16 April 2012

EFSA Task Force of Zoonoses Data Collection
The 25th meeting
Held in Copenhagen on 13 March 2012

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PARTICIPANTS:

Members and other National, ECDC or Commission representatives:

Peter Much (Austria), Luc Vanholme (Belgium), Georgi Chobanov (Bulgaria), Pipis Christodoulos (Cyprus), Petr Šatrán (the Czech Republic), Birgitte Helwigh (Denmark), Jelena Sogel (Estonia), Saara Raulo (Finland), Laurent Montaut (France), Matthias Hartung (Germany), Tzani Myrsini (Greece), Edith Nagy (Hungary), Kilian Unger (Ireland), Lisa O'Connor (Ireland), Veronica Cibin (Italy), Simona Iannetti (Italy), Konstantins Golubevs (Latvia), Snieguole Sceponaviciene (Lithuania), Joseph Schon (Luxembourg), Rob Van Oosterom (the Netherlands), Merete Hofshagen (Norway), Jacek Osek (Poland), Patricia Inacio (Portugal), Iulia Cohen (Romania), Marta Bedriova (Slovakia), Manca Pavsic (Slovenia), José Luis Saez Llorente (Spain), Emma Denia Martin (Spain), Cristina Escobar De Frutos (Spain), Elina Lathi (Sweden), Jürg Danuser (Switzerland), Lesley Larkin (the United Kingdom), Kris De Smet (EC), Rosa Peran (EC).

Observers:

Yllka Allaraj (Albania), Emir Konjic (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Drazen Knezevic (Croatia), Greta Nikolovska (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), Mevlida Hrapovic (Montenegro), Slobodan Sibalic (Serbia), Guzin Sahin (Turkey), Hilde Kruse (WHO Regional Office for Europe).

EFSA:

Pia Mäkelä (Chair), Frank Boelaert, Pierre-Alexandre Belœil, Valentina Rizzi, Kenneth Mulligan (Science), Fabrizio Abbinante (P&M Team – RASA), Marco Leoni (IT Systems), Miriam Grasselli and Simona Fusar Poli (Administration).

MINUTES:

1. Opening and welcome

The meeting was opened by welcoming all the Task Force (TF) members and observers.

2. Minutes from the last meeting

Only few editorial comments were received by email from the Member States (MSs) on the draft minutes. No additional comments were given at the meeting and the minutes were adopted; the final version was published on the EFSA website.

3. Declaration of interest

None of the participants declared an additional interest related to the subjects of the meeting.

4. Revised zoonoses reporting web application for 2011 data

Fabrizio Abbinante presented the amendments planned for the new release of the zoonoses web application for the 2011 data reporting. The revision of the pick lists "Sampling context" and "Sampling stage" will be implemented by splitting them and creating three new columns and the

relative new dictionaries (“Sampler”, “Sampling strategy”, “Sample type”). A general revision will involve the default values in the prevalence tables. New columns are also to be added to collect additional information on values to be used for “Target verification”, on “Analytical methods”, on “Number of clinically affected herds” (Q fever only). Amendments will be applied to food-borne outbreak (FBO) reporting and to the wizard for antimicrobial resistance (AMR) data.

Some corrections on the “Sample type” pick lists were suggested by TF members. Clarifications and suggestions were given with regard to the reporting of specific information (e.g. what to report in the column “number of flocks under the programme”; how to report investigation in animals and/or food after the occurrence of human cases: “survey”, “suspect sampling”).

For the reporting season 2012 the data could be entered directly to the zoonoses web application or via the Data Collection Framework (DCF). However, for the transmission of AMR isolate based data, only the submission via DCF will be supported.

Most of MSs expressed their interest in training on the use of DCF for data transmission. The reporting season will start on 10 April 2012 and will end on 4 June 2012.

5. XML data transfer, data models and general guidance

Kenneth Mulligan gave a short explanation on data transfer requirements, covering the data structure (data models), standard terminology (pick lists), XML schemas and business rules. In particular, for the manual transmission, details were given on the formats supporting data transfer (XML, Excel, CSV) and the actions needed by the Reporting Officer (uploading of dataset from DCF to Zoonoses application). As for the automatic transmission, it supports only the XML format. XML files can also be generated from Excel files. Two types of data models have been created to support the submission to DCF: the aggregated data models (for all tables) and isolate-based data model (only for AMR). Each data model is supported by a XML schema with specific validation rules for specific fields.

For the mapping with EFSA terminology (pick lists), EFSA will provide the MSs with a mapping tool that implements the Excel XML Schema Map feature.

Data submitted through DCF will be aggregated, if needed, and imported in the Zoonoses database. The timelines for DCF tables accepting submission were also given.

6. EFSA Grants to support the XML/Excel data transfers and updating the historical data in zoonoses database

Kenneth Mulligan informed the TF that a new EFSA grant call will be launched under Article 36 to support MSs in submitting data compliant with EFSA data models and terminologies, and in updating historical data. In the instance that more than one competent organization in a MS is applying, they can either form a consortium and apply together, or agree between themselves which data categories to apply for, and apply separately. The call will be launched in March 2012 and the deadline for application will be June 2012. The implementation of the grants is expected to start in September 2012.

7. EFSA future IT developments in the field of data collection

Fabrizio Abbinante presented the future activities in EFSA regarding data collection. The plan in the next 3-year period is to move all the Dictionary and User Management modules to DCF in order to have a single data collection interface. The zoonoses application will be maintained for the MSs that still want to use it.

Reporting data to EFSA using XML/Excel/CSV files via DCF will be based on data models similar to the EFSA's Standard Sample Description model (SSD). This SSD model is going to be revised by a new Working Group where two experts from our Task Force were invited. A subgroup comprising members of the Zoonoses TF will also be set up to support the main WG. As for the zoonoses, two pilots on data collection of food and animal samples based on the SSD will be run in 2013 and 2014, respectively.

EFSA is also creating a Data Warehouse (DWH) for all collected data, whose access policy and archiving policy still need to be defined and agreed upon. A pilot will be carried out in 2012 for AMR isolate-based data and for data on prevalence and FBOs.

8. Discussion on revised draft reporting manuals for reporting on zoonoses, antimicrobial resistance and food-borne outbreaks – rabies virus nomenclature; analytical methods pick list; final tables

Frank Boelaert gave some general recommendations for reporting: MSs were invited to report information on *Yersinia enterocolitica* serotypes and biotypes, on virulence genes for VTEC as well as on housing conditions of *Trichinella*-positive pigs. Reporting of regional data for *Echinococcus* and rabies is also encouraged as well as accurate data reporting on monophasic *S.* Typhimurium. The MSs were also recommended to report as much information as possible using the available pick lists, to avoid double reporting, and to use the free text fields only when the information cannot be reported under other available fields. Based on the comments received, data on *Salmonella* serovars in turkeys should be reported mainly using the serovar table.

Valentina Rizzi explained the types of information to be reported in the new fields of the web application. The new column on "Target verification" should be used to identify the values for the target verification in accordance with the requirements from the Regulations for *Salmonella* reduction targets in different poultry populations. She also presented the new pick list on "Analytical methods", drafted in consultation with the relevant European Union Reference Laboratories (EURLs); it includes the international standardised analytical methods and other commonly used methods. It should mainly be used for reporting data on specific zoonoses (i.e. Q fever, *Toxoplasma,* and VTEC). The TF experts were also informed about the case definition for "clinically affected herds" for Q fever to be used for the new column in the table "*Coxiella burnetii* (Q fever) in animals". The suggested revision of rabies nomenclature, prepared in consultation with the EURL for rabies, was discussed and agreed. Finally the revision of the pick list for verotoxigenic *Escherichia coli* (VTEC) was proposed to take into account the serotypes that are identified as pathogenic for humans (including STEC O104) and to collect more information on virulence genes. MSs were invited to provide their comments on the reporting manuals and on the pick lists on analytical methods and VTEC by Wednesday 21 March 2012.

Pierre-Alexandre Beloeil provided recommendations on the reporting on data for AMR; in particular the MSs were invited to report specific information on different animal subpopulations, and data on the most relevant *Salmonella* serovars for each animal population.

9. Vector-borne zoonoses: discussion on the external report on inventory of available data and data sources and proposal for data collection on vector-borne zoonoses in animals and further actions

The chair presented the external report on vector-borne zoonoses submitted to EFSA. The report includes an inventory of available data and data sources, and proposes data collection on several vector-borne zoonoses in animals. The TF was consulted on it in autumn and the report will be published soon. The TF concluded that it is not easy to make prioritisation of these zoonoses as they have not the same relevance in different European areas due to the different vectors in different MSs. However, reporting on these zoonoses was perceived as important. It was agreed to discuss again to this topic at the TF meeting in autumn after consultation with ECDC.

10. Discussion on the draft report from the working group on epidemiological indicators for meat inspection of poultry

The chair explained the status of progress of the WG on meat inspection in poultry. The same approach used for pigs was adopted for this report. The report will be sent for consultation in May and will be finalised by June 2012.

11. Discussion on the draft report from the working group on harmonisation of antimicrobial resistance monitoring and reporting in animals and food

Pierre-Alexandre Beloeil explained the status of progress of the WG on harmonisation of antimicrobial resistance monitoring and reporting in animals and food. The main aim is to review the technical specifications for AMR data monitoring and reporting for *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter*, commensal *E. coli* and *Enterococci* from food and animals published in 2007 and 2008. In particular the WG should reconsider the antimicrobials, epidemiological cut-off values and concentration range to be used for testing. Also the need for harmonised parameters for VTEC and ESBLs should be considered as well as the best format for data collection and reporting. The draft proposal from the WG will be discussed at the AMR TF meeting on 16 March 2012 and the report will be circulated for consultation to the MSs in April 2012.

12. Discussion on the publication of the external report on microbiological contaminants in food in EU in 2004-2009

The chair explained the status of progress of the report on microbiological contaminants in food in the European Union in the period 2004-2009. The comments received in autumn from the MSs were taken into account by the contractor. Late comments will be taken aboard in the report by EFSA. The TF agreed on the publication of the report as an external report.

13. Progress reports from working groups

13a. Epidemiological indicators for meat inspection of cattle

Frank Boelaert reported on the progress regarding the WG on Epidemiological indicators for meat inspection of cattle. The first WG meeting took place at the end of January. The hazards currently addressed are those identified by the BIOHAZ WG. The timelines of the WG activities were presented.

13b. Listeria baseline survey analyses

Frank Boelaert reported on the progress regarding the analysis of data from the *Listeria* baseline survey. The data validation is ongoing. EFSA is in the process of setting up the first of two WGs that will deal with the analyses. The part A and part B reports have to be issued by January 2013 and by December 2013, respectively.

14. Progress with grant and contract projects

14a. Statistical analyses on antimicrobial resistance data

Pierre-Alexandre Beloeil exemplified methodologies to be used for statistical analysis, including analysis of multi-resistant patterns and co-resistance patterns. In the final report the data from MSs were anonymised. EFSA is in the process of finalising the report.

15. EFSA expert satisfaction Survey

The chair presented a summary on the EFSA scientific satisfaction survey. This was carried out to understand how the experts perceive the administrative, scientific and communication support given by EFSA. The results were in line with those from the previous Expert survey conducted in 2009.

16. Any other businesses

16a. Approved documents from the last TF meeting

These documents are available on Sciencenet.

16b. New call for a framework contract

The chair informed the participants that a new call for the framework contract on preparatory work related to annual European Union summary reports would be published soon. The main objective of the call is to obtain assistance in the data analysis. The tasks for the contractors will be to analyse descriptively and interpret the annual datasets, provide text describing and discussing the results. The call is divided in lots for five different topics. Specific contracts on certain zoonoses/ items will be signed based on EFSA's request each year. The deadline for sending an application is 16 April 2012.