



Scientific Panel on Animal Health and Welfare

Minutes of the 137th Plenary meeting

Held on 19 January 2022

EFSA, Parma, WEBMEETING¹

(Agreed on 3 February 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, STAHL Karl, VELARDE Antonio, VILTROP Arvo, WINCKLER Christoph

■ European Commission:

CAMARA Ewa (Point 7.2) , KUSTER Laszlo (Points 5.1 & 5.2), LOGAR Barbara (Points 5.1, 5.2, & 6.1), VORNAGHEN Kirsten (point 5.3)

■ EFSA:

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

AMU UNIT: MOSBACH-SCHULZ Olaf

■ Hearing experts²: THULKE Hans-Hermann

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 Hans Spooler.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest Scientific of Panel Members and agreement of the minutes of the 135th Plenary meeting held on 15-16 December 2021, WEB

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. The minutes of the 136th Plenary meeting were agreed by written procedure on 13 January 2022.

4. Update on EFSA's new organisational structure and new appointments

New changes in the new organisational structure in EFSA were announced: Nik KRIZ was appointed as Head of Department ENABLE and Ernesto LIEBANA was appointed as new interim Head of Unit BIOHAW from 1 February onwards. Ernesto introduced himself to the Panel.

5. Scientific outputs submitted for possible adoption and endorsement

5.1. Listing and categorisation of transmissible animal diseases caused by bacteria resistant to antimicrobials in the framework of the Animal Health Law: *Enterococcus cecorum*

The EFSA staff presented the Scientific Opinion. Minor changes in the abstract were discussed and will be implemented consistently in the other SOs on AMR in the different pathogens. It was proposed and agreed to use the word 'colonisation' in the Methodology section instead of 'commensal infection'. Minor changes in the main text were discussed and implemented.

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. Listing and categorisation of transmissible animal diseases caused by bacteria resistant to antimicrobials in the framework of the Animal Health Law: *Enterococcus faecalis*

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 presented the Scientific Opinion. The Panel agreed that the changes discussed in the previous SO will also be implemented in this SO. Minor changes in the text were discussed and agreed on.

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

5.3. Protocol for animal welfare F2F mandates (for endorsement before public consultation)

The EFSA staff presented the document. Relevant comments were discussed with the Panel and agreed on the changes. Comments were related to the extent of the protocol development (low-high) and the mapping of the translation of the mandate assessment questions into sub-questions (Table 1). The panel agreed on the definition/description of negative affective state 'Discomfort'.

The panel endorsed the protocol unanimously. Public consultation will be opened for comments on the methodology and the task force will work and agree on definitions.

6. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion

6.1. Presentation of collective judgement results for AMR *Brachyspira hyodysenteriae* (listing and categorisation of transmissible animal diseases caused by bacteria resistant to antimicrobials in the framework of the Animal Health Law)

The EFSA staff presented the outcome of the collective judgement of AMR *Brachyspira hyodysenteriae*. The pathogen fulfilled four out of five of the first set of questions and three out of five of the second set of questions. Based on this, the pathogen cannot be considered eligible to be listed for Union intervention according to Article 5 of the Animal Health Law, (due to the uncertain outcome on criterion A(v)). For categorisation according to Article 9 of the Animal Health Law, according to the assessment performed, AMR *Brachyspira hyodysenteriae* does not fit in Categories A, B and C. However, it is uncertain whether the bacterium can fit in categories D or E.

The workplan for the next steps/fact sheets/judgements was presented.

7. Other topics for information and/or discussion

7.1. Update on the EPI 6 report on ASF.

The outcomes of the descriptive epidemiology, the risk factor analysis and the outcomes of the epidemiological model to evaluate the effectiveness of the measures applied in the white zones were presented. The methodology and results of the extensive literature review on ASF risk factors were also presented.

7.2. Update on Report art. 31 about EHV-1

The EFSA staff presented the ToRs and main aspects addressed by the report and the points still open for the WG to be solved.



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

The EFSA staff presented the draft assessment protocol and the workplan for TOR4. In particular, the interpretation of ToR 4.1 (Annex VI), and 4.2 (Annex VII and Annex VIII) and their translation into scientific questions for the assessment were highlighted. The draft assessment protocol will be submitted to Panel members on 25/01 for review and written agreement by 28/01.

7.4. Update on EFSA's working group activities to develop a guidance for Protocol Development for risk assessments

The EFSA staff informed the Panel about the restart of the Scientific Committee's work on the framework for protocol development. It is foreseen to add the problem formulation step to the document and revise the protocol development sections using the feedback received during the pilot phase. The Panel will be regularly updated about the work progress and opportunities to engage in shaping this overarching EFSA guidance document.

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

8.1. Feedback from the uncertainty workshop with risk managers

Panel member Julio Alvarez highlighted the general objective and specific objectives of the uncertainty assessment workshop. The tasks (questions and objectives) of each day were shown. The presenter discussed the focal conclusions, communication aspects and feedback regarding the workshop.

8.2. Update on revision of the AHAW Panel Guidance on Good Practice in Conducting Scientific Assessments in Animal Health using Modelling

The EFSA staff presented how the section 2.4 of the guidance document on operating procedures has been updated, and how it has been aligned with the current SOP on the Generic Risk Assessments (SOP 007) and its WIN on tollgates.

8.3. Generic risk assessments workflow and AHAW Panel output: way forward?

EFSA staff presented feedback received during the ASF workshop feedback on the draft report on the epidemiological analysis of ASF in the EU. Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, Risks/threats were discussed and some of those were generalised to the other Panel outputs. Potential future steps to improve readability and user-friendly outputs were discussed. The Panel members shared their comments and feedback.



9. New mandates

9.1. Prevention and control measures for SARS-CoV-2 infection in mink, Mustelidae and raccoon dogs

EFSA staff presented and explained the recently received mandate that will be addressed by EFSA in collaboration with ECDC/EMA. The mandate requests to assess if the measures/existing monitoring plans in place in the MSs are still adequate, given the new developments of both the SARS-CoV2 virus and the prevention and control tools now available. The first ToR, literature review about epidemiological role of animals, should cover all animal species, not only mink and raccoon dogs. Possible options for disease prevention and control measures, among those the vaccines for animals recently used in Finland under provisional authorisation should be evaluated.

9.2. Rabies: risks related to a possible reduction of the waiting time after rabies antibody titration

EFSA staff presented and explained the recently received mandate. In this mandate, EFSA is requested to assess the risks associated with a reduction in the waiting time for dogs vaccinated against rabies prior to entering the EU following a successful antibody titration test.

10. Any other business

10.1. Tasking grant welfare

EFSA staff presented shortly the launching of a tasking grant on animal welfare. Deadline for applications is 10 March 2022. The link (<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2021-12/Call-for-proposals-and-guide-for-applicant.pdf>) to the call was provided.