

15 June 2026

09:00-16:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 18 June 2026

Location: EFSA - Parma/ Web conference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:

Present physically:

CONTRERAS ALEXANDRA

JERLSTRÖM JOSEFINE

ROTANODARI SARA

Present online:

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.

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>



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 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 5 May 2026, online

The minutes of the 2nd Working Group (WG) meeting were agreed by written procedure on 12th May 2026.

V. 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](#)

The WG finalized the review of the section on the assessment of the existing scientific literature on head-only electrical stunning of heavy pigs. The discussion focused on several technical aspects, including the relevance of the head-to-body comparison, the potential use of expert knowledge elicitation (EKE), differences in head composition between sows, boars, and fattening pigs, and the identification of appropriate animal welfare indicators. The WG continued with the assessment of the evidence submitted through the EFSA call for data. They reviewed the preparatory work provided by the Tasking Grant on the comparative approach to electrical stunning of heavy pigs. The Chair outlined the next steps and allocated tasks to the WG members, containing the review and refinement of the particular sections of the Scientific Opinion. Deadlines for the completion of assigned tasks were agreed to be done within the next three weeks.

VI. Any Other Business

Not applicable

VII. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 10 July 2026, via web conference.

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

05 May 2026

12:30-19:15

MINUTES - Agreed on 12 May 2026

Location: Web conference

Attendees:

○ Working Group Members:
CONTRERAS ALEXANDRA

JERLSTRÖM JOSEFINE

ROTANODARI SARA

TUYTTENS FRANK

○ Hearing Experts¹:
Not Applicable

○ Applicant participating in a technical hearing²:
Not Applicable

○ European Commission representative:
ESTER ALAEZ PONS (SANTE)

○ 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.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

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":
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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 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 31 March 2026, online

The minutes of the 1st Working Group (WG) meeting were agreed by written procedure on 7th April 2026.

V. 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](#)

The Chair - EFSA informed the WG about the final version of the endorsed protocol by the AHAW Panel and the few refinements that were made. The WG continued reviewing the section on the assessment of the existing scientific literature on head-only electrical stunning of heavy pigs. They also reviewed the second preparatory work provided by the Tasking Grant on the assessment of the evidence submitted through the EFSA call for data. They discussed about the technical challenges in head-only electrical stunning, including the lack of data, some inconsistencies in the literature, the potential of early recovery of consciousness, equipment limitations, and electrodes placement. The Chair outlined the next steps and allocated tasks to the WG members, containing the review and refinement of the particular sections of the Scientific Opinion. Deadlines for the completion of assigned tasks were agreed to be done within the next two weeks.

VI. Any Other Business

Not applicable

VII. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 15 June 2026.

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

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

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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.
