

AHAW UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

Minutes of the 72nd plenary meeting of the Scientific Panel on Animal Health and Welfare

Held on 04 - 05 12 2012, Parma

(Agreed on 19 12 2012)

Participants

- **Panel Members:**

Edith Authié, Charlotte Berg, Anette Bøtner, Mariano Domingo, Aline de Koeijer, Frank Koenen, Simon More, Mohan Raj, Liisa Sihvonen, Jan Arend Stegeman (tele-conference), Hans-Hermann Thulke, Ivar Vågsholm, Antonio Velarde, and Preben Willeberg (tele-conference).

- **European Commission:**

Marina Marini (Sanco, Unit 03).

- **EFSA:**

- **AHAW Unit:** Ana Afonso, Franck Berthe, Denise Candiani, Sandra Correia, Sofie Dhollander, Chiara Fabris, Maria Ferrara, Andrea Gervelmeyer, Per Have, Karen Mackay and Frank Verdonck.
- **Editorial & Media Relations Unit:** Francesca Matteucci.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair of the Panel, welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Howard Browman, Ilaria Capua, Klaus Depner, Sandra Edwards, Christine Fourichon, Hans Spoolder, and Stéphan Zientara.

This plenary meeting of the AHAW Panel was a publicly opened session. One registration was received by the deadline for registration. However the registered observer had cancelled attendance prior to the meeting.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes regarding Declarations of Interests (DoIs)¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director implementing this Policy², EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest (ADoI). No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified

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

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

during the screening process or in the Oral Declaration of interest (ODoI) at the beginning of this meeting.

4. New mandates

4.1. Request for technical assistance to the Commission (Article 31 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002) for the preparation of a data collection system of welfare indicators in EU broilers' slaughterhouses

A new mandate was received in relation to the Article 6(2) of Council Directive 2007/43/EC on the protection of chickens kept for meat production requesting that Member States submit to the Commission the results of welfare indicators data collection based on monitoring of a representative sample of broilers' flocks slaughtered over 1 year period. The Commission has prepared and discussed with Member States a draft document for an harmonised data collection in broilers' slaughterhouses with the objectives to provide an overall picture of the welfare of broilers in the EU, in particular as regard prevalence of contact dermatitis, parasitism and systematic illness. EFSA is requested: 1) to indicate whether a percentage of 1% of the total number of flocks slaughtered each year in each Member States, with a minimum of 200 flocks, would ensure that the proposed data collection complies with Art 6(2) of Council Directive 2007/43/EC; and 2) where such sample would not meet the set objectives, to provide possible alternatives of a representative sample of broiler flocks slaughtered during a period of 12 months in each Member State and at EU level.

5. Scientific outputs submitted for adoption

5.1. Comments on the Zoonoses Summary Report (EFSA-Q-2012-00631)

The mandate was prepared by the BIOMO Unit of EFSA and requests the AHAW Panel to review the EU summary report on zoonoses. The AHAW panel was asked to: 1) review the European Union Summary Report on trends and sources zoonoses, zoonotic agents and food-borne outbreaks in 2009 and 2010. This review should in particular focus on data related to bovine tuberculosis, echinococcosis, Q fever, brucellosis, and non-food-borne zoonoses including the current analyses of the available data; 2) evaluate the appropriateness of the data collected at EU level; 3) consider what data are needed at EU level to provide an accurate picture of the epidemiological situation in the EU and the Member States; 4) assess if the analyses methods used in the report are appropriate; 5) consider if collection of sampled based data for the report's aim instead of aggregated data would improve the quality and analyses of data at EU level; 6) consider if the data collection should be extended to additional zoonoses, or zoonotic agents, such as vector-borne zoonoses; and 7) propose any improvements to the data collection, the presentation of the data and their analyses, as appropriate.

A detailed presentation of the draft opinion was given by the Chair of the working group. The document was discussed by the Panel and comments were addressed. The Panel endorsed the document and agreed that the opinion should be submitted for adoption by written procedure.

Although outside the scope of the Zoonoses report and not part of this mandate, the Panel suggested EFSA to consider options to increase preparedness for emerging new zoonotic pathogens, especially those with the potential for fast spread over time and space, in data availability, in ad-hoc data collection and in assessing the risk situation including the situation outside of the EU borders.

6. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion

6.1. risk of introduction and spread of *Aethina tumida* and *Tropilaelaps* spp. in the EU (EFSA-Q-2012-0550)

The mandate has 4 Terms of Reference: 1) the risk of introduction of *Aethina tumida* (small hive beetle, SHB) and *Tropilaelaps* into the EU through importation from 3rd countries of live queen bees, queen bumble bee colonies and bees products destined to be used in apiculture; 2) the risk mitigation factors that have proven to be or that could potentially be effective in ensuring safe international trade as regards the transmission of the SHB and *Tropilaelaps* in bees and their products; 3) the risk of introduction of the SHB and *Tropilaelaps* into the EU from neighbouring countries, especially through the natural movements of live bees and of the SHB; 4) the risk of introduction of SHB and *Tropilaelaps* into the EU through importation from 3rd countries of products other than bee products (e.g. fruits, vegetables, other possible vectors and fomites, etc.).

A detailed presentation of the draft opinion was given by the Chair of the working group. The document was discussed. The opinion will be submitted for adoption at the next plenary meeting of the Panel, in February 2013.

7. Progress report on other Scientific outputs

7.1. Meat inspection in solipeds (EFSA-Q-2011-01038) and farmed game (EFSA-Q-2011-01037)

The Chair of the working group presented the ongoing activities on the mandate on meat inspection. Changes to the current meat inspection procedures for solipeds and farmed games which are proposed by the BIOHAZ Panel were discussed by the AHAW Panel.

7.2. Monitoring procedures at slaughterhouses (EFSA-Q-2012-00840)

On the mandate on monitoring procedures at slaughterhouses, the conceptual model is an assessment based on sensitivity and specificity of indicators for unconsciousness and death. A plan of action, including systematic literature review, data collection, and possible public consultation was presented and discussed. The need for data gathering via expert knowledge elicitation was discussed.

7.3. Risk of introduction and spread of Rift Valley Fever in the EU neighbouring countries of the Mediterranean region (EFSA-Q-2012-00496)

For ToR4 of this mandate, it is proposed to use the mathematical model developed by CVI to study RVFV transmission in several livestock and vector species in the Netherlands. The model was parameterized using literature on parameters for host, vector and pathogen. The model is used to determine the initial and long- term epidemic growth rate of the virus, which are indicators of the probability of an outbreak and of persistence of RVFV. Risk maps will be created, showing areas at risk for RVF persistence (or the average epidemic growth rate over time). The Panel agreed on this methodological approach to the question.

8. Feedback from EFSA

8.1. Technical meeting on *Histomonas meleagridis*

EFSA informed the Panel that a technical meeting on *Histomonas meleagridis* will be organised in Parma on the 22 January 2013. This meeting with stakeholders and other interested parties, including experts, is expected to provide information and allow an exchange of views about the current distribution of histomonosis, its impact at population

level, and the currently available options for its prevention and control, including the availability of drugs and vaccines.

8.2. Training courses in risk assessment

Specialised courses will be organised for EFSA on evidence base for risk assessment, variability and uncertainty, exposure assessment³. The courses are structured around EFSA guidance and best practice and include practical examples based on EFSA work.

8.3. Next meetings

Meeting dates in 2013: 02 26/27, 03 25/26, 05 21/22, 06 25/26, 09 18/19, 10 22/23, and 11 26/27.

9. AOB

9.1. Update on the bluetongue (BTV14) situation

Following a question from the Panel, Marina Marini updated the Panel with regards to the bluetongue (BTV14) situation based on information shared by the European Commission and Member States (Lithuania, Latvia, Poland and Spain) at the meeting of the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health (SCoFCAH⁴). The EU Reference Laboratory (EURL for BTV, Pirbright) has confirmed that the samples from Poland have 100% sequence homology with a South African vaccine strain of BTV-14. These samples, including samples from Latvia, are also similar (partial sequences) to samples from 2011, Russia and Spain. The information available suggest release of the BTV-14 reference or vaccine strain into the field, possibly indicating the use of a live BTV-14 vaccine. Information is available on line^{5,6}.

³ <http://ki.se/content/1/c6/15/32/11/Information-EFSA-courses-updated%20121129.pdf>

⁴ http://ec.europa.eu/food/committees/regulatory/scfcah/animal_health/index_en.htm

⁵ http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/controlmeasures/bluetongue_en.htm

⁶ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/topics/topic/bluetongue.htm>
