



**ADOPTED MINUTES OF THE 1ST PLENARY MEETING OF THE
SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND ANIMAL WELFARE
HELD ON -22 MAY 2003**

PARTICIPANTS:

Harry J. Blokhuis, Donald M. Broom, Ilaria Capua, Michael Gunn, Joerg Hartung, Per Have, David B. Morton, Francisco Javier Manteca Vilanova, Dirk Udo Pfeiffer, Michel Pepin, Ronald John Roberts, José Manuel Sánchez-Vizcaino, Philippe Vannier, Marina Verga, James Michael Sharp, Georgios Theodoropoulos

EFSA:

Geoffrey Podger¹ (executive director), Jochen Brodersen¹ (finance), Silvie Mateljan (administration AHAW panel), Jordi Serratosà (Scientific co-ordination AHAW panel).

European Commission:

Eric Thevenard (DG SANCO – Interface unit)

APOLOGIES

Alejandro Schudel, Martin Wierup², and Robert Dantzer

I. GENERAL INAUGURAL MEETING (MORNING SESSION)

The Executive Director welcomed all attending the meeting. The objective of the first part of the meeting was to brief the Members of the Scientific Panels and Committees on their role, the role of EFSA and the joint interrelationship with other European Institutions and with National Authorities. The first session was intended to provide opportunities for everyone to participate in the discussion. It was hoped that there would be strong and lively interaction between EFSA and members of the Scientific Committee and Panels on all future dealings, as this was the way to build mutual confidence and make best use of the very considerable scientific expertise which was available.

The Executive Director stressed that EFSA wished to build on the many achievements of the previous scientific committee system. Equally EFSA had not been created to simply replicate the previous system but to make innovations in a number of key areas. In particular, there was a need:

¹ Attending morning session only

² Present at the general inaugural meeting on 22 May 2003



- (i) to develop and make open and transparent the science of risk assessment. The Scientific Committee would have a particular role in this;
- (ii) to provide greater opportunity for stakeholder participation in the risk assessment process the delivery of a final opinion;
- (iii) to provide public and realistic timeframes for work which was undertaken and, except in exceptional circumstances, to adhere to these;
- (iv) to engage, in liaison with national authorities, in more timely and meaningful communication of risk assessments. This would in itself require considerable dialogue between EFSA and its Scientific Committee and Panels
- (v) to ensure that the best expertise available was used. The Scientific Committee and Panels should be ready to form Working Groups or use other means to obtain the external expertise they needed.

In concluding his opening remarks, the Executive Director took the opportunity of congratulating the members of the Scientific Committee and Panels on their selection by the EFSA Management Board. The standard of selection had been high and many very good candidates had unfortunately had to be disappointed, although it was hoped there might be opportunities for them to participate in Working Groups. EFSA staff very much looked forward to working with and supporting those present.

The participants were then given practical information on the internal rules of procedures (by Jochen Brodersen) and on the role of the Interface Unit of the Commission (by Michael Walsh).

II. 1ST PLENARY MEETING OF THE AHAW PANEL (AFTERNOON SESSION)

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The scientific co-ordinator welcomed the participants and congratulated the panel members with their nomination on the AHAW panel. All members of the panel were present, except for three members that sent apologies.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted without amendment.

3. ROUND TABLE: INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS

All participants briefly introduced themselves. The panel members were given the opportunity, during the meeting, to propose colleagues or themselves to be candidate for the task of chair and vice-chair of the AHAW panel and to motivate their proposal.

4. MANDATE



Under Article 18 of the Decision concerning the establishment and operations of the Scientific Committees and Panels, adopted by the Authority's Management Board on 17.10.2002, the mandate of the AHAW Panel is set out as follows:

“To provide scientific opinion on aspects of Animal health and animal welfare, primarily relating to food producing animals including fish”.

The secretariat explained the according to the Regulation EC/178/2002, questions can be raised by the Commission, the European Parliament or a Member State, and also by EFSA itself

5. ELECTION OF THE CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIRS

For the position of Chair, the following persons were proposed: Donald M. Broom; John Roberts; Philippe Vannier and Georgios Theodoropoulos.

After three secret ballot Dr. Philippe Vannier was elected as Chair for a term of three years.

For the position of Vice-Chairs the following members of the Panel were proposed: Donald M. Broom, John Roberts, Michael Gunn and Per Have.

Following independent ballots Prof. Donald M. Broom and Prof. Ronald J. Roberts were elected as Vice-Chairs.

The newly elected Chair and Vice-Chairs were congratulated with their election and Dr. Vannier took over from the Secretariat as Chair of the meeting.

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/CONFIDENTIALITY/INDEPENDENCE

The participants were invited to submit all documents in relation to the declaration of interest, confidentiality and independence to the administrative secretary. All the participants completed and signed the “Declaration concerning confidentiality” “Commitment of Independence” and “Annual Declaration of Member's Interest” (Annexes 1, 2 and 3 of the EFSA ‘Decision concerning the establishment and operations of the Scientific Committee and Panels’ MB 17.10.2002 – 3 adopted). No member declared an interest in any of the items on the agenda of this specific meeting.

7. WORKING PROGRAMME

The draft work programme was presented. It contains two questions which were initiated by DG SANCO Scientific Committee on Animal Health and Animal Welfare and now are transferred to the Scientific Panel on Animal Health and Animal Welfare.

(1) Welfare of Animals during Transport

A working Group was already initiated at SANCO by the Scientific Committee on Animal Health and Animal Welfare which established an expert working group under the Chairmanship of Professor D.M. Broom, which has already considered the welfare of horses, pigs, sheep and cattle (see Report of the Scientific Committee on Animal Health and Animal Welfare adopted on 11th March 2002). This mandate considers the welfare during transport of other species not covered in the previous



report. The members agreed to nominate Chairman Prof. Broom since he was already a member of the old WG and to ask the other members on their agreement to become members of the WG under EFSA.

It was agreed that once available the final draft on “transport” (expected by last week of June) it will be distributed for comments to the members of the Panel. Comments should be sent to the secretariat by latest 20th August. Two additional short contributions were still pending (impact of transport on Avian Influenza and transport of laboratory animals).

It was agreed that the next Working Group on Transport would take place next 20 June 2003.

- (2) Welfare aspects of the main systems of stunning and killing the main commercial species of animals.

A working Group was already initiated at SANCO by the Scientific Committee on Animal Health and Animal Welfare which established an expert working group under the Chairmanship of Dr H. Blokhuis. The members agreed to nominate Chairman Dr H. Blokhuis since he was already a member of the old WG and to ask the other members to contribute as members of the WG under EFSA. No meeting was considered because the draft is finished. Once the final contributions are available to the secretariat, a final draft (expected by the end of June) will be distributed to all members of the Panel for comments. A revision of the fish chapter will be carried out by Dr Roberts.

8. ORGANISATION OF WORKING GROUPS

In addition to the two previous working groups accepted, in order to draft priorities and to define how the Panel will work, a specific meeting was agreed for the 30 September (9.00 am- 14.00). The participants for this meeting will be: Chairman, 2 Vice-chairmen, and the three Panel’s members (Michael Gunn, Per Have and Georgios Theodoropoulos). The draft will be discussed during the plenary meeting.

9. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR 2003

Next plenary meetings of the AHAW panel are scheduled for 30th September (starting at 15.00 pm) /1st October and 9th December. Dates for 2004 plenary meetings will be set on December the latest.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair suggested to include a new item in the agenda of the next plenary on the identification of emerging issues under the scope of the Panel.