



SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS BIOCONTAM UNIT

MINUTES OF THE 8th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP on the
“Application and use of next generation sequencing (including whole
genome sequencing) for risk assessment of foodborne microorganisms”

Held on 27 September 2019, Parma

(Agreed on 4 October 2019)

Participants

■ Working Group Members:

Ana Sofia Duarte, Claire Jenkins, Lieve Herman (Chair), Burkhard Mallorny, Mia Torpdahl and Avelino Alvarez Ordonez

■ ECDC (Observer): Ivo Van Walle

■ EFSA:

BIOCONTAM Unit: Maria Teresa da Silva Felicio and Mirko Rossi

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

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.

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



4. Agreement of the minutes of the 7th Working Group meeting held on 4 to 5 July, WEB-teleconference

The minutes of the 7th Working Group meeting held on 4-5 July 2019 were agreed by written procedure on 6 August 2019.³

5. Scientific topic for discussion

5.1. **Opinion on the application and use of next generation sequencing (including whole genome sequencing) for risk assessment of foodborne microorganisms**⁴

The WG members discussed the contributions received on the draft opinion. Agreements were made regarding the review/finalisation of the draft opinion for the tabled adoption at the next BIOHAZ Panel plenary meeting. Tasks were allocated to EFSA staff and WG experts.

6. Any Other Business

The Chair thanked the participants and closed the meeting.

7. Next meetings

No further WG meeting is foreseen.

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

⁴ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2018-00058>



SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS BIOCONTAM UNIT

MINUTES OF THE 7th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP on the
“Application and use of next generation sequencing (including whole
genome sequencing) for risk assessment of foodborne microorganisms”

Held on 4 to 5 July 2019, Parma

(Agreed on 6 August 2019)

Participants

■ Working Group Members:

Ana Sofia Duarte, Claire Jenkins, Lieve Herman (Chair), Burkhard Mallorny, Mia Torpdahl and Avelino Alvarez Ordonez

■ European Commission representatives:

DG SANTE (unit G4): Luisa Antunes (only 5 July from 11:00 onwards)

■ EFSA:

BIOCONTAM Unit: Maria Teresa da Silva Felicio, Beatriz Guerra (only 5 July from 10:30 onwards) and Mirko Rossi (only 4 July from 15:30 onwards)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Ivo Van Walle.

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

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



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. Agreement of the minutes of the 6th Working Group meeting held on 20 May, WEB-teleconference

The minutes of the 6th Working Group meeting held on 20 May 2019 were agreed by written procedure on 27 May 2019.³

5. Scientific topic for discussion

5.1. Opinion on the application and use of next generation sequencing (including whole genome sequencing) for risk assessment of foodborne microorganisms⁴

The WG members discussed the contributions received on the draft opinion. Agreements were made regarding the review/restructuring of the draft opinion. Tasks were allocated to EFSA staff and WG experts.

6. Any Other Business

The Chair thanked the participants and closed the meeting.

7. Next meetings

The next WG meetings will take place as a web conference on 26 September from 14:30 to 18:30 (Parma times).

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

⁴ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2018-00058>



SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS BIOCONTAM UNIT

MINUTES OF THE 6th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP on the
“Application and use of next generation sequencing (including whole
genome sequencing) for risk assessment of foodborne microorganisms”

Held on 20 May 2019, Parma

(Agreed on 27 May 2019)

Participants

■ Working Group Members:

Ana Sofia Duarte, Claire Jenkins, Lieve Herman (Chair), Burkhard Mallorny and Avelino Alvarez Ordonez

■ EFSA:

BIOCONTAM Unit: Maria Teresa da Silva Felicio, Mirko Rossi

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Mia Torpdahl and Ivo Van Walle.

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.

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



4. Agreement of the minutes of the 5th Working Group meeting held on 12 March, WEB-teleconference

The minutes of the 5th Working Group meeting held on 9 April 2019 were agreed by written procedure on 24 April 2019.³

5. Scientific topic for discussion

5.1. Opinion on the application and use of next generation sequencing (including whole genome sequencing) for risk assessment of foodborne microorganisms⁴

The WG members discussed the contributions received on the draft opinion. Agreements were made regarding the review/redrafting of the draft opinion. Tasks were allocated to EFSA staff and WG experts.

6. Any Other Business

The Chair thanked the participants and closed the meeting.

7. Next meetings

The next WG meetings will take place as follows:

7 th WG meeting	physical	4 July (14:00-18:00) and 5 July (schedule will be confirmed after BIOHAZ Panel plenary meeting – either only AM or AM and PM), Parma
8 th WG meeting	web	26 September (13:00-18:00, Parma times)

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

⁴ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2018-00058>



SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS BIOCONTAM UNIT

MINUTES OF THE 5th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP on the
“Application and use of next generation sequencing (including whole
genome sequencing) for risk assessment of foodborne microorganisms”

Held on 9 April 2019, Parma

(Agreed on 24 April 2019)

Participants

■ Working Group Members:

Ana Sofia Duarte, Claire Jenkins, Lieve Herman (Chair), Burkhard Mallorny, Avelino Alvarez Ordonez and Mia Torpdahl

■ EFSA:

BIOCONTAM Unit: Maria Teresa da Silva Felicio, Mirko Rossi, Henok Ayalew Tegegne

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Ivo Van Walle.

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.

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



4. Agreement of the minutes of the 4th Working Group meeting held on 12 March, WEB-teleconference

The minutes of the 4th Working Group meeting held on 12 March 2019 were agreed by written procedure on 25 March 2019.³

5. Scientific topic for discussion

5.1. Opinion on the application and use of next generation sequencing (including whole genome sequencing) for risk assessment of foodborne microorganisms⁴

The WG members discussed the contributions received on the draft opinion. Agreements were made regarding the review/redrafting of the draft opinion. Tasks were allocated to EFSA staff and WG experts.

6. Any Other Business

The Chair thanked the participants and closed the meeting.

7. Next meetings

The next WG meetings will take place as follows:

6 th WG meeting	web	20 May (9:30-12:30, Parma times)
7 th WG meeting	physical	4 July (14:00-18:00) and 5 July (8:30-12:30), Parma
8 th WG meeting	web	26 September (13:00-18:00, Parma times)

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

⁴ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2018-00058>



SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS BIOCONTAM UNIT

MINUTES OF THE 4th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP on the
“Application and use of next generation sequencing (including whole
genome sequencing) for risk assessment of foodborne microorganisms”

WEB-conference, 12 March 2019

(Agreed on 25 March 2019)

Participants

■ Working Group Members:

Ana Sofia Duarte, Claire Jenkins, Lieve Herman (Chair), Burkhard Mallorny, Avelino Alvarez Ordonez and Mia Torpdahl

■ EFSA:

BIOCONTAM Unit: Maria Teresa da Silva Felicio

■ Others:

ECDC Observer: Ivo Van Walle

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Ivo Van Walle.

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

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



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. Agreement of the minutes of the 3rd Working Group meeting held on 29 to 30 January 2019, Parma.

The minutes of the 3rd Working Group meeting held on 29 to 30 January 2019 were agreed by written procedure on 14 February 2019.³

5. Scientific topic for discussion

5.1. Opinion on the application and use of next generation sequencing (including whole genome sequencing) for risk assessment of foodborne microorganisms⁴

The WG members discussed the contributions received on the draft opinion. Agreements were made regarding the review/redrafting of the draft opinion. Tasks were allocated to EFSA staff and WG experts.

6. Any Other Business

The Chair thanked the participants and closed the meeting.

7. Next meetings

The next WG meetings will take place as follows:

5 th WG meeting	physical	9 April (8:30-16:00), Parma
6 th WG meeting	web	20 May (9:30-12:30, Parma times)
7 th WG meeting	physical	4 July (14:00-18:00) and 5 July (8:30-12:30), Parma
8 th WG meeting	web	26 September (13:00-18:00, Parma times)

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

⁴ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2018-00058>



SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

MINUTES OF THE 3rd MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON the
“Application and use of next generation sequencing (including whole
genome sequencing) for risk assessment of foodborne microorganisms”

**Held on 29 January (14:00-18:00) to 30 January (9:00-13:00) 2019, Parma
(Italy)**

(Agreed on 14 February 2019)

Participants

■ Working Group Members:

Ana Sofia Duarte (via skype), Claire Jenkins, Lieve Herman (Chair), Burkhard Mallorny, Avelino Alvarez Ordonez and Mia Torpdahl

■ Hearing Experts:

René Hendriksen

■ EFSA:

BIOCONTAM Unit: Maria Teresa da Silva Felicio, Eleonora Sarno (only 29 January from 14:00-17:00), Mirko Rossi (only 29 January from 14:00 to 18:00), Beatriz Guerra (only 29 January from 14:00 to 15:00)

■ ECDC Observer:

Ivo Van Walle

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the members of the Working Group (WG) who did a round table presentation for the invited hearing expert René Hendriksen. 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. Agreement of the minutes of the 2nd Working Group meeting held on 28 November 2018, WEB-conference.

The minutes of the 2nd Working Group meeting held on 28 November 2018 were agreed by written procedure on 12 December 2018³.

5. Hearing Expert

René Hendriksen, the coordinator of the thematic grant ENGAGE "Establishing Next Generation Sequencing ability for genomic analysis in Europe" was invited to give a presentation about this project focusing on the relevance of its outcome to the ToRs of the BIOHAZ self-task mandate.

6. Scientific topic for discussion

6.1. Opinion on application and use of next generation sequencing (including whole genome sequencing) for risk assessment of foodborne microorganisms⁴

The WG members discussed the contributions received on the draft opinion. Section leaders were identified for each of the major sections 3.1., 3.2., 3.3. and 3.4. on possible use of NGS or metagenomics for different applications. Agreements were made regarding the review/redrafting of these sections, in collaboration with other WG members. Relevant examples will be provided with references to complete the subsections on (i) benefits, (ii) limitations and (iii) opportunities for all considered NGS applications. Tasks were allocated to EFSA staff and WG experts.

7. Any Other Business

The Chair thanked the participants and closed the meeting.

8. Next meetings

The next WG meetings will take place as follows:

4 th WG meeting	web	12 March (13:00-17:00, Parma times)
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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 <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/wqs/biological-hazards/wg-ngs-m.pdf>

⁴ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2018-00058>



5 th WG meeting	physical	9 April (8:30-16:00), Parma
6 th WG meeting	web	20 May (9:30-12:30, Parma times)
7 th WG meeting	physical	4 July (14:00-18:00) and 5 July (8:30-12:30), Parma
8 th WG meeting	web	26 September (13:00-18:00, Parma times)

Scientific Panel on Biological Hazards

Minutes of the 2nd meeting of the Working Group on the "Application and use of next generation sequencing (including whole genome sequencing) for risk assessment of foodborne microorganisms"

Held on 28 November 2018 by WEB-conference

(Agreed on 12 December 2018)

Participants

- **Working Group Members:**

Ana Sofia Duarte (until 16:45), Lieve Herman (Chair), Burkhard Mallorny, Avelino Alvarez Ordonez (until 16:30), Mia Torpdahl

- **EFSA:**

BIOCONTAM Unit: Maria Teresa da Silva Felicio, Eleonora Sarno, Mirko Rossi (only from 14:00 to 15:00)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the members of the Working Group (WG). Apologies were received by Claire Jenkins.

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

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

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. Agreement of the minutes of the 1st Working Group meeting held on 19 October 2018, Parma.

The minutes of the 1st Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 8 November 2018³.

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

5.1. Opinion on application and use of next generation sequencing (including whole genome sequencing) for risk assessment of foodborne microorganisms⁴

Mirko Rossi, the coordinator of the thematic grant INNUENDO “A cross-sectoral platform for the integration of genomics in the surveillance of food borne pathogens” gave a presentation about this project focusing on the relevance of its outcome to the ToRs of the BIOHAZ mandate.

The WG members discussed the contributions received on the draft opinion. The outcome of the scientific research activities (co-)funded by EFSA on WGS applications in the area of public health/food safety, as well as other ongoing relevant research projects in these areas, were discussed. It was agreed that relevant information from these projects will be reviewed and considered in the context of this opinion and that a clear distinction between data/methodologies used and results achieved will be kept. It was also agreed that a new subsection will be added to the draft opinion in order to cover sources of the practical experiences of the use of NGS in the area of public health/food safety from different countries.

WG experts were appointed to review and further develop each of the assigned sections in the draft opinion and tasks were allocated to EFSA staff and WG experts.

²

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

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

⁴ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2018-00058>

6. Any Other Business

The Chair thanked the participants and closed the meeting.

7. Next meeting(s)

The next WG meetings will take place as follows:

3 rd WG meeting	physical	29 January (14:00-18:00) and 30 January (9:00-13:00), Parma
4 th WG meeting	web	1 March (10:00-14:00, Parma times)
5 th WG meeting	physical	9 April (8:30-16:00), Parma
6 th WG meeting	web	20 May (9:30-12:30, Parma times)
7 th WG meeting	physical	4 July (14:00-18:00) and 5 July (8:30-12:30), Parma
8 th WG meeting	web	26 September (13:00-18:00, Parma times)

Scientific Panel on Biological Hazards

Minutes of the 1st meeting of the Working Group on the application and use of next generation sequencing (including whole genome sequencing) for risk assessment of foodborne microorganisms

Held on 19 October 2018, Parma (Italy)

(Agreed on 8 November 2018)¹

Participants

- **Working Group Members:²**

Ana Sofia Duarte, Lieve Herman (Chair), Burkhard Mallorny, Avelino Alvarez Ordonez, Mia Torpdahl

- **EFSA:**

BIOCONTAM Unit: Maria Teresa da Silva Felicio, Ernesto Liebana Criado (only until 10:30), Beatriz Guerra (only from 9:30 to 10:30), Pierre-Alexandre Beloeil (only from 9:30 to 10:30).

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the members of the Working Group (WG). No apologies were received. A round table of presentations took place.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

¹ Minutes should be published within 15 working days of the final day of the relevant meeting. This provision does not apply to Pesticides Risk Assessment Peer Review meetings, which should follow the steps stated in Article 6 of the Decision of the Executive Director of the European Food Safety Authority concerning Pesticides Risk Assessment Peer Review (http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/eddecisionppr.pdf).

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

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence³ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management,⁴ 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.

Certain interests were declared orally by one WG member (Kathie Grant) before the beginning of the meeting. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Oral Declaration of Interest made at the beginning of the meeting, please refer to the Annex.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

4.1. Opinion on application and use of next generation sequencing (including whole genome sequencing) for risk assessment of foodborne microorganisms⁵

The WG discussed the terms of reference received from the BIOHAZ Panel, clarified their interpretation and agreed on a common understanding of these. Possible approaches to be taken to answer these terms of reference were discussed. The WG agreed to review the relevant new body of literature, including EFSA scientific opinions and reports, guidance documents, ISO standards, scientific review papers, books chapters, non-peer-review papers known by the experts themselves or retrieved through non-systematic searches as well as reports and opinions from different national food authorities in order to answer ToR 1. In addition, the outcome of scientific research funded by EFSA on WGS applications in the area of public health/food safety will be considered as well as other ongoing relevant research projects in these areas. The WG also agreed to use a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) analysis of NGS-based alternative methods in order to answer ToR 2. This analysis should also cover aspects related to the: (i) agreement of 'classical' microbiological methods and NGS-based methods,

⁵ 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-2018-00058>

and (ii) comparison of performance parameters. The preliminary table of contents of the draft opinion was agreed, WG experts were appointed to further develop each of the sections in the draft opinion and tasks were allocated to EFSA staff and WG experts.

5. Any Other Business

It was agreed to identify an alternate WG member to cover the expertise of the WG member who was excluded due to the identified Conflict of interest (see details in Annex). The Chair thanked the participants and closed the meeting.

6. Next meeting(s)

The next WG meetings will take place as follows:

2 nd WG meeting	web	28 November (14:00-17:00, Parma times)
3 rd WG meeting	physical	29 January (14:00-18:00) and 30 January (9:00-13:00), Parma
4 th WG meeting	web	1 March (10:00-14:00, Parma times)
5 th WG meeting	physical	9 April (8:30-16:00), Parma
6 th WG meeting	web	20 May (9:30-12:30, Parma times)
7 th WG meeting	physical	4 July (14:00-18:00) and 5 July (8:30-12:30), Parma
8 th WG meeting	web	26 September (13:00-18:00, Parma times)

Annex

Interests and actions resulting from the Oral Declaration of Interest done at the beginning of the meeting

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: With regard to this meeting, Dr Kathie Grant declared the following interest: she is currently Chair of the ILSI Expert Group on “the use of Next-Generation Sequencing (NGS): translation into practice”. This Expert Group aims to: (i) investigate how NGS applications/research of food and the food associated environmental microbial community can contribute to the improvement of risk assessment and risk management options; and (ii) provide guidance to new users, such as public health departments and industry, on implementation of NGS, bioinformatics analyses and biological interpretation of NGS data. This activity will result in a peer-reviewed publication discussing the potential uses and data gaps in the field of NGS. The aim of the publication is to promote the broader application of NGS by both public health and industry which will ultimately contribute to the advancement of public health by improving food safety. In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence⁶ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁷, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, the interest above was deemed to represent a Conflict of Interest (CoI). This results in the **exclusion of the expert from any discussion, voting or other processing of the item “application and use of next generation sequencing (including whole genome sequencing) for risk assessment of foodborne microorganisms” by the concerned scientific 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