



Scientific Panel on Animal Health and Welfare

Minutes of the 132nd Plenary meeting – Open

Held on 5-6 May 2021

EFSA, Parma, WEB¹

(Agreed on 26 May 2021)²

Participants

■ Panel Members:

ALVAREZ Julio, BICOULT Dominique, CALISTRI Paolo, CANALI Elisabetta, DREWE Julian, GARIN-BASTUJI Bruno, GONZALES ROJAS Jose Luis, GORTAZAR SCHMIDT Christian, HERSKIN Mette, MICHEL Virginie, MIRANDA Miguel Angel, NIELSEN Søren Saxmose (Chair), PADALINO Barbara, PASQUALI Paolo, ROBERTS Helen, SIHVONEN Liisa, SPOOLDER Hans, STAHL Karl, VELARDE Antonio, VILTROP Arvo, WINCKLER Christoph.

■ European Commission:

Barbara Logar (5.1,5.2, 5.4, 6.1, 6.2); Simona Forcella (5.2, 5.3) Laszlo Kuster (5.4,6.1,6.2); Cristina Massot (6.3)

■ EFSA:

ALPHA UNIT: Antoniou Sotiria-Eleni, Ashe Sean, Aznar Inmaculada, Baldinelli Francesca, Broglia Alessandro, Candiani Denise, Capelli Martina, Carfagnini Roberta, Chinchio Eleonora, Dhollander Sofie, Fabris Chiara, Gervelmeyer Andrea, Križ Nik (HoU), Lima Eliana, Lombardo Ludovico, Oswaldi Verena, Rapagna Cristina, Van der Stede Yves, Veggeland Maria, Zancanaro Gabriele

AMU: Olaf Mosbach-Schulz (6.4)

SCER: Raquel Garcia Matas (6.4)

GMO: Michele Ardizzone (6.4)

RASA: Kalcheva Mimi (6.4)

Hearing experts³: not applicable.

■ Observers: List enclosed as annex.

¹ All meetings were rescheduled to web meetings due to Covid-19

² Minutes should be published within 15 working days of the final day of the relevant meeting.

³ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.



1. Welcome and apologies for absence

This meeting was an open plenary meeting for both days. The Chair welcomed the Panel members and 14 registered observers. Instructions to observers and panel members were provided for the Web meeting. Apologies were received from Hans Spoolder (day 1) and José Gonzales (both days). A Question and Answer session (Q&A) was organised at the end of each day (see Annex).

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest Scientific Panel Members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁵, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled in by the Scientific Panel Members invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting had been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 131st Plenary meeting held on 17 & 18 March 2021, WEB

The minutes of the 131st Plenary meeting were agreed by written procedure on 31 March 2021.

5. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion and possible adoption / endorsement

5.1. Art. 29- Disease control measures category A diseases AHL - Foot and Mouth Disease (EFSA-Q-2020-00193)

The opinion was thoroughly discussed and specific comments in the section recommendation (table) and uncertainty analysis were addressed by the Panel members. The Panel adopted unanimously the Scientific Opinion. The opinion will be prepared for publication assuring that the agreed changes are implemented throughout the document.

5.2. Art. 29 –Scientific opinion on African Swine Fever: GAP - Survival and vectors (EFSA-Q-2020-00430 & EFSA-Q-2020-00429)

Miguel Miranda, as chair of the WG, presented the Scientific Opinion. The opinion was thoroughly discussed and comments were addressed: consistency in the tables provided in the annex will be refined as requested by panel members and the consistent use of coefficient of variation (CV) will be implemented in the whole document. It was agreed to provide additional information on the methodology used for prioritisation (use of Likert scale (1, 3 and 5)) of the research objectives.

⁴ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



The Panel adopted unanimously the Scientific Opinion. The opinion will be prepared for publication assuring that the agreed changes are implemented throughout the document.

5.3. Art 29 – Scientific opinion on African swine fever and outdoor farming of pigs. Update (EFSA-Q-2020-00425)

The panel discussed thoroughly the proposals made by the working group to address the comments provided by Panel members. The final wording – in particular the definitions used for farmed/kept pigs - was agreed and the document was adopted. The Panel adopted unanimously the Scientific Opinion. The opinion will be prepared for publication assuring that the agreed changes are implemented throughout the document.

5.4. Art 29 – Scientific opinion for listing and categorisation of transmissible animal diseases caused by bacteria resistant to antimicrobials in the framework of the animal health law (EFSA-Q-2019-00761) - Methodology

The panel discussed thoroughly the opinion. In particular the following issues were discussed and amended: refine the section on the limitations and uncertainties of the assessment and the section on conclusions should be better framed in relation to frequency and significant level of resistance. It was agreed to include in the conclusions the final categorisation of the bacteria according two classes: Class I: to follow up (for listing and categorisation) and Class II 'not to follow up'. The Panel adopted unanimously the Scientific Opinion. The opinion will be prepared for publication assuring that the agreed changes are implemented throughout the document.

6. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion

6.1. Art 29 – Scientific opinion for listing and categorisation of transmissible animal diseases caused by bacteria resistant to antimicrobials in the framework of the animal health law (EFSA-Q-2019-00761) – Dogs and cats

The draft opinion, already at an advanced stage, was thoroughly discussed. It was proposed and suggested to reorder the table on AMR pathogens according to the number of relevant studies. The figures with horizontal layout (prevalence of AMR (categories I and I+R)) were preferred for the final version of the Scientific Opinion and finally terminology issues were tackled, and alternatives were proposed. In the interpretation of TORs and in the uncertainty part it should be described what the impact is of not assessing AMEG category A antimicrobials in the assessment. This Scientific Opinion will be sent and proposed for written adoption before the end of May 2021. Panel members are requested to provide in written comments (if any) and whether they have objections against written adoption. In that case, the Scientific opinion will be scheduled for adoption during the AHAW panel meeting of June 2021 (23-24 June 2021).

6.2. Art 29 – Scientific opinion for listing and categorisation of transmissible animal diseases caused by bacteria resistant to antimicrobials in the framework of the animal health law - Horses

The opinion was thoroughly discussed. The opinion will be sent in the week 24 - 28 May 2021 to Panel Members for written adoption. Panel members are requested to provide in written comments (if any) and whether they have objections against written adoption. In case of objections, the Scientific opinion will be scheduled for adoption during the AHAW panel meeting of June 2021 (23-24 June 2021).



6.3. Art.29- Disease control measures category A diseases AHL – Peste de Petits Ruminants (EFSA-Q-2020-00798) & Classical Swine Fever (EFSA-Q-2020-00797)

The PPR opinion was presented and it was agreed to have a specific paragraph on wildlife species and their testing. In addition, it was agreed that for answering TOR2 and TOR2, PPR outbreaks will be simulated by using models for sheep and goat Pox virus and they are no available kernels for PPR in small ruminants. However, it was discussed to describe the limitations of this approach and the and the extreme variability to be expected in the outcomes.

The CSF opinion was presented and discussed. The following issues were clarified in detail: seroconversion of CSF in chronically infected animals, the use of Specificity of 100% in the different testing scenario's, the recommendation on 3 & 10 km for protection and surveillance zone versus the use of 2 km and 4 km. As for PPR a separate paragraph should be added for sampling and testing of wild boar.

Both opinions are tabled for adoption at the next Plenary meeting in June.

6.4. F2F Welfare mandates

6.4.1. Request for a scientific opinion concerning the protection of terrestrial animals during transport (EFSA-Q-2020-00481 (free moving) & EFSA-Q-2020-00482 (caged animals) - feedback public consultation

EFSA staff reminded that EFSA has launched a public consultation for the transport mandate. Maria Veggeland and Sean Ashe provided an update on the mandates on transport highlighting that a public consultation has been launched and will collect inputs and comments until June 10. It is under discussion how many opinions there should be for transport.

6.4.2. Request for a scientific opinion concerning the protection of pigs (EFSA-Q-2020-00484)

Hans Spoolder, chair of the WG, updated the Panel on the pig welfare mandate in the context of the Farm to fork strategy. He provided an overview of the terms of reference with a highlight on pig categories, husbandry systems and most relevant welfare consequences. The working plan for next months includes: for the common ToRs, to identify hazards and provide recommendations to prevent, correct or mitigate hazards and welfare consequences, and to perform the EKE exercises for addressing the scientific questions of the specific scenarios. It has been foreseen a public consultation before finalising the opinion.

6.4.3. Update on methodology to apply for EKE

An overview on methodology for specific scenarios was provided by Denise Candiani on pigs, broilers, calves, laying hens, and transport. Starting from May 16 EFSA will start a social media campaign on animal Welfare.

Olaf Mosbach-Schulz also provided an update on methodology to be used during EKE exercises for specific scenarios (for which quantitative or qualitative criteria need to be defined for certain exposure variables) showing a simple model with an example on pigs. In the example the



exposure variable (space allowance) is assessed by an ABM (time spent in locomotory behaviour). The methodology involves a 3-step elicitation where experts are asked: i) minimum and maximum values for the ABM in a non-exposed population (e.g. unrestricted space conditions), ii) the variation of the ABM in a non-exposed population and iii) the minimum value for the exposure variable which shows no effects on the ABM. The methodology will allow to define minimum quantitative criteria for a certain exposure variable to ensure welfare needs of the animals are met, from a scientific perspective (and not considering ethical and economic implications). The Panel agreed with the proposed methodology. Outcomes from the first exercises – that will be held in the various WGs – will be presented at the next Panel meetings.

6.4.4. Request for a scientific opinion concerning the protection of domestic fowl related to production of meat (EFSA-Q-2020-00479)

Raquel Garcia Matas (SCER unit) is currently supporting AHAW staff to coordinate the WG on broilers. She presented with the chair of the WG the working plan to the Panel. She updated the Panel on the status of the draft opinion and the selection of the most relevant welfare consequences.

6.4.5. Request for a scientific opinion concerning the protection of domestic fowl related to production of eggs (EFSA-Q-2020-00483)

Michele Ardizzone (GMO unit) is currently supporting AHAW staff to coordinate the WG. He presented the WG composition and the working plan to the Panel. He updated the Panel on the status of the draft opinion and the selection of the most relevant welfare consequences.

6.4.6. Request for a scientific opinion concerning the protection of calves (EFSA-Q-2020-00480)

Eliana Lima (EFSA) and Christoph Winckler (chair) presented the WG composition and the working plan to the Panel. She highlighted highlighting the terms of reference of the mandate and the husbandry systems considered. She They updated the Panel on the status of the draft opinion and the selection of the most relevant welfare consequences.

6.5. Art. 29 -Guidance documents on risk assessment on Animal health using modelling (EFSA-Q-2020-00177) & risk assessment on Animal welfare (EFSA-Q-2020-00180)

The update on the mandates was provided by EFSA staff. It was agreed to postpone the update of the guidance document on risk assessment on Welfare (EFSA-Q-2020-00180) for at least until December 2022. The update on the guidance on risk assessment on animal health using modelling will be postponed as well and it will be evaluated what action points need to be completed in function of other available and more recent guidance documents in EFSA. The life cycle of guidance documents in EFSA was clarified to the panel members.

7. New Mandates

No new mandates.



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

Chair of the Panel updated the Panel members on Scientific committee ongoing scientific priorities.

9. Any other business

9.1. Wrap up and schedule of next Panel meetings in 2021

A short wrap up was provided, and tasks were distributed. Next Plenary meeting will be via WEB (TEAMS) on 23-24 June 2021.

A Question and Answer session (Q&A) was organised at the end of each day (see Annex).



Annex: Questions and Answers from observers

Q&A sessions were held at the end of each day. The questions raised by the observers during the Plenary session were tabled and answered. In total 3 questions. A summary of the questions and answers is given in the table below.

Open session- Q&A

No	Topic	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
	<p>Generic question raised in writing before the start of the Open Plenary meeting</p>	<p><u>Question 1</u>: Why Europe is not able to make big and fast steps in improving the animal welfare situation? Why terrible events like the one concerning a stuck ship in the Spanish seas which ended with the death of thousands of animals still occur nowadays? Or the ship stuck in ship traffic jam in the Suez Canal?</p> <p>What can a simple European citizen do to make his/ her part in this battle?</p> <p>Answer (Chair of the AHAW Panel): EFSA's remit in the field of animal welfare were presented under point 6.4. Therefore, EFSA cannot reply to these questions as these are outside the remit of EFSA and AHAW panel.</p>
6.4	<p>Scientific outputs submitted for discussion and possible adoption</p>	<p><u>Question 2</u> from observer: Eva Veronesi (11:15)</p> <p>Is the passive transportation of biting arthropods being considered as a possible cause of stress for the animal? On the other hand, I also wonder for the passive spread of potentially infected arthropods during transportation which may initiate outbreaks at final destination, although I understand that the latest is not strictly pertinent to animal welfare.</p> <p>Answered by Mette Herskin (Chair of F2F "Transport of free moving animals" Working group):</p> <p>The observer is right, biting invertebrates can be a challenge for livestock – also during transport. When severity is of a degree, where animal welfare is challenged, this issue falls under the fitness for transport theme. The animals under consideration for transport should be checked to see if they are indeed fit for any proposed journey. All animals, therefore, should undergo an inspection or examination in this regard. The responsibility in this regard differs depending on the transport context. During the ongoing mandate we are looking at long journeys with animals often crossing between member states of indeed leaving the territory of the EU. When this is the case a state veterinarian issuing the appropriate Animal Health Certificate makes a declaration that the animal is indeed fit for the journey. The overt presence of such ecto-parasites falls within the scope of declaration. Fitness for transport will form part of EFSA's ongoing work. The potential spread of disease in this way is outside of the remit of the mandate and will not be considered, but for the information of the observer, it has been considered in an opinion 'Research priorities to fill knowledge gaps in the control of African swine fever in wild boar populations: Possible transmission of African swine fever virus by arthropods', that are currently under publication.</p> <p><u>Question 3</u> from observer: Michele de Angeli (11:51)</p>



Referring to the F2F project, is the environmental data collected during transport in all species for scientific purposes only, or is there any thought of implementation in the regulation of transport and vehicles by monitoring all transported animals?

Answered by Antonio Velarde (Chair of F2F 'Transport of caged species' Working Group):

F2F is not a research project, it is a EU strategy ([Farm to Fork strategy](#)). EFSA is assessing the welfare of animals during transport in order to give to the European Commission updated scientific knowledge to be used when they are revising the current legislation. The scientific literature that will be assessed by EFSA covers experimental conditions but also research done on real transport situations. It includes also a public consultation, allowing stakeholders to share data, linking environmental data to negative welfare situations, that are not published scientifically, but may be valuable as part of the assessment made by EFSA. The data collected will scientifically support implementation of the regulation. However, it is out of the EFSA remit to propose these implementations.



List of Observers via WEB

SURNAME	NAME	COUNTRY	AFFILIATION
BØDKER	Rene	Denmark	University/public research institute
BRIZZI	Chiara	Italy	University/public research institute
CONRADY	Beate	Denmark	University/public research institute
DE ANGELI	Michele	Italy	Private sector (Trouw Nutrition IT)
DOLMAN	Sarah	United Kingdom	NGO (Whale and Dolphin Conservation)
GRASSI	Federica	Belgium	Advocacy association (AnimalHealth Europe)
JOHN	David	Belgium	Private sector (AnimalHealth Europe)
LAWLER	Catherine	Ireland	National authority (Department of Agriculture, Food and the marine)
MOREA	Adriana Felicia	Romania	University/public research institute
PRYTZ	Åsmund	Norway	Private Sector (Prytz AS)
REILLY	Patricia	Ireland	National authority (Department of Agriculture, Food and the marine)
RUIZ ESTEBAN	Blanca	Spain	NGO (AVEC)
VAN INGELGEM	Olivier	France	Private sector
VERONESI	Eva	Switzerland	University/public research institute