



SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE AND EMERGING RISKS UNIT

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MINUTES OF THE 2nd MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON EMERGING CHEMICAL RISK IDENTIFICATION (ECRI)

Teleconference (preparatory meeting), 4 June 2020 (9.30-12.30 pm)

Teleconference, 18 June 2020 (14.00-17.00)

(Agreed on 22 June 2020)

Participants

- Panel and external experts:
Peter Fürst, Vittorio Silano, Matthew MacLeod
- Hearing Experts¹:
Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not Applicable
- EFSA:
SCER unit : Georges Kass (chair), Caroline Merten, Djien Liem, Gkrintzali Georgia

¹ 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. Apologies were received from Irene Munoz Guajardo by the AMU unit.

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 Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, 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.

4. Planning & preparation of REACH 3 project

The WG discussed and agreed the technical content of the follow-up project to generate further evidence on the occurrence of the 212 priority substances identified under the REACH 2 project⁴ in various food samples. To this end an open call is planned to be launched by EFSA by July 2020 on Screening for emerging chemical risks in the food chain.

5. Any Other Business

The dates for the future WG meeting in 2020 are:

- 4th WG ECRI - physical meeting (1.5 day): 1– 2 October 2020: This meeting will be converted into a teleconference due to COVID 19 measures.
- 5th WG ECRI – (3 hours TC): 10 December 2020

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

³http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁴ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/supporting/pub/en-1597>



SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE AND EMERGING RISKS UNIT

MINUTES OF THE 1ST MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON EMERGING CHEMICAL RISKS IDENTIFICATION (ECRI)

Teleconference, 27 April 2020 (9.30-12.30 pm)

(Agreed on 4 May 2020)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
Peter Fürst, Vittorio Silano, Matthew MacLeod
- Hearing Experts:
Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not Applicable
- EFSA:
SCER unit : Georges Kass (chair), Caroline Merten, Djien Liem
AMU unit: Irene Munoz Guajardo

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants and a tour de table was done to introduce all the working group members. 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 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.

4. Overview on Terms of references of ECRI WG

The WG was provided with the background and an overview of the terms of references for the ECRI WG. Past projects on emerging risk identification methodology were briefly reminded to the WG: a systematic framework for the identification of emerging chemical risks and how data generated under REACH regulation could be used to identify emerging chemicals risks in the food chain was published in 2014³. The methodology proposed was further developed and tested on 100 substances registered under REACH (REACH 1⁴ project). The tested screening procedure was then applied to the 15021 substances registered in REACH (REACH 2⁵ project).

Horizon scanning is a systematic process for capturing and monitoring change. Horizon scanning involves the gathering of data and information across a wide range of sources and domains. The Emerging Risk Identification Support System (ERIS) developed by the Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research (TNO) was tested by EFSA for the automatic screening of scientific publications for the identification of emerging risks⁶ (2016-2018). JRC has developed the European media monitoring (EMM) tool, Medisys for real-time news analysis of medical and health related topics and, more recently, the Tool for Innovation Monitoring (TIM) for extracting structured data from scientific publications, patents and EU projects. Medysis is currently being used at EFSA for horizon scanning for plant health risks⁷. None has been evaluated for its capability to identify emerging chemicals in the food chain. Horizon scanning can be used as a complementary method to gather additional evidence on the substances in the priority list identified in REACH 2 project.

All new activities on Identification of emerging chemical risks will be supported by an ad hoc WG on emerging chemical risks identification (ECRI). The WG has been established in March 2020 for a duration of four years.

The objectives of EFSA ECRI WG are:

- (1) to ensure scientific advice for all activities on emerging chemical risks by advising on the content of the tender specifications and terms of references of the projects, reviewing intermediate and final project reports, reviewing and validating at regular intervals collected data on emerging chemical risks from the different sources (projects, knowledge networks & international cooperation). The WG will draft an EFSA report on emerging chemical risks summarizing experiences and lessons learnt from the 4 years period and various activities and providing recommendations on future work.
- (2) to support the dissemination of information on emerging chemical risks in food. The WG will support the planning and implementation of a scientific conference on emerging chemical risks to be held in 2024.

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://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.2903/sp.efsa.2014.EN-547>

⁴ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/supporting/pub/en-1050>

⁵ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/supporting/pub/en-1597>

⁶ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/supporting/pub/en-1154>

⁷ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/supporting/pub/en-1118>



The WG agreed on these terms of references.

5. Planning & preparation of REACH 3 project

The WG was presented with a short summary of the REACH 2 project: Eligible substances were selected from 15 021 substances registered under the REACH Regulation by excluding (a) intermediates handled under strictly controlled conditions, (b) substances lacking crucial input data and (c) compounds considered to be outside the applicability domain of the models used. Selection of eligible substances resulted in a considerable reduction to 2 336 substances. These substances were assessed and scored for environmental release (tonnage and use information from REACH registration dossiers), biodegradation (predictions from BIOWIN models 3, 5 and 6 evaluated in a battery approach), bioaccumulation in food/feed (ACC-HUMANsteady modelling) and chronic human health hazards (classification according to the CLP Regulation for carcinogenicity, mutagenicity, reproductive toxicity and repeated dose toxicity as well as IARC classification for carcinogenicity). Prioritisation based on the scores assigned and additional data curation steps identified 212 substances that are considered potential emerging risks in the food chain. More data are needed to conclude whether they actually represent emerging chemical risks.

The WG discussed the content of the follow-up project to generate further evidence on the occurrence of the priority substances identified under REACH 2 in various food samples. To this end an open call is planned to be launched by EFSA by July 2020 for a suspect screening on a list of priority substances. The WG discussed which substances to be included in the call and related technical content.

6. Overview on work package on ECRI with JRC Tool for Innovation Monitoring (TIM)

This agenda item had to be postponed due to lack of time.

7. Any Other Business

The dates for the future WG meeting in 2020 are:

- 2nd WG ECRI – 3 hours TC: 4 June 2020
- 3rd WG ECRI – 3 hours TC: 18 June 2020:
- 4th WG ECRI - physical meeting (1.5 day): 1– 2 October 2020
- 5th WG ECRI – (3 hours TC): 10 December 2020