



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>