

Parma, 20 March 2009

**EFSA Task Force of Zoonoses Data Collection**  
**The 16. meeting**  
**Held in Parma on 17-18 March 2009**

**AGENDA:**

---

1. Opening and welcome
2. Declaration of interest
3. Minutes from the last meeting
4. Draft Report of the Task Force on Zoonoses Data Collection on the proposed technical specifications for a coordinated monitoring programme for *Listeria monocytogenes* in selected categories of ready-to-eat foods at retail in the EU
5. Draft Guidance of the Task Force on Zoonoses Data Collection on technical specifications for monitoring and reporting of verotoxigenic *E. coli* on animals and food
6. Draft Report of the Task Force on Zoonoses Data Collection on statistical analyses of temporal and spatial trends of zoonotic agents in animals and food
7. Draft Report of the Task Force on Zoonoses Data Collection on specifications for monitoring trends in zoonotic agents in foodstuffs and animal populations
8. Grant and contract projects
  - reporting and monitoring of *Trichinella*, *Echinococcus* and other parasites
  - reporting and monitoring of rabies and Q-fever
  - analyses of *Salmonella* serovars data
  - analyses of the antimicrobial resistance data
  - survey methods for pathogens in food
9. Guidance of the Task Force on Zoonoses Data Collection - Manual for Reporting on Zoonoses, Zoonotic Agents and Antimicrobial Resistance in the framework of Directive 2003/99/EC and of some other pathogenic microbiological agents for information derived from the reporting year 2008
10. Reporting of results from the *Salmonella* control programmes in laying hens
11. Proposal to amend the pick list of sampling context
12. Zoonoses reporting 2008 data – web application review
13. Deadline for the 2008 data reporting
14. Information from the IT expert meeting on 17-18 February 2009  
GIS application, Data warehouse, Extension of use of XML to antimicrobial resistance tables, Possible collection of sample based data
15. Draft Community Summary Report on foodborne outbreaks in 2007
16. Guidance of the Task Force on Zoonoses Data Collection - Manual for Reporting on foodborne outbreaks

17. Baseline survey analyses – analyses plans
  - Working Group on analyses of baseline survey on *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella* in broilers and broiler meat,
  - Working Group on analyses of baseline survey on *Salmonella* in breeding pigs,
  - Working Group on analyses of baseline survey on MRSA in pigs
18. Analyses of data in relation to the meeting of the Community *Salmonella* targets
19. Use of the zoonoses and baseline survey data by 3. parties
20. Presentations from Member States
  - Harry Bailie – Changing attitudes and approaches to zoonoses over the past decades in the UK
  - Petr Satran – control and monitoring of rabies in Czech Republic
21. Information on the Report on the availability of molecular typing methods for *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter*, VTEC, *L. monocytogenes* and *S. aureus* isolates from food, animals and feed in EU Member States
22. Progress report from the Working Group on *Yersinia*
23. Any other business

---

#### **PARTICIPANTS:**

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

Peter Much (Austria), Luc Vanholme (Belgium), Bankov Iliyan (Bulgaria), Petr Šatrán (Czech Republic), Christodoulos Pipis (Cyprus), Mariann Chriel (Denmark), Jelena Sögel (Estonia), Saara Raulo (Finland), Sylvie Francart (France), Matthias Hartung (Germany), Dimitris Vourvidis (Greece), Edith Nagy (Hungary), Kilian Unger, Lisa O'Connor (Ireland), Antonia Ricci, Lisa Barco, Simona Forcella, Antonio Petrini (Italy), Nicole Werner-Keišs (Latvia), Snieguole Ščepoņavičiene (Lithuania), Joseph Schon (Luxembourg), Rob Van Oosterom (The Netherlands), Merete Hofshagen (Norway), Jasek Osek (Poland), Patricia Inacio (Portugal), Alenka Babusek (Slovenia), José Saez Llorente, Carlos Valencia (Spain), Elina Lahti (Sweden), Lesley Larkin, Harry Bailie (United Kingdom), Jürg Danuser (Switzerland), Birgitte Helwigh (ZCC), Sarolta Idei, Ari Hörman (European Commission - COM).

##### **Observers:**

Drazen Knezevic (Croatia), Irene Zimmer (CSL), Alessandro Mannelli (chair of a working group), Florence Cliquet (AFSSA), Richard Thiery (AFSSA), Alexandra Fetsch (BfR), Annette Reinecke (BfR), Tine Hald (DTU), Hanne-Dorthe Emborg (DTU)

##### **EFSA:**

Pia Mäkelä (Chair), Frank Boelaert, Pierre-Alexandre Beloeil, Fabrizio Abbinante, Francesca Riolo, Giusi Amore, Teresa Felicio, João Alho, Valentina Rizzi (Science), Chiara Bianchi, Marco Leoni (Information Technology), Miriam Grasselli and Simona Fusar Poli (Administrative)

**MINUTES:**

---

**1. Opening and welcome**

The meeting was opened by welcoming all the Task Force (TF) members and observers.

**2. Declaration of interest**

None of the participants declared an interest related to the subjects of the meeting.

**3. Minutes from the last meeting**

No comments were received and the minutes of the last TF meeting were approved and they will be published on the EFSA website.

**4. Draft Report of the Task Force on Zoonoses Data Collection on the proposed technical specifications for a coordinated monitoring programme for *Listeria monocytogenes* in selected categories of ready-to-eat foods at retail in the EU**

Pia Mäkelä gave a short overview about the draft report on the baseline survey scheme on *Listeria* in food that was tabled for comments and possible adoption. The scheme includes smoked and gravad fish and soft and semi-soft cheeses, and ready-to-eat meat products are suggested to be subject of another baseline survey round. The primary objective of the survey is to verify compliance with microbiological criteria.

The proposed sample size was perceived as high by many TF members. Some members suggested derogations from the sample size for small countries and countries with limited consumption.

The proposal of testing the smoked and gravad fish samples both immediately after sampling and at the end of shelf-life was discussed and the TF agreed to leave testing immediately after sampling optional. It was also agreed to perform only the quantitative analysis to keep the number of analyses and consequently the costs relatively low.

The European Commission declared the intention to fund the survey, even if a cost analysis is needed. The report was adopted but the testing immediately after sampling is to be left optional. Minor comments are still welcome until **Friday 20 March** (to be sent to Pia Mäkelä); a revised version will be sent by Monday 23 March for final comments to be sent by **27 March**.

The report will be discussed in the Commission Working Group (WG) on microbiological criteria (next meeting on 6 April). In this context possible derogation in sampling design for small countries and countries with specific production and consumption characteristics could be also addressed.

**5. Draft Guidance of the Task Force on Zoonoses Data Collection on technical specifications for monitoring and reporting of verotoxigenic *E. coli* on animals and food**

Pierre-Alexandre Beloeil gave a short presentation of the draft report on verotoxigenic *E. coli* (VTEC), aimed at providing technical harmonised protocol for monitoring VTEC, principally the O157 serogroup in animals.

Certain TF members suggested clarifying the differences between general VTEC infections and HUS, specifying more clearly the VTEC definition, and some analytical method details. It was also proposed to extend the risk-based sampling to the whole year so that the at risk season is not considered only.

The proposed sampling of hide in cattle and fleece in sheep was perceived as unsuitable for giving information on infection in animal populations, and some members suggested carcass surface sampling. Some members deemed the protocol overly strict.

The WG will be consulted about these comments and the Community Reference Laboratory (CRL) will be asked to provide a detailed cost evaluation of the laboratory methods recommended.

More comments are still welcome by **31 March** (to be sent to Pierre-Alexandre Belœil). The revised proposal will be tabled for adoption at the next TF meeting (6-7 October 2009).

The deadline of the report (originally end of March) has been extended to the end of October 2009.

## **6. Draft Report of the Task Force on Zoonoses Data Collection on statistical analyses of temporal and spatial trends of zoonotic agents in animals and food**

Alessandro Mannelli (chair of the WG) presented briefly the first report on statistical analyses of temporal and spatial trends of zoonotic agents in animals and food. The report proposes a critical review of analytical methods and gives recommendations on time trend analyses, suggesting weighting, analyses of linear trend and, for the future, Bayesian statistics and spatial analyses.

Some comments were made as regards weighting, which should be adopted with caution, and the following of trends over more years, which cannot give information on yearly variations. The TF agreed on the adoption of the report according to the normal procedure (as a TF report).

The TF members were invited to send further minor comments by Monday **23 March** (to be sent to Pia Mäkelä); a new draft will be sent by Tuesday 24 March for comments by **27 March**.

## **7. Draft Report of the Task Force on Zoonoses Data Collection on specifications for monitoring trends in zoonotic agents in foodstuffs and animal populations**

Pia Mäkelä introduced the draft report on specifications for monitoring trends. The report proposes criteria to be used for selecting fields where to follow trends actively at the EU level. The preparation of the report is still on-going in the WG.

Some specific comments were received regarding brucellosis and tuberculosis, notably with regard to the relevance of certain Member States-group analyses as well as the use of certain weights. It was agreed that EFSA will contact the Commission's officials with whom the agreed upon analysis approach was worked out in 2006, to ensure that an agreement still holds.

Minor comments are still welcome by **31 March 2009** (to be sent to Pia Mäkelä). The deadline of the report (originally end of March) was extended to the end of October 2009.

## 8. Grant and contract projects

### 8a. Reporting and monitoring of *Trichinella*, *Echinococcus* and other parasites

Irene Zimmer (CSL) gave a general overview of the progress done in the project on harmonised schemes for monitoring and reporting of *Echinococcus*, *Trichinella*, *Cysticercus* and *Sarcocystis* in animals and foodstuffs in the European Union. The final report will be ready by the end of March and will be sent to the TF for consultation.

### 8b. Reporting and monitoring of rabies and Q-fever

Florence Cliquet and Richard Thiery (AFSSA) presented the new grant project on the reporting and monitoring of rabies and Q-fever, respectively, showing the scientific teams involved in the project and the work programme. Richard Thiery introduced also a draft questionnaire for the Q-fever survey, requesting TF members to send possible comments and suggestions by **10 April**. The project is planned to be finalised by end 2009.

TF members advised the report to mention the much needed proficiency testing between human medical and veterinary laboratories.

### 8c. Analyses of *Salmonella* serovar and phage type data

Tine Hald (DTU) presented briefly the project on the analyses of *Salmonella* serovar and phage type data, focused on the evaluation of frequency and spatial distributions of isolates from animals, food, feed and humans, on source attribution analyses and on the design of a specific model.

The TF agreed on to give the foodborne outbreak data from 2005 and 2006 for the contractor to be used in the analyses.

### 8d. Analyses of antimicrobial resistance data

Hanne-Dorthe Emborg (DTU) gave a presentation of the project on the analyses of antimicrobial resistance data, explaining the data covered by the analyses and the methodology which will be adopted. The breakpoint for *Campylobacter* will be discussed with the relevant CRL for antimicrobial resistance. The report is planned to be sent for consultation in July.

### 8e. Survey methods for pathogens in food

Alexandra Fetsch (BfR) presented the grant project on survey methods for pathogens in food, explaining the objectives, the project framework and the scientific workflow, with details on the project team and the work packages.

A question was presented to the TF members if non-animal origin foodstuffs (i.e. vegetables, fruit, spices) should be included in the project. In principle their inclusion was supported, but some members reserved their decision until having consulted their experts. Alexandra Fetsch will send an email to TF members to request for nomination of one person per country for the international expert committee of the project; this committee will be in charge of answering a specific questionnaire related to the project issues.

## **9. Guidance of the Task Force on Zoonoses Data Collection - Manual for Reporting on Zoonoses, Zoonotic Agents and Antimicrobial Resistance in the framework of Directive 2003/99/EC and of some other pathogenic microbiological agents for information derived from the reporting year 2008**

The manual was adopted in principle with the condition to update the section related to the reporting of *Salmonella* in laying hens, according to decisions which will be made.

## **10. Reporting of results from the *Salmonella* control programmes in laying hens**

Pia Mäkelä presented a proposal for reporting the results from the *Salmonella* control programmes in laying hens, in order to comply with the requirements set up by Commission Regulation (EC) No 1168/2006. Some TF members raised the difficulties of the reporting of the total number of existing adult flocks, the reporting of positivity only during the first year of detection, the different reporting for tested flocks that are not included in the control programme and the lack of clarity in the parameters to be evaluated (prevalence or incidence). Also the division between flocks with less than 1,000 animals and flocks comprising more than 1,000 animals was suggested. TF members moreover insisted on the need to have a consistent reporting attitude across all poultry species.

It was agreed to edit the proposal by adding a breakdown for reporting of flocks under the national control programme and of flocks not included in the programme. This proposal will be further discussed at Commission level at the next Zoonoses WG meeting on 7 April.

## **11. Proposal to amend the pick list of sampling context**

The proposal to include “suspect sampling” in the sampling context pick list was presented and approved.

## **12. Zoonoses reporting 2008 data – web application review**

Fabrizio Abbinante and Marco Leoni showed the changes to the web application, which will be launched by the end of March. The modifications to the antimicrobial and prevalence tables, the new text forms for *Salmonella* in *Gallus Gallus* as well as the new functionalities implemented in the system were shown to the Member States, in particular the new user management system, the possibilities to empty a table, to import regions from previous years, to print an empty version of a table and other minor improvements added to the application.

## **13. Deadline for the 2008 data reporting**

The TF agreed on postponing the deadline for the reporting period to 5 June 2009 due to public holidays in beginning of June.

#### **14. Information from the IT expert meeting on 17-18 February 2009**

Pia Mäkelä summarised the outcomes from the IT expert meeting held on 17-18 February 2009.

Francesca Riolo presented the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for zoonoses data, explained the possibility of giving access to the GIS system to TF members to allow them to produce national maps. Many members showed an interest in this. A more detailed proposal for the application will be made for the next TF meeting.

Fabrizio Abbinante presented characteristics and advantages of the use of a data warehouse, for creating tables, graphs and short reports. Use of this application could also be given to the TF members and there were general interest in it. A more detailed proposal for the application will be made for the next TF meeting.

It was agreed to extent the use of XML data transfer for antimicrobial resistance tables next year. In addition, Italy and Czech Republic volunteered for a more extensive pilot study on XML use for zoonoses data.

TF members were invited to consider the possibilities to further use XML also for sample-based data. EFSA will send later by email some further question on this before next TF meeting.

#### **15. Draft Community Summary Report on food-borne outbreaks in 2007**

Pia Mäkelä gave a short overview on the results of the draft report on food-borne outbreaks in the EU in 2007. The main issue was the different reporting of the Member States of the possible and verified outbreaks. It was agreed to clarify the outbreak type definitions and classification for the 2008 data reporting. It was also agreed to include the food-borne outbreaks in the main report on zoonoses and zoonotic agents.

EFSA will reconvene the former WG responsible for the food-borne outbreak reporting recommendations to consider the results after the 2008 data is available and if there is a need to amend the reporting system. The TF members were invited to suggest additional experts for this consideration.

#### **16. Guidance of the Task Force on Zoonoses Data Collection Manual for Reporting on food-borne outbreaks**

The manual for reporting on food-borne outbreaks will be updated according to discussions for the food-borne report and sent for final check and adoption in the last week of March.

#### **17. Baseline survey analyses plans**

Frank Boelaert and Pierre-Alexandre Beloeil presented the analyses plans of the data from the baseline surveys on *Campylobacter* in broiler flocks and *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella* in broiler carcasses,

on *Salmonella* and MRSA in breeding pigs. Three WGs have been set up for this purpose. Also the timelines of the different outcomes (report A and report B) were presented.

TF members were invited to send further comments on the draft plans of analyses by **31 March** to Frank Boelaert and Pierre-Alexandre Belœil. They were also informed that complementary data needed for the analyses will be kindly requested soon to the national survey coordinators by email.

## **18. Analyses of data in relation to the meeting of the Community *Salmonella* targets**

Frank Boelaert presented the EFSA proposal regarding the methodology to follow up progress made towards or the achievement of the *Salmonella* reduction target in animal populations. He stressed that this proposal concerns not only the breeders of *Gallus gallus* but also the other poultry populations. Some rewording suggestions were made. Moreover, the TF was of the opinion that the analyses should in principle be transparent, descriptive, simple and robust and were as such not in favour of alternative B, which proposes a more elaborated scientific approach. The TF members were invited to consult their experts at home and to send to Frank Boelaert comments by **31 March 2009**.

## **19. Use of the zoonoses and baseline survey data by 3. parties**

The Netherlands (NL) informed the TF that the pooled dataset they received on *Salmonella* in laying hens was inadequate for the confirmation of the model and they would therefore prefer to receive the country specific dataset that would be treated confidentially.

Some TF members had reservations regarding giving their national dataset and expressed the intention to discuss the issue at home. However, some members were willing to give their datasets. The NL member was invited to send a former request to the Member States and in some cases to address Chief Veterinary Officers.

Based on the reservations expressed by some TF members, Commission suggested to the NL member to contact the MSs officially.

Furthermore, it was agreed that the TF will be informed by email regarding the request of the use of zoonoses monitoring and baseline surveys datasets by EFSA's BIOHAZ and AHAW panels. Also, ECDC is likely to make an official request to have access to monitoring data regarding *Listeria* in food.

## **20. Presentations from Member States**

### ***20a. Changing attitudes and approaches to zoonoses over the past decades in the UK***

Harry Bailie (UK) gave a presentation on changes in attitudes and approaches to zoonoses over the past decades in UK. He presented the evolution of some zoonoses in UK and pointed out some factors which influenced the approach to these diseases; between them the risk assessment and the correlate cost/benefit analyses. He also emphasized what will continue to be required to maintain progress in reduction of zoonoses.

**20b. Control and monitoring of rabies in Czech Republic**

Petr Šatrán gave a short presentation on the control and monitoring of rabies in the Czech Republic. Rabies in foxes was widespread in the territory of the Czech Republic after the Second World War. The programme of oral vaccination, launched in 1989, was efficacious and led to the elimination of rabies in 2002. So the Czech Republic fulfilled the criteria of recognition as a rabies-free state. Continual rabies-free status has to be documented by proper surveillance in all areas.

**21. Information on the Report on the availability of molecular typing methods for *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter*, VTEC, *L. monocytogenes* and *S. aureus* isolates from food, animals and feed in EU Member States**

Valentina Rizzi gave a short presentation on the report of molecular typing methods for *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter*, VTEC, *L. monocytogenes* and *S. aureus* isolates from food, animals and feed in the EU. The TF members were asked if they agree to publish this report on the EFSA website and further email will be sent reminding of this question.

**22. Progress report from the Working Group on *Yersinia***

Pia Mäkelä informed the TF about the progress made by the WG on the monitoring of *Yersinia* in animals. Main question under discussion is how many samples can be gathered during one visit to slaughterhouse.

**23. Any other business**

There were no other businesses.