
Animal and Plant Health Unit (ALPHA UNIT)

Network on Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea (PED)

Minutes of the 1st meeting for the project: 'Request for scientific and technical assistance on the collection and review of updated scientific epidemiological data on porcine epidemic diarrhoea (PED)'

WEB-conference, 20 March 2015

(Agreed on 31 March 2015)¹

Participants

- **Network Representatives of Member States (including EFTA Countries):**

Country	Name ²
Germany	Sandra Blome
Italy	Antonio Lavazza
Lithuania	Marius Masiulis
Netherlands	Wim van der Poel
Spain	Luis Romero

- **Hearing Experts**

Beatrice Boniotti; Isaura Christiaens; Beatrice Grasland; Spyridon Kritas; Laura London; Eoin Ryan; Bertel Strandbygaard; Adolf Steinrigl; Sebastiaan Theuns; Peter van der Wolf; Susanna Williamson

- **European Commission:**

Francesco Berlingieri (DG SANTE)

- **EFSA:**

AMU Unit: Jane Richardson (chair), Marios Georgiadis

ALPHA Unit: Andrea Gervelmeyer, Frank Verdonck

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Cecilia Hultén (Sweden).

¹ The publication of the minutes shall be made without delay in compliance with the Founding Regulation and no later than 15 working days following the day of their agreement.

² Indicate first full name and them surname (John Smith) all throughout the document

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest

An Oral DOI was requested at the beginning of the meeting. No conflicts of interest were identified.

4. Topics for discussion

4.1 Project overview (objectives and timelines)

Project objectives were explained. Two Scientific Reports of EFSA will be published (to be issued on July 1st and December 15th, 2015).

4.2 Draft reporting guidelines

The draft of the reporting guidelines was discussed. There was concern that the disease is not notifiable and therefore many cases will be missed and that the disease presentation may be impacted by herd management and by the existence of secondary infections

4.3 Pig categories

It was proposed to split the category 'suckling pigs' into two: 'newborn' to include piglets during the first two weeks of age, during which they are very susceptible and suckling piglets

4.4 Case definition

The group agreed to the case definition as proposed in the draft reporting guidelines. Data on serological investigations will also be sought and a separate dataset to report serology results will be prepared.

4.5 Testing and sequencing

Germany, France, Italy and the Netherlands have already performed sequencing of PED isolates. The requirement for partial or full genome sequencing was discussed; sequencing of the entire Spike gene should be adequate to give a good indication of the strain however a recombinant strain has been found by full genome sequencing

EFSA may be able to provide some funding to help full genome sequencing. Country representatives can express their interest by e-mail and the funding options will be explored by EFSA.

4.6 Required information

EFSA to review the mandatory fields, for mandatory numeric fields -9999 can be reported where no information is available. It was proposed to add a description of the types of production in the reported holdings. Geographical coordinates will not be possible to be reported, for confidentiality reasons. Fields related to density and otherDisease will be removed. EFSA to provide a clearer definition of farmLinks, considering relationships with suppliers, transporters and slaughterhouses. Housing to include outdoor reared pigs. It was proposed to add the date when clinical signs were observed. A free text field to describe suspected source of infection will be added. An option to report negative results should be considered

4.7 Reporting serologic surveys

Seropositivity does not imply the presence of disease. Not all serological tests are fully validated. A ring trial is on-going with the participation of laboratories from NL, DK, SE, FR and UK. The first round of testing has already been concluded and the results are currently being evaluated. The second round of testing could be extended to include participants from other countries. The results of the first round of this ring trial will be shared with the group.

5. Any Other Business

EFSA asked whether there was interest for a joint publication of the project findings concerning the identified sequences. This may present some difficulties regarding authorship order (PhD students working on the project may need to be first authors).

5.1 Date for next meeting

Next meeting will be held at the end of March. Exact date will be specified within the next few days.

6. Conclusions (s)

The current draft reporting guidelines will form the basis for the final reporting guidelines. They will be reviewed and commented by the participating experts and agreed at the next meeting

7. Closure of the meeting

Tasks:

Participants should confirm the names of the people who will submit the data from their country.

Participants will send to EFSA written comments on the draft reporting guidelines by next Wednesday, March 25th.