

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS

MINUTES OF THE 5th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON ALLERGENICITY OF GM PLANTS

**Held on 22 March 2021, TELE/Web
(Agreed on 6 April 2021)**

Participants

- Working Group Members:
Jean-Louis Bresson, Michelle Epstein and Javier Moreno
- Hearing Experts¹:
Clare Mills and Henk van Loveren
- EFSA:
GMO Unit: Antonio Fernandez Dumont and Riccardo Vrizz
- Others:
Stakeholders consultative group² members participating the meeting: Hermann Broll, Rod Herman, Frederic Jaquemart, Terry Koerner, Andrea Mikkelsen, Andrea Scheepers, Sabine Schnadt and Kitty Verhoeckx

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

EFSA welcomed the participants. No apologise were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

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>

² <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/news/allergenicity-assessment-gm-plants-stakeholders-support-working-group>



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 Management⁴, 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 Allergenicity WG members at the beginning of this meeting.

The Stakeholders consultative group members participating to the meeting were also requested to provide Annual Declarations of Interest.

4. Scientific topics for discussion

4.1. Introduction and overall work plan

The work plan was introduced to the group. It is expected to have an additional meeting with the Stakeholder group in May 2021 to discuss the final refinements of the workshop and collect the final comments to the draft scientific opinion on development needs for the allergenicity assessment. A key step of the work is the organisation of a virtual workshop on 15-16 June 2021.

4.2. Scientific opinion on development needs for allergenicity assessment

The draft opinion on development needs for allergenicity assessment was introduced by the Working Group. The document was distributed to participants in advance of the meeting. Comments received were highlighted and discussed during the meeting. The Working Group will consider the comments received, whenever relevant, and will produce a new draft document for further discussion in the following meeting.

4.3. EFSA Workshop

A key step in preparing the draft opinion is the EFSA Workshop that will take place on 15-16 June 2021 (virtual event). It was considered important to frame the event with introductory sessions focused on clinical relevance and risk assessment. For more information about the event please see [here](#).

4.4. Conclusions and next steps

EFSA thanked all participants for the contributions to this meeting. Further discussions will take place with the Stakeholder consultative group and relevant hearing experts next year. The scientific opinion on recommendations for further developments of the allergenicity assessment and protein safety in general will be discussed.

5. Any Other Business

Not Applicable

6. Next meeting

To be confirmed

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

⁴ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS

MINUTES OF THE 4th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON ALLERGENICITY OF GM PLANTS

**Held on 2 March 2021, TELE/WEB
(Agreed on 12 March 2021)**

Participants

- Working Group Members:
Jean-Louis Bresson, Michelle Epstein and Javier Moreno
- Hearing Experts¹:
None
- EFSA:
GMO Unit: Antonio Fernandez Dumont
- Others:
None

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

EFSA welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

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>



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, and no interests were declared orally by the Allergenicity WG members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topics for discussion

The Working group discussed the outline of the scientific opinion on recommendation for further developments in the field of allergenicity assessment (prediction). The discussions mainly focused on the objectives of the document and the table of content. Questions for discussion with the stakeholder group in late March 2021 were also framed at the meeting. Finally, the Working group discussed on the content and organisation of the workshop that will take place in June 2021. For more information on the workshop please see [here](#).

5. Any Other Business

Not Applicable

6. Next meeting

22 March 2021 TELE/WEB

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

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



GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS

MINUTES OF THE 3rd MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON ALLERGENICITY OF GM PLANTS

**Held on 12 November 2020, TELE/Web
(Agreed on 23 November 2020)**

Participants

- Working Group Members:
Jean-Louis Bresson, Michelle Epstein and Javier Moreno
- Hearing Experts¹:
None
- EFSA:
GMO Unit: Antonio Fernandez Dumont and Riccardo Vrizz
- Others:
None

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

EFSA welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

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>



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, and no interests were declared orally by the Allergenicity WG members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topics for discussion

4.1. Draft statement on *in vitro* protein digestion

The draft statement on *in vitro* protein digestion in the risk assessment of GM plants was discussed by the Working Group. Participants agreed on the content of the document and proposed to have it presented at the following GMO Panel plenary meeting.

4.2. Next steps

The Working Group discussed the place and date of the workshop. It was considered as a first choice to have it organised by middle of June 2021. Considering the current situation, EFSA headquarters was favoured as a valid option to organise a hybrid conference in terms of virtual and physical presence.

5. Any Other Business

Not Applicable

6. Next meeting

To be confirmed

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

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



SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS

MINUTES OF THE 2nd MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON ALLERGENICITY OF GM PLANTS

**Held on 4 November 2020, TELE/Web
(Agreed on 20 November 2020)**

Participants

- Working Group Members:
Jean-Louis Bresson, Michelle Epstein and Javier Moreno
- Hearing Experts¹:
Clare Mills, Henk van Loveren and Ian Dewhurst
- EFSA:
GMO Unit: Antonio Fernandez Dumont, Riccardo Vriz and Anna Lanzoni
- Others:
Stakeholders consultative group²

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

EFSA welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Henk van Loveren, and two members of the Stakeholders consultative group, Kitty Verhoeckx and Judy Carman.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

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>

² <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/news/allergenicity-assessment-gm-plants-stakeholders-support-working-group>



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 Management⁴, 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 Allergenicity WG members at the beginning of this meeting.

It is noted that the Stakeholders consultative group members were also requested to provide Annual Declarations of Interest. Because few members of the group had problems with the EFSA IT system, the Annual declarations of Interest were collected via email and archived into the EFSA Document Management System (DMS). Finally, members of this consultative group will place this information into the EFSA IT system as soon as possible.

4. Scientific topics for discussion

4.1. Introduction to the mandate and overall work plan

The Working Group members introduced the topics for discussion under this Mandate⁵. A plan of the work to be developed was discussed, including the organisation of a face-to-face workshop in spring/summer 2021. The participants were reminded that the drafting of the statement is only possible for the members of the Working Group. Furthermore, it was also reminded that these meetings are scientific fora where only scientific discussions are taking place.

4.2. Workshop preparation

The participants welcomed the possibility to participate to a face-to-face workshop in the middle of June, pending confirmation due to the current worldwide sanitary situation. Because of this reason, the location of the workshop is to be considered carefully (possibility of cancelation and back-up plan). The duration of the meeting was favoured for 1.5 days to allow appropriate rest, keep concentration high and the possibility of networking.

4.3. EFSA external report on *in vitro* protein digestibility

The EFSA external report on *in vitro* protein digestibility⁶ was presented by the contractor (only at the meeting for the presentation). EFSA thanked the contractor for the availability.

4.4. Draft statement on *in vitro* protein digestion

The draft statement on *in vitro* protein digestion in the risk assessment of GM plants was introduced by the Working Group. Participants provided comments on topics addressed in the document that were discussed in detailed during the meeting. The Working Group will take into considerations the comments received and will produce a new document for adoption by the EFSA GMO Panel by the end of 2020/beginning of 2021.

4.5. Conclusions and next steps

EFSA thanked all participants for the contributions to this meeting. Further discussions will take place with the Stakeholder consultative group and relevant hearing experts next year where the scientific

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

⁴ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁵ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2020-00314>

⁶ <https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.2903/sp.efsa.2019.EN-1765>



opinion on recommendations for further developments of the allergenicity assessment and protein safety in general will be discussed.

5. Any Other Business

Not Applicable

6. Next meeting

To be confirmed



GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS

MINUTES OF THE 1st MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON ALLERGENICITY OF GM PLANTS

**Held on 25 September 2020, TELE/Web
(Agreed on 7 October 2020)**

Participants

- Working Group Members:
Jean-Louis Bresson, Michelle Epstein and Javier Moreno
- Hearing Experts¹:
None
- EFSA:
GMO Unit: Antonio Fernandez Dumont
- Others:
Not Applicable

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

EFSA welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

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>



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, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topics for discussion

4.1. Introduction to the mandate and work plan

The Allergenicity Working Group was introduced to the topics for discussion under this Mandate⁴. A plan of the work to be developed was discussed, including the organisation of a face-to-face workshop in spring/summer 2021. Additional discussions will take place in the subsequent meeting where hearing experts as well as members of the Focus Group will also be invited.

5. Any Other Business

5.1. Not Applicable

6. Next meeting

To be confirmed

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

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

⁴ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2020-00314>