

21 November 2025 09:00-13:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 26 November 2025

Location: EFSA - Parma

Attendees:

- Working group members:
Romolo Nonno (Chair), Mark Arnold, Christian Ducrot, John Griffin, Giuseppe Ru, Marion Simmons and Hans Hermann Thulke.
- EFSA:
Sean Ashe, Angel Ortiz Pelaez,

I. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

II. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², 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 Working Group members at the beginning of this meeting.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 3rd Working Group meeting held on 14-15 October 2025, physical

The minutes of the 3rd Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 22 October 2025.

¹ https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf

² https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-2024.pdf



4th WG meeting on the request for a scientific opinion on the possible alignment of the BSE monitoring and surveillance requirements laid down in Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 with the revised Terrestrial Code Chapter 11.4. of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. Draft opinion on the possible alignment of the BSE monitoring and surveillance requirements in the EU with the revised Terrestrial Code Chapter of WOAH ([EFSA-Q-2025-00443](#))

The chair shared the feedback by AHAW Panel on the draft opinion, which was submitted for review. During the meeting, the working group reviewed current state of the draft opinion, made changes in the current structure and discussed for the first time the proposal of alternative components to the current surveillance and the prospective analysis of the alternative components. Other new sections were also reviewed, including the SWOT analysis of the WOAH and the EU surveillance systems. A number of actions were agreed to prepare the draft to be submitted to the AHAW panel for first reading during the plenary of 10 December 2025.

V. Any other business

There was no other business. The Chair closed the meeting thanking the WG members for their active participation.

VI. Next meetings

The next meetings were agreed as follows:

- 5th WG meeting: Friday 19 December 2025 09:00 – 13:00 CET. Web-meeting
- 6th WG meeting: Tuesday 13 January 2026 13:30 - 17:30h CET, and Wednesday 14 January 2026 08:30-12:30h CET. Physical meeting at EFSA HQ Parma.
- 7th WG meeting: Tuesday 10 February 2026 09:00 – 13:00h CET. Web-meeting

14 October 2025 13:30-17:30

15 October 2025 08:30-12:30

MINUTES - Agreed on 22 October 2025

Location: EFSA - Parma

Attendees:

- Working group members:
Romolo Nonno (Chair), Mark Arnold, Christian Ducrot, John Griffin, Giuseppe Ru, Marion Simmons and Hans Hermann Thulke.
- EFSA:
Angel Ortiz Pelaez, Kamela Kryemadhi, Sean Ashe.

I. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

II. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², 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 Working Group members at the beginning of this meeting.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 2nd Working Group meeting held on 10 September 2025, via web-conference

The minutes of the 2nd Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 18 September 2025.

¹ https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf

² https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-2024.pdf



3rd WG meeting on the request for a scientific opinion on the possible alignment of the BSE monitoring and surveillance requirements laid down in Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 with the revised Terrestrial Code Chapter 11.4. of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. Draft opinion on the possible alignment of the BSE monitoring and surveillance requirements in the EU with the revised Terrestrial Code Chapter of WOAH ([EFSA-Q-2025-00443](#))

The chair started the meeting welcoming the EFSA scientific officer who will coordinate the mandate from January 2026. Next the chair shared the feedback by AHAW Panel on the protocol, which was successfully approved by written procedure. During the meeting the working group reviewed BSE surveillance protocols, retrospective case analysis, and future surveillance strategies. Key points included high uncertainty in detecting cases under WOAH criteria, with most historical cases likely missed. The group discussed generic and additional surveillance objectives like the detection of atypical BSE, monitoring trends, and maintaining diagnostic capacity, while reducing unnecessary testing. Modeling showed classical BSE is nearly non-existent in the EU, whereas atypical cases persist mainly in older fallen stock. Different alternatives to the WOAH approach were proposed to balance sensitivity and cost, alongside supplementary measures like syndromic surveillance. Emphasis was placed on clear objectives, proportionality, and quality control. The group also finalized the questionnaire to be delivered and discussed with the members of the TSE subgroup of the EFSA's Animal Health Network, whose results are to be analyzed and potentially incorporated into the opinion.

V. Any other business

There was no other business. The Chair closed the meeting thanking the WG members for their active participation.

VI. Next meetings

The next meetings were agreed as follows:

- 4th WG meeting: Friday 21 November 2025 09:00 – 13:00 CET. Web-meeting
- 5th WG meeting: Friday 19 December 2025 09:00 – 13:00 CET. Web-meeting
- 6th WG meeting: Tuesday 13 January 2026 13:30 - 17:30h CET, and Wednesday 14 January 2026 08:30-12:30h CET. Physical meeting at EFSA HQ Parma.

10 September 2025 09:00- 13:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 18 September 2025

Location: Web-conference

Attendees:

- Working group members:
Romolo Nonno (Chair), Mark Arnold, Christian Ducrot, John Griffin, Giuseppe Ru, Marion Simmons and Hans Hermann Thulke.
- EFSA:
Kamela Kryemadhi, Angel Ortiz Pelaez.

I. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

II. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², 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 Working Group members at the beginning of this meeting.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 1ST Working Group meeting held on 28 July 2025, via web-conference

The minutes of the 1st Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 4 August 2025.

¹ https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf

² https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-2024.pdf



2nd WG meeting on the request for a scientific opinion on the possible alignment of the BSE monitoring and surveillance requirements laid down in Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 with the revised Terrestrial Code Chapter 11.4. of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. Draft opinion on the possible alignment of the BSE monitoring and surveillance requirements in the EU with the revised Terrestrial Code Chapter of WOAH ([EFSA-Q-2025-00443](#))

The meeting discussions focused on refining the draft protocol in preparation for submission to the AHAW Panel. The first review of the draft opinion was conducted that includes general sections so far. Key discussions included aligning WOAH's non-prescriptive surveillance framework with EU implementation needs, evaluating the sensitivity of clinical-based surveillance, and reviewing retrospective case data to estimate detection capacity. The group agreed to consolidate assessment questions, clarify the purpose of surveillance and refine the assessment of the BSE cases confirmed in the EU since 2015, incorporate modelling to estimate infection prevalence in the EU27. Following the discussions changes were made in the body of the text on the draft protocol and the draft opinion.

VI. Any other business

The group planned a stakeholder consultation via the EFSA TSE Network to gather input on awareness and surveillance implementation challenges. The results will be included in the scientific output. The questionnaire will be discussed in the next working group meeting. The Chair thanked the participants and closed the meeting.

VII. Next meetings

The next meetings were agreed as follows:

- 3rd WG meeting will be held on Tuesday 14 October 2025 13:30-17:30h CET, and Wednesday 15 October 2025 08:30-12:30h CET. Physical meeting at EFSA HQ Parma
- 4th WG meeting: Friday 21 November 2025 09:00 – 13:00 CET. Web-meeting
- 5th WG meeting: Friday 19 December 2025 09:00 – 13:00 CET. Web-meeting
- 6th WG meeting: Tuesday 13 January 2026 13:30-17:30h CET, and Wednesday 14 January 2026 08:30-12:30h CET. Physical meeting at EFSA HQ Parma.

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

1st Working Group meeting on the possible alignment of the BSE monitoring and surveillance requirements laid down in Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 with the revised Terrestrial Code Chapter 11.4. of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)



28 July 2025

13:30-17:30

MINUTES - Agreed on 4 August 2025

Location: Webconference

Attendees:

- Working group members:
Romolo Nonno (Chair), Mark Arnold, Christian Ducrot, John Griffin, Giuseppe Ru, Marion Simmons and Hans Hermann Thulke.
- EFSA:
Kamela Kryemadhi, Angel Ortiz Pelaez.

I. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

II. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², 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 Working Group members at the beginning of this meeting.

IV. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. possible alignment of the BSE monitoring and surveillance requirements in the EU with the revised Terrestrial Code Chapter of WOAH ([EFSA-Q-2025-00443](#))

The Chair opened the first meeting by asking the members to introduce themselves. EFSA gave a presentation covering administrative issues, the mandate, describing the surveillance provisions of the WOAH Terrestrial Code and of the EU legislation, and a summary of the BSE surveillance data in the EU in the last ten years.

¹ https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf

² https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-2024.pdf

MEETING MINUTES – 28 July 2025



1st Working Group meeting on the possible alignment of the BSE monitoring and surveillance requirements laid down in Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 with the revised Terrestrial Code Chapter 11.4. of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)

The chair opened a brainstorming session requesting the members to identify any point of the ToR of the mandate that might be unclear and could be clarified with the requestor. It was agreed not to request any clarification of the ToR to the EC at this initial stage. The challenges in interpreting the WOAH surveillance provision and the comparison with the EU system, the relevance of the different surveillance groups and the quality and quantity of clinical data of EU BSE cases were some of the topics brought up by the WG members. A number of actions were agreed and so were the dates of the next two meetings.

V. Any other business

There was no other business. The Chair thanked the participants and closed the meeting.

VI. Next meetings

The 2nd WG meeting will be held on Wednesday 10 September 2025, 9:00-13:00h CET, via web-conference.

The 3rd WG meeting will be held on Tuesday 14 October 2025, 13:30-17:30h CET, and Wednesday 15 October 2025, 08:30-12:30h CET. Physical meeting at EFSA HQ Parma