



European Food Safety Authority AHAW Panel

**MINUTES OF THE XVIITH PLENARY MEETING OF THE PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH
AND WELFARE**

(14-15TH DECEMBER 2005)

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PARTICIPANTS

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

EFSA: E. Moore, M.C. Addis (Administrative support); S. Correia, H. Deluyker, O. Ribó, M. Pittman and J. Serratosa (Scientific co-ordination AHAW panel).

European Commission: S. Osaer (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 Xavier Manteca, Alejandro Schudel, Sanchez Vizcaino, Bo Algers, Ilaria Capua and Stefano Cinotti (15th).

The chairman welcomed Mrs M.C. Addis recently joining EFSA AHAW Panel for the administrative support and Dr O. Ribó for the scientific assistance.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE XVI PLENARY MEETING

The minutes of the 16th Plenary Meeting held in Parma on 12-13th October, were unanimously adopted by written procedure on 14th November 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. IBR

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

5.2. Foot and Mouth Disease

The Chairman of the working group presented the three parts of the scientific risk assessment on Part 1) assessing the risk of FMD introduction into the EU from developing countries; Part 2) assessing the reduction of this risk through interventions in developing countries /regions aiming at controlling/eradication the disease; Part 3) and tools available for the containment and control of a possible virus FMD outbreak in the EU: update on diagnostics and vaccines. Those three parts of the scientific risk assessment were adopted by the Panel unanimously. Additionally it was decided that a synopsis including an executive summary of this scientific opinion will be circulated for a final adoption by written procedure.

6. STATE OF PLAY OF THE SCIENTIFIC OPINIONS AND REPORTS

6.1. Dairy by-products

The Chairman of the working group presented the framework of the mandate and the tasks performed by BIOHAZ and AHAW working groups. The scientific report was introduced for comment and amendments. The scientific opinion based on the current report will be presented for possible adoption in February 2006.

6.2. Stunning,

The Chairman requested all Panel members to send comments on the current draft. The deadline for comments was agreed on the 6th January. Next meeting will take place on the 10th January.

6.3. Welfare of calves

The WG held 3 meetings to carry out a scientific update of the previous opinion. Next meeting will take place next 22nd December.

6.4. Brucellosis

The WG held 3 meeting to carry out the assessment of the different serological tests for Brucellosis. Last meeting took place on the 9th December. Next meetings will take place on 2nd February and 21st March.

6.5. Captive birds

The WG has started the activities. Next meeting will take place on the 11st of January.

6.6. Avian Influenza update and Migratory birds

The mandate was received on the 7th of November and the first meeting took place on the 15th of November. DG ENV is particularly invited for these WG meetings, in order to provide all possible available data on migratory birds. Next meeting will take place on the 19th of December.

7. MISCELLANEOUS

7.1. Publications

The chairman proposed a procedure to draft a discussion document to be sent to the Scientific Committee secretariat by January about the interest and constraints of publication of scientific opinions and reports.

7.2. Plenary meetings

Next plenary meeting will be held in Parma on the 13-14th February 2006. The Panel members accepted to start this XVIII plenary meeting on the 13th February at 09.00am and finish at 18.00pm, and on 14th February from 09.00am to 13.00 pm.

7.3. Feed back from the Commission of the AHAW Scientific opinions

The EFSA Panel members requested feedback from the Commission at the next plenary meeting in February 2006, on the scientific opinions already adopted by the AHAW panel.

7.4. Recommendations from AHAW Panel to DG RTD for future research

In order to provide a comprehensive summary of recommendations to be sent to DG RTD through the EFSA Scientific Committee a procedure was adopted so that members would submit comments in order to draft a discussion paper by 20th January 2006.