



## European Food Safety Authority AHAW Panel

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

(15-16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2005)

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## **PARTICIPANTS**

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

**EFSA:** S. Correia, J. Ferrés, M. Pittman and J. Serratosa (Scientific co-ordination AHAW panel), H. Deluyker (EFSA Scientific Services) and E. Moore (EFSA Administrative support).

**European Commission:** S. Osaer, R. Horgan, P. A. Bernorio (DG SANCO).

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

The Chairman welcomed the participants and no member declared a conflict of interest in any of the items on the agenda of this meeting.

Apologies were announced for José M. Sánchez-Vizcaino. The 16<sup>th</sup> afternoon apologies for I. Capua and A. Schudel

The members of the Panel were informed that Sandra Correia had joined the AHAW team as a Junior Scientist from beginning of February and Hubert Deluyker as a senior scientist with the EFSA Scientific Expert Services (epidemiology Unit).

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

The agenda was adopted.

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

The minutes of the 10<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting held in Brussels on 14<sup>th</sup> December, were unanimously adopted by written procedure on 28 January 2005 and published on Internet (<http://www.efsa.eu.int>).

### **4. NEW MANDATES**

New mandates received by EFSA were discussed following their introduction by a Commission official. It was firmly agreed by the Panel members that, for the first meeting of all working groups, the presence of a Commission official can be crucial in order to understand the scope of the mandates.

#### **4.1. Dairy By-products**

Two main concerns were identified, animal health and the microbiological hazards in food products possibly used to feed animals. Therefore this question will be dealt with by two working groups set up by AHAW and BIOHAZ Panels, but one single scientific opinion will be co-adopted by both Panels. The chairman to lead the

working group for animal health issues was elected. The panel suggested that a close cooperation should be established among the chairmen of this WG and the one on FMD, with EFSA support. The deadline of the mandate was accepted as December 2005.

#### **4.2. Stunning**

The chairman to lead the working group was elected. The deadline proposed by the Commission was accepted. The Commission official stated that the previous scientific opinion has been very helpful and clear and encouraged that the same approach should be taken.

#### **4.3. IBR**

Due to the short deadline and the complexity of the mandate, it was agreed that the deadline proposed by the Commission could not be respected. Therefore the Panel proposed to have a meeting with experts and Commission officials in order to clarify aspects which may be relevant for the scientific opinion. In view of the results of that meeting a plan, with deadlines, will be officially proposed. The chairman for this mandate was elected.

#### **4.4. Welfare of calves**

The chairman to lead the working group was elected. The deadline proposed by the Commission was accepted.

#### **4.5. Trichinella, AHAW Participation**

This mandate will be managed by the BIOHAZ Panel. However due to the animal Health implications, two members of the AHAW Panel were elected to represent the AHAW Panel in the Trichinella working group.

#### **4.6. Salmonella in Pigs, AHAW Participation**

This mandate will be managed by the BIOHAZ Panel. However due to the important role of the animal health related issues, one member of the AHAW Panel and three experts on salmonella were identified and proposed to participate and represent the AHAW Panel in the Trichinella working group.

#### **4.7. Rabies Vaccine SAD B19**

EFSA received a mandate on the assessment of the safety of live attenuated oral rabies vaccines for use in wildlife. Because of the scope of the mandate, EFSA replied to the Commission that this mandate falls under the EMEA's remit, and therefore this question could not be accepted. However EFSA is willing to contribute to such an evaluation with the AHAW Panel's expertise in case the Commission would be willing to consider EMEA as the most appropriate authority for taking the lead and provided that appropriate technical details of the respective vaccines could be made available.

## **5. SHORT DECISIONS**

### **5.1. Letter response to Commission on transport of rabbits.**

A draft response letter to Commission on the rabbits transport questions was presented by D. Morton. After a brief discussion it was decided to circulate a final draft with all proposed improvements for possible adoption by written procedure.

### **5.2. COPA-COGECA's letter.**

The AHAW secretariat explained the contents of the letter sent by COPA – COGECA asking for a meeting with EFSA (AHAW secretariat) and if possible with experts of the Panel, in relation to the risks of the transport of cadavers of animals. As the remit is not clear enough AHAW secretariat will schedule a meeting with COPA-COGECA representatives and Commission officials, in order to clarify the request since the scope of the request seems more management than assessment.

## **6. STATE OF PLAY OF THE SCIENTIFIC OPINIONS AND REPORTS**

### **6.1. Laying Hens**

The opinion related to welfare aspects of various systems of keeping laying hens was published in the EFSA web site in March after co-adoption of the chapter on food safety affected by different production systems (Biological and Chemical risks) by the BIOHAZ and CONTAM Panel respectively.

The Chairman of the Panel acknowledged H. Blokhuis, as chairman of the working group and the AHAW scientific secretariat, especially J. Ferrés, for their involvement.

### **6.2. Avian Influenza.**

The chairman of the AI working group explained the state of play of the Avian Influenza scientific report. The report has been sent to the working group members for final agreement. A transversal working group (mixing members of the working group and members of the panel) was set up in order to draft the scientific opinion.

### **6.3. Space allowances and floor types for weaners and rearing pigs.**

The chairman of the working group, presented in detail the report drafted by the members of the working group. After several contributions, amendments and editorial changes, the scientific report was considered accepted by the Panel, as the basis for the scientific opinion. A transversal working group (mixing members of the working group and members of the panel) was set up in order to draft the scientific opinion. The scientific opinion will be presented for possible adoption at the next plenary meeting.

### **6.4. Rift Valley Fever**

The chairman of the working group, outlined the state explained the situation of the risk assessment carried out by the working group. The Scientific opinion will be circulated, for possible adoption, 10 working days before the next plenary meeting on 25-26 May.

#### **6.5. Welfare of farmed domestic Rabbits**

The chairman of the working group explained the situation of the scientific report. A final meeting has been scheduled for 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> May in order to draft the Scientific Opinion. The Scientific report will be submitted at the plenary meeting in May while the scientific opinion would be ready for possible adoption at the Plenary in 14-15<sup>th</sup> June.

#### **6.6. Foot and Mouth Disease**

The chairman of the working group, explained situation of the risk assessment carried out by the working group. On the 14<sup>th</sup> of March (all day) the last working group meeting took place. The work is proceeding as rapidly as possible given the complexity of the task and the working parties other commitments. The chairperson assured the panel that the final risk assessment would be produced as soon as possible concurrent with good quality work. The requested deadline is noted.

#### **6.7. PRRS**

The chairman of the working group explained the situation of the scientific report. Last working group meeting for finalising the scientific report has been scheduled by 5-6 April. The scientific opinion will be drafted in May for possible adoption at the next plenary meeting if possible.

#### **6.8. Laboratory animals**

The Chairman of the working group explained the different parts of the mandate. On the 18 February, due to the high sensitivity of this question, a meeting took place with the main stakeholders in order to have an exchange of views on this question. Three working groups have been set up with different remits (Sentience, Purpose Breeding, & Euthanasia). The three working groups will receive minutes and drafts from the other WGs. The first draft of the scientific opinion should be available for discussion at the plenary meeting to be held in July. An open consultation with the scientific experts proposed by the stakeholders is foreseen at the end of August. The scientific comments will be considered at the plenary meeting in September when the final document will be presented for possible adoption.

### **7. MISCELLANEOUS**

#### **7.1. Piglet castration letter**

The letter agreed at the previous plenary was sent to the Commission and published on Internet.

#### **7.2. Transport of animals**

The letter accepted at the previous plenary meeting was sent to the Commission. The letter pointed out that, a point referring to rabbits has to be clarified by the experts of the WG on welfare on rabbits. This reply has been discussed at point 5.1 of the current agenda.

### **7.3. Microclimate letter to Eurogroup.**

A letter was sent to Eurogroup concerning the Microclimate opinion, after the agreement by written procedure of the AHAW members.

### **7.4. Priorities and gaps for the DG RTD on the 7th Framework program and possible emerging risks on AHAW**

The document accepted at the last plenary meeting in December was forwarded to the EFSA scientific Committee for further discussion.

### **7.5. Teleconferences**

Ilaria Capua presented, in a power point version, some ideas to be developed concerning strategies to save time and money from EFSA and the experts respectively. After a short discussion it was agreed that she will circulate a draft for possible acceptance by written procedure, as a proposal from the AHAW panel to the Scientific Committee and EFSA as possible new tools for developing opinions in the future.

### **7.6. Statement on the "Education on Veterinary career"**

A document presented by M. Wierup, M. Wooldridge and D. Morton was circulated for discussion and possible adoption at the next plenary meeting.

### **7.7. Risk assessment statement**

M. Wooldridge and D. Pfeiffer presented briefly a document concerning the role of the risk assessors in risk assessments to be undertaken by the AHAW panel, for possible discussion. The paper will be circulated electronically for comments/amendments of the AHAW members. In the case of major comments the document will be discussed at the next plenary meeting in May.

### **7.8. Plenary meetings**

Next plenary meeting: The Panel members accepted to start the XII plenary meeting in Brussels on 25<sup>th</sup> May at 10.00 am-18.00 and on 26<sup>th</sup> from 9.00 am to 15.45 pm.

Plenary meeting on 14-15 June 2005 was decided to be held in Brussels instead of Sweden as initially proposed, due to the low number of participants at the European Association for Animal Production (EAAP).

### **7.9. Other issues**

M. Sharp informed the Panel members of the last meeting held in Brussels by DG RTD, on the Technological platform. M. Gunn explained the outcome of the DG RTD meeting organised by DG RTD on Blue Tongue. Finally Ron Roberts gave an update of the situation on the opinion drafted on the residues on fish.