

# SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE 148th PLENARY MEETING



29-30 March 2023

09:00-18:00 / 09:00-16:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 12 April 2023

**Location:** Web Conference

## **Attendees:**

- 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, SPOOLDER Hans, STAHL Karl, ROBERTS Helen, VELARDE Antonio, VILTROP Arvo, WINCKLER Christoph.

- Hearing Experts<sup>1</sup>:

Not Applicable

- European Commission

EC: Ester Alaez Ponz; Kirsten Vornhagen

- EFSA:

ANTONIOU Soteria-Eleni, BALDINELLI Francesca, CANDIANI Denise, DHOLLANDER Sofie, FABRIS Chiara, GNOCCHI Marzia, KARAGIANNI Anna, MANAKIDOU Aikaterini, MUR Lina, RUSINA Alessia, VAN DER STEDE Yves, VITALI Marika

## **I. Welcome and apologies for absence**

The Chair welcomed the participants.

## **II. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members**

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence<sup>2</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management<sup>3</sup>, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

## **III. Adoption of agenda**

The agenda was adopted without changes.

---

<sup>1</sup> 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>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/policy\\_independence.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/competing\\_interest\\_management\\_17.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf)



#### **IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 147<sup>th</sup> AHAW Panel Plenary meeting held on 22-23 February 2023, via web-conference**

The Minutes of the 147th Plenary meeting of the AHAW Panel were agreed by written procedure on 16 March 2023.

#### **V. Scientific outputs submitted for adoption**

##### **V.I Art. 29- Welfare of dairy cows - EFSA-Q-2021-00495**

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

##### **V.II Art. 29: Protection of farmed ducks, geese and quail related to the keeping in farming systems –EFSA-Q-2021-00395**

The Panel adopted unanimously the Scientific Opinion on the welfare of farmed ducks, geese and quail. The Opinion will be prepared for publication assuring that the agreed changes are implemented throughout the document.

#### **VI. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion**

##### **VI.I Art. 29-Vaccination against highly pathogenic avian influenza – EFSA-M-2022-00145**

The draft Scientific Opinion was discussed with the AHAW Panel experts. The drafted data and methodologies and assessment Sections on ToR 1 and 2 were the focus of the discussion. All the editorial suggestions received by the Panel were accepted. The discussion focused on the main comments that were received from the Panel and on how those were solved providing alternative text. The Panel was happy with the solutions proposed. Related to the risk factors that could trigger the application of vaccination against HPAI in poultry and the definition of the vaccination scenarios to be assessed in ToR 2, it was suggested to separate the aspects related to the 'virus characteristics' from those related to the 'epidemiological situation'. This item would require further discussion within the WG and the AHAW Panel. Also, some text would require an improvement of clarity, e.g. the different scenario components on 'timing of vaccination'.

##### **VI.II Art 31: Avian influenza overview December 2022 – March 2023**

The Panel was updated on the latest request received from the European Commission at the end of February 2023 to issue an anticipated avian influenza report and to publish on a bimonthly base afterword, due to the significant expansion and changes in the pattern of the H5N1 virus circulation.

##### **VI.III Art. 29-Request for a scientific opinion related to the listing and categorisation of certain diseases of aquatic animals and the listing of relevant aquatic species, in the framework of the Animal Health Law (EFSA M-2022-00144)**

-



The Panel was updated on the progress of this Mandate. The indepth discussion of the IPN Opinion has been conducted through written procedure and the comments were adressed. The next judgement exercises are going to take place on 22 May and 26 May for Spring Vireamia of Carp and *Gyrodactylus salaris*. The Panel was informed that, in addition to the 5 Scientific Opinions, 5 Technical reports (one for each Opinion) will be published with the disease profile for each disease.

- VI.IV Art. 29-Request for a scientific opinion related to the listing of species of aquatic animals or groups of species of aquatic animals which pose a considerable risk for the spread of listed diseases because of their capability to act as vectors or reservoirs of those diseases, in the framework of the Animal Health Law (M-2022-00138)

The Panel was updated on the progress of the extensive literature review. Up to the date of the plenary, data were extracted from 171 scientific papers on potential reservoir or vector species. The methodology to assess the data to possibly identify vectors or reservoir species was presented. This will be a two-step approach. After the individual assessment by working group experts, a decision will be taken by groups discussion during the next working group meeting. The method for expressing the uncertainty was agreed upon. There will be three Opinions presented for adoption in the June plenary summarising the assessment, together with two technical reports and one external report providing the detailed systematic literature review protocol and data.

- VI.V Art. 31 - Epidemiological analysis of African swine fever in the European Union during 2022

The Panel was updated on the progress of the epidemiological report of ASF in the European Union during 2022, highlighting the pending actions and relevant dates. The Chair of the working group showed the online application 'kaleidoscope' developed to perform these ASF reports, emphasizing the different data sources included in the tool and the flexibility of the visualizations and graphs developed by it.

## **VII. Feedback from the Scientific Committee/Scientific Panels, EFSA, the European Commission**

### VII.I Feedback from the Scientific Committee

Feedback from the last Scientific Committee was provided. The planning of the AHAW Panel activities for the coming year will be presented during the next Scientific Committee meeting.

## **VIII. Update on applications, new mandates**

N/a

---



## **IX. Other topics for information and/or discussion**

### **IX.I Monitoring of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD- EFSA-Q-2022-00114)**

In April 2023, EFSA published its latest scientific opinion on the analysis of the monitoring activities of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) carried out in Norway, Sweden, Finland, Iceland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland between September 2017 and February 2022.

During this period, 31 cases were confirmed: reindeer (13), moose (15) and red deer (3), in Finland, Norway and in Sweden.

Experts highlighted that there were differences in how monitoring was done in each country, for example in terms of species covered, number and types of animals tested.

They did not rule out the possibility that the disease is also present in other areas or countries, where it was undetected.

They recommended a series of monitoring activities, focusing on high-risk animals such as those found dead, or sick; those that must be culled for health reasons or are classified as “unfit” for human consumption.

### **IX.II Draft Guidance on protocol development for EFSA generic scientific assessments: Public consultation**

The Panel was informed about the next steps on the public consultation of the draft guidance on protocol development. Input from the Panel will be collected in the Panel Sharepoint folder and discussed during the plenary meeting in May.

### **IX.III Diathermic Syncope for stunning cattle (EFSA-Q-2023-00085).**

The Head of Unit announced that the Chair of the Working Group for Diathermic Syncope for stunning cattle will be EFSA’s member staff Aikaterini Manakidou.

### **IX.IV Plenary September 2023, Panel Renewal and Plenary dates in 2024**

The Panel was informed that the plenary meeting in September 2023 will take place in Parma. The dates of the plenary meetings in 2024 have been agreed upon. The application deadline for the new Panel has been postponed to 17 April 2023.

## **X. Next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 03-04 May 2023, in a hybrid format – at EFSA’s premises in Parma, Italy, and online.

---