



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

Scientific Panel on Animal Health and Welfare

Minutes of the 136th Plenary meeting

Held on 15-16 December 2021

EFSA, Parma, WEBMEETING¹

(Agreed on 13 January 2022)

Participants

■ Panel Members:

ALVAREZ Julio, BICOUT 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, SPOOLDER Hans, STAHL Karl, VELARDE Antonio, VILTROP Arvo, WINCKLER Christoph

■ European Commission:

CAMARA Ewa, LOGAR Barbara, VORNAGHEN Kirsten

■ EFSA:

ALPHA Unit: ANTONIOU Sotiria-Eleni, ASHE Sean, AZNAR Inma, BALDINELLI Francesca, BROGLIA Alessandro, CANDIANI Denise, CAPELLI Martina, CHINCHIO Eleonora, DHOLLANDER Sofie, FABRIS Chiara, GEFFROY Mariana, GERVELMEYER Andrea, KOHNLE Lisa, KRIŽ Nik (HoU), LIMA Eliana, LOMBARDO Ludovico, MUR Lina, OSWALDI Verena, VAN DER STEDE Yves, VEGGELAND Maria, VITALI Marika, ZANCANARO Gabriele

AMU UNIT: MOSBACH-SCHULZ Olaf

■ Hearing experts²: not applicable

■ Observers: not applicable

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

² 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

The Chair welcomed the meeting participants. Apologies were received from Christian Gortazar Schmidt (Day 2).

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 Independence³ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁴, 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 135th Plenary meeting held on 24-25 November 2021, WEB

The minutes of the 135th Plenary meeting were agreed by written procedure on 06 December 2021.

5. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion and possible adoption

5.1. Art. 29 – Disease control measures category A diseases AHL – CBPP (EFSA-Q-2020-00803)

The EFSA staff (Sotiria Antoniou) presented the Scientific Opinion. The Panel adopted the Scientific Opinion unanimously. The Opinion will be prepared for publication assuring that the agreed changes are implemented throughout the document.

5.2. Art. 29 – Disease control measures category A diseases AHL – CAPP (EFSA-Q-2020-00804)

The EFSA staff (Sotiria Antoniou) presented the Scientific Opinion. Amendments were made to the abstract. The Panel adopted unanimously the Scientific Opinion, which will be prepared for publication assuring that the agreed changes are implemented throughout the document.

5.3. Art. 29 – Disease control measures category A diseases AHL – Glanders (EFSA-Q-2020-00802)

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁴ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



The EFSA staff (Inma Aznar) presented the Scientific Opinion. Only few minor comments were made that needed discussion and these points were clarified and changed accordingly. 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 – Disease control measures category A diseases AHL – Rift Valley Fever (EFSA-Q-2020-00801)

The EFSA staff (Alessandro Broglia) presented the Scientific Opinion. Changes concerning rephrasing and wording are implemented. The Panel adopted unanimously the Scientific Opinion. The opinion will be prepared for publication assuring that the agreed changes are implemented throughout the document.

5.5. Art. 29 – Disease control measures category A diseases AHL – Rinderpest (EFSA-Q-2020-00805)

The EFSA staff (Andrea Gervelmeyer) presented the Scientific Opinion. Sentences in the abstract and the summary have been rephrased. Changes based on comments were accepted for the conclusions and recommendations section. The Panel unanimously adopted the Scientific Opinion. The opinion will be prepared for publication assuring that the agreed changes are implemented throughout the document.

5.6. Methodology AHL – endorsement

The EFSA staff (Lisa Kohnle) presented the document. The changes that will be made to the methodology in the previous Scientific Opinions were presented and discussed. The new quantitative approach will be published as an Appendix to the previous Scientific Opinion on the ad hoc methodology, either as a new standalone document or as an updated republication of the previous document. The exact format will be discussed within EFSA and confirmed at the next plenary meeting. The presentation and phrasing of the 'probability zones' (the yellow zone) for the fulfilment of criteria was discussed, and a suggestion of the sentence was agreed upon by the Panel members. The Panel agreed on the endorsement of the document provided the amendments discussed during the plenary will be implemented. As soon as the procedures of republishing are known, the document will be shared again with the Panel with cleared text.

5.7. Art. 29 – Scientific opinion on listing and categorisation of transmissible animal diseases caused by bacteria resistant to antimicrobials in the framework of the animal health law: *Staphylococcus pseudintermedius* (EFSA-Q-2021-00702)

The EFSA staff (Lisa Kohnle) presented the Scientific Opinion. It was agreed that the table about subjective probability ranges with interpretations from the addendum will be added to this section. This would help the reader to understand the conclusions. Minor comments and changes were discussed and agreed upon. Some of the reasoning points for uncertain criteria were rephrased. The wording to reflect 'certainty' and 'uncertainty' in the assessment was discussed, rephrased in the abstract and aligned with formulation in previously published Scientific Opinions. Following the proposed changes in abstract and conclusions, the Panel adopted unanimously the Scientific



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

5.8. Art. 29 – Scientific opinion on listing and categorisation of transmissible animal diseases caused by bacteria resistant to antimicrobials in the framework of the animal health law: *Rhodococcus equi* (EFSA-Q-2021-00701)

The EFSA staff (Lisa Kohnle) presented the Scientific Opinion. The changes in wording will be taken over from the previous Scientific Opinion (*Staphylococcus pseudintermedius*). Minor comments were discussed and agreed upon. Some of the reasoning for uncertain criteria were rephrased. The same approach as mentioned in 5.7. was followed and the Panel adopted unanimously the Scientific Opinion.

5.9. Art. 29 AMR-AHL - Scientific opinion for listing and categorisation of transmissible animal diseases caused by bacteria resistant to antimicrobials in the framework of the animal health law – fish (EFSA-Q-2021-00666)

The EFSA staff (Francesca Baldinelli) presented the Scientific Opinion. It was agreed to use 'kept fish species' in the title and in the methodology; these kept fish species will be listed. Sections to show the importance of the selected species were added. Minor comments were discussed and agreed upon. 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. Update on scientific outputs/workshops/events

6.1. Feedback from the uncertainty workshop with risk managers

This point will be rescheduled for the next panel meeting.

6.2. Update on customer's feedback exercise

EFSA staff (Andrea Gervelmeyer) presented the outcome of the last customer's feedback exercise. The SO on ASF and outdoor farming of pigs was selected this year by EFSA and the EC provided the customer feedback. A summary of the feedback was presented. Especially, key messages of opinion sections formulated as bullet points after the sections, and a quantitative expression of the Panel's certainty in the conclusions were assessed as very useful for the requestor. Panel members commented that they found this feedback from the EC useful for the Panel's work.

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

Not applicable



6.4. Update on ToR4 of control measures for Cat A. diseases

EFSA staff (Andrea Gervelmeyer) presented the work related to ToR4 of the Cat. A disease-mandate, which covers prohibitions in the restricted zones and risk-mitigating measures. The members of the working group and the timeline were presented. Paolo Pasquali and Dominique Bicout volunteered as deep-readers for this SO.

6.5. Update on self-task on the Guidance for use of modelling in AH assessments

EFSA staff (Andrea Gervelmeyer) gave an update on the working group and structure of this mandate. José Gonzales and Paolo Calistri volunteered as deep reviewers of this SO.

6.6. Update on SIGMA achievements

The EFSA staff (Gabriele Zancanaro) gave an overview of the SIGMA achievements. The principles were explained on which the data model was built and the data flow was also explained. The SIGMA EST mapping tool was launched for making the providing of data easier. The pro's and contras of the mapping tool were presented. SIGMA will contain data at establishment (farm) level from 7 MS, next to the data at test result level. The SIGMA validation tool for data provider was presented looking at the example of Estonia. The SIGMA 2.0 project (AI data collection and AW) is approved for chartering.

6.7. Disease profiles reviews

The EFSA staff (Sofie Dhollander) presented the disease profiles. Forty-seven diseases are displayed in the interactive tool, giving a summary of the outcomes of 7 living systematic literature reviews. The disease profile of Rift Valley fever was shown as an example. Geographical distributions, field studies (to be updated and extended), descriptive statistics and plots, results from metanalysis were shown. Diagnosis and vaccination will be updated the upcoming year. The output could be used in general for risk assessments and other tasks and should aim our preparedness.

7. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion

7.1 Sections of the draft SO on the protection of pigs that were submitted for Public Consultation (ToRs 1, 2, 3 of the Common ToRs)

The document was presented by EFSA staff (Chiara Fabris) and the appointed chair of the working group (Hans Spoolder). A presentation on the aim of this discussion was provided: 1) The sections of the draft SO that were submitted for Public Consultation over summer and revised by WG experts to address the pertinent Stakeholders' comments (sections 1.2, 2.2, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4: on Interpretation of Mandate and Common ToRs, Methodology to identify the most relevant welfare consequences for pigs, Description of pig categories, and assessment of ToRs 1, 2, 3 of the Common ToRs) were submitted for AHAW Panel in-depth discussion and endorsement; 2) The AHAW Panel was consulted also to agree on the structure of the sections addressing ToRs 4 and 5 of the Common ToRs and of the related outcome tables linking the highly relevant welfare



consequences, related ABMs, hazards, and preventive/corrective and mitigation measures (sections from 3.5 to 3.10 of the draft SO).

In relation to point 1) above, the AHAW Panel discussed thoroughly the comments and proposals made by AHAW Panel members in the version sent for in depth-discussion. On the ABMs that were identified addressing ToR-3 of the Common ToRs it was agreed to specify in the SO that the ABMs represent a number of the possible ones that can be used under on-farm conditions to assess a certain welfare consequence; that in some cases ABMs indirectly relate to the welfare consequence; and that a broad qualitative indication of sensitivity and specificity, based on expert opinion, is given, as guidance to the usefulness of the ABMs to assess each welfare consequence. Definitions of ABMs sensitivity and specificity will be also included. The presented sections of the draft SO were endorsed unanimously by the AHAW Panel and tollgate #3 was passed for ToRs 1, 2 and 3 of the Common ToRs. In relation to point 2) above, the AHAW Panel agreed on the proposed structure of the sections addressing ToRs 4 and 5 of the Common ToRs and of the related outcome tables. This will be applied to the six pig categories considered in the mandate.

7.2 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: *Enterococcus cecorum* & *Enterococcus faecalis*

The results of the collective judgement on the two enterococci were presented by EFSA staff and discussed by the panel.

The presentation started with *Enterococcus cecorum*. It was agreed that it is transmissible, has negative effects on animal health, and that there are diagnostic methods available for the disease. No control measures are in place for this pathogen and no surveillance system exists. Treatment is based on early diagnosis, which is difficult. The pathogen is considered endemic in the whole EU, without significant impact on public health, the environment or biodiversity. The impact on animal welfare is uncertain.

E. cecorum does not fit in category A, B and D, and the outcome is uncertain for C and E.

The results for *E. faecalis* followed. For listing, the first four criteria of the first set were fulfilled. The Panel remains uncertain of the negative economic impact at Union level. It was stressed that *E. faecalis* is an opportunistic pathogen and development of disease depends on host and other co-factors. For categorisation of *E. faecalis*, it was assessed that the pathogen cannot fit in categories A, B or D, and the Panel is uncertain about categories C and E.

The planning and dates for revision of fact-sheets on other antimicrobial-resistant microorganisms were presented to the Panel. Individual judgements for *Brachyspira hyodysenteriae* will be submitted before the 5th of January to be collectively discussed on 11th of January. Volunteer reviewers for fact-sheet drafts are needed. The fact-sheets for *Escherichia coli*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Staphylococcus aureus* will be ready in the end of January and will need to be assessed during February.

8. New mandates (no new mandates)

Not applicable



9. Any other business

9.1. Panel meetings in 2022

The calendar for the panel meetings for 2022 was presented by EFSA staff. There is a proposal for an extra meeting on the 31st of May/ 1st June due to the high amount of work and Scientific Opinions that will need adoption in June. An open Plenary meeting is planned for May 2022 and two physical meetings in Parma are proposed for June 2022 and September 2022.

Some panel members cannot attend on the 31st May, so the extra AHAW panel meeting will be on the 1st of June.