



Scientific Panel on Animal Health and Welfare

Minutes of the 142nd Plenary meeting

Held on 28, 29 and 30 June 2022

EFSA, Parma & WEB MEETING¹

(Agreed on 15/07/2022)

Participants

■ Panel Members:

ALVAREZ Julio, BICOUT Dominique, 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, SPOOLDER Hans, ROBERTS Helen, VELARDE Antonio, VILTROP Arvo, WINCKLER Christoph

■ European Commission:

ALAEZ PONS Ester, HOLMES Rebecca, LOGAR Barbara, RALCHEV Stanislav, ZAFEIROPOULOU Kornilia

■ EFSA:

BIOHAW Unit: ANTONIOU Sotiria-Eleni, ASHE Sean, AZNAR Inma, BALDINELLI Francesca, BROGLIA Alessandro, CANDIANI Denise, DHOLLANDER Sofie, FABRIS Chiara, GEFFROY Mariana, GERVELMEYER Andrea, KOHNLE Lisa, LIEBANA-CRIADO Ernesto (HoU), LIMA Eliana, MUR Lina, ROJO GIMENO Cristina, VAN DER STEDE Yves, VITALI Marika, ZANCANARO Gabriele. MESE Unit: MOSBACH-SCHULZ Olaf

■ Hearing experts²: 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

The Chair welcomed the meeting participants. Apologies were received from Paolo Calistri.

2. Declarations of Interests

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.

3. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 141st Plenary meeting held on 1 June 2022, WEB

The minutes of the 141st Plenary meeting were agreed by written procedure and published on 21 June 2022.

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

5.1. Art. 29. Scientific opinion concerning the protection of animals during transport: animals in Containers ([EFSA-Q-2020-00482](#))

The Panel discussed the comments made during the review of the final draft Scientific Opinion concerning the protection of animals during transport in containers and agreed on modifications of the text. The document was unanimously adopted.

5.2. Art. 29. Scientific opinion concerning the protection of animals during transport (Cattle [EFSA-Q-2020-00481](#))

The Panel discussed the comments made during the review of the final draft Scientific Opinion concerning the protection of cattle during transport and agreed on modifications of the text. The document was unanimously adopted.

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



5.3. Art 29. Disease control measures category A diseases AHL - Assessment of prohibitions and risk mitigations for Cat. A diseases ([EFSA-Q-2022-00024](#))

The Panel discussed the comments made during the review of the final draft Scientific Opinion on disease control measures for category A diseases AHL and the assessment of prohibitions and risk mitigations for Cat. A diseases. The Panel agreed on modifications of the text. The document was unanimously adopted.

5.4. Art. 29. Scientific opinion concerning the protection of Pigs ([EFSA-Q-2020-00484](#))

The Panel's comments to the draft Scientific Opinion on the protection of pigs have been addressed by the working group prior to the plenary meeting. At the plenary meeting, the Panel discussed and agreed on the modifications of the text and the opinion was unanimously adopted.

5.5. Art. 29. Scientific opinion concerning the protection of animals during transport horses ([EFSA-Q-2022-00032](#))

The Panel discussed the comments made during the review of the draft Scientific Opinion concerning the protection of horses during transport and agreed on modifications of the text. The document was unanimously adopted.

5.6. Art. 29. Scientific opinion concerning the protection of animals during transport (Pigs [EFSA-Q-2021-00434](#))

The Panel discussed the comments made during the review of the draft Scientific Opinion concerning the protection of pigs during transport and agreed on modifications of the text. The document was unanimously adopted.

6. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion

6.1. Art. 29. Scientific opinion concerning the protection of calves ([EFSA-Q-2020-00480](#))

Most comments from the panel were of editorial nature. The majority of comments were addressed before the meeting, and those needing further clarifications or discussion were brought to the panel for further consideration. Following the discussion, minor changes were done to the main text for clarity and consistency, namely on the period of calves' immunological gap, relationship between solid feed intake and age at grouping.

In addition, it was agreed to harmonise the wording of the uncertainty assessment with other welfare scientific opinions part of the "farm to fork" (F2F) umbrella. It was decided to: 1) use "90% credibility interval" when reporting outputs estimated via an expert knowledge (EKE) procedure following a Bayesian modelling approach as defined for the "F2F" mandates; and 2) classify conclusions that include quantities not estimated via EKE with a level of uncertainty, agreed with the working group via consensus. Regarding the recommendations



section, it was decided to keep the text short and focused to avoid repeating text from the conclusions. Finally, the panel was informed of the state of the project and next steps.

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

7.1 Feedback from EFSA's One conference

A short feedback of the conference was provided, and the feedback received during the sessions on "Advancing animal welfare to meet sustainability targets" and "Infectious diseases, from emergence to pandemic". The importance of the main theme of the conference was stressed: the One Health concept is the stepping stone to fuel the transformation of the food system into a sustainable future.

8. New mandates

8.1. African swine fever: Epi7-Epi13

EFSA received a mandate (Art 31) to deliver an annual report of the descriptive epidemiology of African swine fever in the European Union and neighbouring countries up to 2028 (ToR1), and a bi-annual report for the risk factor analysis (ToR2). A dashboard will be developed to provide an annual, interactive-online report of the descriptive epidemiology based on data submitted by the countries. The risk factor analysis will include, among other information, data generated through on-going research activities (e.g., case control study in Romania and Poland or the study on ASFV survival in different matrices). It is therefore only issued biannually.

9. Other topics for information and/or discussion

9.1. Update on AHL mandates

The Panel members were informed about two new mandates on aquatic diseases in the framework of AHL that are expected to arrive at EFSA in the upcoming weeks. One mandate refers to the possible listing and categorisation of 5 aquatic diseases, the other mandate aims to assess possible vectors for the current aquatic diseases listed in AHL. Both mandates will be received in the context of Art. 29.

9.2. SARS-CoV-2 in animals – update on work by the WG and feedback from Panel

An update about the work on assessment about SARS-CoV-2 in animals was presented. In particular, feedback from the Panel was sought about the methodology to assess risk for animal health which has been explained as follows: the possible epidemiological scenarios and related transmission pathways in farmed animals, pets, zoo animals and wildlife are presented in diagrams, tables and supported by explanatory text. The probability of transmission of the virus in each single pathway is qualitatively assessed (Very high > 0.9; high 0.66-0.9; moderate 0.33-0.66; low 0.1-0.33; Very low < 0.1) by unanimous consensus of the WG experts; this is based on the risk and exposure factors identified and supported



by the evidence provided in section about susceptibility. The reasoning is further explained in a text. The range of probability is estimated assuming no control measures are applied. The uncertainty and quality of evidence is indicated (low, moderate, high). The possible preventive and control measures and monitoring approach are also indicated for each transmission pathways; next to each it is indicated in brackets whether the measure may impact the susceptibility or the exposure. The Panel endorsed this methodology. It was discussed how to better address uncertainty; this is further discussed at WG level.

Questions were posed about how to address the role of bats, and of wastewater. When the role in further transmission is described, it should be stated whether it is to other animals or to humans.

9.3. OH-mandate

The opportunity to apply for CP-g-22-04.01 'Direct grants to Member States' authorities: setting up a coordinated surveillance system under the One Health approach for cross-border pathogens that threaten the Union' and the related mandate to EFSA for scientific and technical assistance for a coordinated surveillance system under the One Health approach for cross-border pathogens that threaten the Union were presented. The terms of reference, their interpretation and the activities planned to address them were explained. Assistance was sought from the Panel regarding relevant references for developing the One Health surveillance strategies and suggestions on how to best structure the proposal, as well as suggestions of surveillance experts who could support EFSA in drafting the proposal for the One Health surveillance strategies.

10. Any other business

Three points were briefly discussed during any other business:

1. The timeline for reviewing the draft Scientific Opinions on welfare of Broilers and Layers over the summer months. Broilers: between 29 July (submission) and 4 September (desired feedback); Laying hens between 22 July (submission) and 26 August (desired feedback). A public event will be organised after the publication of both Scientific Opinions instead of a public consultation before adoption (decision made on 15 July 2022) to accommodate with the foreseen deadline for adoption (December 2022).
2. The Deep reviewers table was updated; deep reviewers for Broiler SO are José Gonzales, Karl Stahl and Christoph Winckler; deep reviewers for SO dairy Cattle are Barbara Padalino & Mette Herskin; deep reviewers for SO Laying Hens are José Gonzales and Hans Spoolder; deep reviewers for SO Ducks, Geese & Quail are Miguel Miranda and Bruno Garin-Bastuji.
3. The timing of the workshop to discuss the outline of the Scientific Opinions and work flows of AHAW teams and Panel: It was agreed to organise the workshop in the afternoon of 21 September, and the plenary should finish on 22 September at 13.00.