

Scientific Panel on Animal Health and Welfare

Minutes of the 108th Plenary meeting

Held on 24-25 October 2017, Parma, (Italy)

(Agreed on 3 November 2017)

Participants Plenary 24-25 October

■ Panel Members

Dominique Bicot, Andrew Butterworth, Klaus Depner, Sandra Edwards, Bruno Garin-Bastuji, Margaret Good, Christian Gortázar Schmidt, Hans Hermann Thulke, Virginie Michel, Miguel Angel Miranda, Simon More, Mohan Raj, Søren Saxmose Nielsen, Liisa Sihvonen, Hans Spoolder, Jan Arend Stegeman, Hans-Hermann Thulke, Antonio Velarde Calvo, Preben Willeberg (25 October 2017 only) and Christoph Winckler

■ EFSA

ALPHA UNIT: Francesca Baldinelli, Alessandro Broglia, Denise Candiani, Rhea Creve, Sofie Dhollander, Chiara Fabris, Andrey Gogin, Nikolaus Kriz, Frank Verdonck, Gabriele Zancanaro

AFSCO UNIT: Stef Bronzwaer

■ EUROPEAN COMMISSION (via teleconference)

DG SANTE: Stanislav Ralchev

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The chair welcomed the meeting participants. Apologies were received from Anette Bøtner, Paolo Calistri and Preben Willeberg (for the first day).

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

3. Declarations of Interest of Scientific Panel Members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Declarations of Interests (DoI), EFSA screened the Annual (ADoI) and Specific Declaration of Interest (SDoI) provided by the Panel Members for the present meeting. The Panel members were asked to confirm that no further interests had to be declared in the context of the agenda of the meeting. No conflict of interest has been identified.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 107th Plenary meeting held on 12-13 September 2017, Parma (Italy)

The minutes of the previous plenary meeting have been adopted by written procedure.

5. New Mandates

5.1 *Salmonella* control in poultry flocks

EFSA received a mandate from the EC on *Salmonella* control in poultry flocks, which has been assigned to the BIOHAZ Panel. TORs 3 and 4 have been briefly discussed by the AHAW Panel as they concern the occurrence of *Salmonella* in laying hens and broilers in relation to housing conditions and other welfare indicators. EFSA will discuss how interaction between both Panels can be established.

6. Scientific outputs submitted for possible adoption

6.1 Scientific opinion concerning the use of low atmosphere pressure system (LAPS) for stunning poultry ([EFSA-Q-2016-00327](#))

Following the input from the Panel during the previous plenary meeting, the WG made modifications to address all comments with the aim of improving the quality of the draft opinion which was then submitted for adoption. The Panel asked for some clarifications and provided some suggestions. The document was considered to properly address all terms of reference as provided by the EC. The scientific opinion was adopted unanimously.

6.2 Scientific opinion on the listing and categorisation of animal diseases in the framework of the Animal Health Law on *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* (Bsal) ([EFSA-Q-2017-00205](#))

The comments received from the Panel and EC were discussed and the text was edited where required. The scientific opinion was adopted unanimously.

7. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion

7.1 Scientific and technical assistance on African swine fever (2017) ([EFSA-Q-2017-00154](#))

The conclusions and recommendations of the draft report on the epidemiological analysis on African swine fever in eastern EU has been presented and discussed with the Panel. In addition, feedback on the workshop on ASF was provided to the Panel and the identified scientific topics were discussed that are considered important to improve science-based advice to risk managers in the near future.

7.2 Scientific and technical assistance on Lumpy Skin Disease ([EFSA-Q-2016-00625](#))

The first draft report on LSD was circulated, the elements addressed are i) the epidemiological situation and the outbreaks in Albania, FYROM and Greece, ii) the status of vaccination progress in the region and the evaluation of its effectiveness, iii) the improvement of the kernel-based spread model and its possible uses, iv) the update on diagnostics and v) options of possible surveillance in both at risk countries and countries for re acquiring freedom. An update was provided about the main outcome of the GF TADs meeting on LSD held on 19-20 October 2017 in Montenegro, the main point discussed was how to set the exit strategy in the region, i.e. how to reacquire the free status. An

example of surveillance in place in Austria, as example of at risk country, was given, as well as last update on diagnostic tools available. The panel was informed that a new version of the chapter on LSD in the OIE manual is available.

7.3 Scientific and technical assistance on *Echinococcus multilocularis* infection in animals (2017) ([EFSA-Q-2017-00403](#))

The draft report has been circulated to the Panel for information.

7.4 Scientific opinion concerning the risk of survival, establishment and spread of Bsal in the EU ([EFSA-Q-2016-002505](#))

The mandates to be covered in this scientific opinion were briefly explained since they were already discussed in the April plenary. The WG suggestions on how to address each TOR were presented, discussed and agreed by the Panel. Scoring of feasibility and effectiveness of risks and potential mitigation measures will be done by the WG members only since it is not possible to find a larger group of experts with relevant expertise.

8. Feedback from the Scientific Committee/Scientific Panels, EFSA, the European Commission

8.1 Discussion on possible self-task from the Panel about the revision/update of the guidance for evaluating stunning effectiveness

The Panel discussed and agreed to propose a self-tasking mandate to EFSA in order to update the 'guidance on assessing stunning methods'. It has been clarified that EFSA will need data of good quality from the applicants, which could be provided as raw data to EFSA without the need of submitting a paper published in a peer-reviewed scientific journal. The final text of the mandate has been agreed and will be submitted to the EFSA Executive Director by the Panel Chair.

8.1.1 Scientific Network on Risk Assessment in Animal Health and Welfare

Scientific Network on Risk Assessment in Animal Health and Welfare

The Animal Health Network met on 12-13 October 2017 in Parma. The main topic in agenda was "Data collections on animal disease outbreaks (e.g. Avian Influenza, African Swine Fever, Lumpy Skin Disease): lessons learnt and looking forward".

EFSA aims to further develop its data collections on animal diseases by improving the technical aspects of data submission, making the collected data available to MSs and providing automatically generated tables and maps after data submission. A discussion on these topics took place during the meeting to get input from the MSs on their needs and to identify the level of detail required/feasible to submit and report data. The need to collect and record baseline data on the poultry populations at risk of AI was discussed, including a suggested method to collect data from unaffected holdings within protection zones using a matched case-control design, since the unaffected holdings according to EU regulation were to be visited by Veterinary Service staff anyway.

It will also be the start of a process of dialogue between EFSA and MSs to harmonise the interpretation of the terminology used and where needed to develop better definitions.

Scientific Network on National Contact Points from Reg. 1099/2009

EFSA has a role in organising the scientific support through the network of NCPs set up by Regulation 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing. The 2nd meeting of the NCP network was held on 18 October 2017 in Parma. The main topic of the meeting was to create and organise an online space for sharing of i) scientific and technical expertise relating to the approval of slaughterhouses, ii) scientific opinions on the instructions provided by manufacturers on the use and maintenance of restraining and stunning equipment, iii) scientific opinions on guides to good practice and iv) recommendations in relation to inspections and audits.

8.1.2 Discussion on potential emerging risks to AHAW

A recent publication on detection of Rift Valley Fever detection in Turkey was presented as well as a publication on the presence of competent vectors within Europe. It was noted that it would be useful to perform a review of the scientific information regarding available vaccines.

8.1.3 Scientific Committee and Scientific Committee Working Groups

The Panel was informed that the guidance on uncertainty will likely be implemented in the AHAW Panel from July 2018 onwards. This means that for each new mandate and TOR, the required level of uncertainty analysis will be discussed.

8.2 European Commission

None

9. Any other business

- Lessons learnt AHL mandates

The main comments received from the Panel experts on how to potentially improve some steps of the AHL methodology were discussed. The Panel identified the criteria for which more clarity is needed; suggested to further elaborate the guidelines for disease scientists and reviewers including key-words, definitions, and specific recommendations for target questions and when the expected information is lacking; proposed to identify a few factsheets to be promoted as “the good example”; agreed on involving a second disease scientist to review the factsheet in case of no enough expertise on the disease in the Panel.

- The EFSA presentation for the upcoming AW Platform meeting was discussed.
- The 2nd call for EU-FORA and the Risk Assessment Research Agenda meeting (<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/180207>) were presented to the Panel.
- The Panel was informed on the timelines regarding the Panel renewal. The final decision will be taken by the Management Board in the end of February 2018.