



Draft - AN INFORMATION UPDATE ON EFSA'S ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF ZOO NOSES DATA COLLECTION

With Directive 2003/99/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on monitoring of zoonoses and zoonotic agents¹, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) is assigned a task to collate, assess and report data on zoonoses, zoonotic agents and antimicrobial resistance. EFSA shall examine the annual national zoonoses reports submitted by the Member States and publish each year a summary report on the situation in the Community. In this summary report, EFSA may take into consideration other data provided for in the framework of other Community legislation, such as data from the control and eradication programmes for animal diseases and zoonoses, the coordinated control programmes for foodstuffs and, importantly, from the Communicable Disease Networks.

The new zoonoses Directive will become operational on 12 June 2004. The European Commission and EFSA have agreed that EFSA will take over the responsibility for the Community summary report from the beginning of 2005. In the meantime EFSA has started to prepare itself to this task. This includes the following activities:

- EFSA has taken the initiative for a bilateral meeting with the Commission services (DG SANCO) to: (i) define and agree on the respective tasks and responsibilities for EFSA and the Commission; (ii) setting priorities for action; and (iii) agree on an initial time table for the various activities. This meeting took place at EFSA on 19 February 2004. At that meeting a number of items were addressed, such as:
 - EFSA's plan to launch a call for tender to appoint a zoonoses centre for the collection processing of zoonoses data in Member States;
 - Options to modernize the zoonoses data collection and reporting;
 - First steps towards the harmonization of monitoring schemes;
 - The availability of data on human zoonoses cases and the role of the future European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC);
 - The management of the work, including the establishment of an EFSA Task Force of Member States' representatives to provide guidance and assistance with the collection and assessment of zoonoses data; and
 - the respective responsibilities of EFSA and the Commission.

A follow-up EFSA/DG SANCO meeting will take place at SANCO on 14 April 2004.

¹ OJ L 325, 12.12.2003, p. 31

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- The Commission is hosting a meeting with all the Member States on 5 April 2004 in order to discuss the implementation of the new Zoonoses Directive and the priorities in that area. EFSA is invited to attend the meeting.
- EFSA will launch before 1st April its call to invite tenders for offering scientific and technical assistance to EFSA in zoonoses data collection, assessment and reporting. This includes, in particular, the preparation, under the supervision of EFSA, of the annual Community summary report on the trends and sources of zoonoses, zoonotic agents and antimicrobial resistance.
- Preparations have started for the establishment of a European network of national contact points and experts on the zoonoses monitoring and reporting. The aim is to arrange for an EFSA meeting of these experts/contact points on 4 May 2004. The Commission and the current Community Reference Laboratory for zoonoses will also be invited. It is EFSA's intention to use this network of national contact points as a Task Force and consultation forum for all matters linked to zoonoses monitoring and reporting.
- EFSA has taken initiatives to explore options for the development of a new, electronic, zoonoses database and associated internet reporting system. This initiative will be discussed at the meeting of the Advisory Forum's IT Working Group on 19 April 2004.

The Advisory Forum is invited to:

- i. take note of EFSA's initiatives to take over from the Commission responsibilities and activities related to the monitoring, data collection and reporting of zoonoses in EU Member States;
- ii. assist in the identification of a national contact point and additional experts, as appropriate, for zoonosis monitoring and data collection in each Member State;
- iii. provide suggestions and advice with respect to the development of a new, electronic, zoonosis data base through its expert members of the Advisory Forum IT Working Group.