



European Food Safety Authority AHAW Panel

MINUTES OF THE XXTH PLENARY MEETING OF THE PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE -

(26 - 27 APRIL 2006)

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PARTICIPANTS

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EFSA: A. Afonso, S. Correia, F. De Massis, O. Ribó and J. Serratos (Scientific co-ordination AHAW panel).

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

1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Apologies were announced for Alejandro Schudel, Ilaria Capua, Stefano Cinotti, Martin Wierup, Marion Wooldridge, Xavier Manteca, Michel Pépin, Mike Sharp and Marina Verga.

The chairman introduced Fabrizio De Massis who has joined the EFSA AHAW support team.

The chairman of the AHAW Panel noted that the 2/3 quorum required by Article 10 of the Management Board decision concerning the establishment and operations of the Scientific Committee and the Scientific Panels was not met. It was nevertheless agreed to maintain the discussion at the meeting at which no formal decision could be taken, on the understanding that any formal decision would be subsequently submitted to the Panel by written procedure. In the meantime, the Secretariat recorded the position of panel members present.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE XIX PLENARY MEETING

The minutes of the 19th Plenary Meeting held in Athens on 27-28th March, were unanimously adopted by written procedure on 12th April 2006 and published on the web (<http://www.efsa.eu.int>).

4. COMMISSION SERVICES

4.1. New Mandates

The Commission (DG SANCO) sent to EFSA a new mandate on fish welfare. Because this is the last meeting of the current AHAW Panel, the presentation will take place at the first plenary of the new AHAW Panel on 7-8th June.

4.2. Feedback from previous scientific opinions

The Commission official emphasised the importance of the previous EFSA opinions on animal Health (RVF, IBR and dairy by products) as a basis to revise and/or amend relevant EU legislation. In particular the opinion on dairy by products will support the Community position at the forthcoming OIE general session in May, when requesting modification to the requirements for feeding FMD-susceptible animals with milk and milk products (Code Chapter 2.2.10.24). For the future it is planned to present feed back in written form on a regular basis, once the format is agreed between Commission services and EFSA.

5. OPINIONS SUBMITTED FOR POSSIBLE ADOPTION

5.1. Avian Influenza

5.1.1. Migratory birds and Avian Influenza

The chairman of the working group presented the Scientific Report. A working group meeting was held on the 18-19th April in order to analyse the recent events on AI and finalize the current report.

The whole scientific report was reviewed by the members of the Panel, as a result comments, amendments and editorial changes were made. EFSA secretariat will finalize the scientific report (including conclusions and recommendations) and a scientific opinion only with all conclusions and recommendations. Those documents will be circulated for possible adoption by written procedure to all members of the AHAW panel.

5.1.2. Avian Influenza: risk assessment update

The mandate to update the risk assessment on Avian Influenza should start with the new Panel on June 2006.

5.2. Welfare of calves

The Chairman presented the scientific report drafted by the WG. Members of the Panel contributed some amendments and improvements and the document was agreed. EFSA secretariat will finalize the scientific report and a scientific opinion including all conclusions and recommendations. Those documents will be circulated for possible adoption by written procedure to all members of the AHAW panel.

5.3. Zoonoses report.

EFSA secretariat explained the current challenges to finalize the opinion in April. Contributions and comments have been received and a preliminary draft was distributed but not discussed. As the deadline is July it was agreed that a meeting with the concerned Panel members should take place on May or June, and, if possible, together with the WG from BIOHAZ. The revised scientific report will be presented at the June/July plenary for possible adoption. Commission pointed out the need to keep the report emphasis on Risk assessment and not too much entering into the area of risk management issues, as it is requested in the TORs to

recommend, when appropriate, actions to be taken to improve the protection of human and animal health in the Community.

6. STATE OF PLAY OF THE SCIENTIFIC OPINIONS AND REPORTS

6.1. Rabies

After the preparatory meeting held on 16th March in Brussels when the Commission officials clarified the terms of reference of the mandate, the first meeting with the WG members took place on 19th April. A preliminary document has been drafted and a plan of meetings has been established in order to comply with the current deadline in October 2006. Next WG meeting will be held in Parma on the 18th May.

6.2. Captive birds

Next meeting will be held in Parma on 10/11th May in order to speed up the completion of the opinion and to try to finish the report by October 2006.

6.3. Brucellosis

The next meeting will be held on the 16th May where the tasks completed thus far will be presented. The timing of the remaining steps will be discussed at the meeting given the July 2006 deadline.

6.4. Pig welfare 2

Commission services have accepted EFSA's proposal about the new terms of reference and suggesting division of the initial mandate into three separate mandates: 1 - sows and boars, 2 - fattening pigs and 3 - tail biting/docking). The new proposed deadline of July 2007 was also accepted.

7. MISCELLANEOUS

7.1. Opinions on the web

The adopted Avian Influenza statement as adopted in the last Plenary was published on the web by 10th April. The Dairy by-products scientific report and Opinion were published on the 12th April March.

7.2. Comments received by FELASA

The Chairman of the Scientific Opinion on Laboratory Animal welfare presented the comments made by FELASA (letter 7th March) concerning this opinion. The main reasons and arguments were discussed and it was agreed to send a letter to FELASA on behalf of the Panel explaining the arguments for not proposing changes in the adopted Opinion. EFSA secretariat will draft a letter together with the chairman of the WG for agreement by written procedure.

7.3. Document on Field Survey presented by SES

Due to time constraints, there was no opportunity to discuss this issue.

7.4. Plenary meeting

Next plenary meeting will be held in Parma on the 7-8th June 2006 with the new elected AHAW Panel. The 1st plenary meeting will be held in Parma on the 7th June at 9.00am to 18.00pm and on 8th June from 09.00am to 13.00 pm.