



European Food Safety Authority AHAW Panel

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

(7 – 8 JUNE 2006)

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PARTICIPANTS

Bo Algiers (7th June), Harry Blokhuis, Donald Broom, Patrizia Costa, Mariano Domingo, Matthias Greiner, Daniel Guemene, Joerg Hartung, Trevor Hastings, Per Have, Frank Koenen, David Morton, Christine Müller-Graf, Dirk Pfeiffer, Moez Sanaa, Michael Sharp, Philippe Vannier, Martin Wierup.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION (DG SANCO): Sabine Osaer and Rex Horgan on the 7th (11.30-13.00) and 8th June from 9.00-11.00 am (video conference)

EFSA : N. Sanchez; M. C. Addis (Administrative staff AHAW Panel); H. Deluyker; P. Makela (SES); S. Correia, O. Ribó, A. Afonso, F. De Massis. J. Serratosa (Scientific Coordination AHAW Panel).

1. WELCOME AND GENERAL INTRODUCTION OF EFSA

Dr. Herman Koeter (acting as Executive Director) welcomed the participants and presented a general introduction about the mission of EFSA. The different EFSA departments presented to all Panel members the different general EFSA activities:

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|--|---------------------------|
| ▪ Introduction of the scientific work | <i>Djien Liem</i> |
| ▪ Legal aspects including declarations of interest | <i>Dirk Detken</i> |
| ▪ Financial aspects | <i>François Monnart</i> |
| ▪ Communication strategy | <i>Anne-Laure Gassin</i> |
| ▪ Institutional and international relations | <i>Christine Majewski</i> |

2. APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Scientific Coordinator of AHAW panel secretariat welcomed the participants and no member declared any conflict of interest on the items on the agenda.

Apologies were received from Mo Salman and Marion Wooldridge. It was announced that one member of the AHAW Panel could not accept the position due to new duties, therefore the Panel has only 20 members instead of 21.

3. INTRODUCTION OF EXPERTS IN PANEL AND EFSA – AHAW STAFF

All members of the panel and EFSA-AHAW staff introduced themselves focusing on their areas of interest and expertise.

4. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE XX PLENARY MEETING

The minutes of the 20th Plenary Meeting of the previous Panel meeting held in Parma on 26-27th March, were unanimously adopted by the former panel members by written procedure on 17th May 2006 and published on the web (<http://www.efsa.eu.int>).

6. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIRS

The Scientific Coordinator of AHAW panel secretariat explained the procedures for election and the role and responsibilities of the panel chairman and vice chairmen's. There were no other candidates. Philippe Vannier accepted the nomination and was voted in. The voting was open but in the absence of the candidate and he was elected by 1 abstention (the candidate) and all remaining votes in favour. Philippe Vannier then went on to explain his motivations and intentions for his new mandate. They included the following points:

- Improve work methodology in order to increase plenary meetings efficiency
- The length of the scientific reports of AHAW should be discussed
- Insist on transparency of scientific reporting by clearly stating gaps of knowledge and degrees of uncertainty.

- Promote a meeting with the Commission – DG SANCO officers responsible for Animal Health and Welfare to receive a formal feedback on previous work of the panel and hear expectations for the future
- Create mechanisms for a request for an urgent opinion
- Improve the procedures and frequency of consultation/hearings of stakeholders at the Panel level.

Joerg Hartung and Donald Broom were proposed by David Morton as candidates for vice-chairmen. No other candidates were nominated and both accepted to be candidates. Joerg Hartung was elected by unanimity and Donald Broom by 17 votes in favour and 1 abstention (the candidate). Joerg Hartung proposed that in his role as vice-chairman he could support the activities between AHAW panel and other panels in EFSA. D. Broom suggested that because the high number of AW mandates, another expert on the field of AW should be nominated in the place of the expert who had withdrawn..

7. MEETING DATES 2006

The following dates were accepted for future plenary meetings:

7-8/9/2006	Plenary XXII
26-27/10/2006	Plenary XXIII
11-12/12/2006	Plenary XXIV
31/1- and 1/2/2007	Plenary XXV

DG SANCO officers responsible for Animal Health and Welfare (head of Unit and Director) will be invited to the XXII (or XXIII in case to be unable) to receive a formal feedback on previous reports and opinions and discuss about future work.

It was also agreed that at the next plenary, the meeting dates for 2007 will be also discussed for agreement.

8. INTRODUCTION WORK PROGRAMME AND NEW REQUESTS TO EFSA ´S AHAW PANEL

8.1. Pig Welfare

After discussion with the commission the mandate on pig welfare was divided in three mandates with independent deadlines: i) Sows and Boars ii) Fattening and iii) Tail biting

In order to ensure uniformity, it was decided that the mandate should be managed by one chairman and with the assistance of one Risk assessor and 3 different rapporteurs for the three different sub-mandates. The chairman and rapporteurs were elected and also a risk assessor for the three working groups.

8.2. Fish Welfare

The mandate was presented by EFSA secretariat to the panel. The discussion focused on the complexity and extension of the mandate and also the implication of other scientific panels such as BIOHAZ, Contaminants, and Feed additives. It was

decided that it is essential to have a meeting with EC officials to clarify the scope of the mandate. Some of the questions raised by the panel were i) Multiplicity of the issues and the differences between the species mentioned in the mandate ii) Multiplicity of farming systems, iii) How to decide which and when aspects are relevant for animal health and food safety and, iv) to what extent aspects such as feeding should be considered?

A Commission official explained that the mandate should focus primarily on animal welfare aspects and the other aspects should be flagged up but not necessarily treated in depth since to do so would result in an inordinately large workload and report scope.

The chairman , rapporteur and risk assessor for this mandate were elected.

9. EXISTING AND UPCOMING WORKING GROUPS. ELECTION OF THE WG CHAIRMEN

EFSA secretariat informed the panel that any member may join new or existing WG members. For each of the current mandates (Brucellosis, Rabies, Zoonosis, Captive Birds, Migratory Birds and AI-revision, update on the risk assessment on AI and the Guidelines for Risk Assessment), the chairmen were elected.

10. ZOOZONOSIS, DRAFT OPINION DISCUSSION

P. Makela (SES) presented the mandate to the panel members. The panel was also informed that the request will be repeated every year after the publication of the Zoonosis report. In view of the restricted time available it was suggested that the AHAW panel to elaborate comments on animal health aspects of Brucellosis, Tuberculosis and Rabies but panel members are free to give their opinion on other diseases if considered relevant from the animal health perspective, for example Salmonellosis.

EFSA secretariat presented a review on how the WG had been developing the Zoonosis opinion. The draft Scientific Opinion (SO) was discussed and it was decided that it will be circulated by 28th June and for possible adoption following the written procedure in July.

11. PRESENTATION OF THE RISK ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES

H. Deluyker on behalf of EFSA-Scientific Expert Service (SES) presented a new self-mandate on drawing up guidance on risk assessment for food producing animals . After a short discussion it was accepted by the Panel. The chairman was elected and members of the panel expressed their willingness to become members of the working group for this mandate.