



SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

MINUTES OF THE 7th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON QUALIFIED PRESUMPTION OF SAFETY (QPS)

WEB-conference, 10 November 2020

(Agreed on 23 November 2020)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
 - Marianne Chemaly
 - Pier Sandro Cocconcelli
 - Pablo Salvador Fernández Escámez
 - Lieve Herman
 - Luisa Peixe
 - Miguel Prieto Maradona
 - Amparo Querol
 - Lolke Sijtsma
 - Juan Evaristo Suarez
 - Ingvar Sundh
 - Just Vlak
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
 - Not Applicable
- EFSA:
 - BIOCONTAM Unit: Katrin Bote, Michaela Hempen
 - AMU Unit: Fulvio Barizzzone

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Luisa Peixe and Just Vlak and from Miguel Prieto Maradona for the afternoon.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

4.1. Statement on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. 13: Suitability of taxonomic units notified to EFSA until September 2020³

The WG discussed the draft statement part 13 which will be presented to the BIOHAZ Panel in December 2020 for possible adoption. Of the 36 microorganisms notified to EFSA between April and September 2020, 33 were excluded; 7 filamentous fungi (including *Aureobasidium pullulans* based on recent taxonomic insights), 1 *Clostridium butyricum*, 1 *Enterococcus faecium*, 3 *Escherichia coli*, 1 *Streptomyces* spp. and 20 TUs that had been previously evaluated. Three taxonomic units (TUs) were evaluated: *Methylobacterium extorquens* and *Mycobacterium aurum* for the first time and *Bacillus circulans* was re-assessed because an update was requested in relation to a new mandate. Algae/Protists are now also included in the Statement. The TUs already on the QPS list were also revised as required by the terms of reference.

4.2. Scientific Opinion on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA⁴

The WG discussed the structure of the draft opinion and the possible addition of bacteriophages. This was followed by a discussion on the safety of QPS organisms where regularly opportunistic infections are reported. A description on the differentiation between yeasts and filamentous fungi has already been added to the draft statement part 13 and a reference to that statement will be made in the draft opinion. The draft opinion will be presented to the BIOHAZ Panel for possible adoption in December 2022.

5. Next meetings

The meeting schedule for 2021 will be decided shortly after this meeting.

¹ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

³ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2020-00078>

⁴ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2020-00083>



SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

MINUTES OF THE 6th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON QUALIFIED PRESUMPTION OF SAFETY (QPS)

WEB-conference, 07 October 2020

(Agreed on 12 October 2020)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
 - Marianne Chemaly
 - Pier Sandro Cocconcelli
 - Pablo Salvador Fernández Escámez
 - Lieve Herman
 - Luise Peixe
 - Miguel Prieto Maradona
 - Amparo Querol
 - Lolke Sijtsma
 - Juan Evaristo Suarez
 - Ingvar Sundh
 - Just Vlak
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
 - Not Applicable
- EFSA:
 - BIOCONTAM Unit: Katrin Bote, Michaela Hempen
 - AMU Unit: Fulvio Barizzzone

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes. The WG chair welcomed the new WG member who gave a short presentation related to his field of expertise (algae).

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

4.1. Statement on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. 13: Suitability of taxonomic units notified to EFSA until September 2020³

The WG discussed the results of the Extensive Literature Search (ELS). Two articles (*Bacillus* and *Lactococci*) were discussed in detail and the WG agreed on the outcome of the evaluation. Since April, new taxonomic units were notified and the following three will be included for assessment: *Bacillus circulans*, *Methylobacterium extorquens* and *Mycobacterium aurum*. The WG considers *Aureobasidium pullulans* a filamentous fungus and is therefore not considered for QPS. Algae will be added to the Statement.

The Statement Part 13 will be presented to the BIOHAZ Panel for possible adoption in December 2020.

4.2. Scientific Opinion on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA⁴

The WG agreed to add a description on the differentiation between yeasts and filamentous fungi. The draft opinion will be presented to the BIOHAZ Panel for possible adoption in December 2022.

5. Next meetings

The next meeting is planned for 10 November 2020.

¹ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

³ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2020-00078>

⁴ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2020-00083>



Biological hazards and Contaminants Unit

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

MINUTES OF THE 5th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON QUALIFIED PRESUMPTION OF SAFETY (QPS)

WEB-conference, 10 July 2020

(Agreed on 13 July 2020)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
 - Marianne Chemaly
 - Pier Sandro Cocconcelli
 - Pablo Salvador Fernández Escámez
 - Lieve Herman
 - Luise Peixe
 - Miguel Prieto Maradona
 - Amparo Querol
 - Juan Evaristo Suarez
 - Just Vlak
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
 - Not Applicable
- EFSA:
 - BIOCONTAM Unit: Katrin Bote, Michaela Hempen
 - AMU Unit: Fulvio Barizzzone
 - FIP Unit: Jaime Aguilera

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Ingvar Sundh.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

4.1. Statement on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. 13: Suitability of taxonomic units notified to EFSA until September 2020³

The WG discussed the search strategy for the next Extensive Literature Search (ELS) and agreed that no change to the last search was necessary. However, the taxonomic units searched will be described independently even though the search is done in groups for some of them. Since April, new taxonomic units were notified and the following three will be included for assessment: *Aureobasidium pullulans*, *Bacillus circulans* and *Methylobacterium extorquens*.

The Statement Part 13 will be presented to the BIOHAZ Panel for possible adoption in December 2020.

4.2. Scientific Opinion on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA⁴

The WG agreed to add a description on the differentiation between yeasts and filamentous fungi and a brief discussion on microbiological safety in relation to opportunistic infections. The draft opinion will be presented to the BIOHAZ Panel for possible adoption in December 2022.

5. Any Other Business

It was suggested to produce a short presentation on the QPS framework for either internal use in EFSA or, together with Communications Unit and other EFSA Units, for the public. The aim is to explain in practical what QPS is and how it is applied.

6. Next meetings

The next meeting is planned for 7 October 2020.

¹ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

³ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2020-00078>

⁴ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2020-00083>



Biological hazards and Contaminants Unit

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

MINUTES OF THE 4th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON QUALIFIED PRESUMPTION OF SAFETY (QPS)

WEB-conference, 10 July 2020

(Agreed on 13 July 2020)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
 - Marianne Chemaly
 - Pier Sandro Cocconcelli
 - Pablo Salvador Fernández Escámez
 - Lieve Herman
 - Luise Peixe
 - Miguel Prieto Maradona
 - Amparo Querol
 - Juan Evaristo Suarez
 - Just Vlak
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
 - Not Applicable
- EFSA:
 - BIOCONTAM Unit: Katrin Bote, Michaela Hempen
 - AMU Unit: Fulvio Barizzzone
 - FIP Unit: Jaime Aguilera

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Ingvar Sundh.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

4.1. Statement on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. 13: Suitability of taxonomic units notified to EFSA until September 2020³

The WG discussed the search strategy for the next Extensive Literature Search (ELS) and agreed that no change to the last search was necessary. However, the taxonomic units searched will be described independently even though the search is done in groups for some of them. Since April, new taxonomic units were notified and the following three will be included for assessment: *Aureobasidium pullulans*, *Bacillus circulans* and *Methylobacterium extorquens*.

The Statement Part 13 will be presented to the BIOHAZ Panel for possible adoption in December 2020.

4.2. Scientific Opinion on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA⁴

The WG agreed to add a description on the differentiation between yeasts and filamentous fungi and a brief discussion on microbiological safety in relation to opportunistic infections. The draft opinion will be presented to the BIOHAZ Panel for possible adoption in December 2022.

5. Any Other Business

It was suggested to produce a short presentation on the QPS framework for either internal use in EFSA or, together with Communications Unit and other EFSA Units, for the public. The aim is to explain in practical what QPS is and how it is applied.

6. Next meetings

The next meeting is planned for 7 October 2020.

¹ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

³ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2020-00078>

⁴ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2020-00083>



Biological hazards and Contaminants Unit

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

MINUTES OF THE 4th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON QUALIFIED PRESUMPTION OF SAFETY (QPS)

Sub-WG Meeting

WEB-conference, 10 June 2020

(Agreed on 16 June 2020)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
Lieve Herman
Juan Evaristo Suarez
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not Applicable
- EFSA:
BIOCONTAM Unit: Michaela Hempen
AMU Unit: Fulvio Barizzzone, Irene Munoz Guajardo

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

4.1. Scientific Opinion on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA³

This meeting was dedicated to discuss the next Extensive Literature Search (ELS). The following groups have been agreed for reporting of the ELS results, which will be presented to the WG at the next meeting:

Bacillus
Bifidobacterium
Carnobacterium divergens
Corynebacterium glutamicum
G-: Gluconobacter oxydans / Xanthomonas campestris
Lactobacilli
Lactococcus lactis
Leuconostoc
Microbacterium imperiale
Oenococcus
Pasteuria nishizawae
Pediococci
Propionibacterium
Streptococcus thermophilus
Viruses (total)
Alphaflexiviridae
Baculoviridae
Yeasts

5. Any Other Business

Not Applicable

6. Next meetings

The next meeting is planned for 10 July 2020.

¹ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

³ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2020-00083>



Biological hazards and Contaminants Unit

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

MINUTES OF THE 3rd MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON QUALIFIED PRESUMPTION OF SAFETY (QPS)

WEB-conference, 20 May 2020

(Agreed on 25 May 2020)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
 - Marianne Chemaly
 - Pier Sandro Cocconcelli
 - Pablo Salvador Fernández Escámez
 - Lieve Herman
 - Luise Peixe
 - Miguel Prieto Maradona
 - Amparo Querol
 - Juan Evaristo Suarez
 - Ingvar Sundh
 - Just Vlak
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
 - Not Applicable
- EFSA:
 - BIOCONTAM Unit: Katrin Bote, Michaela Hempen
 - AMU Unit: Fulvio Barizzone

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

4.1. Statement on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. 12: Suitability of taxonomic units notified to EFSA until March 2020³

The qualified presumption of safety (QPS) was developed to provide a generic safety evaluation for biological agents to support EFSA's Scientific Panels. It is based on an assessment of the taxonomic identity, the body of knowledge, safety concerns and antimicrobial resistance. Safety concerns identified for a taxonomic unit (TU) are where possible to be confirmed at strain or product level, reflected by 'qualifications'. No new information was found that would change the previously recommended QPS TUs of the 39 microorganisms notified to EFSA between October 2019 and March 2020, 33 were excluded, including 5 filamentous fungi, 5 *Escherichia coli*, 2 *Enterococcus faecium*, 2 *Streptomyces* spp. and 19 TUs already evaluated. Six TUs were evaluated. *Akkermansia muciniphila* was not recommended for QPS status due to safety concerns. *Clostridium butyricum* was not recommended because some strains contain pathogenicity factors. This TU was excluded for further QPS evaluation. *Galdieria sulphuraria* and *Pseudomonas chlororaphis* were also rejected due to a lack of body of knowledge. The QPS status of *Corynebacterium ammoniagenes* (with the qualification 'for production purposes only') and of *Komagataella pastoris* (with the qualification 'for enzyme production') was confirmed. In relation to the taxonomic revision of the *Lactobacillus* genus, previously designated *Lactobacillus* species will be reassigned to the new species and both the old and new names will be retained in the QPS list.

The Statement Part 12 will be presented to the BIOHAZ Panel for possible adoption on 3/4 June 2020.

5. Any Other Business

Not Applicable

6. Next meetings

The next meeting is planned for 10 July 2020.

¹ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

³ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2020-00077>



Biological hazards and Contaminants Unit

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

MINUTES OF THE 2nd MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON QUALIFIED PRESUMPTION OF SAFETY (QPS)

WEB-conference, 22 April 2020

(Agreed on 04 May 2020)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
 - Marianne Chemaly
 - Pier Sandro Cocconcelli
 - Pablo Salvador Fernández Escámez
 - Lieve Herman
 - Luise Peixe
 - Miguel Prieto Maradona
 - Amparo Querol
 - Juan Evaristo Suarez
 - Ingvar Sundh
 - Just Vlak
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
 - Not Applicable
- EFSA:
 - BIOCONTAM Unit: Da Silva Felicio Teresa, Michaela Hempen
 - AMU Unit: Fulvio Barizzone

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

4.1. Scientific Opinion on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA³

Fulvio Barizzzone presented the progress of the Extensive Literature Search (ELS). The tasks assigned for the three phases ELS: title screening, title and abstract screening and article evaluation were completed on time. There were no new relevant articles found for nine of the taxonomic units (TU) addressed. Relevant publications for the remaining TU were evaluated by the experts. The first ELS is completed and informs the Statement Part 12 with a deadline of June 2020 and the Scientific Opinion which is expected to be presented for possible adoption in December 2022.

4.2. Statement on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. 12: Suitability of taxonomic units notified to EFSA until March 2020⁴

A total of 38 notifications were received between October 2019 and March 2020, 19 were related to TUs that already had QPS status and did not require further evaluation. Two notifications are included in the evaluation because of a different intended use, 14 notifications are not evaluated for a QPS status, i.e. *E. coli*, *Enterococcus faecium*, *Streptomyces* spp, and filamentous fungi, which are currently excluded from QPS evaluations (EFSA BIOHAZ Panel, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2020). The remaining notifications are included in the evaluation for a possible QPS recommendation, i.e. *Clostridium butyricum*, *Corynebacterium ammoniagenes*, *Pichia pastoris*, *Galdieria sulphuraria* and *Akkermansia muciniphila*. The Panel Statement will be presented for possible adoption at the BIOHAZ Panel plenary in June 2020.

5. Any Other Business

Not Applicable

6. Next meetings

The next meeting is planned for 20 May 2020.

¹ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

³ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2020-00083>

⁴ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2020-00077>



Biological hazards and Contaminants Unit

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

MINUTES OF THE 1ST MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON QUALIFIED PRESUMPTION OF SAFETY (QPS)

WEB-conference, 04 March 2020

(Agreed on 09 March 2020)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
 - Marianne Chemaly
 - Pier Sandro Cocconcelli
 - Pablo Salvador Fernández Escámez
 - Lieve Herman
 - Luise Peixe
 - Miguel Prieto Maradona
 - Amparo Querol
 - Juan Evaristo Suarez
 - Ingvar Sundh
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
 - Not Applicable
- EFSA:
 - BIOCONTAM Unit: Katrin Bote, Michaela Hempen, Pietro Stella
 - AMU Unit: Fulvio Barizzzone, Irene Pilar Munoz Guajardo
 - NUTRI Unit: Annamaria Rozzi

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Just Vlak.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

4.1. Scientific Opinion on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA³

Fulvio Barizzzone presented the approach for the Extensive Literature Search (ELS). Tasks were assigned for the three phases ELS: title screening, title and abstract screening and article evaluation which will be done in pairs. The first ELS will be completed in May 2020 to inform the Statement Part 12 with a deadline of June 2020 and the Scientific Opinion which is expected to be presented for possible adoption in December 2022.

4.2. Statement on the update of the list of QPS-recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA. 12: Suitability of taxonomic units notified to EFSA until March 2020⁴

A total of 31 notifications were received between October 2019 and February 2020, 15 were related to TUs that already had QPS status and did not require further evaluation. One notification is included in the evaluation because of a different intended use, 12 notifications are not evaluated for a QPS status, i.e. *E. coli*, *Enterococcus faecium*, *Streptomyces* spp, and filamentous fungi, which are currently excluded from QPS evaluations (EFSA BIOHAZ Panel, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2020). The remaining notifications are included in the evaluation for a possible QPS recommendation, i.e. *Clostridium butyricum*, *Pichia pastoris*, *Galdieria sulphuraria* and *Akkermansia muciniphila*. The Panel Statement will be presented for possible adoption at the BIOHAZ Panel plenary in June 2020.

5. Any Other Business

Not Applicable

6. Next meetings

The next meeting is planned for 22 April 2020.

¹ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

³ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2020-00083>

⁴ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2020-00077>