European Food Safety Authority

2 August 2012

EFSA Task Force of Zoonoses Data Collection
The 26th meeting
Held in Parma on 26-27 June 2012

AGENDA:

PARTICIPANTS:

Members and other National, ECDC or Commission representatives:

Peter Much (Austria), Luc Vanholme (Belgium), Georgi Chobanov (Bulgaria), 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), Andrew O'Connor (Ireland), Lisa O'Connor (Ireland), Fabrizio De Massis (Italy), Tatjana Marcenkova (Latvia), Ausra Lescinskaite (Lithuania), Joseph Schon (Luxembourg), Rob Van Oosterom (the Netherlands), Merete Hofshagen (Norway), Jacek Osek (Poland), Ioana Neghirla (Romania), Marta Bedriova (Slovakia), José Luis Saez Llorente (Spain), Carlos Valencia (Spain), Elina Lathi (Sweden), Jürg Danuser (Switzerland), Lesley Larkin (the United Kingdom), Chris Teale (AMRCC).

EFSA:

Pia Mäkelä (Chair), Frank Boelaert, Pierre-Alexandre Belœil, Valentina Rizzi, Giusi Amore, Marios Georgiadis, Elena Mazzolini, Francesca Riolo, Kenneth Mulligan, Ilaria Inverardi, Lucia Senini, Minerva Laranjo González, Boryana Tineva (Science), Miriam Grasselli and Simona Fusar Poli (Administration), Maria Teresa Da Silva Felicio (BIOHAZ), Ana Afonso (AHAW), Fabrizio Abbinante (P&M Team – RASA), Marco Leoni (IT Systems), Stefano Cappè (DCM).

MINUTES:

1. Opening and welcome

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

2. Declaration of interest

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

3. Minutes from the last meeting

Only one editorial comment was 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 will be published on the EFSA website.

4. Feed-back from the 2011 data reporting and data validation

4.1 Use of the web application and use of the XML/Excel (DCF) data transfer

Valentina Rizzi gave feedback on the functioning of the web application and helpdesk for 2011 data reporting. All MSs and 3 non-MSs provided data from the year 2011. Half of the reporting countries submitted their data both through Data Collection Framework (DCF) and the web application and 14 of them submitted also isolate-based antimicrobial resistance (AMR) data. The other countries used only the web application. The data were provided within the agreed deadline by most of the reporting countries. The main problems encountered during the reporting season were performance issues for large tables, temporary problems related to the system's memory and the EFSA web-site, and issues

with the generation of PDF files. A summary of the requests received in the "zoonoses_support" mailbox was also presented. Finally the improvements planned for next year were presented, including the revision of the pick list of analytical methods, the addition of the new default table for West Nile virus and the use of different sampling unit pick lists according to the type of table.

Francesca Riolo gave detailed feedback on data reporting through DCF. A summary was presented on the types of data submitted per reporting country, including data submitted under the pilot on AMR isolate data and under the 2011 grants to support reporting countries in their move to XML, Excel or CSV data transmissions. The requests received through the helpdesk were mainly related to XML, the most used format. The validation process included enforcement of business rules at data entry time and additional validation rules during data extraction. The validation outputs were made available on Sciencenet for MSs' revision. She also reminded the countries that were awarded the grant in 2011 about the deadline for the next deliverable (interim report) and informed the TF that a new call under article 36 was launched to support data submission and historical data cleaning.

Additional clarifications were provided on data submission and checking. So far data submitted through DCF can be visualised in flat file format. If MSs prefer, a normal table format (pivot table) can be prepared and MSs should inform EFSA in case they wish data in this table format. Upon request of the MSs, the possibility to aggregate data from isolate-based data immediately after their submission through DCF will be evaluated internally. The simplification of text forms in the web application was discussed and will be further investigated with IT colleagues with the aim of extending to the text forms the use of DCF. The extension of the use of DCF to disease status tables will also be evaluated. As for the pick lists, the TF was informed that a new dictionary management system is under development to be used for the maintenance of the pick lists and will foresee the notification of MSs in case of changes to pick lists.

Finally the experts suggested having a shared meeting with colleagues from the chemical areas to share more information and some knowledge between the two fields, in particular as for the XML data transmission.

4.2 Validation of 2011 data

Frank Boelaert presented the process of data validation explaining the automatic flagging, implemented using business rules by data managers, and the scientific checks implemented. Both evaluations were exemplified per type of table and per zoonosis. Based on the outcomes from the validation, debriefing letters were sent by email on 22 June to all reporting countries asking for clarifications. All flagged data records were made available on Sciencenet in password-protected folders as well as any other debriefing file (e.g. Excel files for AMR data). In the same folder also data extracted from DCF are archived for MSs' verification before moving them to the web application. In general data submitted were of very good quality and quantity, and MSs reported more details using the new pick lists.

Pierre-Alexandre Belœil explained the validation of AMR data; rules for consistency checking were explained for both isolate-based and aggregated data as well as the most frequently reported problems. For example, for quantitative dilution data, consistency between the lowest and the highest concentrations tested and the epidemiological cut-off values (ECOFFs) and Minimum Inhibitory Concentrations (MICs) reported was checked. For aggregated data, consistency between qualitative and quantitative reporting was verified. Generally data submitted for 2011 were of good quality, in

particular for isolate-based data, with only few problematic records; a big effort has also been made by MSs to report data at serovar and animal population level.

5. Plans for 2011 EU Summary reports on zoonoses, food-borne outbreaks and antimicrobial resistance

Pierre-Alexandre Belœil presented the plan for next year AMR European Union Summary Report (EUSR). The report will be produced as in the previous year, but with the inclusion of additional new analyses on the multi-resistance. *Salmonella* data will be analysed at serovar level for both humans and the veterinary field. Analysis of quantitative data at animal population level will be also included for all agents. An overview of the situation on multi-resistance will also be given per combination of bacteria subtype/animal population or food category through 'summary indicators'. Moreover an inventory of multi-resistance and co-resistance patterns will be presented, including patterns involving critically important antimicrobials.

Frank Boelaert presented the plan for 2011 EUSR on zoonoses and food-borne outbreaks (FBOs). The 2012 staff resources in EFSA's BIOMO unit only allow producing a restricted EUSR 2011 on zoonoses and food-borne outbreaks (FBO). This special situation in 2012 is due to the fact that BIOMO lost resources in favour of other EFSA units (due to an internal re-organization), needs to allocate resources to implement the new electronic data submission, besides the online web-application, and took over more responsibilities of the report preparation (number crunching done in-house). The proposal for a restricted 2011 EUSR on zoonoses and FBOs, informally agreed upon by the EC and ECDC, includes the exact list of tables to be produced. Also, only 2011 data will be presented in tables, while historical data will be still presented in trend figures, as appropriate. A detailed EUSR, including also an overview of historical data, will be produced again in 2013. Suggestions for new tables were received by the TF members (e.g. prevalence table on *Salmonella* in table eggs). BIOMO will inform the EC of the TF outcome, by letter.

6. EFSA's BIOHAZ and AHAW panels opinions on EU Summary Reports on trends and sources of zoonoses, zoonotic agents and food-borne outbreaks in 2009 and 2010

Maria Teresa da Silva Felicio presented the conclusions and recommendations of the BIOHAZ panel's opinion on the revision of the 2009 and 2010 zoonoses EUSRs, specifically for the data on *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter*, verotoxigenic *Escherichia coli*, *Listeria monocytogenes* and FBOs. Suggestions and recommendations on human data collection were provided as well as on statistical tools to be used for data analysis.

Ana Afonso presented the AHAW panel's opinion on the revision of the 2009 and 2010 zoonoses EUSRs, specifically for the data related to bovine tuberculosis, *Echinococcus*, Q fever, brucellosis and non-food borne diseases. General comments were done on the analyses of the data.

7. Discussion groups on annual reporting

The participants were divided into three groups to discuss the following questions:

1. Views on use of XML/Excel/DCF data submission versus the web application
2. Views on reporting of analytical methods, vector-borne zoonoses and other aspects

3. Views on EFSA's data validation
4. Views on any other reporting issue

The outcomes of the discussion groups were presented at the plenary meeting.

The Group 1 reported back that DCF transmission was successful and useful in meeting the submission deadline, even though it required extensive national investment and IT expertise. The experts commented that support for DCF use could be provided by countries with experience under article 36 grants. In addition simplification of the text forms would be useful as well as rationalisation of pick lists. It was pointed out that the decision on the collection of information on analytical methods should be taken based on the zoonosis and that the prioritisation of vector-borne zoonoses to be monitored needs to be done at national level. With regard to data validation, the group proposed to set up a WG to clarify the terminology used in reporting. Suggestions to implement automatic built-in validation at an earlier stage of the process and to allow more time for MSs' validation were also made.

The Group 2 concluded that DCF is a valid tool for data submission but should be able to handle single sample prevalence data and a management system should be implemented for quality assurance. The XML format appeared to work well, despite the difficult understanding of the IT language. The reporting of all analytical methods would be quite complex also due lack of harmonisation in several areas; the reporting could be limited to generic terms, as cultural/molecular/immunological method. More discussion is needed to prioritise vector-borne zoonoses to be reported on and to solve the problem of double reporting for some zoonoses. The experts considered the data validation process efficient.

The Group 3 reported back that the use of DCF submission has the advantages of reducing mistakes and saving time in future transmission, but it requires resources and time for data collection preparation, database development and training. In addition, difficulties can be encountered in case of lack of a single national database and in case of structural/administrative changes in the competent authority institutions limiting data availability. In this context it would be useful to define risk-based priority for data reporting. The collection of information on analytical methods should be evaluated per each zoonotic agent in relation to the relevance for data interpretation at EU level. Regarding vector-borne zoonoses to be monitored, it was suggested that the selection should be done based on MS priorities in the human sector. Anyway the facility to add zoonotic agent tables to the national report should be maintained. The group strongly supported the idea of automatic aggregation of data submitted through DCF.

The chair concluded EFSA will come back with feedback from this discussion at the next TF meeting.

8. Standard Sample Description (SSD) working group – proposal regarding sample based data on zoonotic agents in food and animals and antimicrobial isolate based data

Stefano Cappè explained that "Standard Sample Description (SSD)" consists of a list of data elements that are standardised and includes controlled terminologies and validation rules to guarantee data quality. It represents a model harmonising the collection of a wide range of analytical results at sample-base level in several domains of EFSA activity. Currently it is implemented in the fields of chemical contaminants, pesticide residues, additives and food contact materials. The mandate of the

new WG is to extend SSD also to the domains of food additives and zoonoses, in particular antimicrobial isolate based data, data on microbiological contaminants at single sample level and data on food-borne pathogens at sample level, and to fully support FoodEx2. A summary on the major enhancements was given as for the structure of the system and the catalogues. The finalisation of the deliverables is foreseen for May 2013.

9. EFSA's new food classification and description system

Stefano Cappè presented the food classification and description system FoodEx2. The system consists of a list of terms that are aggregated in different ways based on the analysis purpose of different domains (e.g. hierarchy according to species, use). Detailed food items are common to all areas while each area follows the preferred hierarchical grouping. Each element of the list is further characterised with facet descriptors. The system is language independent as it is based on codes; backwards compatibility with previous system has been checked (using correlated codes), but manual correction could be necessary. The roadmap for the implementation of the system was presented. The TF was informed that the browser and the system will be made available on the EFSA website.

10. Proposal for reporting on vector-borne zoonoses

Giusi Amore informed the TF about the ongoing discussion between EFSA, ECDC and EC on the reporting on vector-borne zoonoses. So far an agreement was reached to start the monitoring of West Nile Virus (WNV) at EU level. The proposal for reporting on WNV in animals was presented as well as the proposal for the addition of a new default table for this disease in the web zoonoses application.

11. Analyses plan for the *Listeria monocytogenes* in ready-to-eat foods baseline survey

Marios Geordiadis explained the plan for the analysis of data from the *Listeria* baseline survey in ready-to-eat foods and the outputs to be included in the report A (prevalence estimates and analysis of the qualitative and quantitative survey test results) and in report B (analysis of factors, development of predictive models for microbial growth and development of predictive models for compliance with *L. monocytogenes* food safety criteria). The WG set up for the preparation of the Report A was presented as well as the new proposed deadlines, still to be formally agreed with the EC. He pointed out that estimations at EU level will be the main output of the survey according to the study design, even though evaluation at MS level could be investigated. It was also made clear that typing results will not be included in these reports as they will be covered by a separate project carried out by ECDC and EFSA in collaboration with the *Listeria* EURL.

12. Feed-back from the special Task Force meeting on antimicrobial resistance and recent EFSA report AMR monitoring

Pierre Alexandre Belœil updated the TF on the current activities on AMR monitoring and reporting. First he gave a feedback from the special TF meeting on AMR; he informed the TF about the status of progress of the cooperation between ECDC, EFSA and EMA, that will produce a joint report on the analysis of the relationship between AMR and use in humans and animals. Then he summarised the background, the Terms of References and the main conclusions/ recommendations of the mandate received from the EC on harmonised monitoring of AMR in animals and food. Finally a project of

Hasselt University for statistical methods for modelling MIC distribution as a whole was presented. The intention is to use aggregated data from some MSs (aggregated MIC distribution of *E. coli* and ampicillin) for checking the quality of the model. An email on this specific issue will be send to the relevant TF members.

13. Feed-back from the special Task Force meeting on food-borne outbreaks (FBOs)

Frank Boelaert presented the final conclusions from the discussion groups of the special TF meeting on FBO. No major revision of the system is foreseen; however some fine-tunings are proposed (more examples of "weak" or "strong" evidence outbreaks in the guidelines). The TF agreed on the EFSA's plan to reconvene the WG on FBOs when 2011 data are available.

14. Progress reports from working groups

14.a Meat inspections WGs

The chair informed the TF that the report of the WG on meat inspection of poultry will be published in the coming days. The activities of the WGs on meat inspection of cattle, farmed game and solipeds are on-going. The WG on meat inspection of small ruminants will be set up in autumn.

14.b MRSA WG

Pierre Alexandre Belœil updated the TF on the WG on Meticillin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA). The aim is to propose specifications for the monitoring of AMR of MRSA and to analyse prevalence of multi- resistance.

15. Progress with grant and contract projects

15a. - Grants on XML/Excel use and historical data updates

The chair reminded the TF that the deadline for proposal submission for the grants on XML/Excel use and historical data updates is 29 of June.

16. Presentations from Member States and other reporting countries

Merete Hofshagen gave a presentation about risk assessment on import of dogs in Norway. An overview was given on a recent investigation on dogs imported to Norway mainly from EU MSs in Eastern Europe, and details were given on controls carried out at border inspection post and on information given to dog owners by veterinarian institutions on what to do when travelling with dogs.

17. Any other businesses

17a. Next Task Force meeting in Cyprus on 18-19 October 2012

The chair informed that Cyprus has kindly invited the Task Force to have the next meeting in their country.

17b. Molecular typing data collection

The chair informed the participants that EFSA has got a request from the Commission for establishing a system of collection of molecular typing data for food and animals. EFSA should collaborate with ECDC that is putting in place a similar system for human data. EFSA has published some years ago a report on the availability in EU MSs and other European countries of molecular typing methods for different zoonotic agents. EFSA will send to the TF members the link to the report.

17.c Printing of EU Summary reports

The chair informed the TF about the possibility to order the 2010 EUSRs as print-on-demand on EU Bookshop. The direct link for the web site will be provided by email. EFSA will not be able to provide the printed reports to the MSs.

17.d Other business

The specific IT TF meeting will be postponed to December 2012 or January 2013 in Parma, due to internal organisational reasons.