

31 March 2026

10:30-17:30

MINUTES - Agreed on 07 April 2026

Location: Web conference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:

CONTRERAS ALEXANDRA

JERLSTROM JOSEFINE

ROTANODARI SARA

TUYTTENS FRANK

- Hearing Experts¹:

Not Applicable

- Applicant participating in a technical hearing²:

Not Applicable

- European Commission representative:

Not Applicable

- EFSA:

BIOHAW Unit: AIKATERINI MANAKIDOU, YVES VAN DER STEDE, JULIA KONDRASHOVA

- Others:

Not applicable

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Ester Alaez Pons (EC).

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 Independence³ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁴, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No conflicts of interest

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



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 for discussion

Draft opinion on the notification by Sweden of stricter national measures according to Article 26(3) of Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009. [EFSA-Q-2025-00653](#)

An introduction of the participants and of the Working Group (WG) composition was made and the roles of all participants were specified by the Chair of the WG - EFSA. The Chair presented the objective and the Term of Reference of the mandate. She outlined the working steps, timeline, and quality control process, including the use of tollgates and the role of the AHAW Panel in the endorsement of the protocol and the adoption of the Scientific Opinion (SO). The WG discussed the draft protocol for the SO created by the Chair - EFSA and minor refinements were agreed. The EFSA staff will submit it to the AHAW Panel for endorsement. The WG discussed the preliminary assessment of the available scientific literature on head-only electrical stunning of heavy pigs (more than 150 kg) and the preparatory work provided by the Tasking Grant. Key aspects related to stunning effectiveness, animal-based measures, technical parameters and data gaps were identified. The Chair outlined the next steps and allocated tasks to the WG members, including the review and refinement of the particular section of the SO. Deadlines for the completion of assigned tasks were agreed to be done by 16 April 2026.

V. Any Other Business

Not applicable

VI. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 05 May 2026, via web conference.
