

21 May 2024

14:30-16:30

MINUTES - Agreed on 28 May 2024

Location: Web-conference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Craig Baker-Austin, Dominique Hervio-Heath, Roland Lindqvist, Jaime Martinez-Urtaza, Eva Sanjuán Caro, Eckhard Strauch, Elisabetta Suffredini, Anne Thébault
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not Applicable
- EFSA:
BIOHAZ Unit: Winy Messens, Beatriz Guerra
- Others:
Not Applicable

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. 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. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Annual Declarations of Interest, please refer to Annex. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 12th Working Group meeting held on 16 May 2024, via web-conference

The [minutes of the 12th Working Group meeting](#) were agreed by written procedure on 17 May 2024.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. Draft opinion on the public health aspects of *Vibrio* spp. related to the consumption of seafood ([EFSA-Q-2022-00826](#))

The list of knowledge gaps and priorities for future research related to *Vibrio* spp. in seafood and aquatic environments conclusions, the conclusions and recommendations were carefully reviewed and finalised. Tasks were allocated to EFSA staff and WG experts. The opinion will be presented for possible adoption at the 170th BIOHAZ Plenary meeting (on 12-13 June 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



VI. Any Other Business

No applicable.

VII. Next meeting

This was the last WG meeting.



Annex

Interests and actions resulting from the screening of Annual Declarations of Interest (ADoI)

CONFLICT OF INTEREST WITH WAIVERS: In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Dr Craig Baker-Austin the following interest has been declared: membership of BSI (British Standards Institute) group AW/9 which pertains to foodborne pathogens. The BSI AW/9 group is an expert group that covers all aspects of food-related pathogens. In his work area (vibrios) Dr Craig Baker-Austin provides an update to the group regarding method standardisation activities with regards to this pathogen group. This constitutes a Conflict of Interest (CoI) with the mandate of the EFSA Working Group in hand. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence³ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁴, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted in accordance with Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management.

Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on the public health aspects of *Vibrio* spp. related to the consumption of seafood, and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice-chairman or rapporteur of the Working 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

16 May 2024

09:00-13:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 17 May 2024

Location: Web-conference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Craig Baker-Austin, Dominique Hervio-Heath, Roland Lindqvist, Jaime Martinez-Urtaza, Eva Sanjuán Caro, Eckhard Strauch, Elisabetta Suffredini, Anne Thébault
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not Applicable
- EFSA:
BIOHAZ Unit: Winy Messens, Beatriz Guerra
- Others:
Not Applicable

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. 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. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Annual Declarations of Interest, please refer to Annex. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 11th Working Group meeting held on 11 April 2024, via web-conference

The [minutes of the 11th Working Group meeting](#) were agreed by written procedure on 15 April 2024.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. Draft opinion on the public health aspects of *Vibrio* spp. related to the consumption of seafood ([EFSA-Q-2022-00826](#))

At the 169th BIOHAZ Plenary meeting (on 29-30 April 2024), the WG chair shared the whole draft opinion to the BIOHAZ Panel for thorough reading. Most comments were related to the characteristics of the available analytical methods and their contribution to risk assessment (SQ1.4) and no major comments were received. The BIOHAZ panel requested moving some of

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



the priorities for future research to the recommendations and to further shorten the conclusions. During the WG meeting, the panel comments were addressed and the table with characteristics of the available analytical methods and their contribution to risk assessment was discussed. The list of knowledge gaps and priorities for future research related to *Vibrio* spp. in seafood and aquatic environments conclusions were revised. Tasks were allocated to EFSA staff and WG experts.

VI. Any Other Business

No applicable.

VII. Next meeting

It was decided to hold an additional WG meeting on 21 May 2024 (14:30-16:30) by web-conference.



Annex

Interests and actions resulting from the screening of Annual Declarations of Interest (ADoI)

CONFLICT OF INTEREST WITH WAIVERS: In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Dr Craig Baker-Austin the following interest has been declared: membership of BSI (British Standards Institute) group AW/9 which pertains to foodborne pathogens. The BSI AW/9 group is an expert group that covers all aspects of food-related pathogens. In his work area (vibrios) Dr Craig Baker-Austin provides an update to the group regarding method standardisation activities with regards to this pathogen group. This constitutes a Conflict of Interest (CoI) with the mandate of the EFSA Working Group in hand. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence³ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁴, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted in accordance with Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management.

Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on the public health aspects of *Vibrio* spp. related to the consumption of seafood, and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice-chairman or rapporteur of the Working 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

11 April 2024

09:00-18:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 15 April 2024

Location: Web-conference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Craig Baker-Austin, Roland Lindqvist, Jaime Martinez-Urtaza, Eva Sanjuán Caro, Eckhard Strauch, Elisabetta Suffredini, Anne Thébault
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not Applicable
- EFSA:
BIOHAZ Unit: Winy Messens, Beatriz Guerra
- Others:
Not Applicable

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Dominique Hervio-Heath.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. 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. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Annual Declarations of Interest, please refer to Annex. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 10th Working Group meeting held on 13 February 2024, via web-conference

The [minutes of the 10th Working Group meeting](#) were agreed by written procedure on 23 February 2024.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. Draft opinion on the public health aspects of *Vibrio* spp. related to the consumption of seafood ([EFSA-Q-2022-00826](#))

At the 168th BIOHAZ Plenary meeting (on 13-14 March 2024), the WG chair presented the draft opinion to the BIOHAZ Panel, apart from the section dealing with the knowledge gaps and the priorities for future research related to *Vibrio* spp. in seafood and aquatic environments (AQ6). The following sections were presented for possible endorsement: (i) Occurrence of the relevant

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



Vibrio spp. in seafood placed or intended to be placed on the EU market (SQ1.2), (ii) Analytical methods for the detection, enumeration and characterisation of the relevant *Vibrio* spp. in seafood (SQ1.3); (iii) Pathogenicity to humans and virulence factors of the relevant *Vibrio* spp. (SQ1.5); (iv) Antimicrobial resistance in the relevant *Vibrio* spp. isolated from seafood and from seafood-borne infections (SQ1.6-1.7) and (v) Risk assessment modelling options for the health impact of relevant *Vibrio* spp. in seafood in the EU. These were endorsed apart for point (iv). Several comments were raised which were partially solved during the plenary meeting, while some need to be addressed by the Working Group members still. The panel members requested to check for repetitions and to shorten the opinion. During the Working Group meeting, the panel comments were addressed. A brainstorming was held on the knowledge gaps and priorities for future research. The concluding remarks were carefully revised. Tasks were allocated to EFSA staff and WG experts to prepare the draft opinion for thorough reading at the next (168th) BIOHAZ Plenary meeting on 29-30 April 2024.

VI. Any Other Business

No applicable.

VII. Next meeting

The next WG meeting will be held on 16 May 2024 (9:00-13:00) by web-conference.



Annex

Interests and actions resulting from the screening of Annual Declarations of Interest (ADoI)

CONFLICT OF INTEREST WITH WAIVERS: In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Dr Craig Baker-Austin the following interest has been declared: membership of BSI (British Standards Institute) group AW/9 which pertains to foodborne pathogens. The BSI AW/9 group is an expert group that covers all aspects of food-related pathogens. In his work area (vibrios) Dr Craig Baker-Austin provides an update to the group regarding method standardisation activities with regards to this pathogen group. This constitutes a Conflict of Interest (CoI) with the mandate of the EFSA Working Group in hand. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence³ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁴, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted in accordance with Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management.

Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on the public health aspects of *Vibrio* spp. related to the consumption of seafood, and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice-chairman or rapporteur of the Working 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

13 February 2024

09:00-17:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 23 February 2024

Location: Web-conference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Craig Baker-Austin, Roland Lindqvist, Jaime Martinez-Urtaza, Eva Sanjuán Caro, Eckhard Strauch, Elisabetta Suffredini, Anne Thébault
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not Applicable
- EFSA:
BIOHAZ Unit: Winy Messens, Beatriz Guerra
- Others:
Not Applicable

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Dominique Hervio-Heath.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. 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. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Annual Declarations of Interest, please refer to Annex. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 9th Working Group meeting held on 10 January 2024, via web-conference

The [minutes of the 9th Working Group meeting](#) were agreed by written procedure on 18 January 2024.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. Draft opinion on the public health aspects of *Vibrio* spp. related to the consumption of seafood ([EFSA-Q-2022-00826](#))

At the 167th BIOHAZ Plenary meeting (on 24-25 January 2024), the WG chair presented various sections of the draft opinion to the BIOHAZ Panel. The following parts of the assessment are at an advanced stage and were presented for careful review: (i) Analytical methods for the detection, enumeration and characterisation of the relevant *Vibrio* spp. in seafood (SQ1.3); (ii) Pathogenicity

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



to humans and virulence factors of the relevant *Vibrio* spp. (SQ1.5); (iii) Antimicrobial resistance in the relevant *Vibrio* spp. isolated from seafood and from seafood-borne infections (SQ1.6-1.7) and (iv) Risk assessment modelling options for the health impact of relevant *Vibrio* spp. in seafood in the EU. Discussions were held and tasks were allocated to EFSA staff and WG experts to prepare the draft opinion for first reading at the next (167th) BIOHAZ Plenary meeting on 13-14 March 2024.

VI. Any Other Business

No applicable.

VII. Next meeting

The next WG meetings will be held on 11 April 2024, 09:00-18:00 CET and on 16 or 22 May (9:00-13:00), both by web-conference.



Annex

Interests and actions resulting from the screening of Annual Declarations of Interest (ADoI)

CONFLICT OF INTEREST WITH WAIVERS: In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Dr Craig Baker-Austin the following interest has been declared: membership of BSI (British Standards Institute) group AW/9 which pertains to foodborne pathogens. The BSI AW/9 group is an expert group that covers all aspects of food-related pathogens. In his work area (vibrios) Dr Craig Baker-Austin provides an update to the group regarding method standardisation activities with regards to this pathogen group. This constitutes a Conflict of Interest (CoI) with the mandate of the EFSA Working Group in hand. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence³ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁴, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted in accordance with Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management.

Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on the public health aspects of *Vibrio* spp. related to the consumption of seafood, and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice-chairman or rapporteur of the Working 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

10 January 2024

09:00-16:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 18 January 2024

Location: Web-conference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Craig Baker-Austin, Dominique Hervio-Heath, Roland Lindqvist, Jaime Martinez-Urtaza, Eva Sanjuán Caro, Eckhard Strauch, Elisabetta Suffredini, Anne Thébault
- Hearing Experts¹:
Jens-Andre Hammerl
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not Applicable
- EFSA:
BIOHAW Unit: Winy Messens, Beatriz Guerra
- Others:
Not Applicable

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. 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. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Annual Declarations of Interest, please refer to Annex. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 8th Working Group meeting held on 5 December 2023, in Parma

The [minutes of the 8th Working Group meeting](#) were agreed by written procedure on 18 December 2023.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

- a. **Draft opinion on the public health aspects of *Vibrio* spp. related to the consumption of seafood ([EFSA-Q-2022-00826](#))**

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 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



At the 166th BIOHAZ Plenary meeting (on 6-7 December 2023), the WG chair presented some more advanced sections of the draft opinion with the BIOHAZ panel. During the WG meeting, the remaining comments from the BIOHAZ panel were discussed, mainly dealing with pathogenicity to humans and virulence factors of the relevant *Vibrio* spp. (SQ1.5), antimicrobial resistance (SQ1.6-1.7) and on the impact of climate change on the occurrence and levels of the relevant *Vibrio* spp. in water environments and seafood (AQ3). WG members gave an update on the questions they are leading or contributing to, followed by a discussion. The hearing expert Jens-Andre Hammerl, Head of the Consultant Laboratory for *Vibrio* spp. in Food of BfR, presented the BfR projects on *Vibrio* in seafood. More specifically, he provided an overview of the BfR risk assessment⁴. Then he gave some examples of studies on *Vibrio* of the BfR related to (i) *Vibrio* spp. occurrence in German Aquaculture systems, (ii) *Vibrio* spp. cut off values for different species, and (iii) emergence of multidrug-resistant *V. parahaemolyticus* in imported seafood - genetic basis and spread of resistance plasmids. Several finalised sections will be shared for discussion at the 167th BIOHAZ Plenary meeting (on 24-25 January 2024). Tasks were allocated to EFSA staff and WG experts.

VI. Any Other Business

No applicable.

VII. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 13 February 2024, 9:00-18:00 CET, by web-conference.

⁴ <https://www.bfr.bund.de/cm/349/bacterial-foodborne-vibrio-infections-health-risk-assessment-of-the-occurrence-of-vibrio-spp-in-food.pdf>



Annex

Interests and actions resulting from the screening of Annual Declarations of Interest (ADoI)

CONFLICT OF INTEREST WITH WAIVERS: In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Dr Craig Baker-Austin the following interest has been declared: membership of BSI (British Standards Institute) group AW/9 which pertains to foodborne pathogens. The BSI AW/9 group is an expert group that covers all aspects of food-related pathogens. In his work area (vibrios) Dr Craig Baker-Austin provides an update to the group regarding method standardisation activities with regards to this pathogen group. This constitutes a Conflict of Interest (CoI) with the mandate of the EFSA Working Group in hand. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁵ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁶, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted in accordance with Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management.

Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on the public health aspects of *Vibrio* spp. related to the consumption of seafood, and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice-chairman or rapporteur of the Working Group.

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁶ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

5 December 2023

08:30-16:30

MINUTES - Agreed on 18 December 2023

Location: EFSA - Parma (Meeting Room 00/M07)

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Craig Baker-Austin, Dominique Hervio-Heath, Roland Lindqvist, Jaime Martinez-Urtaza, Eva Sanjuán Caro, Eckhard Strauch, Elisabetta Suffredini, Anne Thébault
- Hearing Experts¹:
Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not Applicable
- EFSA:
BIOHAW Unit: Winy Messens, Beatriz Guerra
- Others:
Not Applicable

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. 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. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Annual Declarations of Interest, please refer to Annex. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 7th Working Group meeting held on 13 October 2023, via web-conference

The [minutes of the 7th Working Group meeting](#) were agreed by written procedure on 18 October 2023.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

- a. **Draft opinion on the public health aspects of *Vibrio* spp. related to the consumption of seafood ([EFSA-Q-2022-00826](#))**

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 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



At the 165th BIOHAZ Plenary meeting (on 25-26 October 2023), the revised section of the draft scientific opinion dealing with SQ1.1 (*Vibrio* spp. of highest public health relevance) was shared with the BIOHAZ panel. The BIOHAZ panel, following the discussion, endorsed this section of the opinion. The conclusion remains that, based on epidemiological evidence and occurrence in seafood, species other than *V. parahaemolyticus*, *V. vulnificus* and non-O1, non-O139 *V. cholerae* are less frequently found in seafood placed or intended to be placed on the EU market and have been rarely identified as the cause of illness in humans in the EU through seafood consumption. Therefore, only the *Vibrio* spp. mentioned above will be further considered in the opinion. Some more advanced sections of the draft opinion were discussed with the BIOHAZ panel and no major comments were received. During the WG meeting, the WG members gave an update on the questions they are leading or contributing to, followed by a discussion. They were informed that specific sections were shared for discussion at the 166th BIOHAZ Plenary meeting (on 6-7 December 2023). Tasks were allocated to EFSA staff and WG experts.

VI. Any Other Business

No applicable.

VII. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 10 January 2023, 9:00-13:00 CET, by web-conference.



Annex

Interests and actions resulting from the screening of Annual Declarations of Interest (ADoI)

CONFLICT OF INTEREST WITH WAIVERS: In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Dr Craig Baker-Austin the following interest has been declared: membership of BSI (British Standards Institute) group AW/9 which pertains to foodborne pathogens. The BSI AW/9 group is an expert group that covers all aspects of food-related pathogens. In his work area (vibrios) Dr Craig Baker-Austin provides an update to the group regarding method standardisation activities with regards to this pathogen group. This constitutes a Conflict of Interest (CoI) with the mandate of the EFSA Working Group in hand. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁵, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted in accordance with Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management.

Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on the public health aspects of *Vibrio* spp. related to the consumption of seafood, and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice-chairman or rapporteur of the Working Group.

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

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

13 October 2023

09:00-13:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 18 October 2023

Location: Web-conference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Craig Baker-Austin, Dominique Hervio-Heath, Roland Lindqvist, Jaime Martinez-Urtaza, Eva Sanjuán Caro, Eckhard Strauch, Elisabetta Suffredini, Anne Thébault
- Hearing Experts¹:
Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not Applicable
- EFSA:
BIOHAW Unit: Winy Messens, Rubén Barcia Cruz, Beatriz Guerra
- Others:
Not Applicable

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. 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. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Annual Declarations of Interest, please refer to Annex. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 6th Working Group meeting held on 4 September 2023, via web-conference

The [minutes of the 6th Working Group meeting](#) were agreed by written procedure on 11 September 2023.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

- a. **Draft opinion on the public health aspects of *Vibrio* spp. related to the consumption of seafood ([EFSA-Q-2022-00826](#))**

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 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



At the 164th BIOHAZ Plenary meeting (on 27-28 September 2023), the section of the draft scientific opinion dealing with SQ1.1 (*Vibrio* spp. of highest public health relevance) was presented for discussion. As species other than *V. parahaemolyticus*, *V. vulnificus* and non-O1, non-O139 *V. cholerae* are less frequently found in seafood placed or intended to be placed on the EU market and have been rarely identified as the cause of illness in humans in the EU through seafood consumption, the BIOHAZ panel agreed that the *Vibrio* spp. considered in the current opinion are *V. parahaemolyticus*, *V. vulnificus* and non-O1, non-O139 *V. cholerae*. During the WG meeting, the WG members gave an update on the questions they are leading or contributing to, followed by a discussion. It was decided which sections of the draft scientific opinion would be shared for discussion at the 165th BIOHAZ Plenary meeting (on 25-26 October 2023). Tasks were allocated to EFSA staff and WG experts.

VI. Any Other Business

No applicable.

VII. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 5 December, 8:30-16:30 CET, in Parma



Annex

Interests and actions resulting from the screening of Annual Declarations of Interest (ADoI)

CONFLICT OF INTEREST WITH WAIVERS: In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Dr Craig Baker-Austin the following interest has been declared: membership of BSI (British Standards Institute) group AW/9 which pertains to foodborne pathogens. The BSI AW/9 group is an expert group that covers all aspects of food-related pathogens. In his work area (vibrios) Dr Craig Baker-Austin provides an update to the group regarding method standardisation activities with regards to this pathogen group. This constitutes a Conflict of Interest (CoI) with the mandate of the EFSA Working Group in hand. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁵, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted in accordance with Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management.

Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on the public health aspects of *Vibrio* spp. related to the consumption of seafood, and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice-chairman or rapporteur of the Working Group.

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

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

4 September 2023

09:00-17:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 11 September 2023

Location: Web-conference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Craig Baker-Austin, Dominique Hervio-Heath, Roland Lindqvist, Jaime Martinez-Urtaza, Eva Sanjuán Caro, Eckhard Strauch, Elisabetta Suffredini, Anne Thébault
- Hearing Experts¹:
Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not Applicable
- EFSA:
BIOHAW Unit: Winy MESSENS, Ancuta Cezara Simon, Ruben BARCIA
- Others:
Not Applicable

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. 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. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Annual Declarations of Interest, please refer to Annex. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 5th Working Group meeting held on 17 July 2023, via web-conference

The [minutes of the 5th Working Group meeting](#) were agreed by written procedure on 28 July 2023.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. Draft opinion on the public health aspects of *Vibrio* spp. related to the consumption of seafood ([EFSA-Q-2022-00826](#))

No BIOHAZ Plenary meeting was held since the last WG meeting. During the WG meeting, the WG members gave an update on the questions they are leading or contributing to, followed by a

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 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



discussion. Special attention was paid to the section dealing with SQ1.1 (*Vibrio* spp. of highest public health relevance) as this part of the risk assessment will be shared for discussion at the 164th BIOHAZ Plenary meeting (on 27-28 September 2023). Tasks were allocated to EFSA staff and WG experts.

VI. Any Other Business

No applicable.

VII. Next meeting

The next meetings will be held on:

- 13 October, 9:00-13:00 CET, via web-conference
- 5 December, 8:30-16:30 CET, in Parma



Annex

Interests and actions resulting from the screening of Annual Declarations of Interest (ADoI)

CONFLICT OF INTEREST WITH WAIVERS: In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Dr Craig Baker-Austin the following interest has been declared: membership of BSI (British Standards Institute) group AW/9 which pertains to foodborne pathogens. The BSI AW/9 group is an expert group that covers all aspects of food-related pathogens. In his work area (vibrios) Dr Craig Baker-Austin provides an update to the group regarding method standardisation activities with regards to this pathogen group. This constitutes a Conflict of Interest (CoI) with the mandate of the EFSA Working Group in hand. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁵, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted in accordance with Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management.

Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on the public health aspects of *Vibrio* spp. related to the consumption of seafood, and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice-chairman or rapporteur of the Working Group.

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

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

17 July 2023

09:00-13:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 28 July 2023

Location: Web-conference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Craig Baker-Austin, Dominique Hervio-Heath, Jaime Martinez-Urtaza, Eva Sanjuán Caro, Eckhard Strauch, Elisabetta Suffredini, Anne Thébault
- Hearing Experts¹:
Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not Applicable
- EFSA:
BIOHAZ Unit: Winy MESSENS, Ancuta Cezara Simon, Ernesto LIEBANA CRIADO
- Others:
Not Applicable

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Roland Lindqvist.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. 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. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Annual Declarations of Interest, please refer to Annex. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 4th Working Group meeting held on 5 June 2023, via web-conference

The [minutes of the 4th Working Group meeting](#) were agreed by written procedure on 12 June 2023.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. Draft opinion on the public health aspects of *Vibrio* spp. related to the consumption of seafood ([EFSA-Q-2022-00826](#))

Two BIOHAZ Plenary meetings were held since the last WG meeting. The draft protocol was approved at the 162nd BIOHAZ Plenary meeting (on 7-8 June 2023). At the 163rd BIOHAZ Plenary

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 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



meeting (on 12-13 July 2023), an update was given on the ongoing work. During the WG meeting, the WG members gave an update on the questions they are leading or contributing to, followed by a discussion. Tasks were allocated to EFSA staff and WG experts.

VI. Any Other Business

No applicable.

VII. Next meeting

The next meetings will be held on:

- 4 September 2023, 9:00-17:00 CET, via web-conference
- 13 October 2023, 9:00-13:00 CET, via web-conference



Annex

Interests and actions resulting from the screening of Annual Declarations of Interest (ADoI)

CONFLICT OF INTEREST WITH WAIVERS: In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Dr Craig Baker-Austin the following interest has been declared: membership of BSI (British Standards Institute) group AW/9 which pertains to foodborne pathogens. The BSI AW/9 group is an expert group that covers all aspects of food-related pathogens. In his work area (vibrios) Dr Craig Baker-Austin provides an update to the group regarding method standardisation activities with regards to this pathogen group. This constitutes a Conflict of Interest (CoI) with the mandate of the EFSA Working Group in hand. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁵, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted in accordance with Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management.

Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on the public health aspects of *Vibrio* spp. related to the consumption of seafood, and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice-chairman or rapporteur of the Working Group.

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

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

5 June 2023

09:00-13:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 12 June 2023

Location: Web-conference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Craig Baker-Austin, Dominique Hervio-Heath, Roland Lindqvist, Jaime Martinez-Urtaza, Eva Sanjuán Caro, Eckhard Strauch, Elisabetta Suffredini, Anne Thébault
- Hearing Experts¹:
Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not Applicable
- EFSA:
BIOHAW Unit: Winy MESSENS, Rubén Barcia Cruz, Ancuta Cezara Simon
- Others:
Not Applicable

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. 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. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Annual Declarations of Interest, please refer to Annex. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 3rd Working Group meeting held on 11 May 2023, via web-conference

The [minutes of the 3rd Working Group meeting](#) were agreed by written procedure on 16 May 2023.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. Draft opinion on the public health aspects of *Vibrio* spp. related to the consumption of seafood ([EFSA-Q-2022-00826](#))

No BIOHAZ Plenary meeting was held since the last WG meeting. The draft protocol was shared for possible approval at the next (162nd) BIOHAZ Plenary meeting to be held on 7-8 June 2023.

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 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



The comments from the BIOHAZ Panel were received before the WG meeting and addressed. The revised draft will be shared for possible approval. During the WG meeting, the WG members discussed the structure of the draft Scientific Opinion and initiated the discussions on the risk assessment on all Terms of Reference. Tasks were allocated to EFSA staff and WG experts.

VI. Any Other Business

No applicable.

VII. Next meeting

The next meetings will be held on:

- 17 July 2023, 9:00-13:00 CET, via web-conference
 - 4 September 2023, 9:00-17:00 CET, via web-conference
 - 13 October 2023, 9:00-13:00 CET, via web-conference
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Annex

Interests and actions resulting from the screening of Annual Declarations of Interest (ADoI)

CONFLICT OF INTEREST WITH WAIVERS: In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Dr Craig Baker-Austin the following interest has been declared: membership of BSI (British Standards Institute) group AW/9 which pertains to foodborne pathogens. The BSI AW/9 group is an expert group that covers all aspects of food-related pathogens. In his work area (vibrios) Dr Craig Baker-Austin provides an update to the group regarding method standardisation activities with regards to this pathogen group. This constitutes a Conflict of Interest (CoI) with the mandate of the EFSA Working Group in hand. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁵, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted in accordance with Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management.

Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on the public health aspects of *Vibrio* spp. related to the consumption of seafood, and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice-chairman or rapporteur of the Working Group.

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

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

11 May 2023

09:00-13:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 16 May 2023

Location: Web-conference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Craig Baker-Austin, Dominique Hervio-Heath, Roland Lindqvist, Jaime Martinez-Urtaza, Eva Sanjuán Caro, Eckhard Strauch, Elisabetta Suffredini, Anne Thébault
- Hearing Experts¹:
Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not Applicable
- EFSA:
BIOHAW Unit: Winy MESSENS, Rubén Barcia Cruz, Ancuta Cezara Simon
- Others:
Not Applicable

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants and informed that Anne Thébault has joined the WG as WG member since 20 March 2023.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. 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. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Annual Declarations of Interest, please refer to Annex. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 2nd Working Group meeting held on 17 March 2023, in Parma

The [minutes of the 2nd Working Group meeting](#) were agreed by written procedure on 28 March 2023.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

- a. Draft opinion on the public health aspects of *Vibrio* spp. related to the consumption of seafood ([EFSA-Q-2022-00826](#))**

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 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



EFSA provided feedback of the 161st BIOHAZ Plenary meeting (26-27 April 2023). The WG chair presented the draft protocol containing the interpretation of the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the mandate and the problem formulation, i.e., the translation of the ToRs into assessment questions (AQs) and sub-questions (SQs), where applicable. The methods that will be applied for conducting the assessment were presented for most of the questions. Comments were raised that were addressed during the WG meeting. The aim is to have the protocol endorsed at the next BIOHAZ plenary meeting. During the WG meeting, the WG members were informed about the information received from various Members States and international partners and about the systematic literature search to retrieve reviews on the topic of the mandate since 2010. For some SQ, a thorough discussion was held (i.e., on the analytical methods for detection-enumeration and characterization of relevant *Vibrio* spp. in seafood and on the impact of climate change on the occurrence and levels of the relevant *Vibrio* spp. in water environments and seafood. Tasks were allocated to EFSA staff and WG experts.

VI. Any Other Business

No applicable.

VII. Next meeting

The next meetings will be held on:

- 5 June 2023, 9:00-17:00 CET, via web-conference
- 11 July 2023, 9:00-13:00 CET, via web-conference



Annex

Interests and actions resulting from the screening of Annual Declarations of Interest (ADoI)

CONFLICT OF INTEREST WITH WAIVERS: In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Dr Craig Baker-Austin the following interest has been declared: membership of BSI (British Standards Institute) group AW/9 which pertains to foodborne pathogens. The BSI AW/9 group is an expert group that covers all aspects of food-related pathogens. In his work area (vibrios) Dr Craig Baker-Austin provides an update to the group regarding method standardisation activities with regards to this pathogen group. This constitutes a Conflict of Interest (CoI) with the mandate of the EFSA Working Group in hand. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁵, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted in accordance with Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management.

Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on the public health aspects of *Vibrio* spp. related to the consumption of seafood, and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice-chairman or rapporteur of the Working Group.

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

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

17 March 2023

08:30-16:30

MINUTES - Agreed on 28 March 2023

Location: EFSA - Parma (Meeting Room 00/M06a)

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Craig Baker-Austin, Dominique Hervio-Heath, Roland Lindqvist, Jaime Martinez-Urtaza, Eva Sanjuán Caro, Eckhard Strauch, Elisabetta Suffredini
- Hearing Experts¹:
Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not Applicable
- EFSA:
BIOHAW Unit: Winy MESSENS, Rubén Barcia Cruz, Beatriz Guerra Roman, Ancuta Cezara Simon
- Others:
Not Applicable

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Paolo Caricato (DG-SANTE).

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. 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. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Annual Declarations of Interest, please refer to Annex. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 1st Working Group meeting held on 10 February 2023, via web-conference

The [minutes of the 1st Working Group meeting](#) were agreed by written procedure on 21 February 2023.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

- a. Draft opinion on the public health aspects of *Vibrio* spp. related to the consumption of seafood ([EFSA-Q-2022-00826](#))**

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 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



EFSA provided feedback of the 160th BIOHAZ Plenary meeting (15-16 March 2023). The BIOHAZ panel agreed with the clarifications of the Terms of Reference (ToRs) of the mandate. The WG members further discussed the protocol: the problem formulation (step 1) and the planning of the methods to conduct the assessment (step 2) were discussed. The proposed approach and available evidence considering reviews/reports to answer the various assessment questions (AQs) and sub-questions (SQs) were presented by the leaders and contributors to the different parts of the risk assessment. Tasks were allocated to EFSA staff and WG experts.

VI. Any Other Business

No applicable.

VII. Next meeting

The next meetings will be held on 11 May 2023 and on 5 June 2023, via webconference.



Annex

Interests and actions resulting from the screening of Annual Declarations of Interest (ADoI)

CONFLICT OF INTEREST WITH WAIVERS: In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Dr Craig Baker-Austin the following interest has been declared: membership of BSI (British Standards Institute) group AW/9 which pertains to foodborne pathogens. The BSI AW/9 group is an expert group that covers all aspects of food-related pathogens. In his work area (vibrios) Dr Craig Baker-Austin provides an update to the group regarding method standardisation activities with regards to this pathogen group. This constitutes a Conflict of Interest (CoI) with the mandate of the EFSA Working Group in hand. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁵, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted in accordance with Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management.

Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on the public health aspects of *Vibrio* spp. related to the consumption of seafood, and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice-chairman or rapporteur of the Working Group.

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

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

10 February 2023

09:00-13:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 21 February 2023

Location: Web-conference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Craig Baker-Austin, Dominique Hervio-Heath, Roland Lindqvist, Jaime Martinez-Urtaza, Eva Sanjuán Caro, Eckhard Strauch, Elisabetta Suffredini
- Hearing Experts¹:
Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not Applicable
- EFSA:
BIOHAW Unit: Winy MESSENS, Rubén Barcia Cruz, Beatriz Guerra Roman, Ernesto Liébana Criado, Ancuta Cezara Simon
- Others:
Not Applicable

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Paolo Caricato (DG-SANTE).

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. 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. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Annual Declarations of Interest, please refer to Annex. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

IV. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. Draft opinion on the public health aspects of *Vibrio* spp. related to the consumption of seafood ([EFSA-Q-2022-00826](#))

EFSA provided an introductory presentation on: a) the remit and governance of EFSA and the way the scientific advice is produced; b) administrative and logistical matters, the use of Microsoft Teams as the platform for communications and repository of data and documents during the lifespan of the mandate; c) the work plan, meetings planned and technical and scientific support provided by EFSA; d) uncertainty and protocol development guidance documents to be followed. The chair presented the background and Terms of Reference (ToR) of the self-task mandate from the BIOHAZ Panel to the WG. The WG discussed the ToRs and the first steps for protocol

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 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



development: the problem formulation (step 1) and the planning of the methods to conduct the assessment (step 2) were initiated using a brainstorming session. Leaders and contributors to the different parts of the risk assessment were assigned and tasks were allocated to EFSA staff and WG experts. A timeline for Plenary and WG meetings in 2023 was presented.

V. Any Other Business

No applicable.

VI. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 17 March 2023, in Parma.



Annex

Interests and actions resulting from the screening of Annual Declarations of Interest (ADoI)

CONFLICT OF INTEREST WITH WAIVERS: In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Dr Craig Baker-Austin the following interest has been declared: membership of BSI (British Standards Institute) group AW/9 which pertains to foodborne pathogens. The BSI AW/9 group is an expert group that covers all aspects of food-related pathogens. In his work area (vibrios) Dr Craig Baker-Austin provides an update to the group regarding method standardisation activities with regards to this pathogen group. This constitutes a Conflict of Interest (CoI) with the mandate of the EFSA Working Group in hand. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁵, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted in accordance with Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management.

Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on the public health aspects of *Vibrio* spp. related to the consumption of seafood, and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice-chairman or rapporteur of the Working Group.

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

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf