



European Food Safety Authority

MINUTES OF THE 3RD PLENARY MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON PLANT HEALTH, PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS AND THEIR RESIDUES HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 2 DECEMBER 2003

(adopted by written procedure on 19 December 2003)

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PARTICIPANTS

Members of the PPR Panel

Mr. J. BOESTEN, A. BOOBIS, A. HARDY (Chair), A. HART, H. KOEPP, R. LUTTIK, Mrs. K. MACHERA, Mr. M. MARONI, D. McGREGOR, O. MEYER, A. MORETTO, Mrs E. PAPADOPOLOU-MOURKIDOU, Mr. E. PETZINGER, K. SAVOLAINEN, A. SCHAEFFER, W. STEURBAUT, Mrs. D. TSIPI-STEFANITSI and C. VLEMINCKX.

EFSA

Mr. H. KOETER¹ (Deputy Executive Director), Mrs. M. DUNIER-THOMANN, S. HOFKENS , Mr. C. LAURENT, (Scientific co-ordinators), P. LOOPUYT¹ (IT department) and Mrs M. MESNAOUI¹ (secretary).

European Commission

Mr. M. WALSH (Interface Unit, DG SANCO D) and R HARDWICK¹ (DG RTD E).

1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chair welcomed the participants, introduced the new staff supporting the PPR Panel: Mrs M. MESNAOUI the secretary and S. HOFKENS, an ecotoxicologist from Belgium. Mr. H. KOETER, the Deputy Executive Director of EFSA and Head of Science introduced himself and gave a short presentation on the future development of the scientific sector of EFSA. The future secondment of national experts (DNE) from the member states will increase the scientific staff within EFSA.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. FEEDBACK FROM THE EFSA COLLOQUE “INVOLVING OUR STAKEHOLDERS” (23-25TH OCTOBER, OSTEND, BELGIUM).

The Chair of the Scientific Panel PPR gave a short feedback on the outcome of the discussions during the EFSA colloque he attended to represent the PPR Panel. About 60 to 70 participants attended, including BEUC (European consumers) and a representative of the main trade association of the Plant Protection Product industry (ECPA). A food crisis (environmental contaminants in salmon) was simulated to analyse how the stakeholders should interact and collaborate.

4. FEEDBACK FROM DISCUSSIONS IN THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE:

4.1 Requests for advice from EFSA.

The Chair informed the Panel members on the discussions at the last meeting of the Scientific Committee on 19-20th November on the handling of requests for advice received by EFSA. The guidance document “EFSA procedure for the handling of requests for scientific opinions” is under finalisation and will be circulated to the Panels in December.

4.2 First meetings of the Working Groups GENTOX and Exposure assessment

Discussion took place in the last meeting of the Scientific Committee on the creation of several WGs to address cross-cutting issues common to several Panels. The WG on Exposure Assessment will have its first meeting on 3rd December and A. HART will represent the PPR Panel. The WG on a harmonised approach for genotoxic and

¹ Part of the meeting.

carcinogenic substances (GENTOX) will meet for the first time on 4th December, K. SAVOLAINEN will represent the PPR Panel. A draft mandate and background document for each WG will be sent to the Executive Director with a request to include the proposed activity in EFSA's work programme 2004. Another WG of interest to the PPR Panel will be created on the safety assessment of micro-organisms used in food and feed. Interest was invited from any Panel member.

5. FEEDBACK FROM THE WORKSHOP RISK ASSESSMENT-RISK MANAGEMENT, 3-5TH SEPTEMBER (THE NETHERLANDS)

A. HART was first invited to present to the Panel members the preliminary outcomes of the European workshop on the interface between Risk Assessment and Risk Management, which took place in Noordwijkerhout (funded by DG Research RTD). The principles and approaches identified by the workshop participants to improve the interface between risk assessment and risk management were explained and an example was taken from a recent SCP opinion. The final report of the workshop will be published in December on www.ra-rm.com. The Chair then introduced a working document that he had prepared with P. LE NEINDRE on the implications of the interface RA-RM workshop for the EFSA. The Scientific Committee and the EFSA secretariat agreed to provide the basis for a further in-depth discussion by all the Scientific Panels after which EFSA will compile the conclusions of all Panels and circulate it for further discussion.

6. WORK PROGRAMME 2004:

6.1 New questions from the Commission, dates for WGs

The EFSA Work Programme 2004 will be presented to the EFSA Management Board on 3th December. Some important uncertainties remain on the PPR Panel Work programme due to the lack of precise information and timing of new questions from the Commission. An updated draft document was distributed to clarify the list of possible requests expected from the Commission and EFSA in 2004.

At the last WG Evaluation (from DG SANCO E1 on 6-7th November), the Commission presented to the member states the requests they intend to send to the PPR Panel from the first stage of the re-evaluation programme. For the first active substance: daminozide, the terms of references proposed by the Commission in toxicology on operator exposure were discussed and some amendments suggested by the Panel members. The Commission is still working with the rapporteur member state (RMS), the Netherlands, and the notifiers to select the appropriate documents, expected mid-December. The volunteer rapporteur identified at the last PPR Plenary meeting was confirmed. Three more requests should be sent to the Panel by the Commission early 2004 on dinocap (Austria is RMS) in toxicology, on alachlor (Spain is RMS) in toxicology and on methamidophos (Italy is RMS) in toxicology and ecotoxicology.

As EFSA is now in charge of the coordination of the Risk Assessment of the Peer Review (RAPeR) programme for the second list of 52 active substances and in the near future of the new active substances, the RAPeR sector coordinated by H. BRUNO should start to identify questions for the PPR Panel on the first four substances of the second list after the WG Evaluation meeting to be held on 15-16th January 2004 (joint meeting organized by EFSA and Commission).

Therefore another set of new questions could be sent to the PPR Panel by the Commission after this next WG Evaluation in January on active substances from the first stage; by EFSA (RAPeR) on the second stage and by both on the new active substances.

The timing of requests to the PPR Panel on the Guidance Documents (GD) currently under preparation in the Commission is still unclear. The FOCUS degradation kinetics GD should be ready mid-2004, the FOCUS landscape and mitigation GD after summer and the FOCUS air GD at the end of 2004. The GD on Probabilistic methods in operator exposure and in environment (EUFRAM project) will probably not be ready before the end of the year 2004.

Concerning the revision of Annex II and III of the Directive 91/414/EEC, the timing is also imprecise. The sections on toxicology, ecotoxicology and physico-chemistry are still under preparation and should be the first to be ready in 2004 followed by the residue section; the fate and behavior section is unlikely to be ready before the end of 2004.

Dates for meetings in 2004:

The next plenary meeting previously planed for 27th January will be cancelled and replaced by a WG Toxicology. The dates of the 6 other plenary meetings were given in the minutes of the last meeting.

The future Working Group Toxicology meetings will now be held on 27th January (13th January cancelled), 17th February, 15th March (instead of 9th March: cancelled), 27th April. The Chair also proposed to reserve provisional dates for WG meetings in the environment area in 2004: 3rd March, 1st and 29th April, 2nd and 29th June. More dates will be selected later in the year.

6.2 Improvement of the process of adoption by written procedure

To date the written procedure was used successfully by the Panel to adopt the minutes of the plenary meetings, but was not so efficient for the adoption of the opinion on mepanipyrim. In the future, a two days meeting might be required if more than one opinion is to be adopted in order to complete discussions. It was agreed that the adoption by written procedure should remain an exception. The circulation for comments of the draft opinion (10 working days) should be limited to minor editorial improvement of the text which had already been finalised during the plenary discussions.

The newly appointed EFSA scientists in Toxicology, Ecotoxicology and soon in Fate and behaviour (recruitment early 2004) will help the WGs in the preparation of the draft opinions.

H. KOETER suggested a possible use of teleconferences when this technology is available.

7. NEW ACCESS TO EFSA DOCUMENTS (DMS, TESTA-II)

Since the CIRCA database belongs to the Commission and is not available for use by the EFSA Panel members, as was the case for the former SCP, a specific Document Management System (DMS) using Livelink has been developed by the EFSA informatics department and presented by P. LOOPUYT. In principle, in January 2004 the connection to the highly secure Testa-II dial up modem, will be possible for the external experts of the Panels, the confidential documents related to the requests (studies from the notifier, monographs, etc.) will be stored and it will be possible to download them from the DMS with a personalized password. To allow the fast and secure delivery of documents Panel members will automatically be alerted each time a new document or draft opinion is uploaded in the DMS. Training will be available to Panel members in early 2004.

8. PRESENTATION OF THE ON GOING AND PLANNED PROJECTS IN THE 6TH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FROM DG RTD

R. HARDWICK, in charge of the “Plant Health and Plant Protection Products” sector in DG Research (DG RTD E) presented the ongoing and planned projects related to pesticides in the 6th Framework programme (2002-2006). The projects in the sector Priority 5: “Food quality and safety” and Priority 8.1: “Policy-oriented research, scientific support to policies” were described. Experts interested to be selected as evaluators in the *ad hoc* panels to evaluate proposals are invited to register in the DG RTD data base. In the discussion, Panel members suggested possible future topics for research in support to Directive 91/414/EEC.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Possible recruitment of new members in the PPR Panel

The EFSA Management Board has requested the recruitment of new members to those Scientific Panels with vacancies still available, in order to improve, if possible, the balance of gender and nationality in the Panel and to enlarge its competence. A new targeted call for declaration of interest should be launched in December 2003, with a deadline of 27 February² 2004. In the PPR Panel, three new members could be recruited if needed; the areas of expertise (Plant Health, etc.....) will be chosen according to the foreseen requests in the Management Plan 2004.

- Note on liability

A note on the liability regime for EFSA had been distributed to the Panel members, which explains that the EFSA Executive Director carries responsibility for the activities of the Panel.

- Others

A Media Handling Guideline for members of the Scientific Committee and the Panels had been distributed. In case of media contacts with Panel members on issues dealt by the Panel, members are advised to contact the EFSA Communication services. The Chair attended a media training session at the end of October, as he should be the spokesman of the Panel at any press conference.

² Later postponed to 15th March.

A note from the Executive Director was distributed to clarify the rules for travel expenses, including the use of prepaid tickets. These rules will be strictly applied by the financial service.

The next Plenary meeting will be on **16th March 2004**, starting at 9h (the members of the WG Tox. will have a meeting the day before).