Scientific Panel on Animal Health and Welfare

Minutes of the 109th Plenary meeting

Held on 23-24 January 2018, Parma, (Italy)
(Agreed on 02 February 2018)

Participants Plenary 23-24 January

■ Panel Members

Dominique Bicout, Andrew Butterworth, Sandra Edwards, Bruno Garin-Bastuji, Margaret Good, Christian Gortázar Schmidt, Hans Hermann Thulke, Virginie Michel, Miguel Angel Miranda, Simon More, Mohan Raj, Liisa Sihvonen, Hans Spoolder, Jan Arend Stegeman, Hans-Hermann Thulke, Antonio Velarde Calvo (only 23/01), Preben Willeberg and Christoph Winckler

■ EFSA

ALPHA UNIT: Francesca Baldinelli, Alessandro Broglia, Denise Candiani, Sofie Dhollander, Chiara Fabris, Andrey Gogin, Nikolaus Kriz, Frank Verdonck, Gabriele Zancanaro

AMU UNIT: José Cortinas Abrahantes

■ EUROPEAN COMMISSION (via teleconference)

DG SANTE: Francesco Berlingieri

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The chair welcomed the meeting participants. Apologies were received from Klaus Depner and Søren Saxmose Nielsen.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

3. Declarations of Interest of Scientific Panel Members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Declarations of Interests (DoI), EFSA screened the Annual (ADoI) and Specific Declaration of Interest (SDoI) provided by the Panel Members for the present meeting. The Panel members were asked to confirm that no further interests had to be declared in the context of the agenda of the meeting. No conflict of interest has been identified.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 108th Plenary meeting held on 24-25 October 2017, Parma, (Italy)

The minutes of the previous plenary meeting have been adopted by written procedure.

5. New Mandates

5.1. Scientific and technical assistance on African Swine Fever Art. 31 (EFSA-Q-2017-00823)

The TORs of the mandate were presented to the Panel and the background was explained by the EC. A discussion took place on the possible approaches that could be used to address the TORs. The epidemiological analysis will differentiate areas that are recently infected from areas that are already infected for a longer period. The ENETWILD project will help in collecting data on wild boar presence/absence and hunting bag data (combined with data on hunting effort where possible). The effect of natural boundaries such as rivers and artificial boundaries like motorways, canals or fences on the spread of ASF should be assessed. MS representatives will be requested to provide a detailed description of the mitigation measures implemented, which will be used to assess their effectiveness and to share best practices. It will also include managing wild boar populations in free areas and recommendations will be provided. Transport of wild boar between MSs is regulated under the implemented ASF legislation and their quantities will be analysed. A detailed assessment on surveillance will not be performed under this mandate. An EFSA WG will be established.

5.2. Scientific and technical assistance on avian influenza surveillance Art. 31 (EFSA-Q-2017-00829)

The background and the TOR of the mandate were explained and discussed. It is currently explored whether the activities of the current EFSA WG on avian influenza can be extended to cover also this mandate.

6. Scientific outputs submitted for possible adoption

None

7. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion

7.1. **Revision of guidance of the assessment criteria for studies evaluating the effectiveness of stunning interventions regarding animal protection at the time of killing** (EFSA-Q-2017-00711)

The TORs and background have been clarified. A Panel WG has been established in November 2017 via email since no Plenary meetings were held in the end of the year. Virginie Michel was appointed as chair of the WG. The opinion clearly describes that the onus of providing evidence is at the applicant. The guidance describes which information has to be provided by the applicant and a checklist is under development that will have the same structure as the guidance document. The guidance will specify that the applicant may be requested to provide raw data upon request from the AHAW Panel. A public consultation of the draft guidance is foreseen from mid-March to end April.

7.2. **Scientific opinion on *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* (Bsal)** (EFSA-Q-2017-00205)

"Interpretation of the ToRs" and "data&methodologies" chapters have been explained in detail. The Panel asked some clarifications on the niche model. It will be explored if detections of Bsal can be linked to agreed categories of habitats or land use. It will also be specified that there are not enough data on the salamanders' abundance that can be used in the assessments. A map has been included representing the number of salamander species distribution across the EU, which is based on data of the IUNC list. The Panel agreed to report a figure representing a detailed analysis of population dynamics in an affected sub-population that was recorded in one Bsal-outbreak site and is described by the disease monitoring. Passive surveillance is described based on non-systematic experiences gained in some MSs and guidance is provided regarding active surveillance. Argumentation will be included in the opinion to explain the limitations of implementing a systematic sampling to proof freedom from Bsal disease. The approach to qualitatively assess the role of the possible means of transport in the Bsal spread in wild live salamanders within a sub-population, between sub-populations and between meta-populations was agreed. Different types of Bsal carriers (active/passive) will be clarified. When there is a lack of Bsal data, information on Bd is included because they have been shown to be close enough to allow making some

generalisations regarding basic biological aspects for both species of the genus *Batrachochytrium*. The approach to assess the possible risk mitigation measures (for safe international and EU-trade, protection of kept salamanders and on-site protection of salamanders in their natural habitats) was agreed. A qualitative assessment was done to score feasibility and effectiveness. Overview diagrams combining effectiveness and feasibility are provided taking uncertainty into account. The draft opinion will be subjected to deep discussion at the March AHAW Plenary meeting for possible adoption by the AHAW Panel in April 2018.

7.3. Scientific and technical assistance on Lumpy Skin Disease (EFSA-Q-2016-00625)

The last version the scientific report containing the comments provided by the reviewers and how they were addressed was presented to the Panel. It was discussed to better specify the epidemiological unit considered in each of the analysis conducted. Moreover it was agreed to better explain the reason for comparing the kernel curves of the mathematical model between Albania and Israel and why Stomoxys was considered as species for fitting vector abundance to the model. . They layout of several maps and figures are improved and links are inserted directing the reader to videos in the Knowledge Junction. Only within-village morbidity will be displayed in a plot, since village is considered the most informative epidemiologcal unit. Feedback from CVO meeting held in Brussels on 5-16 January was provided, highlighting the importance of underlining the success story of effective LSD control, as good investment of resources from the EU in protecting other MSs bordering the affected area.

8. Update on ongoing mandates

8.1. Art. 31: Scientific and technical assistance on avian influenza (September–November 2017) (EFSA-Q-2017-00649) & (EFSA-Q-2017-00825)

The second AI monitoring report has been published end December and mainly covers the second epidemic wave of HPAI outbreaks in Italy between July and November 2017. The implemented mitigation measures are described. The report also provides an updated list of wild bird species to be targeted in passive surveillance of H5 HPAI viruses in the EU. The next AI monitoring report will cover the period between 16 November 2017 and 15 February 2018 and will be published end March.

9. Feedback from the Scientific Committee/Scientific Panels, EFSA, the European Commission, EFSA including its Working Groups /Task Forces

9.1. Scientific Committee and Scientific Committee Working Groups

No updates

9.2. Biocontam scientific opinion Salmonella control in poultry flocks – (EFSA-Q-2017-00692)

Feedback from the first WG meeting was provided to the Panel

9.3. Data collection on animal diseases and surveillance (SIGMA)

The background of the project as well as the short and long-term objectives were presented. The first draft of the Technical Report was briefly presented and feedback gathered. The Panel considered that the methodology is well described and specific comments and suggestions were provided to improve the text. It was decided to include a section in the introductory part of the document to give a better overview of the entire project. EFSA presented the first concept of the SIGMA-Animal Disease data Model (Ϭ-ADM) and feedback was received form the Panel. The *ad hoc* WG that EFSA has been establishing will develop the Ϭ-ADM, taking into account the Panel feedback, in view of the Animal Health Network meeting in May 2018.

9.4. European Commission

No updates

10. Any other business

10.1. Feedback was provided on the EC WG meetings on the Animal Health Law. The methodology used by the Panel was fit for purpose and can be used again in the future, whereas clarifications on the terminology can be done in future disease-specific opinions.

10.2. Feedback was provided on the AW Platform meeting that took place in Brussels on 10 November 2017, where a sub-group has been established on animal welfare during transport.

10.3. Feedback on Wildlife project (ENETWILD): An overview of the main outcomes of the first Annual General

Meeting of the ENETWILD project was presented to the Panel. The focus in the next months is collection of wild boar occurrence (presence and absence) and abundance (hunting bag) data. The existing standards of the Darwin code will be used (GBIF, see https://www.gbif.org/). A questionnaire will be circulated to generate an overview on how the hunting effort is determined amongst the MS.

10.4. Feedback was provided on the STOC-FREE thematic grant

10.5. The Panel was informed on three partnering grants in field of animal health which will start in January or February 2018

10.6. The AHAW Panel Chair provided feedback on his bilateral discussion with the EFSA Executive Director

10.7. Feedback on AHAW Panel selection 2018-2021

The Panel was informed that the outcome of the Panel renewal will be available by end March. The inauguration meeting of the new Panel will take place in EFSA (Parma) on 3-5 July 2018.