UNIT ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS AND ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

5th Working Group meeting on AMR MON Tech Specs update

05 October 2026 (09:00-13:00)
09 October 2026 (09:00-13:00)
MINUTES - Agreed on 16 October 2026

Location: Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Marc Aerts, Antonio Battisti, Valeria Bortolaia, Majda Golob (1st day), Sophie Granier, Rene S. Henriksen, Suvi Nykäsenoja, Bernd-Alois Tenhagen, Kees Veldman

- Hearing Experts[1]:
Not Applicable

- Applicants participating in a technical hearing[2]:
Not Applicable

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not Applicable

- EFSA:
BIOHAW Unit: Beatriz Guerra, Raquel García-Fierro, Pierre-Alexander Beloeil, Valentina Rizzi, Anna Zdanowicz (trainee), Sara Angelone (trainee), Milica Stevanovic (guest scientist)

I-DATA Unit: Anca Stoicescu, Nuria Ferrer-Bustins

- Others (observers)
Zoltan Kunsagi (EMA, 1st day), Therese Westrell (ECDC, 1st day)

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Majda Golob apologized for not attending the 2nd day of the meeting.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[3] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[4], EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting and the preparatory meetings listed under agenda item "Preparatory meeting/s with Risk Assessment". No conflicts of interest related to the issues discussed in these meetings have been identified during the

[1] As defined in Article 34 of the document "Implementing Rule of the Management Board of the European Food Safety Authority laying down the rules on the selection, appointment and operations of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and of their Working Groups": https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/paneloperation.pdf
[2] As defined in the "EFSA's Catalogue of support initiatives during the life cycle of applications for regulated products": https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.2903/sp.efsa.2021.EN-6472
[3] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf
[4] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-2024.pdf

screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the Working Group members at the beginning of these meetings.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 4th Working Group meeting held on 8-9 September 2026 in Parma

The minutes of the 4th Working Group (WG) meeting were agreed by written procedure on 15 September 2026.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. Draft Scientific report on Technical specifications on harmonised monitoring of antimicrobial resistance in zoonotic and indicator bacteria from food-producing animals and food for the period 2028-2034. (EFSA-Q-2025-00631)

The meeting focused on the update, review and discussion of all sections developed by the SugWGs1-7 to address the EC Terms of reference (ToR), specifically to answer the assessment questions: (a), Which are the priority combinations of animals/food/target bacteria to be monitored, based on their relevance to public health and (g) Which ad hoc baseline surveys, if any, should be recommended to address specific areas of public health interest? This included the potential extension of the AMR monitoring to animal populations for which antimicrobial use data are going to be already collected, and/or to other bacteria of public health relevance (eg. carbapenemase-producing *Klebsiella pneumoniae,* linezolid- and/or vancomycin-resistant *Enterococci*). (b) Which is the sampling framework that should be used for the effective implementation of statistically representative monitoring, including the origin of bacterial isolates, the sampling design and the sample size? (c) Which protocols should be used for the isolation and identification of the bacteria? This focused on *Escherichia coli, Salmonella spp.*, *Campylobacter jejuni* and *C. coli*, ESBL/AmpC-producing *E. coli*, carbapenemase-producing Enterobacterales E. coli and *K. pneumoniae*, MRSA and *Enterococcus faecalis, E. faecium* and *E. lactis.* (d), Which protocols should be used for phenotypical antimicrobial susceptibility testing of bacterial isolates? So far focusing on the same bacterial species, updating the ECOFFs as of today (e) Which protocols should be used for molecular typing of bacterial isolates, including the determination of the AMR genotype? focusing on the use of whole genome sequencing. Also the questions related to (f) guidance for technical reporting, and (h) the needs for further development and enhancement of the existing reporting framework and published outputs related to WGS were discussed. Further discussions for ToR (a,g)-SubWG-5, (b)-SubWG-1, and (f, h)-SubWG6-7 will take place at specific preliminary meetings planned for the week after this meeting. Tasks were allocated. The draft scientific report will be shared for targeted consultation with the EFSA's Network for Zoonoses Monitoring data- AMR sub-working group. Deadline for the scientific report is 31.12.2026.

VI. Preparatory Meeting/s

Since the last WG meeting, two preparatory meeting chaired by EFSA staff was held as follows:

1 Preparatory meeting SubWG-3-Molecular methods and WGS, 21 September (2h)

1a. Antonio Battisti, Valeria Bortolaia, Majda Golob, Rene S. Henriksen, Kees Veldman; EFSA: Beatriz Guerra (chair), Nuria Ferrer-Bustins, Raquel García-Fierro, Valentina Rizzi, Mirko Rossi, Anca Stoiescu, Anna Zdanowicz, Stefania Tampach

1b. Discussion on (e) protocols for molecular typing of bacterial isolates, including determination of the AMR genotype, and use of whole genome sequencing.

2 Preparatory meeting SubWG5- New Mon, BS, 7 October (2h)

2a. Antonio Battisti, Majda Golob, Sophie Granier, Suvi Nykäsenoja, Bernd-Alois Tenhagen. EFSA: Pierre-Alexandre Beloeil (Chair), Beatriz Guerra, Raquel García-Fierro, Anca Stoicescu, Nuria Ferrer-Bustins, Valentina Rizzi, Anna Zdanowicz, Sara Angelone, Milica Stevanovic

2b. Discussions on (a) priority combinations of animals/food/target bacteria to be monitored, based on their relevance to public health, and (g) recommendations for ad hoc baseline surveys to address specific areas of public health interest, where deemed needed.

VII. Next meeting

The next WG meeting will be held on 25/27 November 2026. Additional preparatory meetings will take place on 12 (SubWG6/7), 14 (SubWG-1) and 16 October (SubWG-5) via web.

UNIT ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS AND ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

4th Working Group meeting on AMR MON Tech Specs update

08 September 2026 (12:30-18:30)
09 September (08:00-16:00)
MINUTES - Agreed on 18 September 2026

Location: Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Marc Aerts (1st day), Antonio Battisti, Valeria Bortolaia, Majda Golob, Sophie Granier, Rene S. Henriksen, Suvi Nykäsenoja, Bernd-Alois Tenhagen, Kees Veldman

- Hearing Experts[1]:
Not Applicable

- Applicants participating in a technical hearing[2]:
Not Applicable

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not Applicable

- EFSA:
BIOHAW Unit: Beatriz Guerra, Raquel García-Fierro, Pierre-Alexander Beloeil, Anna Zdanowicz, Mirko Rossi

I-DATA Unit: Anca Stoicescu, Nuria Ferrer

- Others (observers)
Zoltan Kunsagi (EMA)

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Marc Aerts apologized for not attending the 2nd day of the meeting.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[3] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[4], EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting and the preparatory meetings listed under agenda item "Preparatory meeting/s with Risk Assessment". No conflicts of interest related to the issues discussed in these meetings have been identified during the

[1] As defined in Article 34 of the document "Implementing Rule of the Management Board of the European Food Safety Authority laying down the rules on the selection, appointment and operations of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and of their Working Groups": https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/paneloperation.pdf

[2] As defined in the "EFSA's Catalogue of support initiatives during the life cycle of applications for regulated products": https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.2903/sp.efsa.2021.EN-6472

[3] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf
[4] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-2024.pdf

screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the Working Group members at the beginning of these meetings.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 3rd Working Group meeting held on 5 June 2026 in Parma

The minutes of the 3rd Working Group (WG) meeting were agreed by written procedure on 17June 2026.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. Draft Scientific report on Technical specifications on harmonised monitoring of antimicrobial resistance in zoonotic and indicator bacteria from food-producing animals and food for the period 2028-2034. (EFSA-Q-2025-00631)

The meeting focused on the update, review and discussion of all sections developed by the SugWGs1-7 to address the EC Terms of reference (ToR), specifically to answer the assessment questions: (a), Which are the priority combinations of animals/food/target bacteria to be monitored, based on their relevance to public health and (g) Which ad hoc baseline surveys, if any, should be recommended to address specific areas of public health interest? This included the potential extension of the AMR monitoring to animal populations for which antimicrobial use data are going to be already collected, and/or to other bacteria of public health relevance. (b) Which is the sampling framework that should be used for the effective implementation of statistically representative monitoring, including the origin of bacterial isolates, the sampling design and the sample size? (c) Which protocols should be used for the isolation and identification of the bacteria? So far, focusing on *Escherichia coli, Salmonella spp.*, *Campylobacter jejuni* and *C. coli*, ESBL/AmpC and CP-producing E. coli, MRSA and *Enterococcus faecalis,* and *E. faecium.* (d), Which protocols should be used for phenotypical antimicrobial susceptibility testing of bacterial isolates? So far focusing on the same bacterial species, updating the ECOFFs as of today (e) Which protocols should be used for molecular typing of bacterial isolates, including the determination of the AMR genotype? focusing on the use of whole genome sequencing. The questions related to (f) guidance for technical reporting, and (h) the needs for further development and enhancement of the existing reporting framework and published outputs discussed so far were also presented. Further discussions for ToR (a,g)-SubWG-5, (b)-SubWG-1, (e)-SubWG3, and (f, h)-SubWG6-7 will take place at specific preliminary meetings. Tasks were allocated. All subjects will be discussed by the whole working group at the next online meeting. Deadline for the scientific report is 31.12.2026.

VI. Preparatory Meeting/s

Since the last WG meeting, six preparatory meeting/s chaired by EFSA staff were held as follows:

X.1 Preparatory meeting SubWG-3-Molecular methods and WGS, 23 June (2h)

X.1a Valeria Bortolaia, Rene S. Henriksen, Kees Veldman; EFSA: Beatriz Guerra (chair), Nuria Ferrer-Bustins, Raquel Garcia-Fierro, Ernesto Liebana, Valentina Rizzi, Mirko Rossi, Anca Stoiescu, Anna Zdanowicz, Stefania Tampach

X.1b Discussion on (e) protocols for molecular typing of bacterial isolates, including determination of the AMR genotype, and use of whole genome sequencing.

X.2 Preparatory meeting SubWG-2-Antimicrobial Susceptibility testing (AST), 1 July (2h)

X.2a Valeria Bortolaia, Majda Golob, Suvi Nykäsenoja, Kees Veldman; Rene Hendriksen, EFSA: Beatriz Guerra, Raquel Garcia-Fierro (chair), Valentina Rizzi, Anna Zdanowicz

X.2b Discussion on (d) protocols should be used for phenotypical antimicrobial susceptibility testing of bacterial isolates.

X.3 Preparatory meeting SubWG-4 Protocols, 3 July (2h)

X.3a SubWG-4 members: Antonio Battisti, Valeria Bortolaia, Suvi Nykäsenoja, Kees Veldman; EFSA staff: Beatriz Guerra (chair), Raquel Garcia-Fierro, Stefania Tampach, Valentina Rizzi, Anna Zdanowicz

X.3b Further Discussion on (c) protocols for isolation and identification of bacteria, review of the updates done on this section.

X.4 Preparatory meeting SubWG5- New Mon, BS, 7 July (2h)

X.4a Antonio Battisti, Majda Golob, Sophie Granier, Suvi Nykäsenoja, Bernd-Alois Tenhagen. EFSA: Pierre-Alexandre Beloeil (Chair), Beatriz Guerra, Raquel Garcia-Fierro, Anca Stoicescu, Nuria Ferrer-Bustins, Valentina Rizzi

X.4b Discussions on (a) priority combinations of animals/food/target bacteria to be monitored, based on their relevance to public health, and (g) recommendations for ad hoc baseline surveys to address specific areas of public health interest, where deemed needed.

X.5 Preparatory meeting SubWG6/7- Reporting and outcomes, 5 August (2h)

X.5b, Sophie Granier, Bernd-Alois Tenhagen, Kees Veldman EFSA: Beatriz Guerra, Raquel Garcia-Fierro (co-chair), Anca Stoicescu(co-chair), Mirko Rossi,

X.5b Discussions on (f) guidance for technical reporting, and (h) the needs for further development and enhancement of the existing reporting framework and published outputs

X.6 Preparatory meeting SubWG6/7- Reporting and outcomes, 2 September (2h)

X.6b Marc Aerts, Sophie Granier, Suvi Nykäsenoja, Bernd-Alois Tenhagen, EFSA: Pierre-Alexandre Beloeil , Beatriz Guerra, Raquel Garcia-Fierro (co-chair), Anca Stoicescu (co-chair), Nuria Ferrer-Bustins, Anna Zdanowicz

X.6b Discussions on (f) guidance for technical reporting, and (h) the needs for further development and enhancement of the existing reporting framework and published outputs

VII. Next meeting

The next WG meeting will be held on 5-9 October. Additional preparatory meetings will take place during September/October (dates to be confirmed) via web.

UNIT ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS AND ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

3rd Working Group meeting on AMR MON Tech Specs update

05 June 2026
08:00-17:00
MINUTES - Agreed on 17 June 2026

Location: Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Marc Aerts (online), Antonio Battisti, Valeria Bortolaia, Majda Golob, Sophie Granier, Rene S. Henriksen, Suvi Nykäsenoja, Bernd-Alois Tenhagen (online), Kees Veldman

- Hearing Experts[1]:
Not Applicable

- Applicants participating in a technical hearing[2]:
Not Applicable

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not Applicable

- EFSA:
BIOHAW Unit: Beatriz Guerra, Raquel García-Fierro, Pierre-Alexander Beloeil, Anna Zdanowicz, Valentina Rizzi (partially), Mirko Rossi (partially)

I-DATA Unit: Anca Stoiescu, Nuria Ferrer

- Others (observers)
Therese Westrell (ECDC), Zoltan Kunsagi (EMA)

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[3] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[4], EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting and the preparatory meetings listed under agenda item "Preparatory meeting/s with Risk Assessment". No conflicts of interest related to the issues discussed in these meetings

[1] As defined in Article 34 of the document "Implementing Rule of the Management Board of the European Food Safety Authority laying down the rules on the selection, appointment and operations of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and of their Working Groups": https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/paneloperation.pdf

[2] As defined in the "EFSA's Catalogue of support initiatives during the life cycle of applications for regulated products": https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.2903/sp.efsa.2021.EN-6472

[3] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf
[4] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-2024.pdf

have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the Working Group members at the beginning of these meetings.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 2ndst Working Group meeting held on 13 and 15 April 2026 via web-conference

The minutes of the 2nd Working Group (WG) meeting were agreed by written procedure on 28 April 2026.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. Draft Scientific report on Technical specifications on harmonised monitoring of antimicrobial resistance in zoonotic and indicator bacteria from food-producing animals and food for the period 2028-2034. (EFSA-Q-2025-00631)

The meeting focused on the update, review and discussion of the sections developed by the SugWGs1-5 to address the EC Terms of reference (ToR), specifically to answer the assessment questions: (a), Which are the priority combinations of animals/food/target bacteria to be monitored, based on their relevance to public health and (g) Which ad hoc baseline surveys, if any, should be recommended to address specific areas of public health interest? To date, the focus has been on extending AMR monitoring to animal populations for which antimicrobial use data are going to be already collected. (b) Which is the sampling framework that should be used for the effective implementation of statistically representative monitoring, including the origin of bacterial isolates, the sampling design and the sample size? (c) Which protocols should be used for the isolation and identification of the bacteria? So far, focusing on *Escherichia coli, Salmonella spp.*, *Campylobacter jejuni* and *C. coli*, Methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and *Enterococcus faecalis* and *E. faecium.* (d), Which protocols should be used for phenotypical antimicrobial susceptibility testing of bacterial isolates? So far focusing on the same bacterial species (e) Which protocols should be used for molecular typing of bacterial isolates, including the determination of the AMR genotype? focusing mainly on the use of whole genome sequencing. The questions related to (f) guidance for technical reporting, and (h) needs for further development and enhancement of the existing reporting framework and published outputs needed were introduced, and discussions will follow at the specific-SubWG6-7. Tasks were allocated. Additional preparatory meetings will be organized to continue with the discussions. All subjects will be discussed by the whole working group at the next physical meeting (September). Deadline for the scientific report is 31.12.2026.

VI. Preparatory Meeting/s

Since the last WG meeting, four preparatory meeting/s chaired by EFSA staff were held as follows:

X.1 Preparatory meeting SubWG5- New Mon, BS, 17 April (2h)

X.1a Antonio Battisti, Majda Golob, Sophie Granier, Suvi Nykäsenoja, EFSA: Pierre-Alexandre Beloeil (Chair), Raquel Garcia-Fierro, Anca Stoicescu, Nuria Ferrer-Bustins

X.1b Discussions on (a) priority combinations of animals/food/target bacteria to be monitored, based on their relevance to public health, and (g) recommendations for ad hoc baseline surveys to address specific areas of public health interest, where deemed needed.

X.2 Preparatory meeting SubWG-3-Molecular methods and WGS, 18 May (2h)

X.2a Antonio Battisti, Valeria Bortolaia, Majda Golob, Rene S. Henriksen, Kees Veldman; EFSA: Beatriz Guerra (chair), Raquel Garcia-Fierro, Anca Stoiescu, Anna Zdanowicz, Mirko Rossi; Observer: Therese Westrell (ECDC)

X.2b Discussion on (e) protocols for molecular typing of bacterial isolates, including determination of the AMR genotype, and use of whole genome sequencing.

X.3 Preparatory meeting SubWG5- New Mon, BS, 22 May (2h)

X.3a Antonio Battisti, Majda Golob, Sophie Granier, Suvi Nykäsenoja, EFSA: Pierre-Alexandre Beloeil (Chair), Beatriz Guerra, Raquel Garcia-Fierro, Anca Stoicescu, Nuria Ferrer-Bustins

X.3b Discussions on (a) priority combinations of animals/food/target bacteria to be monitored, based on their relevance to public health, and (g) recommendations for ad hoc baseline surveys to address specific areas of public health interest, where deemed needed.

X.4 Preparatory meeting SubWG-4 Protocols, 27 May (2h)

X.4a SubWG-4 members: Antonio Battisti, Valeria Bortolaia, Rene S. Henriksen, Suvi Nykäsenoja, Kees Veldman; EFSA staff: Beatriz Guerra (chair), Raquel Garcia-Fierro, Anca Stoicescu, Nuria Ferrer-Bustins, Valentina Rizzi (partially)

X.4b Further Discussion on (c) protocols for isolation and identification of bacteria, review of the updates done on this section.

VII. Next meeting

The next WG meeting will be held on 8-9 September. Additional preparatory meetings will take place during June/July/August (dates to be confirmed) via web.

UNIT ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS AND ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

2nd Working Group meeting on AMR MON Tech Specs update - Focus SubWG-2-AST and SubWG-4-Isolation

13 and 15 April 2026
09:00-12:00 - 9:00-10:30
MINUTES - Agreed on 28 April 2026

EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY

Location: Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Antonio Battisti, Valeria Bortolaia, Majda Golob, Sophie Granier, Rene S. Henriksen, Suvi Nykäsenoja, Kees Veldman (first day)
- Hearing Experts[1]:
Not Applicable
- Applicants participating in a technical hearing[2]:
Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not Applicable
- EFSA:
BIOHAW Unit: Beatriz Guerra, Raquel García-Fierro, Valentina Rizzi, Megan Tumulty (trainee), Anna Zdanowicz (trainee)

  I-DATA Unit: Anca Stoiescu, Nuria Ferrer

- Others (observers)
Therese Westrell (ECDC, 1st day)

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received by Kees Veldman for his absence on 15 April.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[3] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[4], EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting and the preparatory meetings listed under agenda item "Preparatory meeting/s with Risk Assessment". No conflicts of interest related to the issues discussed in these meetings

[1] As defined in Article 34 of the document "Implementing Rule of the Management Board of the European Food Safety Authority laying down the rules on the selection, appointment and operations of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and of their Working Groups": https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/paneloperation.pdf

[2] As defined in the "EFSA's Catalogue of support initiatives during the life cycle of applications for regulated products": https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.2903/sp.efsa.2021.EN-6472

[3] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf
[4] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-2024.pdf

have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the Working Group members at the beginning of these meetings.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 1st Working Group meeting held on 30 January 2026 via web-conference

The minutes of the 1st Working Group (WG) meeting were agreed by written procedure on 6 February 2026.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. Draft Scientific report on Technical specifications on harmonised monitoring of antimicrobial resistance in zoonotic and indicator bacteria from food-producing animals and food for the period 2028-2034. (EFSA-Q-2025-00631)

The meeting focused on the review and discussion of the sections developed to address the EC Terms of reference (ToR) (c) protocols for isolation and identification of bacteria (SubWG-4) and (d) protocols for phenotypical antimicrobial susceptibility testing of bacterial isolates (SubWG-2) with the participation of the experts included in this SubWG, the Chair of the WG as well as EFSA and ECDC staff. Updates on the developments with regards to *Escherichia coli, Salmonella*, *Campylobacter*, Methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and *Enterococcus* (bacteria included in the current AMR monitoring, and/or baseline studies) were presented by the specific section leaders, and open issues were discussed by the meeting participants. Tasks were allocated accordingly. Additional preparatory meetings had taken place and further meetings will be organized to focus on the other ToRs and issues not covered in the current meeting. All subjects will be discussed by the whole working group in the next physical meeting (June). Deadline for the scientific report is 31.12.2025.

VI. Preparatory Meeting/s

Since the last WG meeting, eight preparatory meeting/s chaired by EFSA staff were held as follows:

X.1 Preparatory meeting SubWG-4 Protocols, 16 February (2h)

X.1a SubWG-4 members: Antonio Battisti, Valeria Bortolaia, Rene S. Henriksen, Suvi Nykäsenoja, Kees Veldman; EFSA staff: Beatriz Guerra (chair), Raquel Garcia-Fierro, Megan Tumulty, Anna Zdanowicz

X.1b Discussion on (c) protocols for isolation and identification of bacteria: currently available and needs.

X.2 Preparatory meeting SubWG-2 AST, 19 February (2h)

X.2a SubWG-2 members: Valeria Bortolaia, Majda Golob, Rene S. Henriksen, Suvi Nykäsenoja, Kees Veldman; EFSA staff: Raquel Garcia-Fierro (Chair), Beatriz Guerra, Megan Tumulty, Anna Zdanowicz; ECDC Therese Westrell (observer)

X.2b Discussion on (d) protocols for phenotypical antimicrobial susceptibility testing of bacterial isolates: currently available AST panels, antimicrobials and ECOFFS and needs.

X.3 Preparatory meeting SubWG-3-Molecular methods and WGS, 24 February (2h)

X.3a Antonio Battisti, Valeria Bortolaia, Majda Golob, Rene S. Henriksen, Kees Veldman; EFSA: Beatriz Guerra (chair), Raquel Garcia-Fierro, Anca Stoiescu, Megan Tumulty, Anna Zdanowicz

X.3b Discussion on (e) protocols for molecular typing of bacterial isolates, including determination of the AMR genotype, and use of whole genome sequencing.

X.4 Preparatory meeting SubWG-1-Sampling, 4 March (2h)

X.4a Marc Aerts, Sophie Granier, Bernd-Alois Tenhagen. EFSA: Pierre-Alexandre Beloeil (chair), Megan Tumulty, Nuria Ferrer-Bustins

X.4b Discussion on (b) sampling framework for the effective implementation of statistically representative monitoring, including the origin of bacterial isolates, the sampling design and the sample size.

X.5 Preparatory meeting SubWG5- New Mon, BS, 6 March (2h)

X.5a Antonio Battisti, Majda Golob, Sophie Granier, Suvi Nykäsenoja, Bernd-Alois Tenhagen, EFSA: Pierre-Alexandre Beloeil (Chair), Beatriz Guerra, Raquel Garcia-Fierro, Megan Tumulty, Anna Zdanowicz

X.5b Discussions on (a) priority combinations of animals/food/target bacteria to be monitored, based on their relevance to public health, and (g) recommendations for ad hoc baseline surveys to address specific areas of public health interest, where deemed needed.

X.6 Preparatory meeting SubWG-4 Protocols, 19 March (2h)

X.6a SubWG-4 members: Antonio Battisti, Valeria Bortolaia, Rene S. Henriksen, Suvi Nykäsenoja, Kees Veldman; EFSA staff: Beatriz Guerra (chair), Raquel Garcia-Fierro, Anca Stoicescu, Nuria Ferrer-Bustins, Megan Tumulty, Anna Zdanowicz

X.6b Further Discussion on (c) protocols for isolation and identification of bacteria, review of the updates done on this section.

X.7 Preparatory meeting on SubWG-2 AST, 20 March (2h)

X.7a SubWG-2 members: Valeria Bortolaia, Majda Golob, Rene S. Henriksen, Suvi Nykäsenoja, Kees Veldman; EFSA staff: Raquel Garcia-Fierro (Chair), Beatriz Guerra, Núria Ferrer-Bustins, Valentina Rizzi (partially), Anca Violeta Stoicescu, Megan Tumulty, Anna Zdanowicz; ECDC Therese Westrell (observer)

X.7b Further Discussion on (d) protocols for phenotypical antimicrobial susceptibility testing of bacterial isolates, review of the updates done on this section

X.8 Preparatory meeting SubWG-1-Sampling, 10 April (2h)

X.8a Marc Aerts, Sophie Granier. EFSA: Pierre-Alexandre Beloeil (Chair), Megan Tumulty, Anca Stoicescu

X.8b Further discussions on Discussion on (b) sampling framework for the effective implementation of statistically representative monitoring, including the origin of bacterial isolates, the sampling design and the sample size.

VII. Next meeting

The next WG meeting will be held on 5 June in Parma. Additional preparatory meetings will take place during May via web.

UNIT ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS AND ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

1st Working Group meeting on AMR MON Tech Specs update

30 January 2026
09:00-13:00
MINUTES - Agreed on 6 February 2026

Location: Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Marc Aerts, Antonio Battisti, Valeria Bortolaia, Majda Golob, Sophie Granier, Rene S. Henriksen, Suvi Nykäsenoja, Bernd-Alois Tenhagen, Kees Veldman
- Hearing Experts[1]:
Not Applicable
- Applicants participating in a technical hearing[2]:
Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not Applicable
- EFSA:
BIOHAW Unit: Beatriz Guerra, Pierre-Alexandre Beloeil, Raquel García-Fierro, Valentina Rizzi, Megan Tumulty (trainee), Anna Zdanowicz (trainee)

  I-DATA Unit: Anca Stoiescu

  RAL Unit: Cristiana Ventura

- Others (observers)
Zoltan Kunsagi (EMA), Therese Westrell (ECDC)

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[3] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[4], EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting and the preparatory meetings listed under agenda item "Preparatory meeting/s with Risk Assessment". No

[1] As defined in Article 34 of the document "Implementing Rule of the Management Board of the European Food Safety Authority laying down the rules on the selection, appointment and operations of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and of their Working Groups": https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/paneloperation.pdf

[2] As defined in the "EFSA's Catalogue of support initiatives during the life cycle of applications for regulated products": https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.2903/sp.efsa.2021.EN-6472

[3] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf
[4] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-2024.pdf

conflicts of interest related to the issues discussed in these meetings have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the Working Group members at the beginning of these meetings.

IV. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. Draft Scientific report on Technical specifications on harmonised monitoring of antimicrobial resistance in zoonotic and indicator bacteria from food-producing animals and food for the period 2028-2034. (EFSA-Q-2025-00631)

EFSA provided an introductory presentation on: a) EFSA's scientific process, administrative and logistical matters and b) the use of Microsoft Teams as the platform for communications and data repository; c) the technical and scientific support provided by EFSA. The chair of the working group (WG) presented the background and Terms of Reference (ToR) of this Mandate which has been allocated to EFSA's BIOHAW Unit. Clarifications of the ToRs were done, and on-going activities identified as potential data source were presented. The former technical specifications published in 2019[5] were revisited during the meeting and will serve as the basis for the new scientific report. The preliminary table of contents of this new draft scientific report were agreed. Experts were distributed into different SubWGs that will deal with the specific topics covered by the Mandate. These SubWGs will held preparatory meetings, and the developed sections will be presented at the WG plenary meetings. SubWG-leaders and contributors was assigned and tasks were allocated to EFSA staff and WG experts. The work plan and timelines for approval of the mandate, planned WG meetings and SubWG meetings were presented. Deadline for the scientific report is 31.12.2025.

V. Next meeting

The dates for the next WG meeting are under discussion, with a plenary meeting foreseen in March/April 2026 in Parma.

[5] https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.2903/j.efsa.2019.5709