

21 February 2024

09:00-13:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 4 March 2024

Location: Teleconference

Attendees:

- **Panel Members:** Pauline Adriaanse, Annette Aldrich, Philippe Berny, Tamara Coja, Sabine Duquesne, Antonio Hernandez-Jerez (chair), Marina Marinovich, Maurice Millet, Olavi Pelkonen, Silvia Pieper, Aaldrik Tiktak, Christopher Topping, Anneli Widenfalk, Martin Wilks, Gerrit Wolterink

- **Hearing Experts:** Not applicable

- **European Commission and/or Member States representatives:** Not applicable

- **EFSA:**

PREV UNIT: Sofia Batista Leite, Marco Binaglia, Anna Federica Castoldi, Arianna Chiusolo, Federica Crivellente, Dimitra Kardassi, Frederique Istace, Anna Lanzoni, Renata Leuschner, Jochem Louisse, Iris Mangas, Tunde Molnar, Martina Panzarea, Juan Parra Morte, Andrea Terron, Manuela Tiramani, Giorgia Vianello

PLANTS Unit: Maria Arena, Mark Egsmose, Gabriella Fait, Laia Herrero Nogareda, Kyriaki Koukoutsis, Roberto Lava, Christopher Lythgo, Vincenzo Padricello

MESE Unit: Laura Martino

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies received from Andreas Focks.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

4.1. Opinion on the use and reporting historical control data (HCD) for regulatory studies ([EFSA-Q-2021-00274](#))

The Panel was updated on the changes made to the Opinion based on the feedback provided by the Panel reviewers in December. Also, the Panel was informed that two additional templates for

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



presenting HCD for endpoints in reproductive toxicity and developmental toxicity studies were developed. The Panel endorsed the draft Opinion that will be published early in March for public consultation. The Panel was informed that an info-session is under preparation with the aim to elucidate the content of the draft Opinion (in particular the proposed approach) and it will be published at launching of the public consultation.

4.2. Draft opinion concerning the basic substances chitosan and chitosan hydrochloride ([EFSA-Q-2024-00037](#))

The Panel was updated on the mandate received from the European Commission. Legislative framework for the request and terms of reference were presented as well as the planning of activities. Following an analysis done in consultation with the chair of the Panel, it was agreed that the mandate will be carried out by a new WG. The chair will be Roberto Lava from the chemistry and environmental exposure team of the PLANTS Unit.

5. EFSA technical report on Development of a DNT AOP using voltage gate sodium channel inhibition as a molecular initiating event ([EFSA-Q-2021-00443](#))

The Panel was updated on the recent progresses made by the WG. The Report will be finalised and presented during the plenary meeting in April for possible endorsement by the PPR Panel.

6. EFSA programme for testing and assessing pesticides neurotoxicity

The Panel was updated on the Environmental Neurotoxicants and Brain Health projects.

7. On-going activities of the Scientific Committee

The Panel was informed on the on-going activities of the Scientific Committee. The following activities were presented:

- Draft Opinion on Fluoride
- Draft Guidance on Epidemiological studies
- Draft Guidance on Risk-Benefit Assessment
- Biomarkers of effect
- Outcome of the grant on Microbiome
- Overview of the architecture of EFSA's guidance portfolio.

8. AOB

None.

9. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 17-18 Apr 2024 (via web-conference).