



SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS BIOCONTAM UNIT

MINUTES OF THE 10th WG MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON the "Request for scientific opinions providing guidance on date marking and related food information"

Held on 17 December 2020, webmeeting

(Agreed on 21 December 2020)

Participants

■ Working Group Members

Sara Bover-Cid, Liesbeth Jacxsens, Kostas Koutsoumanis, Roland Lindqvist (Chair), Taran Skjerdal

■ European Commission:

Olga Goulaki, Athanasios Raikos, Ariane Vander Stappen

■ EFSA:

BIOCONTAM Unit: Michaela Hempen

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. European Commission apologised for the afternoon session.

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.

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



For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Annual Declarations of Interest, please refer to the Annex. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 8th sub Working Group meeting held on 17 November 2020, web-meeting.

The minutes of the 9th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 23 November 2020.³

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

5.1. Request for scientific opinion providing guidance on date marking (EFSA-Q-2019-00438)⁴

The adopted BIOHAZ panel opinion has been published on the EFSA Journal. The opinion was presented by the WG chair at the EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste on 10th December, 2020.

5.2. Request for scientific opinion providing guidance on food information (EFSA-Q-2019-00438)⁵

The WG discussed the whole draft opinion, addressing the comments from the BIOHAZ Panel. In particular, the WG revised some details of the sections in relation to TOR3 on guidance on storage conditions after opening and the decision tree for time limit for consumption after opening the package. The sections in relation to TOR 4 on thawing practices were discussed. And overview of guidances on thawing is provided and a table providing advice on good practices for thawing of food was developed. Tasks were allocated and a new draft will be presented at the next BIOHAZ Panel meeting in January. The deadline for adoption by the BIOHAZ panel is 31 March 2021.

6. Any other business

The Chair thanked the participants and closed the meeting.

7. Next meetings

The next WG meeting has been scheduled for 9th February 2021.

³ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/wqs/biological-hazards/wg-date-marking.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/6306>

⁵ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2019-00439>



Annex

Interests and actions resulting from the screening of Annual Declarations of Interest (ADoI)

CONFLICT OF INTEREST WITH WAIVERS: In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Prof. Liesbeth Jacxsens, the following interest has been declared: from March 2016 until the end of September 2019, in addition to being employed at the university of Gent as professor in food safety management and risk analysis in agri-food chain, she was also employed by PRIMORIS, an independent spin-off company of which Ghent University is for 48% shareholder, 48% the Belgian auctions in fruits and vegetables (LAVA), and 4% CIBORIS, a non-for-profit organisation. PRIMORIS is a specialised laboratory for pesticide residue and contaminant analysis in the agri-food industry and is also active in the field of fresh produce, processed foods, baby food and animal feed. Dr. Jacxsens was therefore, in the past two years and until 30 September 2019, employed by a company which holds a direct interest in EFSA's activities and is directly concerned by EFSA's scientific outputs. Additionally, this employment is considered as industry employment due to the preponderance of private ownership combined with commercial purposes and private legal nature. This constitutes a conflict of interest (CoI) according to EFSA's Policy on Independence⁶ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁷, thereby excluding the expert from participating in the 'BIOHAZ WG on date marking and related food information' and resulting in the incompatibility with membership for two years after the activity is over.

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted.

Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on 'Guidance on date marking and related food information', and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice chairman or rapporteur of the Working Group.

⁶ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁷ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS BIOCONTAM UNIT

MINUTES OF THE 9th WG MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON the “request for scientific opinions providing guidance on date marking and related food information”

Held on 17 November 2020, webmeeting

(Agreed on 23 November 2020)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
Sara Bover-Cid, Liesbeth Jacxsens, Kostas Koutsoumanis, Roland Lindqvist (Chair), Taran Skjerdal
- European Commission (DG SANTE, Unit E1):
Olga Goulaki, Athanasios Raikos
- EFSA:
BIOCONTAM Unit: Michaela Hempen

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Maria Teresa Da Silva Felicio.

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.

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



For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Annual Declarations of Interest, please refer to the Annex. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 8th sub Working Group meeting held on 28/29 September 2020, web-meeting.

The minutes of the 8th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 5 October 2020.³

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

5.1. Request for scientific opinion providing guidance on date marking (EFSA-Q-2019-00438)⁴

The BIOHAZ panel adopted the opinion at their meeting on 21/22 October 2020.

5.2. Request for scientific opinion providing guidance on food information (EFSA-Q-2019-00438)⁵

The WG discussed the draft opinion in detail and made some changes to the decision tree. The WG revised some details of the sections in relation to TOR3 on guidance on storage conditions after opening the package and addressed comments from the BIOHAZ panel. The sections in relation to TOR 4 on thawing practices needs some revision which was discussed in detail. The experts collected national guidances on best practices for thawing which will be summarised in the draft opinion. Different thawing methods are described and advice on good practices for thawing food including storage conditions and time is given. The deadline for adoption by the BIOHAZ panel is 31 March 2021.

6. Any other business

The Chair thanked the participants and closed the meeting.

7. Next meetings

The next WG meeting has been scheduled as indicated in the table below.

10th WG mtg	17 December 2020 (9:00-16:00)	Web conference
11th WG mtg	9 February 2021 (9:00-16:00)	Web conference

³ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/wqs/biological-hazards/wg-date-marking.pdf>

⁴ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2019-00438>

⁵ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2019-00439>

Annex

Interests and actions resulting from the screening of Annual Declarations of Interest (ADoI)

CONFLICT OF INTEREST WITH WAIVERS: In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Prof. Liesbeth Jacxsens, the following interest has been declared: from March 2016 until the end of September 2019, in addition to being employed at the university of Gent as professor in food safety management and risk analysis in agri-food chain, she was also employed by PRIMORIS, an independent spin-off company of which Ghent University is for 48% shareholder, 48% the Belgian auctions in fruits and vegetables (LAVA), and 4% CIBORIS, a non-for-profit organisation. PRIMORIS is a specialised laboratory for pesticide residue and contaminant analysis in the agri-food industry and is also active in the field of fresh produce, processed foods, baby food and animal feed. Dr. Jacxsens was therefore, in the past two years and until 30 September 2019, employed by a company which holds a direct interest in EFSA's activities and is directly concerned by EFSA's scientific outputs. Additionally, this employment is considered as industry employment due to the preponderance of private ownership combined with commercial purposes and private legal nature. This constitutes a conflict of interest (CoI) according to EFSA's Policy on Independence⁶ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁷, thereby excluding the expert from participating in the 'BIOHAZ WG on date marking and related food information' and resulting in the incompatibility with membership for two years after the activity is over.

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted.

Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on 'Guidance on date marking and related food information', and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice chairman or rapporteur of the Working Group.

⁶ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁷ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS BIOCONTAM UNIT

MINUTES OF THE 8th WG MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON the “request for scientific opinions providing guidance on date marking and related food information”

Held on 28 (14:00-18:00) and 29 (9:00-18:00) September 2020, webmeeting

(Agreed on 05 October 2020)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
Sara Bover-Cid, Liesbeth Jacxsens, Kostas Koutsoumanis, Roland Lindqvist (Chair), Taran Skjerdal
- European Commission (DG SANTE, Unit E1):
Athanasios Raikos
- EFSA:
BIOCONTAM Unit: Michaela Hempen, Winy Messens, Pietro Stella

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Maria Teresa Da Silva Felicio.

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.

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



For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Annual Declarations of Interest, please refer to the Annex. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 7th sub Working Group meeting held on 28 August 2020, web-conference.

The minutes of the 7th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 7 September 2020.³

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

5.1. Request for scientific opinion providing guidance on date marking (EFSA-Q-2019-00438)⁴

The WG reviewed the complete date marking draft opinion Part 1 discussing the most important comments. Sections were allocated to WG members, who will review these addressing all pending comments and, if needed, liaising with other WG members for clarification. The WG concluded that the concept of 'intended use' was not sufficiently clear in the document. The concept will be introduced in section 1.3. and explained in more detail in section 3.3. Tasks and timelines were agreed. The draft opinion Part 1 will be presented to the BIOHAZ panel for possible adoption at the next meeting on 21/22 October 2020.

5.2. Request for scientific opinion providing guidance on food information (EFSA-Q-2019-00438)⁵

Few additional clarifications were added in section 1.2: (a) frozen foods are only covered in TOR4, (b) removing food from an opened package and using in a meal is out of scope (c) the advice to the end users is regarding good practices of thawing of frozen foods, storage conditions during and after thawing and/or time limit for consumption after thawing to protect consumers from possible health risks. The latter would consider the reasonably foreseeable conditions of use (e.g. use without cooking or with cooking adding the cooking instructions). The same approach would be used in the uncertainty analysis as in the part 1 SO. In section 3.1, the meaning of secondary shelf-life would be clarified, and implicit factors would be spelled out. In section 3.2, the decision tree was revised and agreed. It was clarified that the secondary shelf-life will be considered as a safety issue. Section 3.3 was considerably restructured during the meeting and a table would be added listing the major advice and examples of best practices of good practices for thawing food including storage conditions and time. Tasks were agreed and allocated to experts and EFSA.

6. Any other business

The Chair thanked the participants and closed the meeting.

³ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/wqs/biological-hazards/wg-date-marking.pdf>

⁴ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2019-00438>

⁵ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2019-00439>



7. Next meetings

The next WG meeting has been scheduled as indicated in the table below.

9th WG mtg	17 November 2020 (9:00-17:00)	Web conference
10th WG mtg	17 December 2020 (9:00-16:00)	Web conference
11th WG mtg	9 February 2021 (9:00-16:00)	Web conference



Annex

Interests and actions resulting from the screening of Annual Declarations of Interest (ADoI)

CONFLICT OF INTEREST WITH WAIVERS: In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Prof. Liesbeth Jacxsens, the following interest has been declared: from March 2016 until the end of September 2019, in addition to being employed at the university of Gent as professor in food safety management and risk analysis in agri-food chain, she was also employed by PRIMORIS, an independent spin-off company of which Ghent University is for 48% shareholder, 48% the Belgian auctions in fruits and vegetables (LAVA), and 4% CIBORIS, a non-for-profit organisation. PRIMORIS is a specialised laboratory for pesticide residue and contaminant analysis in the agri-food industry and is also active in the field of fresh produce, processed foods, baby food and animal feed. Dr. Jacxsens was therefore, in the past two years and until 30 September 2019, employed by a company which holds a direct interest in EFSA's activities and is directly concerned by EFSA's scientific outputs. Additionally, this employment is considered as industry employment due to the preponderance of private ownership combined with commercial purposes and private legal nature. This constitutes a conflict of interest (CoI) according to EFSA's Policy on Independence⁶ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁷, thereby excluding the expert from participating in the 'BIOHAZ WG on date marking and related food information' and resulting in the incompatibility with membership for two years after the activity is over.

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted.

Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on 'Guidance on date marking and related food information', and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice chairman or rapporteur of the Working Group.

⁶ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁷ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS BIOCONTAM UNIT

MINUTES OF THE 7th WG MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON the “request for scientific opinions providing guidance on date marking and related food information”

Held on 27 August (14:00-18:00), webmeeting

(Agreed on 7 September 2020)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
Sara Bover-Cid, Liesbeth Jacxsens, Kostas Koutsoumanis, Roland Lindqvist (Chair), Taran Skjerdal
- European Commission (DG SANTE, Unit E1):
Athanasios Raikos
- EFSA:
BIOCONTAM Unit: Maria Teresa Da Silva Felicio

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.

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



For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Annual Declarations of Interest, please refer to the Annex. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 6th sub Working Group meeting held on 8-9 June 2020, web-conference.

The minutes of the 6th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 18 June 2020.³

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

5.1. Request for scientific opinion providing guidance on date marking (EFSA-Q-2019-00438)⁴

The WG reviewed the complete date marking draft opinion Part 1 discussing the most important comments. Sections were allocated to WG members, who will review these addressing all pending comments and, if needed, liaising with other WG members for clarification. The DT 1 was discussed in detail and some questions were rephrased to address the comments received from the BIOHAZ Panel on the pertinence of Q7.

Some ideas for possible recommendations were discussed and will be further developed.

Comments provided by the EC have been addressed and the EC agreed with the provided explanations and/or approaches followed to address comments as well as the current answers to the TORs.

Tasks were agreed and allocated to experts and EFSA.

5.2. Request for scientific opinion providing guidance on food information (EFSA-Q-2019-00438)⁵

The WG agreed to incorporate the contents of tables 1 and 2 narratively into the body text of the draft opinion and delete these tables. When reviewing section 3.1. the WG members will follow a similar approach to what was performed in the Part 1 opinion and align the structure of the subsections accordingly.

The Chair clarified once more that ToR 4 only aims to give advice for FBO so that they can then give advice to the consumers on thawing of frozen foods including storage conditions and time. No direct advice for consumers is aimed in this mandate nor should the settings of institutional catering, charitable/food banks/healthcare facilities be addressed. It was agreed to remove the decision tree on thawing of frozen foods and extract the relevant messages included in it that are useful to answer TOR4 to be incorporated in the subsections of section 3.3.

It was underlined that WG members need to retrieve evidence in the available scientific literature to support the statements made in the draft opinion answering the ToRs and cite these relevant articles/grey literature. Tasks were agreed and allocated to experts and EFSA.

6. Any other business

³ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/wqs/biological-hazards/wq-date-marking.pdf>

⁴ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2019-00438>

⁵ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2019-00439>



The Chair thanked the participants and closed the meeting.

7. Next meetings

The next WG meetings have been scheduled as indicated in the table below.

8th WG mtg.	28 September (14:00-18:00) + 29 September 2020 (9:00-13:00 + 14:00-18:00)	Web conference
9th WG mtg.	17 November 2020 (9:00-13:00)	Web conference



Annex

Interests and actions resulting from the screening of Annual Declarations of Interest (ADoI)

CONFLICT OF INTEREST WITH WAIVERS: In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Prof. Liesbeth Jacxsens, the following interest has been declared: from March 2016 until the end of September 2019, in addition to being employed at the university of Gent as professor in food safety management and risk analysis in agri-food chain, she was also employed by PRIMORIS, an independent spin-off company of which Ghent University is for 48% shareholder, 48% the Belgian auctions in fruits and vegetables (LAVA), and 4% CIBORIS, a non-for-profit organisation. PRIMORIS is a specialised laboratory for pesticide residue and contaminant analysis in the agri-food industry and is also active in the field of fresh produce, processed foods, baby food and animal feed. Dr. Jacxsens was therefore, in the past two years and until 30 September 2019, employed by a company which holds a direct interest in EFSA's activities and is directly concerned by EFSA's scientific outputs. Additionally, this employment is considered as industry employment due to the preponderance of private ownership combined with commercial purposes and private legal nature. This constitutes a conflict of interest (CoI) according to EFSA's Policy on Independence⁶ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁷, thereby excluding the expert from participating in the 'BIOHAZ WG on date marking and related food information' and resulting in the incompatibility with membership for two years after the activity is over.

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted.

Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on 'Guidance on date marking and related food information', and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice chairman or rapporteur of the Working Group.

⁶ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁷ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS BIOCONTAM UNIT

MINUTES OF THE 6th WG MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON the “request for scientific opinions providing guidance on date marking and related food information”

**Held on 8 June (14:00-18:00) and 9 June 2020 (9:00-13:00+14:00-18:00),
webmeeting**

(Agreed on 18 June 2020)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
Sara Bover-Cid, Liesbeth Jacxsens, Kostas Koutsoumanis, Roland Lindqvist (Chair), Taran Skjerdal
- European Commission (DG SANTE, Unit E1):
Halvard Kvamsdal, Athanasios Raikos (except from 10:00-12:00 on 9 June)
- EFSA:
BIOCONTAM Unit: Maria Teresa Da Silva Felicio, Michaela Hempen (except on 9 June, PM)

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.

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



For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Annual Declarations of Interest, please refer to the Annex. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 5th sub Working Group meeting held on 8 April 2020, web-conference.

The minutes of the 5th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 23 April 2020.³

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

5.1. Request for scientific opinion providing guidance on date marking (EFSA-Q-2019-00438)⁴

The WG reviewed the complete Date marking draft opinion Part 1 discussing the most important comments. All sections were allocated to WG members, who will review these addressing all comments and completing the text, if needed. It was agreed:

- to develop further the section with examples for the decision tree by referring and describing food categories and adding representative food examples for each food category. An example of a product that can vary depending on its specific product composition and processing steps will be also added.
- to develop a specific section (3.3.2.) for the uncertainty analysis of the decision tree.
- to draft the final conclusions as short and concise answers to the ToRs by extracting 1-3 bullet points from the revised and updated concluding remarks of each assessment section. Focus will be put on the decision tree (ToR 1d) and the uncertainties related to it will be underlined. No specific guidance will be given on indicative limits e.g for shelf-life and a brief justification for this will be provided.
- that all WG members will reflect and suggest possible recommendations so that at the next WG meeting it can be decided if these are relevant to be included in the opinion.

Tasks were agreed and allocated to experts and EFSA.

5.2. Request for scientific opinion providing guidance on food information (EFSA-Q-2019-00438)⁵

The remit of ToR 4 was discussed and it was agreed that its answer will only aim to give advice for FBO so that they can then give advice to the consumers e.g. in labelling instructions. No direct advice for consumers is aimed in this mandate nor will the settings of institutional catering, charitable/food banks/healthcare facilities be addressed.

Section 3.1. on 'storage conditions and/or time limit for consumption after opening the food package' will be reviewed and aligned to ensure consistency with the agreed structure for the Part 1 DM draft opinion. A subsection will be developed describing relevant factors to be considered such as:

- possible recontamination and its impact on prevalence and concentration,
- at which stage during the shelf-life the package is opened (in the beginning or at the end),
- change of the growth atmosphere, pH, humidity, aw after opening the package,
- the effect of the increased temperature of the environment where the package is opened.

Tasks were agreed and allocated to experts and EFSA.

³ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/wqs/biological-hazards/wg-date-marking.pdf>

⁴ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2019-00438>

⁵ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2019-00439>



6. Any other business

The Chair thanked the participants and closed the meeting.

7. Next meetings

The next WG meetings have been scheduled as indicated in the table below.

7th WG mtg.	27 August 2020 (13:00-17:00)	Web conference
8th WG mtg.	28 September (14:00-18:00) + 29 September 2020 (9:00-13:00 + 14:00-18:00)	Web conference
9th WG mtg.	17 November 2020 (9:00-13:00)	Web conference



Annex

Interests and actions resulting from the screening of Annual Declarations of Interest (ADoI)

CONFLICT OF INTEREST WITH WAIVERS: In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Prof. Liesbeth Jacxsens, the following interest has been declared: from March 2016 until the end of September 2019, in addition to being employed at the university of Gent as professor in food safety management and risk analysis in agri-food chain, she was also employed by PRIMORIS, an independent spin-off company of which Ghent University is for 48% shareholder, 48% the Belgian auctions in fruits and vegetables (LAVA), and 4% CIBORIS, a non-for-profit organisation. PRIMORIS is a specialised laboratory for pesticide residue and contaminant analysis in the agri-food industry and is also active in the field of fresh produce, processed foods, baby food and animal feed. Dr. Jacxsens was therefore, in the past two years and until 30 September 2019, employed by a company which holds a direct interest in EFSA's activities and is directly concerned by EFSA's scientific outputs. Additionally, this employment is considered as industry employment due to the preponderance of private ownership combined with commercial purposes and private legal nature. This constitutes a conflict of interest (CoI) according to EFSA's Policy on Independence⁶ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁷, thereby excluding the expert from participating in the 'BIOHAZ WG on date marking and related food information' and resulting in the incompatibility with membership for two years after the activity is over.

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted.

Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on 'Guidance on date marking and related food information', and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice chairman or rapporteur of the Working Group.

⁶ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁷ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS BIOCONTAM UNIT

MINUTES OF THE 5th WG MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON the “request for scientific opinions providing guidance on date marking and related food information”

Held on 8 April 2020 (9:00-13:30), Parma

(Agreed on 23 April 2020)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
Sara Bover-Cid, Liesbeth Jacxsens, Kostas Koutsoumanis, Roland Lindqvist (Chair), Taran Skjerdal
- European Commission (DG SANTE, Unit E1):
Halvard Kvamsdal, Athanasios Raikos (only 12:15-13:30)
- EFSA:
BIOCONTAM Unit: Maria Teresa Da Silva Felicio, Michaela Hempen, Winy Messens

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.

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



For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Annual Declarations of Interest, please refer to the Annex. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 4th sub Working Group meeting held on 17-18 February 2020, web-conference.

The minutes of the 4th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 4 March 2020.³

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

5.1. Request for scientific opinion providing guidance on date marking (EFSA-Q-2019-00438)⁴

The WG reviewed all sections of the Part 1-Date marking draft opinion and allocated these to different WG members for further review. The WG agreed to:

- Keep all text on 'reasonably foreseeable conditions' (RFC) under section 3.4. on the determination of shelf life. The terms formal/informal RFC should be avoided and instead recommended or intended FBO conditions versus foreseeable conditions will be used. A subsection will be created under section 3.4. describing the context of reasonably foreseeable conditions which is a distribution and moving into there the paragraphs from the introductory section of the draft opinion referring to available guidance that mention percentiles (95%) but highlight that this is in the remit of risk management.
- Switch the order of sections 3.1.1. and 3.1.2. presenting first the section on microbial hazards and thereafter on spoilage organisms. Agreements were made regarding the review of most tables included in these sections.
- Only cross-refer and cite the latest published EUSR/One Health reports under section 3.1.2. on microbial hazards (which will become section 3.1.1.) without extracting or analysing any specific data.
- Add definitions in the glossary to more relevant terms such as validation, verification, monitoring, prerequisites, acceptable levels, defreezing/defrosting, thawing.

Tasks were agreed and allocated to experts and EFSA.

5.2. Request for scientific opinion providing guidance on food information (EFSA-Q-2019-00438)⁵

The WG agreed to review and complete carefully the Part 2-Food information draft opinion. Sections were allocated to all WG members for this purpose.

The preliminary 'secondary shelf life decision tree' for inclusion under Section 3.1. was discussed in detail and the WG considered that it reflects well the relevant factors to be considered in deciding whether it is appropriate, and consequently mandatory, to indicate the storage conditions and/or time limit for consumption after opening the package (ToR 3). The WG will further review this preliminary version of the decision tree.

The WG agreed to develop further section 3.2. (ToR 4) and propose an 'event tree' or 'table with steps' or guideline summarising the relevant steps and practices for defreezing/defrosting/thawing food

³ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/wqs/biological-hazards/wg-date-marking.pdf>

⁴ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2019-00438>

⁵ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2019-00439>



products. The reasonably foreseeable conditions will also be considered under the context of this ToR as well as the special precautions that should be taken for food products which can be cooked directly frozen without previous thawing.

Tasks were agreed and allocated to experts and EFSA.

6. Any other business

The Chair thanked the participants and closed the meeting.

7. Next meetings

The next WG meetings have been scheduled as indicated in the table below.

6th WG mtg.	8 June (only PM) + 9 June 2020 (full day, 2 sessions AM + PM)	Web conference
7th WG mtg.	27 August 2020 (only PM)	Web conference
8th WG mtg.	19 October (only afternoon) + 20 October 2020 (full day)	Parma
9th WG mtg.	16 December 2020 (only PM)	Web conference



Annex

Interests and actions resulting from the screening of Annual Declarations of Interest (ADoI)

CONFLICT OF INTEREST WITH WAIVERS: In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Prof. Liesbeth Jacxsens, the following interest has been declared: from March 2016 until the end of September 2019, in addition to being employed at the university of Gent as professor in food safety management and risk analysis in agri-food chain, she was also employed by PRIMORIS, an independent spin-off company of which Ghent University is for 48% shareholder, 48% the Belgian auctions in fruits and vegetables (LAVA), and 4% CIBORIS, a non-for-profit organisation. PRIMORIS is a specialised laboratory for pesticide residue and contaminant analysis in the agri-food industry and is also active in the field of fresh produce, processed foods, baby food and animal feed. Dr. Jacxsens was therefore, in the past two years and until 30 September 2019, employed by a company which holds a direct interest in EFSA's activities and is directly concerned by EFSA's scientific outputs. Additionally, this employment is considered as industry employment due to the preponderance of private ownership combined with commercial purposes and private legal nature. This constitutes a conflict of interest (CoI) according to EFSA's Policy on Independence⁶ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁷, thereby excluding the expert from participating in the 'BIOHAZ WG on date marking and related food information' and resulting in the incompatibility with membership for two years after the activity is over.

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted.

Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on 'Guidance on date marking and related food information', and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice chairman or rapporteur of the Working Group.

⁶ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁷ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS BIOCONTAM UNIT

MINUTES OF THE 4th WG MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON the “request for scientific opinions providing guidance on date marking and related food information”

Held on 17 and 18 February 2020, Parma

(Agreed on 4 March 2020)

Participants

■ Working Group Members:

Sara Bover-Cid, Liesbeth Jacxsens (only 17 February until 17:35), Kostas Koutsoumanis, Roland Lindqvist (Chair), Taran Skjerdal

■ European Commission:

Athanasios Raikos (DG SANTE, Unit E1)

■ EFSA:

BIOCONTAM Unit: Maria Teresa Da Silva Felicio, Winy Messens (only 18 February from 12:30-13:00)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Liesbeth for the second day of the meeting.

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.

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



For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Annual Declarations of Interest, please refer to the Annex. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 3rdA sub Working Group meeting held on 14 January 2020, web-conference.

The minutes of the 3rdA Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 23 January 2020.³

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

5.1. Request for scientific opinions providing guidance on date marking and related food information⁴

The WG was updated on the agreement with EC to extend the deadline for the adoption of the Part 1 opinion by one month to 30 October 2020. The deadline for the adoption of the Part 2 opinion is still March 2021. The use of Teams to co-draft both scientific opinions, archive relevant literature and supporting documents and communicate across WG members was discussed and questions from experts on this were clarified.

The EC clarified that in ToR4 defrosting only refers to thawing in domestic settings and in ToR3 b) where Art 25 (2) from Reg 1169 is cited, 'where appropriate' should be understood as only referring to food safety risks.

The WG reviewed all sections of the draft opinion reorganising these and renaming subsections as considered best. The WG agreed to move all text from the current DM draft opinion that refers to ToR 3 and ToR 4 into a new separate Part 2 FI (food information) draft opinion. This means that WG experts will have to work in parallel on both draft opinions, as needed.

The WG agreed that for this mandate with ToRs asking for guidance/advice it will be difficult to apply the uncertainty analysis. Experts were asked to start reflecting on possible sources of uncertainty regarding the: (i) proposed decision tree to choose between 'use by' and 'best before' dates, (ii) understanding on how to apply tree, (iii) use of validated methods in steps of the decision tree, and (iv) measurements needed to feed the input parameters considered in the decision tree (pH, aw).

No need for consulting hearing experts with specific questions from the WG was identified. The possibility of consulting stakeholders (FBO) to have their views on the draft opinions was also discussed. EFSA can only share draft opinions with the stakeholders in the context of a public consultation. This procedure has a significant impact on the deadline of any opinion postponing the progress of work by a few months. The WG agreed that the best would be to proceed according to the previously agreed time plan without public consultation.

Tasks were agreed and allocated to experts and EFSA.

6. Any other business

The Chair thanked the participants and closed the meeting.

³ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/wgs/biological-hazards/wg-date-marking.pdf>

⁴ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2019-00438>



7. Next meetings

The next WG meetings have been scheduled as indicated in the table below.

5th WG mtg.	8 April 2020 (only AM)	Web conference
6th WG mtg.	4 June (only PM) + 5 June 2020 (full day)	Parma
7th WG mtg.	27 August 2020 (only AM)	Web conference
8th WG mtg.	19 October (only afternoon) + 20 October 2020 (full day)	Parma
9th WG mtg.	16 December 2020 (only PM)	Web conference



Annex

Interests and actions resulting from the screening of Annual Declarations of Interest (ADoI)

CONFLICT OF INTEREST WITH WAIVERS: In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Prof. Liesbeth Jacxsens, the following interest has been declared: from March 2016 until the end of September 2019, in addition to being employed at the university of Gent as professor in food safety management and risk analysis in agri-food chain, she was also employed by PRIMORIS, an independent spin-off company of which Ghent University is for 48% shareholder, 48% the Belgian auctions in fruits and vegetables (LAVA), and 4% CIBORIS, a non-for-profit organisation. PRIMORIS is a specialised laboratory for pesticide residue and contaminant analysis in the agri-food industry and is also active in the field of fresh produce, processed foods, baby food and animal feed. Dr. Jacxsens was therefore, in the past two years and until 30 September 2019, employed by a company which holds a direct interest in EFSA's activities and is directly concerned by EFSA's scientific outputs. Additionally, this employment is considered as industry employment due to the preponderance of private ownership combined with commercial purposes and private legal nature. This constitutes a conflict of interest (CoI) according to EFSA's Policy on Independence⁵ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁶, thereby excluding the expert from participating in the 'BIOHAZ WG on date marking and related food information' and resulting in the incompatibility with membership for two years after the activity is over.

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted.

Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on 'Guidance on date marking and related food information', and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice chairman or rapporteur of the Working Group.

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁶ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS BIOCONTAM UNIT

MINUTES OF THE 3rd^A sub WG MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON the “request for scientific opinions providing guidance on date marking and related food information”

Held on 14 January 2020, Web-conference

(Agreed on 23 January 2020)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
Roland Lindqvist
- EFSA:
BIOCONTAM Unit: Maria Teresa Da Silva Felicio, Sandra De Almeida Correia, Pietro Stella

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies for absence 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 Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest², EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of Interest filled in by the working group members invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

¹ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>



4. Agreement of the minutes of the 3rd Working Group meeting held on 19 December 2019, web-conference.

The minutes of the 3rd Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 8 January 2020.³

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

5.1. Request for scientific opinions providing guidance on date marking and related food information⁴

Teresa was updated and clarified on all relevant information/aspects related to the 'date marking and food information mandate' in order to be fully responsible for the coordination of this mandate from this meeting onwards. Teresa clarified with Roland specific aspects related to the tasks allocated during the last WG meeting to EFSA. Additional tasks were also agreed and distributed to EFSA.

6. Next meetings

The next WG meetings have been scheduled as indicated in the table below.

4th WG mtg.	17 February (full day) + 18 February 2020 (only morning)	Parma
5th WG mtg.	8 April 2020 (only morning)	web
6th WG mtg.	4 June (only afternoon) + 5 June 2020 (full day)	Parma
7th WG mtg.	13 July 2020 (only morning)	web
8th WG mtg.	19 October (only afternoon) + 20 October 2020 (full day)	Parma

³ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/wgs/biological-hazards/wg-date-marking.pdf>

⁴ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2019-00438>



BIOCONTAM UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOHAZ

MINUTES OF THE 3rd MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON GUIDANCE ON DATE MARKING AND RELATED FOOD INFORMATION

19 December (14:00-18:00) by web- conference

(Agreed on 8 January 2020)¹

Participants

- Working Group Members:²
 - Roland Lindqvist
 - Konstantinos Koutsoumanis
 - Sara Bover Cid
 - Taran Skjerdal
 - Liesbeth Jacxsens
- Hearing Experts³:
 - Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
 - Athanasios Raikos (DG SANTE)
- EFSA:
 - BIOCONTAM Unit (Sandra Correia)
- Others:
 - Not Applicable

¹ Minutes should be published within 15 working days of the final day of the relevant meeting.

² Indicate first full name and then surname (John Smith) all throughout the document.

³ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.

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 Independence⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁵, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Annual Declarations of Interest, please refer to Annex. Oral Declarations of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

4.1. Guidance on date marking and related food information⁶

Discussion of contributions received related to Table of Tasks from last WG meeting. Experts worked on the draft reply to ToR 1 and 2. Strategies to communicate the results of this opinion and the tools developed to FBO were discussed. A revised Tasks table has been prepared for the next WG meeting.

5. Any Other Business

5.1. Not Applicable

6. Next meeting(s)

4th WG meeting: 17 and 18 Feb. 2010 - Parma

5th WG meeting: 8 Apr. AM 2020 - web conference

6th WG meeting: 4 Jun. PM and 5 Jun. 2020- Parma

7th WG meeting: 13 Jul. AM 2020 - web conference

8th WG meeting: 19 Oct. PM and 20 Oct. 2020 - Parma

⁴ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁶ Please add the following link to the EFSA's register of questions and substitute YYYY and NNNNN accordingly
<http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-YYYY-NNNNN>

Annex

Interests and actions resulting from the screening of Annual Declarations of Interest (ADoI)

CONFLICT OF INTEREST WITH WAIVERS: In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Dr. Jacxsens, the following interest has been declared: from March 2016 until 30 September 2019, in addition to being employed at the university of Gent she was also employed by PRIMORIS, an independent spin-off company of which Ghent University is for 48% shareholder, 48% the Belgian auctions in fruits and vegetables (LAVA), and 4% CIBORIS, a non-for-profit organisation. This constitutes a conflict of interest (CoI) with the mandate of the EFSA working group in hand. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁷ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁸, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted in accordance with Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management.

Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on "Guidance on date marking and related food information", and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice-chairman or rapporteur of the Working Group.

⁷ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁸ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOHAZ

MINUTES OF THE 2nd MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON GUIDANCE ON DATE MARKING AND RELATED FOOD INFORMATION

30 PM and 31 AM October 2019, Parma

(Agreed on 7 November 2019)¹

Participants

- Working Group Members:²
Roland Lindqvist
Konstantinos Koutsoumanis
Sara Bover Cid
Taran Skjerdal
- Hearing Experts³:
Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Athanasios Raikos (DG SANTE)
Halvard Kvamsdal (DG SANTE)
- EFSA:
BIOCONTAM Unit (Sandra Correia, Winy Messens, Michaela Hempen, Pietro Stella)
- Others:
Not Applicable

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

¹ Minutes should be published within 15 working days of the final day of the relevant meeting.

² Indicate first full name and then surname (John Smith) all throughout the document.

³ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.

Apologies were received from Liesbeth Jacxsens.

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 Independence⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁵, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Annual Declarations of Interest, please refer to Annex. Oral Declarations of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

4.1. Guidance on date marking and related food information⁶

The mandate was discussed with WG. The EC clarified some issues in relation to the background and the Terms of Reference (ToRs). A common understanding of the key concepts and definitions has been discussed between EC and the WG. The possible approaches to tackle the ToRs were agreed. EFSA Secretariat presented the current draft work plan and possible gaps in the expertise were discussed.

5. Any Other Business

5.1. Not Applicable

6. Next meeting(s)

3rd WG meeting: 19 Dec. PM 2019 - web conference

4th WG meeting: 17 Feb. PM and 18 Feb. 2010 - Parma

5th WG meeting: 8 Apr. AM 2020 - web conference

6th WG meeting: 4 Jun. PM and 5 Jun. 2020- Parma

7th WG meeting: 13 Jul. AM 2020 - web conference

8th WG meeting: 19 Oct. PM and 20 Oct. 2020 - Parma

⁴ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁶ Please add the following link to the EFSA's register of questions and substitute YYYY and NNNNN accordingly
<http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-YYYY-NNNNN>

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Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on "Guidance on date marking and related food information", and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice-chairman or rapporteur of the Working Group.

⁷ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁸ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



BIOCONTAM UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOHAZ

MINUTES OF THE 1ST MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON GUIDANCE ON DATE MARKING AND RELATED FOOD INFORMATION

VIDEO/WEB/TELE-conference, 16 October 2019

(Agreed on 30 October 2019)¹

Participants

- Working Group Members:²
 - Roland Lindqvist
 - Konstantinos Koutsoumanis
 - Sara Bover Cid
 - Taran Skjerdal
 - Liesbeth Jacxsens
- Hearing Experts³:
 - Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
 - Athanasios Raikos (DG SANTE)
 - Halvard Kvamsdal (DG SANTE)
- EFSA:
 - BIOCONTAM Unit (Sandra Correia, Pietro Stella)
- Others:
 - Not Applicable

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<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.

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 Independence⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁵, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Annual Declarations of Interest, please refer to Annex. Oral Declarations of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

4.1. Guidance on date marking and related food information⁶

The mandate was presented by EFSA Secretariat and the Chair and discussed with WG. The EC presented also its background and the expectations. It was agreed that a common agreement on the definitions and a common understanding of the key concepts should be reached between EC and the WG. Potential outputs/deliverables were agreed. EFSA Secretariat presented the current draft work plan. It was considered the possibility of including additional expertise if required.

5. Any Other Business

5.1. Not Applicable

6. Next meeting(s)

2nd WG meeting: 30 PM, 31 AM Oct. 2019 – Parma

3rd WG meeting: 19 PM Dec. 2019 - web conference

2020 meeting dates to be decided.

⁴ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁶ Please add the following link to the EFSA's register of questions and substitute YYYY and NNNNN accordingly
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Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on "Guidance on date marking and related food information", and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice-chairman or rapporteur of the Working Group.

⁷ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁸ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

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Last date modified	
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