

BIOHAZ UNIT

Scientific Panel on BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS
Minutes of the 76th plenary meeting of the Scientific Panel on BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS
Held on 24-25 October 2012, Parma

(Agreed on 21 / 11 / 2012¹)

Participants

- **Panel Members:**

Andreoletti Olivier, Baggesen Dorte Lau, Bolton Declan, Butaye Patrick, Cook Paul, Davies Robert, Fernandez-Escamez Pablo S., Griffin John, Hald Tine, Havelaar Arie Hendrik, Koutsoumanis Konstantinos, Lindqvist Roland, McLaughlin James, Nesbakken Truls, Prieto Miguel, Ricci Antonia, Ru Giuseppe, Sanaa Moez, Simmons Marion, Sofos John, and Threlfall John (apologies)

- **European Commission (EC):**

Osaer Sabine (apologies).

- **EFSA:**

Hugas Marta, Liebana Ernesto, Renata Leuschner, Romero Barrios Pablo, Winy Messens, Vivas Alegre Luis, Barizzone Fulvio, Stella Pietro, Da Silva Felicio Maria Teresa, Broglia Alessandro, Hempen Michaela (Scientific staff).

This Meeting of the BIOHAZ Panel was open to observers, with all agenda items open to observers. No applications were received to attend the Plenary session as an observer.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Dr John Threlfall.

2. Declarations of interest

¹ The publication of the minutes shall be made without delay in compliance with the Founding Regulation and no later than 15 working days following the day of their agreement.

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes regarding Declarations of Interests (DoIs)³ and the Decision of the Executive Director implementing this Policy⁴, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest (ADoI) and the Specific Declaration of interest (SDoI) filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the ADoI and SDoI, please refer to Annex I. No further conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified in the Oral Declaration of interest (ODOI) at the beginning of this meeting.

3. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

4. New Mandates

None

4.2 Discussion on possible self tasking mandates

The BIOHAZ Panel progressed with discussions in several areas of interest for possible self-task activities in the mandate of the current Panel. The Panel is considering self-task activities in the areas of risk ranking tools, molecular typing for attribution models and outbreak investigation, QPS assessment of microbial species likely to be notified to EFSA, and lessons learnt from assessment of alternative methods for treatment of animal-by-products.

For the benefit of the new Panel members, a presentation was given on the outcome of a recent self tasking BIOHAZ Opinion on lessons learnt from Quantitative Microbiological Risk Assessment.

5. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion

5.1 Risks posed by pathogens in food of non animal origin ([EFSA-Q-2012-00237](#))

The sixth web conference of the WG took place on 12 October 2012. The next WG web conference will take place on the 27 November. The draft opinion (including draft conclusions and recommendations) was presented by the Chair of the WG and thoroughly discussed with the Panel. Suggestions received from the Panel will be integrated into the draft opinion so that it can be tabled for adoption at the next plenary meeting. The deadline for adoption of the terms of reference 1 and 2 is December 2012.

5.2 2012 update of the QPS recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA () ([EFSA-Q-2012-00218](#))

The “ad hoc” WG had a physical WG meeting on 20 September. A web-conference WG meeting is scheduled for 26 October. The deadline for adoption is December 2012.

The draft opinion (excluding draft conclusions and recommendations) was presented by the Chair of the WG and thoroughly discussed with the Panel.

5.3 Public health hazards to be covered by inspection of BOVINE meat ([EFSA-Q-2011-00364](#))

The BIOHAZ “ad hoc” WG on meat inspection of bovines will meet on 3th and 4th of December. The deadline for this Opinion is June 2013.

5.4 Public health hazards to be covered by inspection of SHEEP AND GOAT meat ([EFSA-Q-2011-00365](#))

The BIOHAZ “ad hoc” WG on meat inspection of small ruminants met in Parma on October 23rd. The next meeting will take place via webconference on December 3rd. The deadline for this opinion is June 2013.

5.5 Public health hazards to be covered by inspection of FARMED GAME meat ([EFSA-Q-2011-00366](#))

The BIOHAZ “ad hoc” WG on meat inspection of farmed game met for the 6th time on the 18th September 2012. The next WG meeting is scheduled on the 19/20 November 2012. The deadline for this opinion is June 2013.

5.6 Public health hazards to be covered by inspection of SOLIPEDS meat ([EFSA-Q-2011-00367](#))

The BIOHAZ “ad hoc” WG on meat inspection of solipeds had its sixth meeting on 17-18th October 2012. The next WG meeting is scheduled on the 12th December 2012. The deadline for this opinion is June 2013.

In the context of the meat inspection opinions, the list of proposed changes and adaptations to current meat inspection for all four working groups species were agreed at Panel level and will be communicated to the AHAW WG.

5.7 Quantitative evaluation of BSE risk in bovine intestines and mesentery ([EFSA-Q-2012-00247](#))

The third WG meeting was held in Parma on 5-6th September. The kick-off meeting with the contractor selected to develop the model on TSE infectivity in animal tissue that will support this opinion was held during the second day of the meeting. A first draft report has been received from the contractor. The fourth WG meeting is planned for Tuesday 9th November in Parma.

5.8 VTEC-seropathotype concept and scientific criteria regarding pathogenicity assessment ([EFSA-Q-2012-00576](#))

The second meeting of the BIOHAZ WG on VTEC-seropathotype was held on 16 October by webmeeting. The proposed revisions of the ToRs were discussed with the requestor (the Austrian Food Safety Authority) and approved. The third WG meeting is scheduled for 4 December in Parma. The fourth meeting is scheduled for 14 January 2013 by webmeeting.

5.9 Risk of transmission of TSE's via in vivo derived embryo transfer in ovine animals ([EFSA-Q-2012-00647](#))

The BIOHAZ "ad hoc" WG held the first meeting on October 9th. The terms of reference were amended slightly in agreement with EC representative in attendance. The next meeting will take place via webconference on November 19th. The deadline for adoption is March 2013.

5.10 Scrapie situation in the EU after 10 years of monitoring and control in sheep and goats ([EFSA-2012-00646](#))

An ad hoc WG is being established, and is expected to have its first meeting on 13th November 2012. The deadline for adoption is 1st July 2014.

5.11 Public health risks related to mechanically separated meat (MSM) derived from poultry and swine ([EFSA-Q-2012-00752](#))

The *ad hoc* WG had its first meeting in Parma on 23 October. The deadline for adoption is 31st March 2013. The outline of the document was presented. Possible support by CONTAM will be explored for the consideration of chemical hazards. Future meetings foreseen on 27 November (webconference) and on 10 January.

6. Feedback from the Scientific Committee/the Scientific Panel, Working Groups, EFSA, the European Commission

6.1 Scientific Committee and other Scientific Panels

The last SC Plenary meeting took place on the 18th September in Parma. The agenda and minutes of that meeting will be available on the EFSA website (<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/120918-a.htm>).

6.2 Other WGs

6.2.1 Revision of the annual monitoring programme for BSE from Norway (Art 31 Reg 178/2002) ([EFSA-Q-2012-00577](#))

The third WG meeting is foreseen for Wednesday 14th November in Parma. The requested information has been received from the requestor and the Cattle TSE Monitoring Model (C-TSEMM) will be used to help answering the second ToR of the mandate received.

6.2.2 Scientific and technical assistance on the provisional results of the study on genetic resistance to scrapie in goats in Cyprus (Art 31 Reg 178/2002) ([EFSA-2012-00669](#))

The BIOHAZ "ad hoc" WG on genetic resistance to scrapie in goats in Cyprus met on 10-12th September 2012. Draft conclusions were preliminarily communicated to the European

Commission at the end of September 2012. The deadline for publishing the scientific report is 30 November 2012. The document was endorsed by the BIOHAZ Panel.

6.3 European Commission

Nothing to report.

7. Emerging issues

Nothing to report.

8. BIOHAZ Networks

The meeting of the EFSA Scientific Network on Microbiological Risk Assessment was held on the 9th and 10th of October 2012. The next MRA Network meeting will be in spring 2013.

The meeting of the EFSA Scientific Network on BSE-TSE was held on the 10th and 11th of October 2012. The next BSE-TSE Network meeting will be held in late 2013.

9. Any Other Business

None.

Annex I

INTERESTS AND ACTIONS RESULTING FROM THE SCREENING OF ADOI OR SDOI

- a) **CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** In the SDol filled for the present meeting **DR. MARION SIMMONS** declared interests for the following agenda items: Quantitative evaluation of BSE risk in bovine intestines and mesentery, Request for a scientific opinion on the risk of transmission of TSE's via in vivo derived embryo transfer in ovine animals, and Request for scientific and technical assistance on the provisional results of the study on genetic resistance to scrapie in goats in Cyprus. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes regarding Declarations of Interests (Dols) and the Decision of the Executive Director implementing this Policy, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, the interest above was deemed to represent a conflict of Interest. This results in the impossibility for the expert to be present when that item is discussed, voted on or in anyway processed by that concerned scientific group.
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