

Scientific Panel on Biological Hazards

BIOCONTAM Unit

Minutes of the 5th meeting of the Working Group on the urgent scientific and technical assistance to provide recommendations for sampling and testing in the processing plants of frozen vegetables aiming at detecting *Listeria monocytogenes*

Held by WEB-conference on 26 June 2018 from 13:00 – 17:00,

Parma (Italy)

(Agreed on 3 July 2018)

Participants

- **Working Group Members:**

Ana Allende, Liesbeth Jacxsens

- **European Commission (DG Santé – Unit G4):**

Pamina Mika Suzuki

- **EFSA:**

BIOCONTAM Unit: Maria Teresa Da Silva Felicio (Chair), Winy Messens, Pietro Stella, Eleonora Sarno

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the members of the working group (WG). Apologies were received from Léna Barre.

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 Declarations of Interest and the Specific Declarations of Interest (SDoI) filled in by the WG members invited for the present meeting.

For further details on the outcome of the screening of the ADoI or the SDoI, please refer to the Annex. Oral Declaration of Interest was asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 4th Working Group meeting held on 20 and 21 June 2018 by WEB-conference.

The minutes of the 4th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 25 June 2018.³

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

5.1. Urgent scientific and technical assistance to provide recommendations for sampling and testing in the processing plants of frozen vegetables aiming at detecting *Listeria monocytogenes*⁴

The Working Group discussed in detail all contributions received on the draft technical report since the previous meeting. Tasks were allocated to the Working group experts and EFSA staff.

5. Any Other Business

No other points for discussion were raised. The Chair thanked the participants and closed the meeting.

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/wgs/biological-hazards/urgentlmsamplingandtesting.pdf>

⁴ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2018-00347>

Annex I: Interests and actions resulting from the screening of Annual Declarations of Interest (ADoI) or Specific Declarations of Interest (SDoI)

CONFLICT OF INTEREST WITH WAIVERS: in the ADoI or in the SDoI filled for the present meeting Prof. Liesbeth Jacxsens declared the following interest: "From March 2016 employment with a 50% position at University of Gent, Department of Food Technology, Safety and Health, i.e. research in quality assurance and risk analysis and a 50% position at PRIMORIS holding - Zwijnaarde Ghent, Belgium, which is a spin-off company of Ghent University in technology Park of Ghent University. PRIMORIS is an independent spin-off company of which Ghent University is for 48% shareholder, 48% the association above the Belgian auctions in fruits and vegetables (LAVA), and the rest of the shareholder is CIBORIS, a small non-profit organisation."

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes⁵ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest⁶, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted. Therefore the concerned expert shall be allowed to take part in the discussions and in the drafting phase of the technical report on the "request for urgent scientific and technical assistance to provide recommendations for sampling and testing in the processing plants of frozen vegetables aiming at detecting *Listeria monocytogenes*".

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

⁶ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014>

Scientific Panel on Biological Hazards

BIOCONTAM Unit

Minutes of the 4th meeting of the Working Group on the urgent scientific and technical assistance to provide recommendations for sampling and testing in the processing plants of frozen vegetables aiming at detecting *Listeria monocytogenes*

Held by WEB-conference on 20-21 June 2018,

Parma (Italy)

(Agreed on 25 June 2018)

Participants

- **Working Group Members:**

Ana Allende (from 12:30 to 16:00, June 20), Liesbeth Jacxsens (from 9:00 to 11:00, June 21), Léna Barre (from 13:45 to 17:45, June 20).

- **European Commission (DG Santé – Unit G4):**

Ettore Amato (attended web conference on 21 June)

- **EFSA:**

BIOCONTAM Unit: Maria Teresa Da Silva Felicio (Chair), Winy Messens, Pietro Stella (attended on 20 June until 15.30), Eleonora Sarno

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the members of the working group (WG).

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 Declarations of Interest and the Specific Declarations of Interest (SDoI) filled in by the WG members invited for the present meeting.

For further details on the outcome of the screening of the ADoI or the SDoI, please refer to the Annex. Oral Declaration of Interest was asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 3rd Working Group meeting held on 13 June 2018 by WEB-conference.

The minutes of the 3rd Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 18 June 2018.³

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

5.1. Urgent scientific and technical assistance to provide recommendations for sampling and testing in the processing plants of frozen vegetables aiming at detecting *Listeria monocytogenes*⁴

The Working Group discussed in detail all contributions received on the draft technical report since the previous meeting. Tasks were allocated to the Working group experts and EFSA staff.

6. Next meeting

The next WG meeting will take place as web conference on 26 June from 13:00 – 17:00.

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

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

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

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In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes⁵ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest⁶, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted. Therefore the concerned expert shall be allowed to take part in the discussions and in the drafting phase of the technical report on the "request for urgent scientific and technical assistance to provide recommendations for sampling and testing in the processing plants of frozen vegetables aiming at detecting *Listeria monocytogenes*".

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⁶ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014>

Scientific Panel on Biological Hazards

BIOCONTAM Unit

Minutes of the 3th meeting of the Working Group on the urgent scientific and technical assistance to provide recommendations for sampling and testing in the processing plants of frozen vegetables aiming at detecting *Listeria monocytogenes*

Held by WEB-conference on 13 June 2018,

Parma (Italy)

(Agreed on 18 June 2018)

Participants

- **Working Group Members:**

Ana Allende, Liesbeth Jacxsens, Léna Barre

- **European Commission (DG Santé – Unit G4):**

Pamina Mika Suzuki (attended web conferences until 12pm)

- **EFSA:**

BIOCONTAM Unit: Maria Teresa Da Silva Felicio (Chair), Winy Messens, Giusi Amore, Eleonora Sarno

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the members of the working group (WG).

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 Declarations of Interest and the Specific Declarations of Interest (SDoI) filled in by the WG members invited for the present meeting.

For further details on the outcome of the screening of the ADoI or the SDoI, please refer to the Annex. Oral Declaration of Interest was asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 2nd Working Group meeting held on 30 May 2018 by WEB-conference.

The minutes of the 2nd Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 6 June 2018.³

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

5.1. Urgent scientific and technical assistance to provide recommendations for sampling and testing in the processing plants of frozen vegetables aiming at detecting *Listeria monocytogenes*⁴

The Working Group discussed in detail all contributions received on the draft technical report since the previous meeting. Tasks were allocated to the Working group experts and EFSA staff.

6. Next meeting

The next WG meetings will take place as web conferences on 20 June from 12:00 – 16:00 (Ana), on 20 June from 13:45 - 17:45 (Lena) and on 21 June from 9:00-13:00 (Liesbeth).

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

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

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

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Scientific Panel on Biological Hazards

BIOCONTAM Unit

Minutes of the 2nd meeting of the Working Group on the urgent scientific and technical assistance to provide recommendations for sampling and testing in the processing plants of frozen vegetables aiming at detecting *Listeria monocytogenes*

Held by WEB-conference on 30 May 2018

(Agreed on 6 June 2018)

Participants

- **Working Group Members:**

Ana Allende, Liesbeth Jacxsens, Léna Barre

- **European Commission (DG Santé – Unit G4):**

Pamina Mika Suzuki (attended both web conferences)

- **EFSA:**

BIOCONTAM Unit: Maria Teresa Da Silva Felicio (Chair), Ernesto Liebana Criado (only first part of the webconference), Winy Messens, Eleonora Sarno, Pietro Stella

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the members of the working group (WG).

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 Declarations of Interest and the Specific Declarations of Interest (SDoI) filled in by the WG members invited for the present meeting.

For further details on the outcome of the screening of the ADoI or the SDoI, please refer to the Annex. Oral Declaration of Interest was asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 1st Working Group meeting held on 15 and 16 May 2018 by WEB-conference.

The minutes of the 1st Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 23 May 2018."³

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

5.1. Urgent scientific and technical assistance to provide recommendations for sampling and testing in the processing plants of frozen vegetables aiming at detecting *Listeria monocytogenes*⁴

The Working Group discussed in detail all contributions received on the draft technical report since the previous meeting. Tasks were allocated to the Working group experts and EFSA staff.

6. Next meeting

The next WG meeting will take place as a web conference on 13 June from 9:00-13:00.

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/urgentlmsamplingandtesting.pdf>

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In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes⁵ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest⁶, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted. Therefore the concerned expert shall be allowed to take part in the discussions and in the drafting phase of the technical report on the "request for urgent scientific and technical assistance to provide recommendations for sampling and testing in the processing plants of frozen vegetables aiming at detecting *Listeria monocytogenes*".

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Scientific Panel on Biological Hazards

BIOCONTAM Unit

Minutes of the 1st meeting of the Working Group on the urgent scientific and technical assistance to provide recommendations for sampling and testing in the processing plants of frozen vegetables aiming at detecting *Listeria monocytogenes*

Held by WEB-conference on 15 May and 16 May 2018

(Agreed on 23 May 2018)

Participants

- **Working Group Members:**

Ana Allende (only 15 May), Liesbeth Jacxsens (only 15 May), Léna Barre (only 16 May)

- **European Commission (DG Santé – Unit G4):**

Pamina Mika Suzuki (attended both web conferences)

- **EFSA:**

BIOCONTAM Unit: Maria Teresa Da Silva Felicio (Chair, attended both web conferences), Raquel Garcia Ferro (attended both web conferences), Winy Messens (only 15 May), Eleonora Sarno (attended both web conferences), Pietro Stella (only 15 May)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the members of the working group (WG).

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 Declarations of Interest and the Specific Declarations of Interest (SDoI) filled in by the WG members invited for the present meeting.

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4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

4.1. Urgent scientific and technical assistance to provide recommendations for sampling and testing in the processing plants of frozen vegetables aiming at detecting *Listeria monocytogenes*³

The Working Group discussed the terms of reference received from the European Commission (EC), clarified these with the EC representative, discussed and agreed on a common understanding of the approach to be taken to answer both terms of reference (ToR 1 and ToR 2).

The preliminary table of contents of the draft technical report was agreed and tasks were allocated to EFSA staff and Working group experts.

5. Next meeting

The next WG meeting will take place as a web conference on 30 May from 9:00-13:00.

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

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

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In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest⁵, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted. Therefore the concerned expert shall be allowed to take part in the discussions and in the drafting phase of the technical report on the "request for urgent scientific and technical assistance to provide recommendations for sampling and testing in the processing plants of frozen vegetables aiming at detecting *Listeria monocytogenes*".

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