



European Food Safety Authority

AHAW-04-020

MINUTES OF 4TH PLENARY MEETING OF THE PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND ANIMAL WELFARE (29-30/01/2004)

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PARTICIPANTS

Harry J. Blokhuis, Donald M. Broom (29 and 30 until 11.50 am), Iliaria Capua (only 29th), Stefano Cinotti, Michael Gunn, Joerg Hartung, Per Have, Xavier Manteca Vilanova, David B. Morton (29 and 30 until 11.50 am), Michel Pépin, Dirk U. Pfeiffer, Ronald J. Roberts, José M. Sánchez-Vizcaino (only 29th), James Michael Sharpe, Georgios Theodoropoulos, Philippe Vannier , Marina Verga, Martin Wierup.

EFSA: Jordi Ferrés and Jordi Serratosa, (Scientific co-ordination AHAW panel) and Silvie Mateljan (Administrative support).

European Commission: Sabine Osaer (SANCO D5), Rex Horgan (DG SANCO E2)

1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST/ CONFIDENTIALITY/ INDEPENDENCE.

The Chairman welcomed the participants. Apologies were announced for Alejandro Schudel. No member declared a conflict of interest in any of the items on the agenda of this specific meeting.

1.1. Welcome from Authorities of the Autonomous University of Barcelona.

The Rector of the Autonomous University of Barcelona (Bellaterra, Spain) Dr. Lluís Ferrer, the Dean of the Veterinary School, Dr. Josep Gassa, and the Director of the “Centre de Recerca en Salut Animal – CReSA” (Centre for Research on Animal Health), Dr. Mariano Domingo, welcomed the AHAW Panel in its first Plenary Meeting out of Brussels. The Authorities thanks EFSA for the opportunity given to organize this meeting in the facilities of the Veterinary School and pointed out the relevance of this event.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PLENARY MEETING

The minutes of the 3rd Plenary Meeting were unanimously adopted on the 2nd January 2004 following the written procedure as agreed at the last Plenary Meeting. The minutes were published at the following web site: <http://www.efsa.eu.int/pdf/minutes>

4. PRESENTATION: “AVIAN INFLUENZA, RECENT DEVELOPMENTS” BY PROF ILARIA CAPUA

Prof. Iliaria Capua made the presentation on “*Avian influenza, recent developments*” and explained the human health risks of AI epidemics. The presentation pointed out the current situation of the AI in the SE of Asia.

The Panel agreed to draw up a statement on the Avian Influenza. (See **Annex**)

5. DISCUSSION ON THE PENDING MANDATES

After proposal of the chairman, the following procedure was agreed in order to reduce the number of versions of the documents: after meetings of the ad hoc working groups reviewing scientific opinions correspond to EFSA secretariat to include the final amendments. EFSA secretariat will send back to the AHAW members a pdf file (page and lines numbered) together with the same “word” version. The members of the Panel should send at least 10 working days before the next meeting a page/s, including the amendments or comments, as a new “word” document. EFSA secretariat will send the final draft to AHAW members for final discussion before next meeting in both “word and pdf version”. A procedure to

number the different versions submitted to the Working Groups and Panel will be followed by secretariat.

5.1. Proposal for possible adoption on the Transport opinion based on the scientific report.

Prof D. Broom, as Chairman of the working group, shortly presented the scientific report and the scientific opinion. After a long and detailed discussion it was agreed to reword some of the conclusions and recommendations of the Scientific opinion. Prof D. Broom will send a graphic to be included in the Scientific Report.

The following procedure was agreed: EFSA scientific coordinator will include all the amendments agreed at the Plenary in the scientific opinion. Conclusions and recommendations will be renumbered and reordered. A final document will then be circulated to all members containing all amendments for possible final adoption following the written procedure.

5.2. Proposal for possible adoption on Stunning opinion based on the scientific Report

It was unanimously agreed to postpone the discussion of this scientific report until next Plenary in March. Commission representative stated that this delay should not be a problem for the legislative unit at DG SANCO.

5.3. Piglet castration, state of play.

A SANCO letter from 22.12.03 was distributed for information concerning the latest version of the mandate, containing the final agreed terms for this mandate. Two new meetings are foreseen for 5th February and 3rd of March in Brussels.

5.4. Microclimate-Transport, state of play

The Chairman of the working group explained that the Scientific Report should be ready for a possible adoption at the next plenary meeting.

5.5. Laying hens, state of play

A SANCO letter from 22.12.03 was distributed for information concerning the latest version of the mandate, containing the final agreed terms for this mandate. The first meeting is foreseen for 10th February in Brussels.

6. DISCUSSION ON THE NEW MANDATES

6.1. Risk of transmission of Mycobacterium avium subsp Paratuberculosis in bovine semen.

The mandate and the background were distributed. The mandate was accepted and Prof Pfeiffer was proposed as the Chairman to establish a new working group of experts.

7. PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED ON AHAW BY THE PANEL (AHAW 03-027): SELF MANDATES

A draft background has been send by members of the AHAW Panel to EFSA for each one of the 6 self-tasks identified at the last plenary. Due to lack of available time the discussion was postponed to the next plenary meeting.

8. MISCELLANEOUS

8.1. Presentation: “The Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB) & Veterinary school activities” by Prof. Xavier Manteca

Prof. Manteca presented the recent history, evolution and main activities of the UAB and the Veterinary School.

8.2. Presentation on “CReSA” by Prof. M. Domingo.

Prof. Domingo presented the Centre of research for animal health and animal welfare, result of an agreement between the Autonomous University and the Institute for Research and Agri-Food Technology (IRTA). Special mention was given to the new laboratory facilities (Category P-3) which will become operational in short term.

8.3. Call for expressions of interest in membership of a AHAW Panel

The recently published “Call for expression of interest in membership of a Scientific Panel of the European Food Safety Authority” (OJEU 2003/C37 A/1) was distributed for information

8.4. Vaccination against Salmonella in poultry. State of play

A member of the AHAW panel will report at the next plenary about the state of play of the working group activities related to vaccination against Salmonella which take place under the leadership of Biological Hazards Panel.

8.5. Invitation to the Panel to celebrate the VI Plenary on 15/16 June in Hanover (Germany)

Prof. J. Hartung on behalf of the Dean of the Veterinary School in Hannover (Germany) invited the Panel to hold the next plenary meeting in June (15-16) in their facilities. The proposal was unanimously accepted.

Barcelona, 30 January 2004