

ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE UNIT

MINUTES OF THE 48th PLENARY MEETING OF THE PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

11-12 March 2010, Parma

1. PARTICIPANTS

PANEL MEMBERS:

Anette Bøtner, Don Broom, Marcus G. Doherr, Jörg Hartung (12 March), Linda Keeling, Frank Koenen, Simon More, David Morton, Pascal Oltenacu, Fulvio Salati, Mo Salman, Mike Sharp, Jan Arend Stegeman (11 March), Endre Szücs, Hans-Hermann Thulke, Philippe Vannier, Martin Wierup.

EFSA AHAW UNIT

Scientific officers: A. Afonso, F. Berthe, S. Correia Rodeia, S. Dhollander, M. Georgiev, P. Have, O. Ribó, J. Tarres, D. Quilquini.

Administrative assistants (agenda item 8): V. Abratzky, R. Carfagnini, E. Franchi, I. Kralova, E. Krzeminska, S. Mori.

2. OPENING AND APOLOGIES

The Chairman welcomed the Panel Members and all other attendants of this meeting. He thanked Per Have for having served as acting HoU during the interim period and Oriol Ribó for his contribution as deputy HoU. He welcomed Franck Berthe, just appointed HoU and wished him success in the future work of the AHAW Panel and Unit. Franck Berthe thanked the Chairman and declared his commitment to the Panel. He also thanked Per Have for his efforts during the interim period.

Apologies were received from Mariano Domingo, Albert Osterhaus, Moez Sanaa and John Webster (Panel members). Apologies were also received from Commission, OIE and FAO observers.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Declarations of Interests (DoI), EFSA screened the Annual and Specific Declaration of Interest (SDoI) provided by the Panel Members for the present meeting. No interests were declared in the SDoIs submitted in response to the agenda

of this meeting but the following previously declared interests are still considered valid for this plenary:

In the SDoI filled for the January plenary meeting of the AHAW Panel, Dr. P. Vannier declared the following interest: oyster mortality. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on declarations of interests and implementing documents thereof, the interest was deemed to represent a potential conflict of interest. Pursuant to EFSA's Procedure on Identifying and Handling Declarations of Interest point C.III.b, the said expert should not chair discussions related to the mandate on oyster mortality.

In the SDoI filled for the January plenary meeting of the AHAW Panel, Prof. A. Osterhaus declared the following interest: pandemic influenza virus. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on declarations of interests and implementing documents thereof, the interest was deemed to represent a potential conflict of interest. Pursuant to EFSA's Procedure on Identifying and Handling Declarations of Interest point C.III.b, the said expert should not chair discussions related to pandemic influenza virus.

In an ADoI submitted before the January plenary meeting of the AHAW Panel, Prof. D. Broom declared the following interest: consultancy for animal transport. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on declarations of interests and implementing documents thereof, the interest was deemed to represent a potential conflict of interest. Pursuant to EFSA's Procedure on Identifying and Handling Declarations of Interest point C.III.b, the said expert should not chair discussions related to the mandate on animal transport.

In an ADoI submitted before the January plenary meeting of the AHAW Panel, Prof. J. Hartung declared the following interest: consultancy for animal transport. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on declarations of interests and implementing documents thereof, the interest was deemed to represent a potential conflict of interest. Pursuant to EFSA's Procedure on Identifying and Handling Declarations of Interest point C.III.b, the said expert should not chair discussions related to the mandate on animal transport.

The Panel members confirmed that no further declarations of interests were to be made in the context of the adopted agenda.

5. PREVIOUS MINUTES ADOPTED BY WRITTEN PROCEDURE

The minutes of the 47th Plenary meeting held in Parma on 28-29 January, 2010 were unanimously adopted by a written procedure by Panel Members on 22 February, 2010 and published on the EFSA web (<http://www.efsa.europa.eu>).

6. NEW MANDATES

6.1. New mandates from the Commission

No new mandates have been submitted to EFSA/AHAW since the previous plenary meeting.

7. OPINIONS SUBMITTED FOR POSSIBLE ADOPTION

7.1. African Swine Fever (EFSA-Q-2009-00506)

The opinion was presented to the Panel for adoption. Conclusions and recommendations were discussed and drafted and the opinion was adopted by unanimity.

8. PANEL RESPONSE TO THE EXTERNAL EVALUATION OF OPINIONS 2009

Comments received from Panel Members on a number of points were included into a working document. The evaluation was discussed, various Panel Members expressed their inputs and certain issues were suggested to be included in the AHAW Panel/Unit response on the external evaluation. An exchange of views on possible options to improve the quality of the scientific outputs identified several propositions for actions. It was agreed that the secretariat will finalise the response without further consultation on the final version.

9. PROGRESS REPORTS AND DISCUSSION OF CURRENT MANDATES

9.1. Q fever (EFSA-Q-2010-10)

The mandate has been requested by DG-SANCO. The mandate has been assigned to the AHAW Panel with support from the Biohazard Panel, Assessment Methodology Unit and Zoonoses Unit. The Biohazard Panel will develop and adopt a chapter related to food safety aspects which will be included in the opinion. ECDC will collaborate in relation to public health aspects of the question.

The WG has prepared a draft document that was presented for discussion. Data collection from published literature, zoonosis database and Member States survey regarding prevalence/incidence of Q fever in animals was completed and discussed at the second WG meeting.

The WG chairman presented in detail the current draft opinion for an exchange of views with the Panel. The Panel also made comments on the food safety section of the draft opinion to be transmitted to the Biohazard Panel.

The draft opinion will be presented to the AHAW Panel for adoption during the next plenary meeting, 26-27 April, 2010.

9.2. Tick-Vectors of African swine fever and Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (M-2009-124)

The current state of the opinion on tick vectors was presented by the Chairman of the WG. The WG revised the progress on the assigned individual tasks for the draft report on 'Geographical distribution of ticks and tick-borne diseases in EU'. The WG decided to incorporate four new tick-borne diseases: bartonellosis, Q fever, piroplasmosis in horses and African horse sickness. EFSA made a progress report on the ongoing systematic review and explained that a procurement has been launched for data extraction, as well as an assistance request to the Assessment and Methodology Unit (AMU) for building an access database according to EFSA format. The WG members revised the section of ASF of the scientific report "ticks as vectors of ASF and CCHF" (the second output of this mandate). EFSA

contacted the ECDC network on vector-borne diseases (VBORNET) to get information about its ongoing activities on ticks and tick-borne pathogens, and to manifest willingness to coordinate efforts. The WG has revised their timeframe to comply with the suggested dates of adopting the CCHF/ASF portion in July and the other portion in September.

9.3. Development of Animal Welfare Risk Assessment Guidelines (EFSA-Q-2007-168)

Amended ToRs were submitted to the EFSA Executive Director on 15 December, 2009 and accepted on 18 January, 2010. The main contents of the Guidelines were agreed at the WG Meeting on 15-16 February, 2010.

9.4. Mandate on the impact of the genetic selection of broilers (M-2009-0087)

The requested tasks for this mandate are to: 1) collect, assess and collate all data available (published and unpublished) on genetics/welfare of broilers (deadline: February 2010); and 2) to produce two scientific opinions on i) the impact of the selection of broilers (genetics, EFSA-Q-2009-00504), and ii) on housing and management of the grand-parent and parent stocks raised and kept for breeding purposes (H&M, EFSA-Q-2009-00505). A public call for data was used to collect relevant information; the outcomes of this call were published in December 2009 on EFSA website. An Art.36 grant (TOGA project) has undertaken a systematic review for the working groups. TOGA also assisted in the development of a broiler welfare ontology. Following on the Technical Meeting with stakeholders held in September 2009, a public consultation is planned between March 29 and April 09 2010 (Web-consultation). The deadline for adoption of the two opinions is June 2010. The draft outputs will be presented to the Panel for discussion during the April plenary meeting.

9.5. Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza virus in animals

The mandate has been split in two and the response to the ToRs will be provided through two different opinions: one opinion dealing with the impact of the current pandemic on animal health (mandate 1) and one dealing with monitoring for emergence of new viruses with pandemic potential (mandate 2).

The work of the WG dealing with the implications of the pandemic Influenza for animal health already started the work.

9.5.1. Potential implications of the current H1N1 pandemic influenza for animal health (EFSA-Q-2009-00935)

A preparatory meeting was held with some of the Panel Members and a representative from EMEA. Another WG meeting was organised with representatives from AI CRL and ESNIP joining the group. OFFLU, ECDC, FAO and WHO were invited to participate as well. The work plan is being further developed by the current WG. During the plenary, the WG Chairman presented the state of the current work. IFAH will be consulted for possible new vaccines intended for swine pH1N1.

9.5.2. Monitoring for emergence of possible new pandemic influenza strains (EFSA-Q-2009-00983)

The inception of activities for this mandate has been postponed due to the allocation of AHAW resources to the Q fever mandate. A tele-meeting has been held with involved Panel members to discuss the approach and points to be clarified with COM at kick-off.

9.6. Practice of harvesting feathers from live geese for down production (EFSA-Q-2009-00966)

Dr D. Broom was appointed rapporteur for this WG during the January Plenary Meeting. The WG has been set up and DoIs approved.

9.7. Increased mortality events in Pacific oysters (*Crassostrea gigas*) (EFSA-Q-2010-11)

The WG experts have been invited to submit their DOIs. EFSA will present the mandate at the annual meeting of the Community Reference Laboratory for mollusk diseases (23 March, 2010) and inform CRL and NRLs of the foreseen consultation in relation to this opinion.

9.8. Welfare of Animals during transport (EFSA-Q-2010-00053)

The background and ToRs of the mandate were discussed. A draft table of contents was presented to the Panel.

10. OTHER ISSUES

10.1. Self-mandate of the Scientific Committee on statistical approaches to assess adverse or biologically relevant effects

The aim of this mandate is to develop a guidance document on statistical approaches to assess adverse or biologically relevant effects. A representative from the AHAW Panel has been invited to join the working group that will be formed to this effect. Two AHAW Panel members were proposed to the Scientific Committee as possible representatives.

10.2. Letter from EFFAB with comments on the dairy cow opinion.

The letter was circulated to the Panel Members for comments. A draft response will be discussed during the next plenary meeting.

10.3. Meeting dates 2011

The following dates were proposed and agreed:

AHAW PLENARY	2011	VENUE
55	Jan. 19-20	EFSA, Parma
56	Feb. 24-25	EFSA, Parma
57	Mar. 30-31	EFSA, Parma
58	May 4-5	EFSA, Parma
59	June 15-16	EFSA, Parma
60	July 12-13	EFSA, Parma
61	Sept. 14-15	EFSA, Parma
62	Oct. 19-20	EFSA, Parma
63	Nov. 16-17	EFSA, Parma
64	Dec. 14-15	EFSA, Parma