



**MINUTES OF THE 9TH PLENARY MEETING
OF THE SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON PLANT HEALTH, PLANT
PROTECTION PRODUCTS AND THEIR RESIDUES**

HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 14 DECEMBER 2004

(Adopted by written procedure on 18 January 2005)

AGENDA

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| 1. | Welcome, apologies for absence | p.2 |
| 2. | Adoption of the agenda | p.2 |
| 3. | Adoption of the opinion on methamidophos in ecotoxicology | p.2 |
| 4. | Adoption of the opinion on FOCUS surface water | p.2 |
| 5. | Discussion of the draft opinion on dimoxystrobin | p.2 |
| 6. | Presentation of the draft opinion on variability of residues | p.2 |
| 7. | Agreement on the terms of reference of the new question, p. 3
prioritisation for 2005 | |
| 8. | Feedback from the Scientific Committee, WG exposure | p.3 |
| 9. | Presentation of the Plant Health legislation and question | p.4 |
| 10. | Miscellaneous | p.4 |

PARTICIPANTS

Members of the PPR Panel

Mr. D. BARCELLO-CULLERES, Mr. R. BLACK, Mr. J. BOESTEN, Mr. A. BOOBIS, Mr. A. HARDY (Chair), Mr. A. HART, Mr. H. KOEPP, Mr. R. LUTTIK, Mr. M. MARONI, Mrs. K. MACHERA, Mr. O. MEYER, Mr. A. MORETTO, Mrs E. PAPADOPOULOU-MOURKIDOU, Mr. E. PETZINGER, Mr. A. SCHAEFFER, Mr. J. STENSTRÖM, Mr. W. STEURBAUT, Mr. K. SAVOLAINEN, Ms. D. TSIPI-STEFANITSI and C. VLEMINCKX.

Apologies

Mr. D. McGREGOR.

EFSA

Mrs. M. DUNIER-THOMANN, Mr H. KOETER (14h-14h30), C. LAURENT, Ms. M. MESNAOUI and M. PAQUES.

European Commission

Mr. M. WALSH (Interface Unit, DG SANCO D) and M. VEREECKE (DG SANCO E1) (14h-14h30).

1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chair welcomed the participants; apologies had been received from one member.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted without changes. A declaration of interest was made by one participant concerning a new contract in his Institute, in which he is not directly involved.

3. ADOPTION OF THE OPINION ON METHAMIDOPHOS IN ECOTOXICOLOGY

The rapporteur presented the draft opinion on exposure and avoidance in mammals and birds, which was finalised on 13th December during the Ecotoxicology WG. The Panel members made some new amendments and adopted the opinion with unanimity.

The final draft opinion will be circulated after the plenary meeting for a last editorial check before publication by mid-January. The written comments of the Panel members should be sent to the rapporteur by 3rd January (copy to the secretariat).

4. ADOPTION OF THE OPINION ON FOCUS SURFACE WATER

The rapporteur presented the last amendments made at the Ecotoxicology WG meeting on 13th December, particularly some additional calculations from an *ad hoc* expert involved in the preparation of this opinion at early stage.

The opinion was adopted with unanimity. The final text will be circulated after the plenary meeting for a last editorial check before publication around mid-January. Written comments should be sent to the rapporteur by 3rd January (copy to the secretariat).

5. DISCUSSION OF THE DRAFT OPINION ON DIMOXYSTROBIN

The rapporteur of this draft opinion (question in ecotoxicology raised by the EFSA PRAPeR sector on the long term toxicity of dimoxystrobin to fish) presented the text which was updated at the Ecotoxicology WG meeting on 13th December (with the help of two *ad hoc* experts). A new updated text will be circulated before the next Ecotoxicology WG on 18th January and the adoption is foreseen at the plenary meeting on 16 February 2005 in Padova (Italy).

6. PRESENTATION OF THE DRAFT OPINION ON VARIABILITY OF RESIDUES

The rapporteur presented the first draft opinion, prepared according to the last discussion at the Residues WG on 19th November with four *ad hoc* experts (including 2 statisticians), based in particular on the paper from D. Hamilton (2004). The discussion on the sources of variability will continue at the next Residues WG on 11 and 12 (a.m.) January 2005 in

Athens (Greece) and the draft will be finalised on 15th February in the Padova Residues WG.

Written comments from the Panel members who are not part of the Residues WG are requested by end of January, after an updated draft will be circulated to them.

The adoption of the opinion is foreseen on 16 February 2005, due to the time constraint requested by the Commission to be able to use the Panel opinion in the Codex alimentarius meeting in April 2005.

7. AGREEMENT ON THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE NEW QUESTION, PRIORITISATION FOR 2005

A new question in ecotoxicology was recently submitted by the EFSA PRAPeR sector on the assessment of the acute risk to birds from the use of pirimicarb (an active substance from the second list). The terms of references will be refined at the next Ecotoxicology WG on 18 January 2005 before its official acceptance by the PPR Panel, the volunteer rapporteurs will be confirmed at that meeting.

Another question from the EFSA PRAPeR sector on aquatic ecotoxicology is also expected at the next plenary meeting.

A revised table with the new expected questions in 2005, their origin and expected timing of arrival was distributed and discussed. The FOCUS landscape guidance document should be finalized by the FOCUS WG of the Commission in early 2005 and the FOCUS degradation kinetics guidance document in spring 2005. The PPR Panel should be asked by the Commission to give an opinion on both of them.

Future dates of the meetings of the PPR Panel and WGs in the second half of 2005 were agreed, in principle they will be held in Parma as a direct flight from Brussels is expected from the end of January and another direct flight from London later; the PPR Panel plenary meetings should be in principle on: 6th July, 15th September¹, 9th November and 14th December.

For each plenary meeting, the day before and the day following are reserved for WG meetings, to be determined by the questions at the time.

8. FEEDBACK FROM THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE, WG EXPOSURE

The Chairman informed the PPR Panel that the Scientific Committee (SC) will meet on 15 and 16th December. The comments of EFSA's experts on the report of the 2003 EU funded workshop "Improving the interface between RA-RM" was circulated to the PPR Panel members for information; they will be discussed at the next Scientific Committee this week.

An EFSA call will be launched for the production of a data base on food consumption.

¹ Possibly in Krakow (Poland) after the EUROTOX meeting if the meetings could be hosted without cost for EFSA by the Polish authorities.

A. Hart informed the PPR Panel on the finalization of the opinion of the Exposure WG. Feed-back from the SC will be soon requested and the adoption of the opinion should be possible in February. The final draft will be circulated to the EFSA Panels for comment.

9. PRESENTATION OF THE PLANT HEALTH LEGISLATION AND QUESTION

M. Vereecke from DG SANCO E1, gave a presentation on the legislation and needs of the EU Commission Plant Health sector, dealing with protective measures (quarantine) to prevent the introduction into the Community of organisms harmful to plant or plant products and their spread within the Community under Council Directive 2000/29/EEC² recently amended. The Directive regulates the technical phytosanitary provisions to be met and the control checks to be carried out at the place of origin on plant or plant products destined for the EU or moved within the EU.

A first Plant Health question is expected to be addressed soon to the PPR Panel, it concerns a weed to be classified as a quarantine organism.

Mr. H. Koeter, EFSA Head of Science and Deputy Director, replied that the work to be carried out by EFSA in the Plant Health sector will remain limited as it is not a core activity in the food safety area. EFSA is still building up as an organisation (currently about 140 staff members) and is not yet at its final size. Thus commitments will be prioritised as explained in an official letter from the EFSA Executive Director to the DG SANCO Director General in June 2004. The recruitment of new EFSA staff and of new expert members in this field will be necessary in 2005, before any question could be accepted. This is therefore unlikely before the end of 2005.

10. MISCELLANEOUS

The secretariat of the PPR Panel will be pleased to welcome a new staff member (an ecotoxicologist) mid-January 2005, she will attend the Ecotoxicology WG for the first time on 18th January.

The next plenary meeting will be held on **16 February 2005** (starting at 9h) in Padova (Italy) at “Università degli Studi di Padova” on the kind invitation of Angelo Moretto. Shuttles from/to Marco Polo Venice airport will be provided by EFSA to experts attending the meeting (about 30 mn travel).

The Chair reminded Panel members of the essential need for a quorum at that meeting in order to adopt the two opinions foreseen.

² OJ L 169, 10/07/2000, p 1.