



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

Scientific Panel on Animal Health and Welfare

Minutes of the 121st Plenary meeting

Held on 22-23 January 2020

EFSA, Parma (Italy)

(Agreed on 07 February 2020)¹

Participants

■ Panel Members:

ALVAREZ Julio, BICOUT Dominique, CALISTRI Paolo (for 23 January via Skype for Business (SFB)), DEPNER Klaus, DREWE Julian, GARIN-BASTUJI Bruno, GORTAZAR SCHMIDT Christian, MICHEL Virginie, MIRANDA Miguel Angel, NIELSEN Søren Saxmose (Chair), ROBERTS Helen, SIHVONEN Liisa, SPOOLDER Hans, STAHL Karl, VELARDE Antonio, VILTROP Arvo, WINCKLER Christoph.

■ European Commission: FORCELLA Simona (point 6.2 and 8.2), MARINI Marina (point 9.4), COHEN Iulia (point 9.4), LOGAR Barbara (Point 9.4), ZAMORA-ESCRIBANO Eva-Maria (point 9.4)

■ EFSA:

ALPHA UNIT: Sotiria-Eleni Antoniou, Francesca Baldinelli, Alessandro Broglia, Denise Candiani, Sofie Dhollander, Yves Van der Stede, Gabriele Zancanaro, Corina Ivanciu, Sara Gisella Omodeo, Claire Donohue, Cristina Rapagna

SCER UNIT: GERVELMEYER Andrea, MARTINO Laura, MERTEN Caroline

■ Hearing experts²: not applicable.

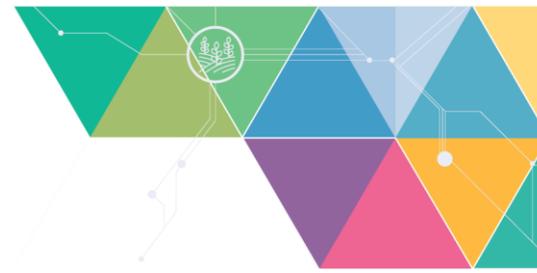
■ Observers: not applicable.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the meeting participants. Apologies were received from GONZALES ROJAS Jose Luis.

¹ Minutes should be published within 15 working days of the final day of the relevant meeting.

² As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.



2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest Scientific Panel 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 members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 120th Plenary meeting held on 20-21 November 2019, Parma, (Italy)

The minutes of the 120th Plenary meeting were agreed by written procedure on 12 December 2019.

4.1. New expert compensation scheme, extension of current Panel mandate and mutual assessment of EFSA staff and experts

The Head of the REPRO/RASA department attended the Plenary meeting to inform the Panel about the changes introduced by the New Transparency Regulation and the implication to the Scientific Committee and Panels, in particular in relation to the Panel mandate extension, the increase in expert indemnity, expert mutual assessment and timeline.

5. Scientific outputs submitted for possible adoption or endorsement

5.1. Art 29 – Scientific Opinion on Rift Valley Fever (EFSA-Q-2019-00422)

The text of the draft Scientific Opinion considered the answers to TOR1 (in particular TOR 1.1, and 1.2). The text was presented to the Panel and thoroughly discussed. All comments provided by the Panel members were discussed and addressed. The results obtained from the uncertainty analyses were integrated and rephrased in the conclusions. In particular, conclusions and key messages on the risk of introduction of RVF in the EU and in particular countries were thoroughly reviewed and discussed. Some modifications mainly in the Summary, Conclusions and Recommendations were implemented. The AHAW Panel adopted the Opinion unanimously.

5.2. Feedback on written adoption 10 December 2019: Art 29 –Scientific opinion concerning the killing of rabbits for other purposes than slaughter (EFSA-Q-2019-00518 and EFSA-Q-2019-00519)

Feedback was provided on the written adoption of the Scientific Opinion concerning killing of rabbits for other purposes than slaughter. The opinion was adopted unanimously by all Panel members on 10 December 2019 and published on 10 January 2020.

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁴ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



6. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion

6.1. Art 29 – Scientific Opinion on Rift Valley Fever TOR 2.1 & TOR 2.2 (EFSA-Q-2019-00422)

This opinion assesses the probability of overwintering of RVF in the department of Mayotte as well as the risk of RVF spreading from Mayotte to other areas including other French departments in the Indian Ocean or Metropolitan France (TOR 2.1). In addition, an assessment of the impact of the disease with emphasis on animal health and farm production in Mayotte is requested (TOR 2.2). The current structure of the opinion as well as the available data was presented and discussed with the AHAW Panel. Data from CoopADEM association of farmers in Mayotte are difficult to obtain and lack of data may hamper the full assessment on the impact of RVF in Mayotte. Mortality and morbidity data were calculated based on ADNS. Data on abortions are not available. It was agreed with the Panel that the models already available to assess the overwintering of RVF are valid and applicable to answer the TOR 2.1.

6.2. Art 29 - TOR2: African Swine Fever Risk ranking matrices (EFSA-Q-2019-00618)

The data section of the Scientific Opinion was presented and discussed in detail with the AHAW Panel. This section will be sent out for public consultation and this data sections is going to be used for ranking the different matrices for their risk to transmit ASFV. The data section has also been revised by the FEED and BIOCONTAM unit in EFSA. The different categories of matrices as well as the provided parameters in the overview tables were discussed in detail. The data section was endorsed by the AHAW Panel. The data section will be sent out for public consultation starting in February 2020.

In addition, the methodology and model to be used in the Scientific Opinion for was discussed. One of the suggestions during the Plenary meeting was to keep the assessment as simple as possible. are still pending. These will be discussed in a separate Working Group.

It was agreed with the Panel and the EC to extend the deadline for adoption (proposal December 2020) due to the need for public consultation and the need for different EKE's to estimate the different probabilities foreseen in the model.

6.3. Art. 29 - Request for a scientific opinion for the listing and categorisation of transmissible animal diseases caused by bacteria resistant to antimicrobials, in the framework of the Animal Health Law (EFSA-Q-2019-0212)

The current state of play of the mandate was presented to the AHAW Panel. A discussion with the chair of the WG and with the EC took place to clarify the approach and to ask for clarifications on some key issues. Next steps are: finalise the composition of the Working Group, discuss within the Working Group the interpretation of the TORs and launch a call for a procurement on literature search on AMR. A BIOHAZ Panel member was assigned (Friederike Hilbert). For TOR1 and TOR2 data will be collected in two phases via procurement. In order to do so it was proposed to start from a list of 'significant' bacteria and to define 'AMR concerns'. It is agreed that dogs and cats are part of the scope of this mandate as there are issues related to AMR for dogs and cats and potential



impact on public health. For TOR2 the most relevant bacteria will be defined based on the impact on animal health. The information to be collected for listing the disease for Union intervention according to Article 5 of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 should consider all criteria listed under A: A(i), A(ii), A(iii), A(iv) and A(v). For TOR3 an assessment via expert judgement by the Working Group and AHAW Panel is foreseen.

6.4. Art 29 - Request for a scientific opinion on the evaluation of public and animal health risks in case of a delayed post-mortem inspection in ungulates (EFSA-Q-2019-00124)

A short update on this opinion – related to the Animal Health part – was provided by Bruno GARIN-BASTUJI. The results obtained from a questionnaire were discussed. This questionnaire was sent to the national laboratories in different EU MSs and in order to obtain information on the behaviour of the sensitivity of post-mortem diagnostic assays for bovine tuberculosis if testing occurs 24h or 72h later compared to immediate testing after meat inspection. A questionnaire for obtaining information on the sensitivity of post-mortem inspection to detect a range of lesions and changes if performed 24 or 72 hours compared to immediately after slaughter will be sent to identified meat inspectors from different MSs.

6.5. Art 29 - Scientific opinion as regards specific maximum levels of cross-contamination for 24 antimicrobial active substances in non-target feed (EFSA-Q-2019-00221)

A short update on this opinion was provided by Søren Saxmose Nielsen. An existing human model will be used for animals to infer concentrations of antimicrobials in feed from antimicrobial concentrations in the gut of different species. Data on weight/volume of intestinal content for some species are scarce.

7. New Mandates

None

8. Updates on ongoing mandates

8.1. Art. 31 – Scientific and technical assistance on Lumpy Skin Disease – Epidemiological report

The report on LSD (report IV: data collection and analysis) was presented. All comments made by the Panel members were taken into account and discussed. The report was endorsed by the AHAW Panel.

8.2. Art. 31 – Scientific and technical assistance on African Swine Fever (EPI-4 report)

The final result of report on ASF (EPI-4 report: epidemiological situation of ASF in the EU) was presented. This report includes a case-control study that was executed in collaboration with



Veterinary Authorities in Romania to identify risk factors for the spread of ASF in Romanian domestic (backyard) pig farms. A video for Belgium was produced to show the potential role of fencing to contain the spread of ASF in wild boar. The report will be published on 30 January 2020.

8.3. Art. 31 - Assessment of *E. multilocularis* surveillance reports 2019 (2018 data) (EFSA-Q-2019-00337, EFSA-Q-2019-00338).

The results of the published report (27 November 2019, <https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.2903/j.efsa.2019.5906>) on *E. multilocularis* surveillance were presented. This report assesses the sampling strategy, data collection and detection methods used by Finland, Ireland, the United Kingdom (UK) and Norway in their respective surveillance programmes (according Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2018/772 and supplementing Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to preventive health measures for the control of *Echinococcus multilocularis* infection in dogs, and repealing Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1152/2011).

9. Feedback from the Scientific Committee/Scientific Panels, EFSA, the European Commission-Activities from other Panels

9.1. Feedback from SC on document protocol development

Laura Martina (AMU) presented the state of play of the guidance document on protocol development to the AHAW Panel. The 4-step approach (plan, implementation of the plan, verification of compliance and documentation) for the scientific assessment process was developed via the Prometheus project. The aim of the current document is to provide a framework for protocol development (apply the 4-step approach) for non-application assessments covering all steps of the scientific assessment process.

9.2. Feedback from SC on Appraisal on epidemiological studies

Andrea Gervelmeyer (SCER) presented the state on the guidance document on appraisal on epidemiological studies. This document aims to provide guidance on how to appraise and interpret findings from different types of epidemiological evidence and its application in EFSA scientific assessments. In addition, it provides guidance on how to appraise and integrate evidence from epidemiological studies of humans or animals and how to use evidence from epidemiological studies. Adoption and publication of this document is foreseen in September 2021. Specific issues were requested during the discussion (what kind of scientific questions are requested for AHAW Panel?; What kind of difficulties are faced using epidemiological studies for risk assessment?). Examples could be provided by AHAW Panel members in a specific template that will be distributed to AHAW Panel members.

9.3. Acuaris project

Caroline Merten (SCER) presented the Acuaris project that finished in March 2019. The project aimed to identify i) the steps during the salmon supply chain from aquaculture to the consumer and ii) identify the occurrence of human and animal health hazards for each step.

9.4. Update from EC on Animal Health Law (Regulation (EU) 2016/429)

The EC presented an update on the AHL (Regulation (EU) 2016/429) and in particular on the process from the adoption of the AHL in 2016 towards its implementation in April 2021. Currently important



delegated acts are finalised for adoption. In relation to part 3 of the AHL (Disease control measures) and in particular on vaccination the EC plans to have a separate Delegated Act under AHL Article 47 (delegation of powers for the use of veterinary medicinal products) following an in depth discussion in the following months.

10. Any other business & wrap up

10.1. Update Guidance documents

Dominique BICOUT was appointed by the chair of the AHAW Panel as Chair for an AHAW Panel Working Group to be established and to update two guidance documents: Guidance on Good Practice in Conducting Scientific Assessments in Animal Health using Modelling (<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/1419>, adopted in December 2009) and Guidance on Risk Assessment for Animal Welfare (<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/2513>, last updated in February 2012). Four additional members of the AHAW Panel (two for animal welfare and two for animal health) were appointed by the Chair of the AHAW Panel.

10.2. Discussion on possible grants & procurements for AHAW team

The AHAW Panel discussed on possible grants & procurement to be launched by the AHAW Team in EFSA. Three different topics were presented for which Panel members could provide ideas: i) data collection, collation and visualisation; ii) studies to support the Member States; and iii) new ideas (out of the box).

10.3. Wrap up and next meeting

A short wrap up was provided and tasks were distributed.

Next Plenary meeting is 18–19 March 2020