



Laboratory for food safety  
Maisons-Alfort location

# **Report of the 20<sup>th</sup> workshop of the NRLs for Milk and Milk Products 1-2 June 2017, Maisons-Alfort**

*Version 1 – 28/07/ 2017*

## OPENING

Laurent LALOUX, Director of the European Union Reference Laboratory for Milk and Milk Products (EURL MMP) at the ANSES Laboratory for Food Safety, Maisons-Alfort site, opened the meeting on THursday at 9.30 am and welcomed the participants. He expressed mixed feelings, between the celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> workshop and the last one, since DG SANTE had recently decided to close EURL MMP.

Bertrand LOMBARD, EURL MMP Manager, introduced the meeting. The laboratory had been pleased and proud to have this EURL function for a long time, since 1992, with two main phases: until 2004, within the frame of the former Directive 92/46 on hygiene of milk chain, including bacteria in dairy products, then in the frame of Hygiene Package (Regulations 853/2004 and 854/2004), with a mandate centered on total flora (TF) and somatic cells (SC) in raw, and pasteurisation tracers, in particular phosphatase activity. He underlined the quality of the exchanges with the NRL network, both from professional and human sides, and the significant progress made in the quality and reliability of the analyses over Europe.

Regarding EURL team, he informed that Rabeb MILED had been replaced by Philippine DE BARBEYRAC, and that Sylviane DERZELLE had joined the team.

### Roll-call of delegates

Each delegate introduced itself (see the list of attendance, appended). 30 NRLs from 28 EU Members States (MSs) and from Macedonia, Norway and Switzerland, were represented.

Sylvie COULON, in charge of milk hygiene and follow-up of the EURL MMP at EC/DG SANTE Health & Food Safety, attended the workshop. Reinhard ZELENY (EC/JRC-Geel) also participated to the meeting.

Two experts were invited: Vesela TZENEVA (NL) and Valérie GAUDIN (EURL Veterinary Drug Residues).

All additional documents (i.e. agenda and presentations) have been provided to the participants are available on the EURL Website.

Adrien Asséré, EURL MMP Deputy-manager, presented the outcome of the feedback questionnaire of the 2016 workshop. See his presentation.

## 0 GENERAL ASPECTS

### 0.1 UPDATE FROM DG SANTE

Sylvie COULON (EC/DG SANTE/Unit G4) presented an update from DG SANTE on three topics, see her slides.

#### Revision of EC Regulation 882/2004 on official controls

The new Regulation 2017/625 of 15/03/2017 has been recently published, on 07/04/2017.

She detailed the aspects related to EURLs, NRLs and official labs.

#### Draft regulations on alkaline phosphatase activity (ALP) in cheeses

Further to the EURL MMP report on the European study of ALP in cheeses (see circular mail 2017/01 dated 09/01/2017), S. Coulon had prepared two draft regulations, one amending Reg. 853/2004 to fix an ALP limit for cow's milk cheeses, and one amending Reg. 2074/2005 to fix a reference method, EN ISO 11816-2. After a first discussion at MS's WG Zoonoses in February, globally encouraging, several MSs expressed their disapproval at the MS's PAFF meeting of 17 May, considering these regulations would create an unnecessary burden for milk producers. This project was thus abandoned.

#### Future of EURL MMP

In a letter to EC, France proposed to stop EURL MMP, given (i) the improvement of milk quality since the sep-up of EURL in 1992, now one of the safest food, (ii) that current scope of EURL was more dedicated to milk quality than milk safety, (iii) only few official controls were undertaken in Europe on the 3 parameters of the current EURL scope, and (iv) priority should be given to other topics, such as to create new EURLs in plant health.

DG SANTE agreed on this proposal and informed MSs at PAFF meeting of 17 May. It would draft an amendment to Annex VII Reg. 882/2004, to de-list EURL MMP and to be voted by PAFF.

S. Coulon clarified that MSs may decide to maintain their NRL MMP, even without a EURL.

Certain NRL representatives expressed their regret that EURL stops its activity.

### 0.2 REVISION OF THE ISO 21187, APPLICABILITY OF CONVERSION FACTOR AND REVISION OF ISO 16297

Vesela TZENEVA (QLIP, NL) gave an update on revision of EN ISO 21187 (guidance on conversion equation instrument methods/reference method for TF in raw milk), as well as on the drafting of a guide on applicability of conversion (to be published in IDF Bulletin) and on the revision of ISO 16297 (validation of instrumental methods for TF). See her slides.

### 0.3 MICROVAL CERTIFICATION OF FLOW CYTOMETERS FOR TOTAL FLORA AND SOMATIC CELLS

V. TZENEVA updated on the progress made by MicroVal for the certification of flow cytometers for TF & SC, see her slides.

## 0.4 WORKS AT EURL VET DRUG RESIDUES ON MILK

Valérie GAUDIN (ANSES, Fougères Laboratory) presented an overview of the different screening methods for the analysis of veterinary drug residues (VDR) in milk, as well as the activities of EURL VDR in this field. See her slides.

## 1 PT & TRAINING

### 1.1 2016 PT ENUMERATION OF TOTAL FLORA IN RAW COW'S MILK

Nathalie GNANOU-BESSE (EURL MMP, SBCL Unit) presented the outcome of the 2016 PT on TF enumeration in raw cow's milk, see her slides. The outcome was globally satisfactory and the final report would be soon dispatched.

### 1.2 2017 PRESENTATION OF PT: ENUMERATION OF SCC IN RAW COW'S MILK

Philippine de BARBEYRAC (EURL MMP, SBCL Unit) introduced the organisation of the 2017 PT on SCC in raw cow's milk, see her slides.

### 1.3 ALP PTS: 2016 & 2017

Anne-Cécile BOITELLE (EURL MMP, SBCL Unit) presented the outcome of the 2016 PT on ALP determination in cheese, see her slides.

## 2 HYGIENE OF RAW MILK

### 2.1 INTRODUCTION

Nathalie GNANOU-BESSE introduced the 2016-2017 activities of EURL MMP in this field. See her presentation.

### 2.2 CRITICAL POINTS FOR SOMATIC CELL COUNT (SCC) IMPLEMENTATION AND PICTURE LIBRARY

N. GNANOU-BESSE presented this topic, see her slides.

→ 1/ EURL with NRLs WG would finalize the guidance document on critical points for SCC implementation, and would distribute it to NRLs.

2/ EURL, in collaboration with Karin KNAPPSTEIN (DE-NRL) and Martin ALEWIJN (NL-NRL) would select SC pictures to form a library, to be made available on EURL website.

### 2.3 SHAPES OF SOMATIC CELLS IN COW'S MILK

Véronique NINANE (CRA-W, BE-NRL) presented this topic, see her slides.

### 2.4 IDF ICAR REFERENCE SYSTEM FOR SCC AND IMPROVEMENTS OF THE REFERENCE METHOD

Thomas BERGER (Agroscope, CH-NRL) updated on the IDF/ICAR project of reference system for SCC, as well as on improvement of the reference method by IDF. See his slides.

## 2.5 DEVELOPMENT OF CRM FOR SCC IN RAW MILK

Reinhard ZELNY (EC/JRC, Geel, BE) updated on the development of CRM for SCC in raw milk, see his slides. CRMs were scheduled to be available in 2019.

## 2.6 OUTCOME OF THE ENQUIRY ON TRANSPORTATION OF MILK SAMPLES

N. GNANOU-BESSE presented the outcome of an extensive enquiry to NRLs on the transportation conditions of milk samples to the lab and storage at the lab, see her slides.

S. COULON clarified that, according to Reg. 853/2004, food business operators (in particular dairies) are responsible for defining their sampling scheme.

## 2.7 WG HARMONISATION OF THE CONVERSION CHARACTERISTIC FOR TOTAL FLORA AND NATIONAL FEEDBACK

N. GNANOU-BESSE reported on the work undertaken since the 2016 workshop and on the WG meeting of 31 May afternoon, see her slides:

- EURL has provided a new version of the study report (V2, sent by circular mail 2017/08 of 12/05/2017);
- EURL has provided an Excel tool to assess the impact of change from a national conversion equation to the European harmonized equation (circular mail 2017/09 of 16/05/2017);
- EURL had launched an enquiry to NRLs to assess the impact of change from a national conversion equation to the European equation. Globally, the outcome of this enquiry did not show a significant impact.

➔ NRLs were encouraged to further consider the adoption of the European harmonized equation, that could not be maintained centrally with the EURL closure.

If the European equation would be adopted at national level, the NRL would then need to check regularly (for example annually) with data from analyses of milk collected nationally that the equation would remain valid.

### 3 PASTEURISATION TRACERS

#### 3.1 INTRODUCTION

Hanène GHEZZAL (EURL MMP) introduced the work area on pasteurisation tracers, presenting the topics of the workshop. See her presentation.

#### 3.2 DETERMINATION OF ALKALINE PHOSPHATASE ACTIVITY — FLUORIMETRIC MICROPLATE METHOD FOR MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS

##### 3.2.1 PILOT VALIDATION TRIAL

H. GHEZZAL presented the organisation and outcome of a pilot validation trial of the fluorimetric microplate method for ALP determination in milk & milk products, see her PP presentation. This trial, conducted with 5 volunteering NRLs, had a positive outcome in terms of method performance.

EURL would organise an inter-lab validation study on milk, in parallel to the 2017 PT, opened to volunteering NRLs.

##### 3.2.2 DATA COMPARISON BETWEEN FLUOROPHOS METHOD AND MICROPLATE METHOD

Charlotte EGGER (Agroscope, CH-NRL) gave an update on comparison between Fluorophos method (EN ISO 11816-2) and the optimized microplate method, see her PP presentation. This comparison showed equivalence between both method on results obtained on some cheese samples.

As IDF/ISO co-Project Leader, she expressed the need to have more NRL participating actively to the standardization works and particularly to the forthcoming validation study.

#### 3.3 UPDATE OF THE STANDARDIZATION WORKS - OUTCOME OF 2017 IDF ISO ANALYTICAL WEEK

H. GHEZZAL gave an update on IDF/ISO standardization works on pasteurisation tracers, see her PP presentation.

## 4 CONCLUSION OF THE WORKSHOP

### 4.1 CLOSURE

B. LOMBARD closed the meeting on Friday at 3:00 pm, hoping that it met the NRL expectations. He thanked all the speakers and attendees for their participation and active contributions to the workshop. He thanks in particular Anna-Maria FERRINI (ISS, IT-NRL) for having kindly brought and offered a selection of great Italian cheeses, that were tasted just before lunch on Friday.

H. GHEZZAL & Anne-Cécile BOITELLE expressed their thanks to the network for the quality of the collaboration over the years, with the support of a slide-show. B. LOMBARD wished good continuation to all, hoping to meeting them again in other circumstances, and that there could be a way to go on collaboration between remaining NRLs.