT LEVEL B: I**n the ADoI or in the SDoI filled for the present meeting DR. James Hope .declared the following interest: for the report on the "Analytical sensitivity of approved TSE rapid tests" : He is a member of the EU TSE Community Reference Laboratory at VLA Weybridge. His declared interest relates to his affiliation with the CRL TSEs which was tasked to prepare the document being the basis for this mandate. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Declarations of Interests and Implementing documents thereof, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, the interest above was deemed to represent a conflict of Interest (level B). Pursuant to EFSA's Procedure on Identifying and Handling Declarations of Interest, the said expert incurs the limitations identified under point C.III.b[1] . That is, he did not take part in the discussions on this agenda item**.**

[1] Implementing act to the policy on declaration of interests procedure for identifying and handling potential conflicts of interest.
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/cs/BlobServer/General/mb_annex_procedure_doi_en%20221008,0.pdf?ssbinary=true