



European Food Safety Authority AHAW Panel

MINUTES OF THE XVTH PLENARY MEETING OF THE PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

(13-14TH SEPTEMBER 2005)

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PARTICIPANTS

Donald M. Broom, Michael Gunn, Joerg Hartung, David B. Morton, James Michael Sharp, Ronald J. Roberts, Georgios Theodoropoulos, Philippe Vannier, Martin Wierup, Marion Wooldridge, Stefano Cinotti, Per Have, Bo Algers, Harry Blokhuis, Marina Verga, Michel Pépin, I. Capua.

EFSA: N. Sanchez (Administrative support) and S. Correia, J. Ferres, M. Pittman and J. Serratos (Scientific co-ordination AHAW panel) .

European Commission: S. Osaer, R. Horgan (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 Dirk U. Pfeiffer, Xavier Manteca, Alejandro Schudel, Sanchez Vizcaino, and on the 14th H. Blokhuis (until 9.30 am), and I. Capua .

The chairman welcomed N. Sanchez recently joining the EFSA AHAW Panel administrative support.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE XIV PLENARY MEETING

The minutes of the 14th Plenary Meeting held in Parma on 11-12th July, were unanimously adopted by written procedure on 28th August 2005 and published on Internet (<http://www.efsa.eu.int>).

4. NEW MANDATES

No new mandates have been received by EFSA.

5. OPINIONS SUBMITTED FOR POSSIBLE ADOPTION

5.1. Avian Influenza

The chairperson of the working group presented the scientific opinion including the conclusions, recommendations and a summary of the opinion. The chairperson replied to all pending questions requested by the members of the Panel concerning the scientific opinion. Amendments and some editorial changes were introduced. The document was adopted unanimously.

5.2. Welfare of farmed domestic rabbits

The chairman of the working group explained the scientific opinion for possible adoption. The document was discussed and after a few changes and amendments the document was unanimously adopted. However the summary of the scientific opinion will be adopted by written procedure

After the unanimously adoption, Prof Don Broom stated that it is scientifically inaccurate to use the words health and welfare in the title of the report on rabbits, because the word welfare includes all of the health aspects.

5.3. Space allowances and floor types for weaners and rearing pigs.

The chairman of the working group presented the scientific opinion for possible adoption. The document, including the summary, was discussed and after a few changes and amendments the document was unanimously adopted.

5.4. Laboratory animals

According to the established work plan the first draft for the scientific report was available for discussion in July. In the meantime Panel members agreed to send their comments to EFSA. The final Report and Opinion will be discussed at the plenary in October taking into account all comments received.

6. STATE OF PLAY OF THE SCIENTIFIC OPINIONS AND REPORTS

6.1. Other opinions

PRRS scientific opinion was published on the EFSA web last 12 August, while the Rift Valley Fever could not be yet published because is still pending to receive the chapter on the public health aspects adopted by the BIOHAZ Panel on 8th September.

Foot and Mouth Disease: it was explained that according to the current planning it will be submitted for possible adoption by the plenary meeting in December.

Dairy By-products: The chairman proposed to organise a preparatory meeting to discuss the main issues of this opinion the day before the next plenary.

Stunning: Next meeting will take place in Brussels on 11 October.

IBR: The chairman proposed a preparatory meeting to deal with the comments from the Panel members before the next plenary.

Welfare of calves: The activities have started and next meeting will take place next 4 October.

Brucellosis Next meeting will take place on 23 September.

Captive birds: The selection of experts have finalize and the first meeting will be proposed to be held in October or beginning of November.

Trichinella: Panel members were requested to revise chapter 4 and 5 of the draft on the scientific opinion as proposed by the BIOHAZ panel for possible contributions.

Salmonella in Pigs: the panel accepted M. Sharp proposal to invite M. Wierup to collaborate to this WG managed by Biohaz panel on behalf of AHAW Panel.

7. MISCELLANEOUS

7.1. Plenary meetings

Next plenary meeting will be hold in Parma on the 12-13 October. The Panel members accepted to start the XVI plenary meeting on the 12th October from 9.00 am to 18.00 pm– and on 13th October from 9.00 am to 14.00 pm.

A possible preparatory meeting on 11 October was proposed to discuss final comments for Laboratory animals, IBR.

EFSA secretariat will propose a new agenda for the plenary meetings for 2006 for possible acceptance at the next plenary in October.

Informative point: EFSA's Executive Director G. Podger will leave EFSA on 28 November 2005. The Commission has already published a call for expression of interest to cover this post as soon as possible.

Additionally, it was informed that Silvie Mateljan (AHAW administrative support) is leaving EFSA on 10 October and Jordi Ferres (scientific support) will go back to the national official tasks in the Health Department of the Generalitat de Catalunya as from 1st October. Both were thanked for their constant support for the PAHW Committee and wished well for the future.

AHAW Panel recognized the need to harmonize the risk assessment on animal welfare issues due to the lack of standard guideline, and asked EFSA to take the appropriate steps to incorporate in the work program for 2006.