

Parma, 01 February 2012

ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE UNIT

Web minutes of the 2nd AHAW Network meeting on the request for technical assistance on Schmallenberg virus

01 February 2012 (11:00-12:00 h) - teleconference

EFSA / AHAW

Participants

External experts: Franz J Conraths, Wim Oooms, Armin Elbers, Helen Roberts, Ann Birgitte Caij, Philippe Houdart, Claude Saegerman, Edit Authié, Pascal Hendrikx, Stephan Zientara

EFSA: Ana Afonso (Chair), Jane Richardson, Jose Cortina Abrahantes, Katriina Willgert, Franck Berthe, Didier Verloo

ECDC: Celine Gossner

DG SANCO: Francisco Reviriego Gordejo, Francesco Berlingieri

1. Welcome and apologies

2. Adoption of agenda

3. Discussions

Assistance request – objectives and deadline

The request for urgent scientific and technical assistance on the possible risks for animal and public health caused by the "Schmallenberg" virus (SBV) from the European Commission (EC) was distributed to the AHAW Network members on the 30th of January 2012. In the mandate, EFSA is asked to:

1. Produce a preliminary report on likely epidemiological scenarios that could be expected over the next months. Deadline: 6 February 2012, to be presented at the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health (SCoFCAH) meeting on 7/8 February 2012.
2. Perform an analysis of epidemiological data available, to be summarized in bimonthly reports. Deadline: 31 March 2012, to be updated every two months.
3. Prepare guidance on data collection in the Member States (MS).
4. Assess the impact of SBV on animal health, animal production and animal welfare, taking virus characterisation into consideration. Deadline: 31 May 2012, to be updated regularly.

Update of EFSA activities

EFSA is in the process of preparing a draft document on possible epidemiological scenarios that could be expected over the coming months as well as suggested data needs for harmonized data collection across MS, addressing Terms of Reference 1 and 3.

Update of activities in Member States

An overview of the SBV situation and ongoing activities in MS was given. At the present time, SBV has been confirmed in five MS.

Data collection and data sharing

The ideal and minimal requirements for data collection in MS were discussed. All MS with confirmed SBV cases are currently collecting data at herd level on the number of susceptible animals, the number of infected animals and the affected species.

Concerns were expressed among MS that much of the requested information is not public and cannot be shared with EFSA. EFSA assures that any data provided would be collated to protect the privacy and anonymity of individual farmers.

EFSA suggested that the data provided could be organized in two datasets; one that would be publically available, summarizing the situation at EU level, and another more comprehensive dataset at EU level with the purpose to assess the impact of SBV and to assist MS in their research.

4. Pending actions

5. Next meeting date

February 9th, 2012 (conference call)