European Food Safety Authority

ALPHA UNIT

Scientific Panel on Animal Health and Welfare

Minutes of the 84th plenary meeting

Held on 15-16 09 2014, Parma

(Agreed on 30 09 2014)

Participants

- **Panel Members:**

  Charlotte Berg, Anette Bøtner, Klaus Depner, Aline De Koeijer, Mariano Domingo, Sandra Edwards, Christine Fourichon, Frank Koenen, Simon More, Mohan Raj, Liisa Sihvonen, Hans Spoolder, Jan Arend Stegeman, Hans-Hermann Thulke, Ivar Vågsholm, Antonio Velarde, and Preben Willeberg

- **European Commission representatives:**

  Marina Marini (DG Sanco, Unit 03), Maria Ferrara (DG Sanco, Unit G3), Francesco Berlingieri, Nicolas Krieger, Knut Roenningen (DG Sanco, Unit G2), (by phone).

- **EFSA:**

  ALPHA Unit: Alessandro Broglia, Denise Candiani, Sofie Dhollander, Andrea Gervelmeyer, Per Have, Renata Leuschner, Frank Verdonck,

  AMU Unit: Fulvio Barizzone, Jose Cortinhas Abrahantes, Luca Pasinato

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Edith Authié and Howard Browman.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes[1] and the Decision of the Executive Director implementing this Policy regarding

[1] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf

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Declarations of Interests[2], EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest and the Specific Declaration of interest filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 83rd Plenary meeting held on 24-25 06 2014.

The minutes were agreed by written procedure on 11 07 2014 and published on the EFSA website 14 07 2014.

5. Report on written procedures since 83rd Plenary meeting

No written procedures took place since the 83rd Plenary meeting.

6. New mandates

6.1. Scientific report concerning the assessment of documentation provided on the use of rubber slats in the flooring of pig holdings (M-2014-0230)

A request for technical assistance has been received from the EC. It concerns the assessment of three studies that have been submitted as two requests from a Member State and by industry. EFSA is requested to review the different cases involving the use of rubber slats/materials on the basis of the submitted documentation and to conclude if there are statistical differences between the welfare outcome for sows and gilts when comparing concrete slatted floors and floors where there is a rubber overlay. Further, EFSA should review if the conclusions are scientifically valid for sows and gilts or if there are uncertainties or weaknesses in one or more of the studies. Finally, EFSA should review if the results for sows and gilts can be extrapolated to rearing pigs and piglets. The deadline is 12 December 2014.

7. Scientific outputs submitted for endorsement for public consultation

7.1. Scientific opinion on the main welfare risks related to the farming of sheep for wool, meat and milk production (EFSA-Q-2013-00580)

The draft scientific opinion was discussed and endorsed for public consultation. The public consultation will take place from 24th September to 5th November 2014. The draft opinion proposes the description of different management systems for keeping sheep and the identification of the main animal welfare consequences and associated risk factors for sheep. It also suggests animal-based measures to assess sheep welfare.

8. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion

8.1. Scientific Opinion on Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea (PED) and emerging pig Deltacoronavirus (EFSA-Q-2014-00361)

The draft scientific opinion on PEDV and PDCoV was discussed in detail and the comments of the Panel members were addressed. The term “surveillance” will be replaced by “monitoring”. It was clarified that each country has to assess whether the OIE definition of an emerging disease is fulfilled or not. A footnote will be added regarding the term viremia and the difference in approach of the EFSA and ANSES opinions will be described. Discussion

[2] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules.pdf

on the presence of PEDV in porcine matrices indicated that the available scientific evidence and the uncertainties should be explained in the main text and the conclusions. A section on diagnostics will not be added as it is not required to answer the TORs. A description of the immune response is already available in the document. Only limited information is available on PDCoV. Where possible, extrapolation from other porcine intestinal coronaviruses will be included. The draft opinion will be tabled for adoption in the October Plenary.

8.2. Scientific opinion on sheep pox and goat pox (EFSA-Q-2013-00918)

The chapters related to the ToRs about mapping animal movements, ranking pathways of introduction, risk of endemicity and impact assessment were presented and discussed. Most of the remaining work concerns the analysis of the results from the EKE exercise performed with the veterinary services in Greece and Bulgaria in order to estimate scores for the ranking of pathways. The conclusions and recommendations will be drafted and discussed with the WG on 6th October. The draft opinion will be tabled for adoption in the October Plenary.

9. Scientific outputs submitted for update on progress

9.1. Scientific opinion on Canine Leishmaniosis (EFSA-Q-2013-00835)

A short update was provided on the preparations by the working group on the scientific opinion on canine leishmaniosis (CanL). The Panel was informed about the outcomes of the SR studying the possible long-term cure of CanL by pharmaceutical treatments, which will be used to parameterise the model. Some preliminary results were presented of the model, studying the probability of introduction and establishment of CanL in free areas through the movement of infected dogs and assessing the efficacy of available mitigation measures to reduce the probability of introduction and establishment of CanL in these areas. Probability of establishment is very high (92.2% to 100%) following introduction of only 10 to 100 dogs. This is a worst case scenario assuming that the vectorial capacity (VC) in non-endemic areas would be similar to that in endemic areas. The model is now running 2 other modalities: using VC = 50% or 10% of VC of endemic areas. The first chapters (1-3) of the opinion will be presented for discussion during the Oct. plenary. The remaining will be presented in December.

9.2. Scientific opinion on lumpy skin disease (EFSA-Q-2013-00917)

An update on the opinion was presented. The draft opinion contains information on aetiology, control measures, diagnostics and vaccines. The approach to assess the risk of introduction was presented, which, similar to the one used for vesicular stomatitis, is based on shipment size, prevalence estimates and testing system characteristics. The model to assess the risk of spread will make use of outbreak and demographic data from Israel. The ranking of pathways of introduction will be performed based on literature review results, field evidence and expert knowledge from the WG experts. A roadmap with critical dates until adoption was presented.

9.3. Scientific opinion on Peste des Petits Ruminants (EFSA-Q-2013-01034)

An update on the opinion was presented. Information on aetiology, control measures, diagnostics and vaccines has been added to the draft opinion. The approach to assess the risk of introduction was presented, which, similar to the one used for vesicular stomatitis, is based on shipment size, prevalence estimates and testing system characteristics. The model to assess the risk of spread will make use of outbreak and demographic data from

Tunisia and other African countries. The ranking of pathways of introduction will be performed based on literature review results, field evidence and expert knowledge from the WG experts. A roadmap with critical dates until adoption was presented.

9.4. Scientific opinion on the welfare assessment of dairy cows in small scale farming systems (EFSA-Q-2014-00096)

The overall approach to the mandate TORs was presented. The Panel was informed about a recently awarded procurement project, which will generate information and data relevant for the opinion. The first step of this procurement project is to identify all organisations of dairy farmers that have standards for small scale production and, secondarily, collect information about their criteria for small scale farming. EFSA plans to present the draft scientific opinion chapter on the definition for small scale farming and the characterisation of several categories of small scale farms for public consultation. The chapter will have to be endorsed by the Panel during the Plenary Meeting of October or immediately afterwards by written endorsement. The next working group meeting will be held on 22nd and 23rd October 2014.

9.5. Scientific opinion regarding welfare aspects of perches for poultry (EFSA-Q-2014-00242)

The approach of the mandate was presented. Regarding the question “what design and height of perches better suit welfare of laying hens?”, the opinion will apply a methodology that defines the relationship between different perch heights and designs and the different animal-based measures. Hans-Hermann Thulke agreed to be part of the working group to support the methodological approach. The first outcomes from the scoping literature review are needed to decide for the methodology. The next working group meeting will be held on 3rd and 4th November 2014.

9.6. Updated scientific opinion on increased mortality events in Pacific oysters, Crassostrea gigas, associated with ostreid herpes virus 1µvar and/or Vibrio aestuarianus (EFSA-Q-2014-00188)

Surveillance for increased oyster mortality is in most MS based on passive surveillance by reporting specific events of mortality. This type of surveillance is influenced by reporting bias and differences in interpretation of what constitutes a significant increase in mortality. The WG agreed that a systematic active surveillance using defined sentinel oyster stocks allows for a more precise assessment of mortality over time.

Based on data from active surveillance, a significant increase of mortality has been observed since 2008 in France, in particular in oyster spat, and this trend continues today. Mortality events in spat are usually associated with the presence of high levels of OsHV-1 µVar. Significant mortality events have also been recorded in Ireland and several other MS, including UK, the Netherlands, Spain, Portugal and Italy with concomitant identification of OsHV-1 µVar. Since 2012, an increased mortality in adult oysters has also been recorded in France in association with an increased frequency of detection of Vibrio aestuarianus.

The WG concluded that there is ample evidence of persistently high oyster mortality during the latest 5-year period and proposed to perform an update of all the TORs requested in the mandate. The Panel agreed with the proposal, hence all TORs will be addressed following the structure of the previous opinion.

9.7. Scientific opinion concerning the stunning of lambs (EFSA-Q-2014-00109)

A second web-based meeting took place on 1 September. The results of the assessment and the conclusions of the draft opinion were presented at the Plenary meeting. The document will be sent to the Panel members Lotta Berg and Sandra Edwards for deep reading.

9.8. Scientific opinion concerning use of carbon dioxide for stunning rabbits (EFSA-Q-2014-00186)

A second web-based meeting took place on 3 September. The results of the assessment and the conclusions of the draft opinion were presented at the Plenary meeting. The document will be sent to the Panel members Hans Spoolder and Sandra Edwards for deep reading.

9.9. Scientific opinion on enzootic bovine leukosis (EFSA-Q-2014-00546)

The draft systematic review protocol was presented and discussed. The purpose of the systematic review will be to identify, appraise, and synthesise publicly available scientific information on the impact of Enzootic Bovine Leucosis (EBL) in dairy herds considering the loss of production due to the infection and the presence of lymphomas. The detailed protocol will be finalised during the next WG meeting.

The risk of spread of BLV within the EU will be addressed by developing a spread model based on previous models for BSE and paratuberculosis. It was noted that the risk factors for spread of BLV may have changed over time due to changes in herd structure and management practices.

The scientific literature on tumour incidence has been re-evaluated. No complete dataset has been identified which would allow for the development of a model assessing the association of age with the probability of an animal having tumours.

Control measures and diagnostic methods will be reviewed in the light of current measures laid down in Dir 64/432 Annex D.

9.10. Scientific opinion on entry routes into the EU of vector borne diseases (EFSA-Q-2014-00187)

An update on the development of the MintRisk model was given, which explained the calculation toolbox, developed for assessing the different steps in the risk assessment framework, namely assessing the probability of entry, transmission, establishment, the extent of spread and the probability of persistence of VBD, as well as evaluating the impact of the VBDs. The Panel agreed that the use of the risk assessment framework and the toolbox was an appropriate methodology to address the mandate.

The outline of the fact sheets of the 40 selected vector-borne diseases was presented and agreed by the Panel. It was discussed that the opinion should be a stand-alone document, providing as much information as possible in summary tables, and that in addition important facts of each disease will be provided in on-line disease fact sheets in a user friendly format, with links to the fact sheets in the opinion. The preparatory work for the risk assessment will be shared with the experts from the VectorNet procurement. The latter will perform a review on the possible entry routes of vectors into the EU, and perform a review of the possible competent vectors of the 40 selected diseases and their possible occurrence in the EU.

10. Presentation of the MAPRA project

The consortium contracted for this project presented the objectives, approach, preliminary results and planning of the project. A general discussion took place, in which possible risks were identified (e.g. scoring relevance is dependent on question to answer) and detailed questions on the second phase of the project were raised. It was agreed that bluetongue, African swine fever and Peste des Petits Ruminants will be used as example pathogens in the second project phase. The Panel was very interested to hear how the consortium plans to adapt models and how currently available models would be compared with the adapted models. EFSA indicated that the long term aim was to make the tool available to the Member States. Codes will only be included in the database if they are available in the public domain. The Panel highlighted that, besides generating this tool, EFSA needs to build expertise in house to adapt models for its risk assessment activities.