

Parma, 9 March 2009 – revision 1

## **EFSA Task Force of Zoonoses Data Collection**

### **The 15. meeting**

### **Held in Brussels on 16 October 2008**

#### **AGENDA:**

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1. Minutes from the last meeting
2. Declaration of interest (DoI)
3. Proposal for the amendments in the Zoonoses Web Reporting Application for 2008 data
4. Feedback from drafting the 2007 Zoonoses Community Report
5. Discussion on the draft reports B on the *Salmonella* baseline surveys in turkeys and slaughter pigs
6. Information and discussion on vector-borne zoonoses
7. Progress reports from the Working Groups
8. Progress reports from the Article 36 Grant projects and procurements
9. Setting of new Working Groups
10. Questionnaire on the collection of molecular typing data from isolates from food, feed and animals
11. Presentations from the members on current activities related to monitoring of Zoonoses
  - Dr Ruth Lyons, DEFRA, UK: Veterinary Surveillance, the RADAR project
12. Visits to the Member States related to the zoonoses reporting
13. Any other business
  - Presentation from Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention (CDC) of zoonoses surveillance systems.
  - Request from the Netherlands regarding the access to *Salmonella* in laying hens baseline survey dataset

#### **PARTICIPANTS:**

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##### **Members and other National , ECDC or Commission representatives:**

Peter Much (Austria), Luc Vanholme, Karen Vereecken (Belgium), Petya Petkova (Bulgaria), Petr Šatrán (Czech Republic), Christodoulos Pipis (Cyprus), Mariann Chriel (Denmark), Jelena Sögel (Estonia), Saara Raulo (Finland), Marie Edan, Francois Veillet (France), Matthias Hartung (Germany), Dimitris Vourvidis (Greece), Edith Nagy (Hungary), Kilian Unger, Anne Cowley (Ireland), Snieguole Ščeponavičiene (Lithuania), Joseph Schon (Luxembourg), Rob Van Oosterom (The Netherlands), Merete Hofshagen (Norway), Jasek Osek (Poland), Patricia Inacio, Patricia Tavares Santos (Portugal), Alenka Babusek (Slovenia), M. Luisa Pulido Puente, José Saez Llorente (Spain), Elina Lahti (Sweden), Ingrid Dan, Ioana Neghirla (Romania), Lesley Larkin, Ruth Lyons

(United Kingdom), Jürg Danuser (Switzerland), Birgitte Helwich (ZCC), Nadia Ciampa (ECDC), Sarolta Idei (European Commission - COM).

**Observers:**

Drazen Knezevic (Croatia), Greta Nikolovska (The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), Guzin Sahin (Turkey), Daniel Chaisemartin (OIE), Annapaola Rizzoli (CEALP), Irene Zimmer (CSL).

**EFSA:**

Pia Mäkelä (the Chair), Frank Boelaert, Alessandro Mannelli, Pierre-Alexandre Beloeil, Fabrizio Abbinante, Valentina Rizzi (Science), Chiara Bianchi, Marco Leoni (Information Technology), Miriam Grasselli and Simona Fusar Poli (Administrative).

**MINUTES:**

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The meeting was opened by welcoming all the Task Force Members and Observers.

**1. Minutes from the last meeting**

Comments to the minutes were received from France. Some editorial remarks were still received as well as a request for update on the timelines for the reports of the ongoing baseline surveys during the meeting, after which the minutes of the last Zoonoses Task Force (TF) meeting were approved. They will be published on the EFSA website with the agreed amendments.

**2. Declaration of interest (DoI)**

The TF members who had not already submitted the electronic format of their annual Declaration of Interest (DoI) were kindly reminded to do it. None of the participants declared an interest related to subjects of the meeting.

**3. Proposal for the amendments in the Zoonoses Web Reporting Application for 2008 data**

Fabrizio Abbinante presented the proposal to amend the Zoonoses Web Reporting Application for next year. He told that EFSA is in the process of implementing a new database structure to support the reporting with the aim of storing the information in a simplified way and make the process of extracting and validating the data easier and quicker. He informed also that the current Zoonoses Web Reporting Application and the current database will be kept and maintained as a back up solution in case the new application and database will not be finalised by the beginning of the next reporting period. The suggestions and requests expressed by TF members for improvements to the application were discussed as listed in a related document (Annex 1). In relation to reporting related to *Salmonella* targets, it was agreed that EFSA will discuss the issue with the Commission as to which definitions to adhere to. All amendments were accepted, except for the proposal of adding a new column (>1000 cfu/g) in *Listeria* food table. Chiara Bianchi gave a short presentation about general characteristics and the timeline for the release of the new web application and Marco Leoni provided technical details of it. Finally it was agreed to organize a meeting between IT experts from EFSA and

Member States (MSs) for discussing MSs' needs and wishes related to the reporting system, from the IT point of view.

#### **4. Feedback from drafting the 2007 Zoonoses Community Report**

Nadia Ciampa from ECDC informed the TF about the main conclusions on 2007 human data; according to the data the salmonellosis cases are decreasing in EU, but campylobacteriosis cases still increasing. Pia Makela gave on EFSA's behalf some feedback acknowledging the general improvement in the quality of data submitted, particularly related to reporting of sampling stages. The MSs were thanked for their efforts in the reporting and in respecting the dead-lines. In case of the 2007 data EFSA was able to make a more in-depth data validation. The collaboration between EFSA, ECDC and ZCC was excellent and some new ways of analyzing and presenting the data were introduced. The 2007 food-borne data will be published in a separate report that will be sent for consultation later.

The TF was reminded of the deadline for the comments on the draft Community Summary Report on Zoonoses in EU in 2007, Friday 7 November 2008.

Some comments on the draft report were already presented during the discussion.

#### **5. Discussion on the draft reports B on the *Salmonella* baseline surveys in turkeys and slaughter pigs**

Alessandro Mannelli and Pierre-Alexandre Beloeil gave presentations on the draft Reports B on the baseline surveys. Regarding the Report B on the baseline survey in turkeys, the interpretation of the identified risk factors was discussed and Alessandro Mannelli summarized methods that were used and the main result of the analyses. While some of the identified risk factors had an effect on the risk of *Salmonella* in fattening turkeys at the EU level, analysis of other factors yielded contrasting results in different MSs. In these cases, some hypotheses could be generated, which should be investigated more in depth at the national level. The importance of data validation, which further improved in collaboration with the MSs and the Commission, was underlined.

As regards the Report B baseline survey in slaughter pigs, the results showed an impact on the *Salmonella* results of the testing and sampling procedures and also a slaughterhouse effect on the risk of lymph node infection. The risk of carcass contamination was associated with the sampling and testing procedure, the quarter of sampling and pig infection in lymph nodes. The risk of carcass contamination also varied between slaughterhouses, as the impact of the pig infection. This may be interpreted as a reflect of differences in hygiene and slaughter techniques between slaughterhouses. Pierre-Alexandre Beloeil explained also that results of serological tests were not included in the report because these tests have been performed only by some MSs, with different methodologies; so these data can't be use at Community level, but they could still be very useful for evaluation at national level.

It was suggested that there would be a need for further guidance on the surveys to be carried out at the national level to complement the baseline surveys, especially related to the risk factors related to the slaughterhouse effect. EFSA expressed its willingness to take such a mandate if the Commission and MSs so wish.

## **6. Information and discussion on vector-borne zoonoses**

Annapaola Rizzoli of the Edmund Mach Foundation, Trento, gave a presentation about the influence of climate change in emerging infectious diseases and the main vector-borne diseases. It was discussed whether vector-borne zoonoses should be addressed in the zoonoses data collection since the diseases are emerging. It was agreed to start with making an inventory of the available data from the MSs together with consideration of the public health importance of the diseases. This project will be outsourced in the form of procurement by EFSA. The outcome of the project can then be further used to consider, together with MSs, further steps in this field.

## **7. Progress reports from the Working Groups (WG)**

Alessandro Mannelli gave a progress report about the Statistical Analyses WG and proposed postponing to the end of March 2009 the deadline of the first report, originally foreseen for the end of this year. The TF agreed on this proposal.

Pia Makela gave a progress report from the WGs on trends in Zoonotic agents, VTEC, *Listeria* and *Yersinia*. Regarding the WG on trends, she presented the criteria and conditions identified for choosing the agents and the food/ animal categories where to follow the trends. The objectives (primary and secondary) defined by the WG on VTEC were presented as well as the food categories and the sample size considered in the WG on *Listeria* baseline survey. The first meeting of WG on *Yersinia*, will take place on the 20<sup>th</sup> November.

## **8. Progress reports from the Article 36 Grant projects and procurements**

Irene Zimmer (Central Science Laboratory, UK) gave a presentation on the main results from the Project on “Development of harmonised schemes for monitoring and reporting of *Echinococcus*, *Trichinella*, *Cysticercus* and *Sarcocystis* in animals and foodstuffs in the European Union”. She reminded that the final report will be available by the end of March 2009 and it will include a harmonised monitoring programme for these parasites. The TF gave some comments on the *Trichinella* monitoring presenting the wish that it would take into account the new EU legislation on the negligible risk areas.

The TF was also updated about other grant projects and procurements; the agreement on the grant project for Rabies and Q fever is being signed and the project will start soon; regarding the grant project for food surveys and the procurements for analyses of antimicrobial resistance data and for *Salmonella* serovars, the evaluation of the offers have been done and now it is ongoing the internal approval procedure.

## **9. Setting of new Working Groups**

Frank Boelaert informed the TF about new WGs to set up and the needs for candidate members. These WGs are:

- WG on analyses of the *Campylobacter* in broiler flocks and *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella* in broiler carcasses baseline survey,
- WG on analyses of *Salmonella* in breeding pigs baseline survey,
- WG on analyses of MRSA in breeding pigs baseline survey,
- AMU WG on production-to-retail modelling in food.

He outlined that for each WG there will be probably 6 meetings and invited MSs to send candidates for these WGs by Monday 3 November.

#### **10. Questionnaire on the collection of molecular typing data from isolates from food, feed and animals**

Valentina Rizzi gave a short overview about the Questionnaire on molecular typing methods for *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter*, verotoxigenic *Escherichia coli*, *Listeria monocytogenes* and *Staphylococcus aureus* isolates from food, animals and feedingstuffs, sent to the MSs on the 25<sup>th</sup> September; she also invited MSs to reply by Friday 24 October by e-mail (valentina.rizzi@efsa.europa.eu).

#### **11. Presentations from the members on current activities related to monitoring of zoonoses**

Dr Ruth Lyons, from DEFRA, presented the strategy adopted in UK for enhancing veterinary surveillance and showed the RADAR (Rapid Analysis and Detection of Animal-related Risks) system used for detecting animal diseases, sharing information and managing disease control activities. She also presented examples of how RADAR is used and government departments and agencies collaborating in data collection.

#### **12. Visits to the Member States related to the zoonoses reporting**

Pia Makela informed the TF about the state of play with the country visit. There has been some postponements due to the workload of the Zoonoses Unit. But it is still foreseen to make 2 visits before the end of year, and EFSA will contact the relevant MSs.

#### **13. Any other business**

Dr. Lonnie King, Director of the National Center for Zoonotic, vector-borne and enteric diseases of the CDC (USA), visited the meeting and gave a short overview of the national surveillance systems in the US (Foodnet, Pulsenet), with information on the relative goals, agencies involved and application fields. During the discussion the collaboration between the human health, food and veterinary authorities were particularly addressed.

Regarding the request from the Netherlands (NL) for the access to *Salmonella* in laying hen baseline survey dataset, the MSs agreed to give this data set in an anonymous format.

The TF members agreed on the dates of the Task Force meetings in 2009. They will be on 17-18 March 2009 in Parma, on 6- 7 October 2009 also in Parma and possibly on 9 December in Stockholm.

The Commission gave some information on the postponement of the baseline survey on *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* in broiler meats at retail. At the moment there is no agreement on the possible timing of the survey.