

Scientific Panel on Animal Health and Welfare

Minutes of the 117th Plenary meeting

Held on 7 May 2019, 09.00 – 18.00h
8 May 2019, 09.00 – 13.00h

EFSA, Parma (Italy)

(Agreed on 21 May 2019)¹

Participants

■ Panel Members:

ALVAREZ Julio, BICOUT Dominique, DREWE Julian Ashley, GARIN-BASTUJI Bruno (via Skype for business), GONZALES ROJAS Jose Luis; GORTAZAR SCHMIDT Christian, MICHEL Virginie, MIRANDA Miguel Angel, NIELSEN Søren Saxmose (Chair), ROBERTS Helen, SIHVONEN Liisa, Ståhl Karl, VILTROP Arvo, WINCKLER Christoph

■ European Commission: FORCELLA Simona

■ EFSA:

ALPHA UNIT: Sotiria-Eleni Antoniou (via Skype for business), Inma Aznar, Francesca Baldinelli, Alessandro Broglia, Denise Candiani, Sofie Dhollander, Andrey Gogin, Chiara Fabris, Nikolaus Kriz, Marie Louise Schneider, Laura Gonzalez Villeta, Yves Van der Stede

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The chair welcomed the meeting participants. Apologies were received from: Hans Spoolder, Klaus Depner and Paolo Calistri.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest Scientific Panel Members

¹ Minutes should be published within 15 working days of the final day of the relevant meeting.



In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 116th Plenary meeting held on 20-21 March, Parma, (Italy)

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

5. New Mandates

None

6. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion and possible adoption

None

7. Scientific outputs for discussion

7.1. Art 29 – African Swine Fever Risk assessment in south eastern Europe & risk ranking matrices (EFSA-Q-2019-00049)

The structure and the content of the draft opinion was presented to the Panel. The data sections provided for TOR1 (risk of spread of ASF in south-eastern Europe) were thoroughly discussed. It was agreed that the rationale and sections on tourism, migration and trust in the veterinary authorities should be clearly introduced in the data section to explain why these factors may influence the spread of ASF in south-eastern Europe.

Also, the data collected to address TOR2 (ranking matrices) were discussed in relation to the conceptual model (step 1 to step 5). The results obtained from step 1 were shown and there was an agreement with relation to the final formulae to be used to express the overall probability that a matrix may lead to transmission of ASFVs. Two major conclusions of the Opinion were drafted and discussed with the panel. It was agreed that the final P values would rather describe worst case scenario. Uncertainty must be expressed in a clear and understandable way in both conclusions. Regarding this, a short presentation about clarifying concepts of uncertainty, variability and statement definition was presented. It was agreed to allocate at the next Plenary some time to finalise the discussion on this topic. The Panel members dedicated to the Uncertainty WG could steer this. It was agreed that there will be an additional and extended working group for the mandate on 11-12 June 2019, inviting the dep readers to attend by web-conference. Three deep readers/reviewers were assigned for this mandate. The Opinion will be presented for possible adoption during the next Plenary meeting.

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



7.2. Art. 31- African Swine Fever gap analysis (EFSA-Q-2019-00050)

The preliminary results of the gap analysis were shown and it was discussed with Panel members how the results could be presented in the final report. The different classes of stakeholders interrogated in the survey (CVO's and others) should be clearly stated and aligned with the analysis of the results. The research priorities can be grouped either for the different stakeholders, or according to the different disease status of the areas.

7.3. Art. 31 - Scientific and technical assistance on African swine fever - epidemiological analyses (EFSA-Q-2018-00053)

The Panel members were informed on the status of the case-control (CC) study and monopoly grant awarded to Romania. The contract has been signed and the CC can start in May 2019. The questionnaire is ready to be translated and actions are taken to start also the vector monitoring in Romania.

7.4. Art 29 - Slaughter of animals for human consumption (domestic birds) (EFSA-Q-2018-00715)

The structure of the opinion as well as the phrasing and style of the conclusions were thoroughly discussed with Panel members. It was agreed that the output of this opinion will be a table synthesizing the qualitative results (a table with identified hazards, welfare consequences, animal-based measures, hazards' origin and origin category, corrective and preventive measures) and that the phrasing of the conclusions will follow option three as presented during plenary meeting. The matrix tables were discussed in detail and it was agreed that a narrative text should explain i) the validity of the table with relation to completeness and strength of association ii) the risk of having 'false positives' in the matrix table.

In addition, it was agreed that in the opinion it should be made clear that if no ABM is feasible to be used in the context of slaughterhouse for assessing the welfare consequences, there should be emphasis on prevention measures. It was agreed as well that in case no correction measure for an hazard exists, then measure to mitigate the welfare consequences of the hazard will be described in the text. A conclusion/recommendation on future "hazard ranking" should be considered in the Opinion.

It was agreed that this Opinion will be presented for thorough discussion during the next plenary meeting to be submitted for adoption in September 2019.

7.5. Art 29 - Killing for other purposes than slaughter (domestic birds): (EFSA-Q-2018-00716)

It was agreed that this Opinion will follow the same approach as EFSA-Q-2018-00715. This Opinion will be presented for thorough discussion during the next plenary meeting to be submitted for adoption in September 2019.

7.6. Art 29 – Slaughter of rabbits for human consumption and the killing of rabbits for other purposes (EFSA-Q-2018-00909) – EKE (1)

The EKE-Delphi to obtain the indicators of unconsciousness and death has been finished and the results will be presented in next plenary meeting. This Opinion will follow the same approach as



EFSA-Q-2018-00715. This Opinion will be presented for thorough discussion during the September plenary meeting to be submitted for adoption in November 2019.

7.7. Art 29 – Slaughter of rabbits for human consumption and the killing of rabbits for other purposes (EFSA-Q-2018-00909) – EKE (2)

This Opinion will be presented for thorough discussion during the September plenary meeting to be submitted for adoption in November 2019.

7.8. Art 29 - Health and welfare of rabbits farmed in different production systems (EFSA-Q-2018-00593) – EKE and survey

It was agreed that the results of the online survey (phase 1: prevalence and duration) and of the EKE (phase 2: severity) will be presented at the next Plenary. Regarding the former, some adjustments are needed, e.g. as regards responses that need to be duplicated (when applying to several animal categories) and responses to questions related to occurrence/significance for the different animal categories. In terms of results for the assessment of severity, a dot plot or boxplot was proposed instead of min-max-mean to present the different responses of the experts. The variability would be more visible if graphs showing distribution and clustering of responses are reported.

8. Updates on ongoing mandates

8.1. Art. 31 - Scientific and technical assistance on avian influenza surveillance – Data submission tool

The data submission tool to be used for Avian Influenza (2019 data) was presented to the Panel and the technicalities (catalogue terms) related to the mapping of the data were discussed.

8.2. Data collection on animal diseases and surveillance (SIGMA) (EFSA-Q-2018-00080)

An update of the SIGMA project was presented to the Panel.

8.3. Art 31 - Mandate on Lumpy Skin Disease (EFSA-Q-2018-00289)

An update of LSD situation in EU and bordering countries with EU was presented.

8.4. Art 29 - Request for a scientific opinion on the evaluation of public and animal health risks in case of a delayed post-mortem inspection in ungulates



An update on the composition of the working group was presented. Bruno Garin-Bastuji (Vice-chair) and Julio Alvarez are members of the WG. The first meeting of the WG will take place on 11 June in Parma.

8.5. Art 29 - Scientific opinion as regards specific maximum levels of cross-contamination for 24 antimicrobial active substances in non-target feed

An update on the composition of the working group was presented. Input from the AHAW panel is needed for TOR 1 only (identify species, types of husbandries and type of feed linked to specific animal pathogens in the gut and other organs that become AM resistant due to traces of antibiotics in feed and may present an animal health risk). Paolo Calistri is member of the WG. The first meeting of the WG will take place in the first half of June, to be confirmed.

9. Feedback from the Scientific Committee/Scientific Panels, EFSA, the European Commission-Activities from other Panels

10. Any other business

10.1. New Way of Working

A presentation on the new way of working within EFSA and the physical spaces foreseen for the experts was presented by Marco Conterbia and Guido Zunino.

10.2. Info session for Panel plenaries on independence progress in 2018

A presentation and results of the Report on Independence related activities (DoI's and ex ante and ex post controls) was presented by Simone Gabbi (LEGAL).

11. Wrap up and conclusions (next Plenary)

A wrap up of the discussions and agreed conclusions (mainly for point 7) during the plenary was presented.

12. Next meeting(s)

Next Plenary meeting is 26 June (9h-18h) & 27 June (9h-13h) 2019 (Parma)