



SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS

MINUTES OF THE 6th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY (SYNBIO) PLANT ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ASSESSMENT (ERA)

**Held on 8 May 2019 Tele/Web
(Agreed on 8 May 2019)¹**

Participants

- Working Group Members:
Josep Casacuberta, Tamas Dalmay, Adinda De Schrijver, Ewen Mullins, Nicola Patron and Matias Zurbriggen
- Hearing Experts²:
Frank Hartung, Thorben Sprink and Ralf Wilhelm
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
DG SANTE: Ilaria Ciabatti
- EFSA:
GMO Unit: Yann Devos, Nikoletta Papadopoulou and Tommaso Raffaello
SCER Unit: Caterina Barrasso and Reinhilde Schoonjans
- Others:
NA

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

EFSA welcomed the participants. Apologies for absence were received from Antoine Messéan.

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

² 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. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

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 members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Declarations of Interest of Hearing experts

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁴, EFSA invited Frank Hartung, Thorben Sprink and Ralf Wilhelm to submit an Annual Declaration of Interest. Their participation in the present meeting was limited to providing testimony, without the possibility to take on any role undertaken by members of the Working Group (i.e. not possible to draft or be involved in the discussion or the adoption of a scientific output), in accordance with the applicable legal framework.

5. Agreement of the minutes of the 5th Working Group meeting held on 3 May 2019, TELE-conference

The minutes of the 5th Working Group meeting held on 3 May 2019 were agreed.⁵

6. Scientific topics for discussion

6.1. Possible plant SynBio applications in the next 10 years

JKI presented the outcome of the procurement "NP/EFSA/SCER/2018/02 – Mapping of plant SynBio developments in the agri-food sector". Experts discussed plant SynBio developments that might potentially move to commercial/practical applications within the next 10 years.

6.2. Selection of case studies

EFSA staff/experts discussed case study selection for the activities of the Working Group.

7. Any Other Business

7.1. Not Applicable

8. Next meeting

5 June (TELE, MC)

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://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/wgs/gmo/wg-plant-synbio-ERA.pdf>



GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS

MINUTES OF THE 5th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP (MC) ON SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY (SYNBIO) PLANT ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ASSESSMENT (ERA)

**Held on 3 May 2019, TELE/WEB
(Agreed on 8 May 2019)¹**

Participants

- Working Group Members:
Josep Casacuberta, Tamas Dalmay
- Hearing Experts²:
Not Applicable
- EFSA:
GMO Unit: Nikoletta Papadopoulou
- Others:
Not Applicable

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

EFSA welcomed the participants.

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.

² 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 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 members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 4th Working Group meeting held on 25 March 2019, TELE-conference

The minutes of the 4th Working Group meeting held on 25 March 2019 were agreed.⁵

5. Scientific topics for discussion

5.1. Possible plant SynBio applications in the next 10 years

EFSA staff/experts discussed the data requirements for the molecular characterisation in GMO applications based on the EFSA guidance (2011), and their relevance for the risk assessment of possible plant SynBio developments.

6. Any Other Business

6.1. Not Applicable

7. Next meeting

8 May 2019 (TELE-conference; core group)

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://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/wgs/gmo/wg-plant-synbio-ERA.pdf>



SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS

MINUTES OF THE 4th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY (SYNBIO) PLANT ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ASSESSMENT (ERA)

TELE-conference, 25 March 2019

(Agreed on 25 March 2019)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
Josep Casacuberta, Tamas Dalmay, Adinda De Schrijver, Antoine Messéan, Ewen Mullins, Nicola Patron and Matias Zurbriggen
- Hearing Experts¹:
Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
DG SANTE: Ilaria Ciabatti
- EFSA:
GMO Unit: Yann Devos, Nikoletta Papadopoulou and Tommaso Raffaello
SCER Unit: Caterina Barrasso and Reinhilde Schoonjans
- Others:
Not Applicable

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

EFSA 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 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. Agreement of the minutes of the 3rd Working Group meeting held on 20 March 2019, TELE-conference

The minutes of the 3rd Working Group meeting held on 20 March 2019 were agreed.⁴

5. Scientific topics for discussion

5.1. Possible plant SynBio applications in the next 10 years

Experts introduced plant SynBio developments that might potentially move to commercial/practical applications within the next 10 years. EFSA updated the experts on the on-going procurement "NP/EFSA/SCER/2018/02 – Mapping of plant SynBio developments in the agri-food sector".

5.2. Outline/structure of the mandated output

EFSA staff/experts discussed the potential outline and structure of the mandated output.

5.3. Expertise needs

EFSA staff/experts discussed additional expertise needs for the working group.

6. Any Other Business

6.1. Not Applicable

7. Next meeting

3 May 2019, 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

⁴ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/wgs/gmo/wg-plant-synbio-ERA.pdf>



SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS

MINUTES OF THE 3rd MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY (SYNBIO) PLANT ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ASSESSMENT (ERA)

TELE-conference, 20 March 2019

(Agreed on 20 March 2019)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
Adinda De Schrijver, Antoine Messéan and Ewen Mullins
- Hearing Experts¹:
Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
 - Not Applicable
- EFSA:
GMO Unit: Yann Devos
- Others:
Not Applicable

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

EFSA welcomed the participants.

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. 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, 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 5 March 2019, TELE-conference

The minutes of the 2nd Working Group meeting held on 5 March 2019 were agreed.⁴

5. Scientific topics for discussion

5.1. Expertise needs

EFSA staff/experts discussed additional expertise needs for the working group.

5.2. Outline/structure of the mandated output

EFSA staff/experts discussed the potential outline and structure of the mandated output.

6. Any Other Business

6.1. Not Applicable

7. Next meeting

25 March 2019 (TELE-conference)

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://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/wgs/gmo/wg-plant-synbio-ERA.pdf>



SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS

MINUTES OF THE 2ND MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY (SYNBIO) PLANT ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ASSESSMENT (ERA)

**Held on 5 March 2019, TELE/WEB
(Agreed on 18 March 2019)**

Participants

- Working Group Members:
 - Josep Casacuberta and Tamas Dalmay,
- Hearing Experts¹:
 - none
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
 - DG SANTE:
- EFSA:
 - GMO Unit: Nikoletta Papadopoulou
- Others:
 - Not Applicable

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.

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. Agreement of the minutes of 1st Working Group meeting held on 24 January 2019 via TELE/WEB.

The minutes of the 1st Working Group meeting held on 24 January 2019 were agreed on 30 January 2019.⁴

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

The Experts discussed the data requirements for the molecular characterisation in GMO applications, and their relevance for the risk assessment of potential SynBio developments.⁵

6. Any Other Business

6.1. Not Applicable

7. Next meeting(s)

The next meeting is scheduled on the 25 March 2019.

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://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/wgs/gmo/wg-plant-synbio-ERA.pdf>

⁵ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2018-01000>

Scientific Panel on Genetically Modified Organisms Minutes of the 1st meeting of the Working Group on Synthetic Biology (SynBio) Plant Environmental Risk Assessment (ERA)

**Held on 24 January 2019, TELE/WEB
(Agreed on 30 January 2019)**

Participants

- **Working Group Members:**

- Josep Casacuberta, Tamas Dalmay, Adinda De Schrijver, Antoine Messéan, Ewen Mullins, Nicola Patron and Matias Zurbriggen

- **Hearing Experts¹:**

- None

- **European Commission and/or Member States representatives:**

- DG SANTE: Ilaria Ciabatti

- **EFSA:**

- GMO Unit: Yann Devos, Nikoletta Papadopoulou, Tommaso Raffaello and Matthew Ramon

- SCER Unit: Caterina Barrasso and Reinhilde Schoonjans

- **Others:**

- None

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. 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 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

EFSA staff introduced the [mandate](#) and its scope, as well as the associated timeline and expected deliverables.

4.2. Plant SynBio developments within the remit of this working group

The Experts discussed the working context of SynBio developments in the frame of this working group for case-study selection.

4.3. Possible plant SynBio applications in the next 10 years

Experts introduced some possible plant SynBio developments that might move to commercial/practical applications within the next 10 years.

5. Next meeting

To be determined.

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