

26 September 2025

11:00-13:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 8 October 2025

**Location:** Webconference

**Attendees:**

- Working Group Members:  
NONNO Romolo, RU Giuseppe
- EFSA:  
BIOAHW Unit: BALDINELLI Francesca, KRYEMADHI Kamela, ORTIZ PELAEZ Angel

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

The Chair welcomed the participants.

## **II. Adoption of agenda**

The agenda was adopted without changes.

## **III. Declaration of Interest of Working Groups members**

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence<sup>1</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management<sup>2</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

## **IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Working group meeting held on 18 September 2025, via web-conference**

The minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Working Group (WG) were agreed by written procedure on 8 October 2025

## **V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion**

The discussion focussed on the conclusions, summary and abstract. The WG revised the conclusions and thoroughly reviewed and finalised the summary and the abstract. After the meeting, the WG experts will have a final review of the complete report. The finalized report will be shared with the reporting countries by end of September, giving them the opportunity to review the sections added after the consultation phase, namely abstract, summary and conclusions.

## **VI. Any Other Business**

None

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf](https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-2024.pdf](https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-2024.pdf)



## **VII. Next meeting**

No other meetings are foreseen at the moment.

18 September 2025

11:30-13:30

MINUTES - Agreed on 8 October 2025

**Location:** Webconference

**Attendees:**

- Working Group Members:  
NONNO Romolo, RU Giuseppe
- EFSA:  
BIOAHW Unit: BALDINELLI Francesca, ORTIZ PELAEZ Angel  
IDATA Unit: IANCU Catalin

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

The Chair welcomed the participants.

## **II. Adoption of agenda**

The agenda was adopted without changes.

## **III. Declaration of Interest of Working Groups members**

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence<sup>1</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management<sup>2</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.

## **IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Working group meeting held on 1 July 2025, via web-conference**

The minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Working Group (WG) were agreed by written procedure on 10 July 2025

## **V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion**

The discussion focussed on reviewing the conclusions. According to the latest changes/amendments of the surveillance TSE data implemented by the reporting countries, the conclusions for bovines, sheep, goats and cervids were thoroughly reviewed and finalised. These final conclusions will be incorporated into the summary text before the next WG meeting. The WG experts agreed on not adding a section on recommendations.

## **VI. Any Other Business**

None

## **VII. Next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 26 September 2025 via web-conference.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf](https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-2024.pdf](https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-2024.pdf)

1 July 2025

10:00-12:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 10 July 2025

**Location:** Webconference

**Attendees:**

- Working Group Members:  
NONNO Romolo, RU Giuseppe
- EFSA:  
BIOAHW Unit: BALDINELLI Francesca, KRYEMADHI Kamela, ORTIZ PELAEZ Angel  
IDATA Unit: IANCU Catalin

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

The Chair welcomed the participants.

## **II. Adoption of agenda**

The agenda was adopted without changes.

## **III. Declaration of Interest of Working Groups members**

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence<sup>1</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management<sup>2</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.

## **IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> Working group meeting held on 5 November 2024, via web-conference**

The minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> Working Group (WG) were agreed by written procedure on 25 November 2024

## **V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion**

The discussion focussed on pending items to finalise the draft EUSR on TSE in view of the consultation phase with the reporting countries which will take place over the summer period. Specifically the following was implemented: description of the change in the legislation in relation to the discriminatory test to exclude the presence of BSE in small ruminant's index cases in the 'testing protocol' section; removing the plot on C-BSE cases per million tested bovines; for tables on scrapie cases in small ruminants to present the number of cases for the latest 5 years (from 2020 to 2024) and sum up together previous years (from 2022 to 2019); reverting the colour palette of the plots on results of genotyping in sheep (for both cases and population); description of the results of genotyping of the general population reported in a dedicated table for CY and IS (given the different sampling scheme from other reporting countries); excluding genotypes other than those in the NSP groups from the plot in Figure 5; added a line in the plot indicating the number of reporting countries contributing each year to the genotyping activities and removing

<sup>1</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>2</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)



the table indicating the number of genotyped sheep per year. Proposals for text improvement received ahead of the WG meeting from the experts were as well implemented in the draft. The WG experts agreed in drafting summary and conclusions after the consultation phase so they can incorporate any changes requested by reporting countries. In particular, the content of the conclusions was discussed and decided to be focussed on epidemiological interpretation of results described along the report. If needed, a section on recommendations might be added to the report.

## **VI. Any Other Business**

None

## **VII. Next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 18 September 2025 via web-conference.

**Location:** Webconference

**Attendees:**

- Working Group Members:  
Romolo Nonno, Giuseppe Ru
- Hearing Experts<sup>1</sup>:  
Han Bossier, Ludovica Preite
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:  
Not applicable
- EFSA:  
BIOHAW Unit: Francesca Baldinelli
- Others:  
Han Bossier participated as contractor representing Open Analytics in relation to a Framework contract (FWC) (ref. No OC/EFSA/MESE/2023/03 – SPECIFIC CONTRACT No 2)  
Ludovica Preite participated as ISA (Individual Scientific Advisor) contractor (ref. EOI/EFSA/2022/01 – CT 23 BIOHAW)

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

The Chair welcomed the participants.

## **II. Adoption of agenda**

The agenda was adopted without changes.

## **III. Declaration 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.

## **IV. Scientific topic(s) for discussion**

The following was discussed:

- 1) Han presented to the WG the new tool to automatise the report with an R markdown on the R4u platform. Several examples were shown such as: how to change/edit and create a new version of the text in the R markdown, how to download the report in a word file. Regarding Tables, for each new year added, data from the previous year is also loaded to enable year-over-year comparisons. It was then explained that certain

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<sup>1</sup> As defined in Article 34 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)



parameters are dynamically calculated in the background by R, with the resulting values automatically appearing in the 'editing text' within parentheses. Regarding restrictions of the application, Tables and Figures are fixed, cannot be edited. Then, a discussion arose about potential differences between the text from the tool and the previous reports, e.g. emphasizing the importance of identifying discrepancies regarding a country's compliance status regarding the minimum testing requirements for TSE surveillance in small ruminants.

- 2) The feedback received on the TSE report from the TSE Network members was discussed. The main results of the survey used to collect feedback was presented (e.g, try to avoid repetition of same data/info in different report sections, historical data should be definitely reported, subdivide the main sections into subsection to easily retrieve info of interest). It was suggested to replace, if and where possible, Tables with Plot, Figures, Maps, options that are visually more effective and maintain the Tables in the appendix.
- 3) The section on the assessment was reviewed. The discussion focused in particular on the maps that are currently in the appendix, (including how numbers/values should be displayed); on the spatial description of samples/cases (data are described at country level); on the lack of data related to the establishment of origin of the cases; on the possibility to separate results for classical scrapie and atypical scrapie; on the proposal to use the population data from EUROSTAT in some maps.

## **V. Any Other Business**

None

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