



## European Food Safety Authority

### MINUTES OF THE 10<sup>TH</sup> PLENARY MEETING OF THE PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

(14/12//2004)

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## **PARTICIPANTS**

Bo Algers, Donald M. Broom, Harry Blokhuis, Stefano Cinotti, Michael Gunn, Joerg Hartung, Per Have, David B. Morton, James Michael Sharp, Michel Pépin, Dirk U Pfeiffer, Ronald J. Roberts, José M. Sánchez-Vizcaino, Alejandro Schudel, Georgios Theodoropoulos, Xavier Manteca, Philippe Vannier, Marina Verga, Martin Wierup, Marion Wooldridge.

**EFSA:** M. Pittman, J. Ferrés and J. Serratos (Scientific co-ordination AHAW panel); S. Mateljan and E. Moore (EFSA Administrative support).

**European Commission:** S. Osaer, (DG SANCO), and partly I. Minguez (DG RTD).

### **1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

The Chairman welcomed the participants and no member declared a conflict of interest for any of the items on the meeting's agenda. Apologies were announced for Ilaria Capua.

### **2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

The agenda was adopted.

### **3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE IX PLENARY MEETING**

The minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting held in Brussels on 10-11<sup>th</sup> November, were unanimously adopted by written procedure and published on 9<sup>th</sup> December on the following web site: <http://www.efsa.eu.int>

## **4. SCIENTIFIC OPINIONS**

### **4.1. Laying Hens.**

As requested at the previous plenary, the Chairman of the working group presented the future research priorities classified into high or other priorities. After minor editorial changes the Panel agreed on that proposal. EFSA secretariat explained that the BIOHAZ Panel already adopted chapter 10 on egg safety -microbiological hazards- at their plenary meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> October. However CONTAM Panel will probably adopt chapter 10 on egg safety-chemical hazards-, in January 2005 by written procedure. As a result of the impact on animal health issues raised by the different systems for keeping laying hens the Panel discussed and proposed some amendments on the section on residues of veterinary medicines. Once the CONTAM Panel will have sent to EFSA secretariat the final adopted chapter, the whole opinion will be circulated to the AHAW Panel members, for final acceptance by written procedure.

## **5. NEW MANDATES**

Since the last plenary meeting, no new mandates have been received for the AHAW panel.

## **6. OTHER ISSUES**

### **6.1. Piglet castration**

EFSA received comments from the Commission on 28 September 2004 that referred to the report on “Welfare aspects of the castration of piglets” (AHAW/04-088) and which had been adopted by the AHAW panel on 12 July 2004”. The Chairman of the Working group on piglet castration prepared a short note proposing a reply to the Commission letter. After a short discussion the reply letter was accepted and proposed to be sent to EFSA as a Panel position in response to the Commission comments. The AHAW Panel’s main conclusion and decision was not to amend the report. It was agreed that the Commission proposals did not affect the scientific information in the report nor any of the conclusions or recommendations of the scientific opinion as adopted.

### **6.2. Transport of animals**

The chairman of the Working group responsible for the opinion on transport submitted a draft reply to the request from the Commission asking for some clarifications on the recommendations of the opinion on “Welfare of animals during Transport”. The reply was discussed and accepted by the AHAW Panel.

### **6.3. Priorities and gaps for the DG RTD on the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework program and possible emerging risks on AHAW**

EFSA secretariat proposed for discussion a document compiling contributions sent by AHAW Panel members. Isabel Minguez (DG RTD) replied to some of the questions related to the new 7<sup>th</sup> Framework programme for future research. After discussion the document was amended and accepted by unanimity of the AHAW panel.

### **6.4. Self-mandates**

EFSA secretariat presented a document following the guidelines agreed at the previous plenary meeting. The document was discussed and modified accordingly. The final document was adopted and will be sent to EFSA General Director for his consideration in the EFSA activities for 2005.

## **7. PENDING MANDATES**

### **7.1. Avian Influenza**

EFSA secretariat explained on behalf of the chairman of the working group the state of play of this opinion.. The working group has compiled all the relevant information in order to reply to most of the questions related to this mandate. This information will form the “Scientific Report” and will most likely be finalised by the Avian Influenza working group by the end of January. The “Scientific Opinion” based on the information provided in the Scientific Report will contain the conclusions and recommendations issued under the responsibility of the AHAW panel. This Scientific opinion shall then also include the outcome of the risk assessment. Both the Scientific report and the Scientific Opinion will then be published as separate documents at the same time on the

internet. At that stage the WG members will be approached as usual by the Panel if some parts of the report have to be further discussed or need clarifications.

**7.2. Welfare of Rabbits**

The next meeting of the working group is scheduled for 15 December. A draft scientific opinion may be ready for discussion at the next Plenary in March 2005.

**7.3. Rift Valley fever**

The Chairman of the working group informed that the third working group meeting took place on 18-19 November and the next one is foreseen on 13-14 January at FAO (Rome).

**7.4. Animal welfare and health aspects of different space allowances and floor types for weaners and rearing pigs**

The next meeting of the working group will take place on 20 December. A scientific report may be ready in January. In order to draft the Scientific Opinion 5 members of the Panel will have a joint meeting with the members of the working group in January to be decided at the next working group meeting on 20 December.

**7.5. Porcine Respiratory and Reproductive Syndrome (PRRS)**

The Chairman informed that the first meeting took place on the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2004, next one is scheduled for 26<sup>th</sup> January 2005.

**7.6. Foot and Mouth Disease**

The Chairman explained that the second meeting took place in Brussels on the 13 December. Next meeting is to be held in Brussels on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2005.

**7.7. Laboratory Animals**

The expert selection has already started and the first meeting will probably be organized in February 2005.

**8. MISCELLANEOUS**

**8.1. Plenary meetings**

In absence of finalised opinions to be discussed for possible adoption the AHAW Panel decided to cancel the next plenary meeting scheduled for February 2005 in Uppsala. The date for the next meeting for the AHAW plenary will be kept on 15-16 March in London at the Royal Veterinary College (Camden).