

Scientific Panel on Biological Hazards

Minutes of the 17th meeting of the Working Group on *Listeria monocytogenes* contamination of ready-to-eat (RTE) foods and the risk for human health in the EU

Held by WEB-conference, 14 November 2017

(Agreed on 21 November 2017)

Participants

- **Working Group Members:**

Konstantinos Koutsoumanis, Roland Lindqvist, Moez Sanaa, Panagiotis N. Skandamis, Niko Speybroeck, Johanna Takkinen, Martin Wagner

- **EFSA:**

BIOCONTAM Unit: Winy Messens, Maria Teresa Da Silva Felicio, Pietro Stella

AMU Unit: Marios Georgiadis

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Pamina-Mika Suzuki (DG SANTE).

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 Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on

¹ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

Declarations of Interest², EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of Interest and the Specific Declaration of Interest filled in by the working group members invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 16th Working Group meeting held on 23 October 2017 by webconference

The minutes of the 16th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 27 October 2017.³

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

5.1. ***Listeria monocytogenes* contamination of ready-to-eat (RTE) foods and the risk for human health in the EU treatment of ready-to-eat foods⁴**. A selection of replies to the comments raised during the public consultation was further discussed with the WG members, i.e. how the comments will be addressed and the revisions needed in the opinion. The potential divergence between the Anses and the EFSA opinion was discussed. The conclusions and recommendations were discussed in detail. Further tasks were allocated to WG members and EFSA staff.

6. Any Other Business

Not Applicable.

7. Next meeting(s)

No further meetings have been scheduled.

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

³ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/wgs/biological-hazards/listeriartefoods.pdf>

⁴ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2015-00597>

Scientific Panel on Biological Hazards

Minutes of the 16th meeting of the Working Group on *Listeria monocytogenes* contamination of ready-to-eat (RTE) foods and the risk for human health in the EU

Held by WEB-conference, 23 October 2017

(Agreed on 27 October 2017)

Participants

- **Working Group Members:**

Konstantinos Koutsoumanis, Roland Lindqvist, Moez Sanaa, Panagiotis N. Skandamis, Niko Speybroeck, Johanna Takkinen, Martin Wagner

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

Pamina-Mika Suzuki (DG SANTE)

- **EFSA:**

BIOCONTAM Unit: Winy Messens, Maria Teresa Da Silva Felicio, Francesca Latronico

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 Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest², EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of Interest and the Specific Declaration of Interest filled in by the working group members invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 15th Working Group meeting held on 19 June 2017 by webconference

The minutes of the 15th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 23 June 2017.³

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

- 5.1. ***Listeria monocytogenes* contamination of ready-to-eat (RTE) foods and the risk for human health in the EU treatment of ready-to-eat foods⁴**. The stakeholder meeting on the draft scientific opinion took place on 19-20 September 2017. EFSA has received 219 comments from 18 interested parties following the public consultation of the draft opinion. At the last BIOHAZ plenary meeting (18-19 October 2017), the WG Chair presented a general summary of the comments raised and a discussion took place. The technical report on the outcome of the public consultation was discussed: how the comments will be addressed and the revisions needed in the opinion, also the shortening of the conclusions. Further tasks were allocated to WG members and EFSA staff.

6. Any Other Business

Not Applicable.

7. Next meeting(s)

The next WG meeting will be held on 14 November 2017 (13:30-17:30) by webmeeting.

¹ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

³ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/wqs/biological-hazards/listeriartefoods.pdf>

⁴ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2015-00597>

Scientific Panel on Biological Hazards

Minutes of the 15th meeting of the Working Group on *Listeria monocytogenes* contamination of ready-to-eat (RTE) foods and the risk for human health in the EU

Held by WEB-conference, 19 June 2017

(Agreed on 23 June 2017)

Participants

- **Working Group Members:**

Konstantinos Koutsoumanis, Roland Lindqvist, Moez Sanaa, Panagiotis N. Skandamis, Niko Speybroeck, Johanna Takkinen, Martin Wagner

- **EFSA:**

BIOCONTAM Unit: Winy Messens, Maria Teresa Da Silva Felicio

AMU Unit: Marios Georgiadis

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Pamina-Mika Suzuki (DG SANTE).

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 Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest², EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of Interest and the Specific Declaration of Interest filled in by the working

¹ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

group members invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 14th Working Group meeting held on 10-11 May 2017, Parma

The minutes of the 14th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 18 May 2017.⁴

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

- 5.1. ***Listeria monocytogenes* contamination of ready-to-eat (RTE) foods and the risk for human health in the EU treatment of ready-to-eat foods³**. A short feedback of the thorough reading at the 113th BIOHAZ plenary meeting and outsourcing activity 2 was provided. The comments received were discussed and the conclusions reviewed. Further tasks were allocated to WG members and EFSA staff.

6. Any Other Business

Not Applicable.

7. Next meeting(s)

This is the last WG meeting before the envisaged endorsement of the scientific opinion.

³ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2015-00597>

Scientific Panel on Biological Hazards

Minutes of the 14th meeting of the Working Group on *Listeria monocytogenes* contamination of ready-to-eat (RTE) foods and the risk for human health in the EU

Held on 10-11 May 2017, Parma (Italy)

(Agreed on 18 May 2017)

Participants

- **Working Group Members:**

Konstantinos Koutsoumanis, Roland Lindqvist, Moez Sanaa, Panagiotis N. Skandamis, Niko Speybroeck, Johanna Takkinen, Martin Wagner

- **EFSA:**

BIOCONTAM Unit: Winy Messens

AMU Unit: Marios Georgiadis

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Pamina-Mika Suzuki (DG SANTE).

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 Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest², EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of Interest and the Specific Declaration of Interest filled in by the working

¹ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

group members invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 13th Working Group meeting held on 5 April 2017 by web conference

The minutes of the 13th Working Group meeting held on 5 April 2017 were agreed.⁴

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

5.1. ***Listeria monocytogenes* contamination of ready-to-eat (RTE) foods and the risk for human health in the EU treatment of ready-to-eat foods³**. A short feedback of the 112th BIOHAZ plenary meeting and outsourcing activity 2 was provided. The draft Scientific Opinion and conclusions related to answering to the Terms of Reference 1 (ToR 1) were reviewed. With regards to ToR 2, the application of the generic risk assessment model to address the assessment questions (AQs) was agreed. The indicators were discussed. Tasks were allocated to WG members and EFSA staff.

6. Any Other Business

Not Applicable.

7. Next meeting(s)

The next WG meeting will be held on 19 June 2017 (15:00-19:00) by webmeeting.

³ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2015-00597>

Scientific Panel on Biological Hazards

Minutes of the 13th meeting of the Working Group on *Listeria monocytogenes* contamination of ready-to-eat (RTE) foods and the risk for human health in the EU

Held on by WEB-conference, 5 April 2017

(Agreed on 5 April 2017)

Participants

- **Working Group Members:**

Konstantinos Koutsoumanis, Roland Lindqvist, Moez Sanaa, Panagiotis N. Skandamis, Niko Speybroeck, Johanna Takkinen, Martin Wagner

- **EFSA:**

BIOCONTAM Unit: Winy Messens

AMU Unit: Marios Georgiadis

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Pamina-Mika Suzuki (DG SANTE).

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 Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest², EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of Interest and the Specific Declaration of Interest filled in by the working

¹ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencypolicy.pdf>

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

group members invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 12th Working Group meeting held on 7-8 March 2017, Vienna (Austria)

The minutes of the 12th Working Group meeting held on 7-8 March 2017 were agreed.⁴

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

5.1. ***Listeria monocytogenes* contamination of ready-to-eat (RTE) foods and the risk for human health in the EU treatment of ready-to-eat foods³**. A short feedback of the 112th BIOHAZ plenary meeting and outsourcing activity 2 was provided. The outcome of the Time Series Analysis (TSA) based on the confirmed human listeriosis cases was presented. The draft Scientific Opinion and conclusions related to answering to the Terms of Reference 1 (ToR 1) were reviewed in detail. With regards to ToR 2, the progress of the generic risk assessment model was discussed. The indicators to evaluate the assessment questions (AQs) were discussed. Tasks were allocated to WG members and EFSA staff.

6. Any Other Business

Not Applicable.

7. Next meeting(s)

The next WG meeting will be held on 10 (9:00-18:30)-11 (8:30-16:30) May 2017 in Parma.

³ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2015-00597>

Scientific Panel on Biological Hazards

Minutes of the 12th meeting of the Working Group on *Listeria monocytogenes* contamination of ready-to-eat (RTE) foods and the risk for human health in the EU

Held on 7-8 March 2017, Vienna (Austria)

(Agreed on 17 March 2017)

Participants

- **Working Group Members:**

Konstantinos Koutsoumanis, Roland Lindqvist, Moez Sanaa, Panagiotis N. Skandamis, Niko Speybroeck, Johanna Takkinen, Martin Wagner

- **EFSA:**

BIOCONTAM Unit: Winy Messens

AMU Unit: Marios Georgiadis

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Pamina-Mika Suzuki (DG SANTE). Sophie Roussel (hearing expert), representative from EURL *Listeria monocytogenes*, has left the Working Group.

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 Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on

¹ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

Declarations of Interest², EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of Interest and the Specific Declaration of Interest filled in by the working group members invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 11th Working Group meeting held on 16-17 January 2017, Parma

The minutes of the 11th Working Group meeting held on 16-17 January 2017 were agreed.⁴

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

5.1. ***Listeria monocytogenes* contamination of ready-to-eat (RTE) foods and the risk for human health in the EU treatment of ready-to-eat foods³**. A short feedback of the 111th BIOHAZ plenary meeting and outsourcing activities 2 and 3 was provided. The update needed in the Time Series Analysis (TSA) was agreed. The draft Scientific Opinion and conclusions related to answering to the Terms of Reference 1 (ToR 1) were reviewed in detail. With regards to ToR 2, the methodology and data needs for the generic risk assessment model were discussed. The methodology to deal with the assessment questions (AQs) was discussed. The date for the stakeholder event has been fixed on 19-20 September 2017. This event would be combined with a public consultation of the endorsed scientific opinion. The deadline for adoption of the Scientific Opinion has been extended to end of December 2017; the deadline for endorsement is end of July 2017. Tasks were allocated to WG members and EFSA staff.

6. Any Other Business

Not Applicable.

7. Next meeting(s)

The next WG meeting will be held by web meeting on 5 April 2017 (13:00-17:00). Another WG meeting will be held on 10-11 May 2017 in Parma.

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

³ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2015-00597>

Scientific Panel on Biological Hazards

Minutes of the 11th meeting of the Working Group on *Listeria monocytogenes* contamination of ready-to-eat (RTE) foods and the risk for human health in the EU

Held on 16-17 January 2017, Parma (Italy)

(Agreed on 17 January 2017)

Participants

- **Working Group Members:**

Konstantinos Koutsoumanis, Roland Lindqvist, Moez Sanaa, Panagiotis N. Skandamis, Niko Speybroeck, Johanna Takkinen, Martin Wagner

- **EFSA:**

BIOCONTAM Unit: Winy Messens

AMU Unit: Marios Georgiadis

DATA Unit: Davide Arcella

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Sophie Roussel (hearing expert) and Pamina-Mika Suzuki (DG SANTE).

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 Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest², EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of

¹ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

Interest and the Specific Declaration of Interest filled in by the working group members invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 10th Working Group meeting held on 19 December 2016, WEB-conference

The minutes of the 10th Working Group meeting held on 19 December 2016 were agreed.⁴

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

- 5.1. ***Listeria monocytogenes* contamination of ready-to-eat (RTE) foods and the risk for human health in the EU treatment of ready-to-eat foods³**. A short update was provided of the outsourcing activities 2 and 3. There will be a training on the model developed on 26 January 2017. The outcome of the aggregated and disaggregated (by age group and sex) Time Series Analysis (TSA) (2008-2015 period) was discussed. The draft Scientific Opinion was reviewed with emphasis on data, methodologies and contributions received. A discussion was held on the possibilities for a stakeholder event combined with a public consultation within the timeframes. Tasks were allocated to WG members and EFSA staff.

6. Any Other Business

Not Applicable.

7. Next meeting(s)

The next WG meeting will be held on 7 (9:00-17:00)-8 March 2017 (9:00-16:00) in Vienna. A web meeting will be organized end of March/beginning of Apr 2017 (date to be agreed). Another WG meeting will be held on 10-11 May 2017 in Parma.

³ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2015-00597>

Scientific Panel on Biological Hazards

Minutes of the 10th meeting of the Working Group on *Listeria monocytogenes* contamination of ready-to-eat (RTE) foods and the risk for human health in the EU

Held by WEB-conference, 19 December 2016

(Agreed on 19 December 2016)

Participants

- **Working Group Members:**

Konstantinos Koutsoumanis, Roland Lindqvist, Moez Sanaa, Panagiotis N. Skandamis, Niko Speybroeck, Johanna Takkinen, Martin Wagner

- **EFSA:**

BIOCONTAM Unit: Winy Messens

AMU Unit: Marios Georgiadis

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Sophie Roussel (hearing expert) and Pamina-Mika Suzuki (DG SANTE).

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 Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest², EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of Interest and the Specific Declaration of Interest filled in by the working

¹ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

group members invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 9th Working Group meeting held on 27 October 2016, WEB-conference

The minutes of the 9th Working Group meeting held on 19 December 2016 were agreed.⁴

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

5.1. ***Listeria monocytogenes* contamination of ready-to-eat (RTE) foods and the risk for human health in the EU treatment of ready-to-eat foods**³. Feedback was provided from the BIOHAZ plenary meeting (30 November-1 December 2016) and sub-WG meeting (19 December 2016). A short update was provided of the three outsourcing activities, of which the activity 1 has now been published⁴. The outcome of the aggregated Time Series Analysis (TSA) (2008-2015 time period) was discussed. The draft Scientific Opinion was reviewed with emphasis on data and contributions received. Tasks were allocated to WG members and EFSA staff.

6. Any Other Business

Not Applicable.

7. Next meeting(s)

The next WG meeting will be held on 16 (13:00-18:00) and 17 January 2017 (9:00-17:00) in Parma. For 2017, following next physical meetings were agreed: 7 (9:00 or 10:00-17:00)-8 March 2017 (9:00-16:00) in Vienna and 10-11 May 2017 (location to be decided).

³ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2015-00597>

⁴ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/supporting/pub/1141e>

Scientific Panel on Biological Hazards

Minutes of the 9th meeting of the Working Group on *Listeria monocytogenes* contamination of ready-to-eat (RTE) foods and the risk for human health in the EU

Held by WEB-conference, 19 December 2016

(Agreed on 19 December 2016)

Participants

- **Working Group Members:**

Konstantinos Koutsoumanis, Roland Lindqvist, Moez Sanaa, Panagiotis N. Skandamis, Niko Speybroeck

- **Hearing Experts¹:**

Sara Bover-Cid, Elena Carrasco Jiménez, Anna Jofré, Fernando Pérez-Rodríguez, Antonio Valero Diaz (for the item related to the *Listeria* outsourcing activity 2)

- **EFSA:**

BIOCONTAM Unit: Winy Messens

AMU Unit: Marios Georgiadis

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants to this sub-WG meeting organized with a selected number of WG members. Apologies were received from Pamina-Mika Suzuki (DG SANTE).

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director on the selection of external experts: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest³, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of Interest and the Specific Declaration of Interest filled in by the working group members invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 8th Working Group meeting held on 28-29 November 2016, Parma

The minutes of the 8th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 9 December 2016.⁴

5. Hearing Expert (s)

The hearing experts and EFSA contractors were invited to present the report and model of EFSA's outsourcing activity under "Closing gaps for performing a risk assessment on *Listeria monocytogenes* in ready-to-eat (RTE) foods": activity 2 (OC/EFSA/BIOCONTAM/2014/02).

6. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

6.1. ***Listeria monocytogenes* contamination of ready-to-eat (RTE) foods and the risk for human health in the EU treatment of ready-to-eat foods⁵**. The contractor presented the second version of the final deliverable, in particular the changes made since the 7th sub WG meeting. A discussion took place and it was agreed how to proceed.

7. Any Other Business

Not Applicable.

8. Next meeting(s)

The next WG meeting will be held on 19 December 2016 by web meeting (13:00-17:00). For 2017, following physical meetings were agreed: 16 (13:00-18:00) and 17 (9:00-17:00) January 2017 in Parma, 7 (9:00-

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencypolicy.pdf>

³ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/listeriartefoods.pdf>

⁵ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2015-00597>

17:00) and 8 (9:00-16:00) March 2017 in Vienna, and 10-11 May 2017 (location to be decided).

Scientific Panel on Biological Hazards

Minutes of the 8th meeting of the Working Group on *Listeria monocytogenes* contamination of ready-to-eat (RTE) foods and the risk for human health in the EU

Held on 28-29 November 2016, Parma (Italy)

Agreed on 9 December 2016

Participants

- **Working Group Members:**

Konstantinos Koutsoumanis, Roland Lindqvist, Moez Sanaa, Panagiotis N. Skandamis, Niko Speybroeck, Johanna Takkinen¹, Martin Wagner

- **Hearing Experts²:**

Andrew Hart (for support to the uncertainty assessment)³

- **EFSA:**

BIOCONTAM Unit: Winy Messens

AMU Unit: Marios Georgiadis

SCER Unit: Caroline Merten

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Sophie Roussel and Pamina-Mika Suzuki.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

¹ Attended by telephone.

² As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director on the selection of external experts:
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.

³ Attended until 29 November noon.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest⁵, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of Interest and the Specific Declaration of Interest filled in by the working group members invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 7th Working Group meeting held on 27 October 2016, WEB-conference

The minutes of the 7th Working Group meeting held on 27 October 2016 were agreed.⁴

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

5.1. ***Listeria monocytogenes* contamination of ready-to-eat (RTE) foods and the risk for human health in the EU treatment of ready-to-eat foods**⁶. Feedback was provided from the BIOHAZ plenary meeting (19-20 Oct 2016) and sub WG meeting (27 Oct 2016). An update was provided of the three outsourcing activities. The outcome of the Time Series Analysis (TSA) (2008-2014 period) by age group and sex was discussed. The analysis would also be done for 2008-2015 period. The data needs for the *Listeria* QMRA Risk assessment model were further discussed. The contributions to the draft Scientific Opinion were discussed. The assessment questions were reformulated and the way forward in the uncertainty assessment was discussed. Tasks were allocated to WG members and EFSA staff.

6. Any Other Business

Not Applicable.

7. Next meeting(s)

⁴ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

⁵ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

⁶ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2015-00597>

The next two WG meetings will be held by web meeting on 19 December 2016: meeting 9 from 9:00-13:00 will be a sub-WG meeting to discuss the *Listeria* outsourcing activity 2 and meeting 10 from 13:00-17:00 will be a full WG meeting. For 2017, following physical meetings were agreed: 16 (13:00-18:00) and 17 Jan 2017 (9:00-17:00) in Parma, 7 (9:00 or 10:00-17:00) and 8 Mar 2017 (9:00-16:00) in Vienna, 10-11 May 2017 (location to be decided).

Scientific Panel on Biological Hazards

Minutes of the 7th meeting of the Working Group on *Listeria monocytogenes* contamination of ready-to-eat (RTE) foods and the risk for human health in the EU

Held by WEB-conference, 27 October 2016

(Agreed on 27 October 2016)

Participants

- **Working Group Members:**

Konstantinos Koutsoumanis, Roland Lindqvist, Moez Sanaa, Panagiotis N. Skandamis, Niko Speybroeck

- **Hearing Experts¹:**

Sara Bover-Cid, Anna Jofre, Fernando Pérez-Rodríguez, Antonio Valero Diaz (for the item related to the *Listeria* outsourcing activity 2)

- **EFSA:**

BIOCONTAM Unit: Winy Messens

AMU Unit: Marios Georgiadis

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants to this sub-WG meeting organized with a selected number of WG members. Apologies were received from Elena Carrasco Jiménez (hearing expert and contractor) and Pamina-Mika Suzuki (DG SANTE).

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director on the selection of external experts: <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 Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest³, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of Interest and the Specific Declaration of Interest filled in by the working group members invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 6th Working Group meeting held on 17-18 October 2016, Parma

The minutes of the 6th Working Group meeting held on 17-18 October 2016 were agreed.⁴

5. Hearing Expert (s)

The hearing experts and EFSA contractors were invited to present the final deliverable and model of EFSA's outsourcing activity under "Closing gaps for performing a risk assessment on *Listeria monocytogenes* in ready-to-eat (RTE) foods": activity 2 (OC/EFSA/BIOCONTAM/2014/02).

6. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

6.1. ***Listeria monocytogenes* contamination of ready-to-eat (RTE) foods and the risk for human health in the EU treatment of ready-to-eat foods⁵**. The contractor presented the final deliverable (report and model), in particular the changes made since the 4th WG meeting. A discussion took place and it was agreed how to proceed.

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencypolicy.pdf>

³ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/listeriartefoods.pdf>

⁵ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2015-00597>

7. Any Other Business

Not Applicable.

8. Next meeting(s)

The next WG meetings will be held on 28 (13:00-18:00) and 29 (9:00-17:00) November 2016 in Parma and 19 December 2016 by web meeting (13:00-17:00). In addition, a sub-WG meeting will be arranged by web meeting on 19 December 2016 (9:00-13:00) to discuss the second version of the final deliverable of the second *Listeria* outsourcing activity. For 2017, following physical meetings were agreed: 16 (13:00-18:00) and 17 (9:00-17:00) Jan 2017 in Parma, 7 (9:00-17:00) and 8 (9:00-16:00) Mar 2017 in Vienna, 10-11 May 2017 (location to be decided).

Scientific Panel on Biological Hazards

Minutes of the 6th meeting of the Working Group on *Listeria monocytogenes* contamination of ready-to-eat (RTE) foods and the risk for human health in the EU

Held on 17-18 October 2016, Parma (Italy)

Agreed on 18 October 2016

Participants

- **Working Group Members:**

Konstantinos Koutsoumanis, Roland Lindqvist, Moez Sanaa, Panagiotis N. Skandamis, Niko Speybroeck (18 October 2016 only), Martin Wagner

- **Hearing Experts¹:**

Sophie Roussel (18 October 2016 only)

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

Pamina-Mika Suzuki (DG SANTE) (17 October 2016 only)

- **EFSA:**

BIOCONTAM Unit: Winy Messens, Maria Teresa Da Silva Felicio

AMU Unit: Marios Georgiadis

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Niko Speybroeck and Sophie Roussel (for 17 October 2016), from Pamina-Mika Suzuki (for 18 October 2016) and from Johanna

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director on the selection of external experts: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.

Takkinen. Andrew Hart will be invited to take part of the next WG mtg for the support to the uncertainty assessment and has sent apologies for this meeting.

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 Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest³, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of Interest and the Specific Declaration of Interest filled in by the working group members invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 5th Working Group meeting held on 21 September 2016, WEB-conference

The minutes of the 5th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 28 September 2016.⁴

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

5.1. ***Listeria monocytogenes* contamination of ready-to-eat (RTE) foods and the risk for human health in the EU treatment of ready-to-eat foods⁴**. The Working Group (WG) members discussed the outcome of the Time Series Analysis (TSA) (2008-2014 data) and the data needs and the *Listeria* QMRA Risk assessment model. The draft Scientific Opinion was discussed and the contributions received. The incorporation of the outcome of the three *Listeria* outsourcing activities into the Opinion was also discussed. The draft hypotheses and assessment questions were reformulated. Tasks were allocated to WG members and EFSA staff.

6. Any Other Business

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

³ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

⁴ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2015-00597>

Not Applicable.

7. Next meeting(s)

The next WG meetings will be held on 28 (13:00-18:00) and 29 (9:00-17:00) November 2016 in Parma and 19 December 2016 by web meeting (13:00-17:00). In addition, a sub-WG meeting will be arranged by web meeting on 27 October 2016 (9:00-13:00) to discuss the final deliverable of the second *Listeria* outsourcing activity. For 2017, following physical meetings were agreed: 16 (13:00-18:00) and 17 (9:00-17:00) Jan 2017 in Parma, 7 (9:00-17:00) and 8 (9:00-16:00) Mar 2017 in Vienna, 10-11 May 2017 (location to be decided).

Scientific Panel on Biological Hazards

Minutes of the 5th meeting of the Working Group on *Listeria monocytogenes* contamination of ready-to-eat (RTE) foods and the risk for human health in the EU

Held by WEB-conference, 21 September 2016

(Agreed on 28 September 2016)

Participants

- **Working Group Members:**

Konstantinos Koutsoumanis, Roland Lindqvist, Moez Sanaa, Panagiotis N. Skandamis, Niko Speybroeck, Johanna Takkinen (for the item related to the listeriosis TSA), Martin Wagner

- **Hearing Experts¹:**

Jonas Björkman, Tim Dallman, Ken Forbes, Kathie Grant, Laurent Guillier, Eva Møller Nielsen, Norval Strachan (for the item related to the *Listeria* outsourcing activity 3)

- **EFSA:**

BIOCONTAM Unit: Winy Messens, Maria Teresa Da Silva Felicio, Ernesto Liebana Criado, Mirena Ivanova, Valentina Rizzi

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Sophie Roussel and Pamina-Mika Suzuki (DG SANTE).

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director on the selection of external experts: <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 Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest³, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of Interest and the Specific Declaration of Interest filled in by the working group members invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 4th Working Group meeting held on 20-22 June 2016, Athens

The minutes of the 4th Working Group (WG) meeting held on 20-22 June 2016 were agreed by written procedure on 26 June 2016.⁴

5. Hearing Expert (s)

The hearing experts and EFSA contractors were invited to present the latest deliverable of EFSA's outsourcing activity under "Closing gaps for performing a risk assessment on *Listeria monocytogenes* in ready-to-eat (RTE) foods": activity 3, the comparison of isolates from different compartments along the food chain, and from humans using whole genome sequencing (WGS) analysis (OC/EFSA/BIOCONTAM/2014/01-CT 1).

6. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

- 6.1. ***Listeria monocytogenes* contamination of ready-to-eat (RTE) foods and the risk for human health in the EU treatment of ready-to-eat foods⁵**. The WG members discussed the outline of the draft Scientific Opinion, the *Listeria* conceptual model and the updates of the listeriosis Time Series Analysis (TSA)

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencypolicy.pdf>

³ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/listeriartefoods.pdf>

⁵ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2015-00597>

and generic risk assessment model. The hypotheses and assessment questions were shortly discussed. The contractors of the *Listeria* outsourcing activity 3 presented the final report and feedback was received from the WG members. A short update was provided on the *Listeria* outsourcing activities 1 and 2. Tasks were allocated to WG members and EFSA staff.

7. Any Other Business

Not Applicable.

8. Next meeting(s)

The next (sixth) WG meeting is scheduled for 17 (13:00-18:00) and 18 October 2016 (9:00-17:00) in Parma. The following dates for WG meetings were agreed: 28 (13:00-18:00) and 29 November 2016 (9:00-17:00) in Parma; and 19 December 2016 by web meeting (13:00-17:00). In addition, a sub-WG meeting will be arranged by web meeting to discuss the final deliverable of the second *Listeria* outsourcing activity around half October 2016 (a doodle poll will be circulated).

Scientific Panel on Biological Hazards

Minutes of the 4th meeting of the Working Group on *Listeria monocytogenes* contamination of ready-to-eat (RTE) foods and the risk for human health in the EU

Held on 20-22 June 2016, Athens (Greece)

(Agreed on 28 June 2016)

Participants

- **Working Group Members:**

Konstantinos Koutsoumanis, Roland Lindqvist, Moez Sanaa, Panagiotis N. Skandamis, Niko Speybroeck, Johanna Takkinen (20 June 2016 only), Martin Wagner

- **Hearing Experts¹:**

Sara Bover-Cid, Fernando Pérez-Rodríguez, Antonio Valero Diaz (for the item related to the *Listeria* outsourcing activity 2)

- **EFSA:**

BIOCONTAM Unit: Winy Messens

AMU Unit: Marios Georgiadis

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Sophie Roussel and from Johanna Takkinen (for 21-22 June 2016).

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director on the selection of external experts: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest³, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of Interest and the Specific Declaration of Interest filled in by the working group members invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 3rd Working Group meeting held on 28 April 2016, WEB-conference

The minutes of the 3rd Working Group meeting held on 28 April 2016 were agreed by written procedure on 4 May 2016.⁴

5. Hearing Experts

The hearing experts and EFSA contractors were invited to present the changes made in the revised deliverable 4 of EFSA's outsourcing activity under "Closing gaps for performing a risk assessment on *Listeria monocytogenes* in ready-to-eat (RTE) foods": activity 2 (OC/EFSA/BIOCONTAM/2014/02).

6. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

6.1. ***Listeria monocytogenes* contamination of ready-to-eat (RTE) foods and the risk for human health in the EU treatment of ready-to-eat foods⁵**. The Working Group (WG) members reviewed the approach to be taken and discussed the data and methodologies to address the mandate. The conceptual *Listeria* food chain model was discussed and changes agreed. An update was provided on Time Series Analysis (TSA) and agreements reached. The *Listeria* QMRA Risk assessment model was presented. The draft Scientific Opinion and the contributions received were discussed. Draft hypotheses were listed. The contractor presented the changes made in the deliverable 4 and feedback was received from the WG. Tasks were allocated to WG members and EFSA staff.

7. Any Other Business

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencypolicy.pdf>

³ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/listeriartefoods.pdf>

⁵ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2015-00597>

Not Applicable.

8. Next meeting(s)

The next (fifth) WG meeting will be held on 21 September 2016 by web meeting (13:00-17:00). The following dates for WG meetings were already agreed: 17 (13:00-18:00) and 18 October 2016 (9:00-17:00) in Parma; 28 (13:00-18:00) and 29 November 2016 (9:00-17:00) in Parma; and 19 December 2016 by web meeting (13:00-17:00).

Scientific Panel on Biological Hazards

Minutes of the 3rd meeting of the Working Group on *Listeria monocytogenes* contamination of ready-to-eat (RTE) foods and the risk for human health in the EU

Held on 28-29 April 2016, Parma (Italy)

(Agreed on 4 May 2016)

Participants

- **Working Group Members:**

Konstantinos Koutsoumanis, Roland Lindqvist, Moez Sanaa, Panagiotis N. Skandamis, Niko Speybroeck, Johanna Takkinen (29 April 2016 only), Martin Wagner

- **Hearing Experts¹:**

Andrew Hart (for support to the uncertainty assessment)

Sara Bover-Cid, Elena Carrasco Jiménez, Anna Jofre, Fernando Pérez-Rodríguez, Antonio Valero Diaz (for the item related to the *Listeria* outsourcing activity 2)

- **EFSA:**

BIOCONTAM Unit: Giusi Amore, Winy Messens

AMU Unit: Marios Georgiadis

DATA Unit : Davide Arcella

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Johanna Takkinen for 28 April 2016.

2. Adoption of agenda

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director on the selection of external experts: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest³, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of Interest and the Specific Declaration of Interest filled in by the working group members invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 2nd Working Group meeting held on 3 March 2016, WEB-conference

The minutes of the 2nd Working Group meeting held on 3 March 2016 were agreed.⁴

5. Hearing Experts

The hearing expert Andrew Hart was invited to the whole meeting to provide support to the uncertainty assessment as this mandate was selected as a case study to trial the revised draft guidance on uncertainty in scientific assessment⁵.

The hearing experts and EFSA contractors were invited to present the latest deliverable 4 of EFSA's outsourcing activity under "Closing gaps for performing a risk assessment on *Listeria monocytogenes* in ready-to-eat (RTE) foods": activity 2 (OC/EFSA/BIOCONTAM/2014/02).

6. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

- 6.1. ***Listeria monocytogenes* contamination of ready-to-eat (RTE) foods and the risk for human health in the EU treatment of ready-to-eat foods⁶**. The Working Group (WG) members reviewed the new proposal for the conceptual *Listeria* food chain model. The EU-wide data on *Listeria* in RTE foods and EFSA's food consumption data were presented. The initial framing of the problem and planning of the strategy to address uncertainty

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencypolicy.pdf>

³ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/listeriartefoods.pdf>

⁵ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/press/news/160321>

⁶ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2015-00597>

was agreed. The contributions to the draft Scientific Opinion were reviewed. Tasks were allocated to WG members and EFSA staff.

7. Any Other Business

Not Applicable.

8. Next meeting(s)

An extension of the fourth WG meeting by one day has been proposed. The meeting has now been scheduled for 20-22 June 2016 (20 June 8:30-17:00, 21 June 8:30-17:00, 22 June 8:30-14:00) in Athens. A new date to replace the WG meeting of 1 September 2016 by web meeting will be searched for. The following dates for WG meetings were agreed: 17 (13:00-18:00) and 18 October 2016 (9:00-17:00) in Parma; 28 (13:00-18:00) and 29 November 2016 (9:00-17:00) in Parma; and 19 December 2016 by web meeting (13:00-17:00).

Scientific Panel on Biological Hazards

Minutes of the 2nd meeting of the Working Group on *Listeria monocytogenes* contamination of ready-to-eat (RTE) foods and the risk for human health in the EU

Held by WEB-conference, 3 March 2016

(Agreed on 3 March 2016)

Participants

- **Working Group Members:**

Konstantinos Koutsoumanis, Roland Lindqvist, Moez Sanaa, Panagiotis N. Skandamis, Niko Speybroeck, Martin Wagner

- **EFSA:**

BIOCONTAM Unit: Winy Messens, Mirena Ivanova

AMU Unit: Marios Georgiadis

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Johanna Takkinen (WG Member) and Pamina-Mika Suzuki (DG SANTE).

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted with changes. An item was added: "Short update on the Time Series Analysis using TESSy data".

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on

¹ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

Declarations of Interest², EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of Interest and the Specific Declaration of Interest filled in by the working group members invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 1st Working Group meeting held on 18 January 2016, Parma

The minutes of the 1st Working Group meeting held on 18 January 2016 were agreed.³

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

5.1. ***Listeria monocytogenes* contamination of ready-to-eat (RTE) foods and the risk for human health in the EU treatment of ready-to-eat foods⁴**. The Working Group (WG) experts discussed the draft conceptual *Listeria* food chain model and the contributions received. The structure of the draft Scientific Opinion was reviewed. Tasks were allocated to WG members.

6. Any Other Business

Not Applicable.

7. Next meeting(s)

The next (third) WG meeting is scheduled for 28 (14:30-18:00) and 29 April (9:00-16:30) 2016 in Parma. The fourth WG meeting has been scheduled for 20-21 June 2016 (9:00-16:30) in Athens.

The following dates for WG meetings were agreed: 1 September 2016 by web meeting (13:00-17:00; tentative); 17 (13:00-18:00) and 18 October 2016 (9:00-17:00) in Parma; 28 (13:00-18:00) and 29 November 2016 (9:00-17:00) in Parma; and 19 December 2016 by web meeting (13:00-17:00).

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

³ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/listeriartefoods.pdf>

⁴ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2015-00597>

Scientific Panel on Biological Hazards

Minutes of the 1st meeting of the Working Group on *Listeria monocytogenes* contamination of ready-to-eat (RTE) foods and the risk for human health in the EU

Held on 19 January 2016, Parma (Italy)

(Agreed on 19 January 2016)

Participants

- **Working Group Members:**

Konstantinos Koutsoumanis, Roland Lindqvist, Moez Sanaa, Panagiotis N. Skandamis, Niko Speybroeck, Johanna Takkinen, Martin Wagner

- **Hearing Experts¹:**

Sara Bover-Cid, Elena Carrasco Jiménez, Anna Jofre, Fernando Pérez-Rodríguez, Antonio Valero Diaz (for the two items related to the *Listeria* outsourcing activities)

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

Pamina-Mika Suzuki (DG SANTE)²

- **EFSA:**

BIOCONTAM Unit: Winy Messens, Mirena Ivanova, Sandra Correia

AMU Unit: Marios Georgiadis

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director on the selection of external experts: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.

² Attended the morning session of the meeting.

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 Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes³ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest⁴, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of Interest and the Specific Declaration of Interest filled in by the working group members invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Hearing Experts

The hearing experts and EFSA contractors were invited to present the latest deliverables of EFSA's outsourcing activities under "Closing gaps for performing a risk assessment on *Listeria monocytogenes* in ready-to-eat (RTE) foods": activity 1 (NP/EFSA/BIOCONTAM/2015/04-CT1) and 2 (OC/EFSA/BIOCONTAM/2014/02).

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

- 5.1. ***Listeria monocytogenes* contamination of ready-to-eat (RTE) foods and the risk for human health in the EU treatment of ready-to-eat foods⁵**. The Working Group (WG) discussed the mandate received and its terms of reference. The approach to answer the terms of reference was discussed. The table of contents of the Scientific Opinion was agreed and tasks were allocated to WG members.

6. Any Other Business

Not Applicable.

7. Next meeting(s)

³ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

⁵ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2015-00597>

The next (second) meeting of the WG is scheduled for 3 March 2016 (13:00-17:00) by web meeting. The third WG meeting is scheduled for 28-29 April 2016 (14:30-16:30) in Parma. The fourth WG meeting has tentatively been scheduled for 20-21 June 2016 (9:00-16:30) in Athens.