

**AHAW UNIT**

**SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE**

**Minutes of the 70<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting of the Scientific Panel on Animal Health and Welfare**

**Held on 17 - 18 10 2012, Parma**

**(Agreed on 12 11 2012)**

**Participants**

• **Panel Members:**

Edith Authié, Charlotte Berg, Anette Bøtner, Howard Browman, Klaus Depner, Mariano Domingo, Christine Fourichon, Aline de Koeijer, Frank Koenen (18 October), Simon More, Mohan Raj, Liisa Sihvonen, Hans Spoolder, Jan Arend Stegeman, Ivar Vågsholm, Antonio Velarde, and Preben Willeberg.

• **European Commission:**

Marina Marini (Sanco, Unit 03), Moritz Klemm (Sanco, Unit G2 for item 4).

• **EFSA:**

- **AHAW Unit:** Ana Afonso, Franck Berthe, Denise Candiani, Sandra Correia, Sofie Dhollander, Chiara Fabris, Maria Ferrara, Andrea Gervelmeyer, Per Have, Karen Mackay and Frank Verdonck.

**1. Welcome and apologies for absence**

The Chair of the Panel, welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Ilaria Capua, Sandra Edwards, Hans-Hermann Thulke, and Stéphan Zientara.

**2. Adoption of agenda**

The agenda was adopted.

**3. Declarations of interest**

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes regarding Declarations of Interests (DoIs)<sup>1</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director implementing this Policy<sup>2</sup>, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest (ADoI). No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or in the Oral Declaration of interest (ODoI) at the beginning of this meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules.pdf>

## **4. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion**

### **4.1. Infectious Salmon Anaemia (ISA) (EFSA-Q-2012-0006)**

ISA is a fish disease listed in Part II of Annex IV to Council Directive 2006/88/EC on animal health requirements for aquaculture animals and products thereof, and on the prevention and control of certain diseases in aquatic animals. There are several variants of ISA virus, one of which is known not to cause clinical disease (HPR0). Virulent strains of the virus are usually regarded as HPR0 deleted strains. It is requested to assess: 1) the capability of HPR0 ISA strains to cause disease in Atlantic salmon, and 2) the risk of HPR-deleted ISA virus emerging from HPR0 ISA virus and, if relevant, indicating the risk factors causing such an emergence.

The Chair of the working group presented the document. The TORs are addressed by analysing published scientific literature on the genetics of ISAV in relation to field and experimental evidence of pathogenicity. The opinion was submitted for discussion in view of its possible adoption in November.

### **4.2. Diagnostic test for bovine tuberculosis (bTB) (EFSA-Q-2011-01254)**

Tuberculin skin test is currently the only available in vivo diagnostic test for bTB. While it provides a relative accurate and fast diagnosis of bTB (at a herd level), it has certain limitations when used on individual animals. Since 2002 the concurrent use of the IFN test as an ancillary test to the tuberculin skin test is regulated in Annex B (3) to Council Directive 64/432/EEC on animal health problems affecting intra-Community trade in bovine animals and swine in order to detect the maximum number of infected animals in a herd or a region. Experience has been gained in the EU and elsewhere on the performance of the IFN test. The AHAW Panel is requested to issue a scientific opinion on the suitability of the IFN test as a prescribed test to be included as an alternative to the tuberculin skin test for granting and retaining officially bTB free herd status contemplated in the annex A to Directive 64/432/EEC and intra-Union trade in bovine animals.

The Chair of the working group presented the document. The written comments received from Panel members and the European Commission were discussed and addressed. The opinion was submitted for discussion in view of its possible adoption in November.

### **4.3. Rift Valley Fever (RVF) (EFSA-Q-2012-00496)**

On Rift Valley Fever (RVF), the Chair of the working group gave a brief update on the state of play including a presentation of the model proposed to be used and the workshop organised to proceed with Expert Knowledge Elicitation (EKE) to respond the risk in EU neighbouring countries.

### **4.4. Risk of introduction and spread of the small hive beetle (*Aethina tumida*) and *Tropilaelaps* in the EU (EFSA-Q-2012-00550)**

On bees, and Risk of introduction and spread of the small hive beetle (*Aethina tumida*) and *Tropilaelaps* in the EU, the Chair of the working group presented the state of play. The discussion with the Panel emphasised the need for guidance on EKE and also evaluation of risk mitigation options.

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#### **4.5. Meat inspection in bovine (EFSA-Q-2011-00324), in small ruminants (EFSA-Q-2011-01036), solipeds (EFSA-Q-2011-01038) and farmed game (EFSA-Q-2011-01037)**

The Chair of the working group briefly presented the ongoing activities on the mandate on meat inspection, the overall approach and its state of play. A thorough discussion will take place at the November meeting of the Panel when the BIOHAZ Panel transmit proposed changes to the current meat inspection procedures. The question of bTB surveillance was discussed.

#### **4.6. Scientific and technical assistance on *Echinococcus multilocularis* infection in animals (EU EFSA-Q-2012-00550)**

The progress on the scientific and technical assistance on *Echinococcus multilocularis* (EM) infection in animals was presented. Feedback from the meeting with representatives from the member states and some members of the Panel was given. The Panel was informed that the member states agreed to harmonize the reports and use the Data Collection Framework for data collection. The Panel welcomed the meeting with the Scientific Network of AHAW.

#### **4.7. Zoonoses Summary Report 2009 + 2010 (TOR 2+7) (EFSA-Q-2012-00631)**

For the mandate on data collection, a brief presentation of the state of play was given by the Chair of the working group. The scientific opinion will explain why the zoonoses report on trends and sources is not very valuable for AHAW risk assessment. The Panel agreed that the opinion should give a vision of the Panel on baseline and ad hoc data collection (including data models for generic risk question). It was agreed that additional zoonoses to be reported would not necessarily be a priority.

#### **4.8. Analysis of the available epidemiological data taking into account seasonal pattern of virus circulation (TOR 2 Schmallerberg mandate) (EFSA-Q-2012-00231)**

The technical assistance on the possible risks for animal health caused by the Schmallerberg virus was presented, and the ongoing work on the epidemiological report was discussed. The draft report will be shared with the Panel early November.

#### **4.9. Monitoring procedures at slaughterhouses (EFSA-Q-2012-00840)**

On the mandate on monitoring procedures at slaughterhouses, a plan of action, including systematic literature review, data collection, and possible public consultation was presented and discussed.

### **5. Feedback from EFSA**

#### **5.1. Seminar of the Swedish Academy of Sciences on US and EU approach to SPS matters in the field of animal health**

A brief feedback from the seminar was given. The discussion highlighted the high level of transparency of EFSA. The need for joint risk assessment by EFSA and ECDC at the human animal interface was also emphasised.

### **6. Any Other Business**

Next AHAW plenary will take place on 13-14 November.

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