



## **Animal Health and Welfare (AHAW) Panel Activities**

**EFSA Management Board  
Parma, 23 January 2008**

Philippe Vannier  
Chairman of AHAW Panel

## AHAW Panel mandate

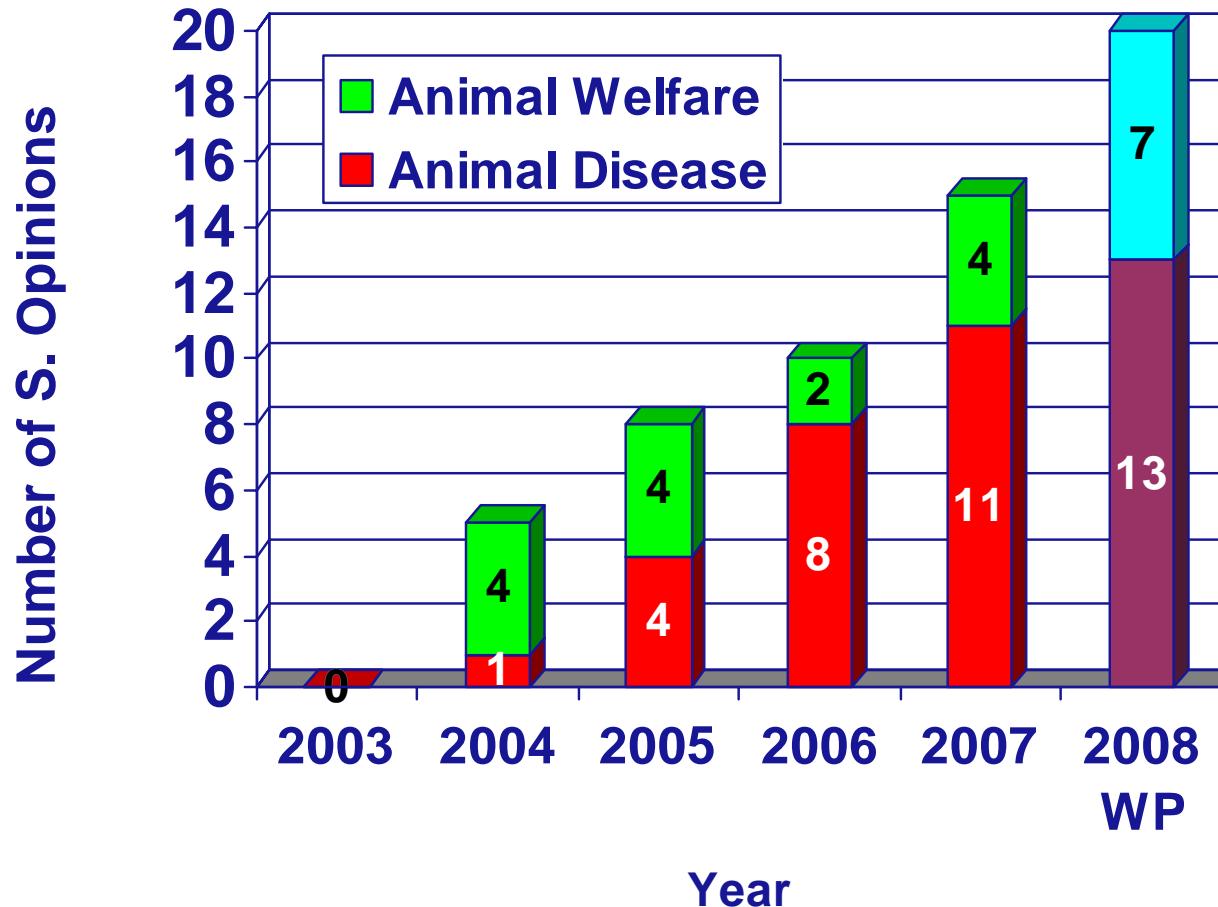
AHAW Panel deals with questions on all aspects of animal health and animal welfare, primarily relating to food producing animals including fish.

# Composition of the Panel



# Scientific Opinions adopted 2003-2007 and 2008 WP:

## Animal disease & Animal Welfare



# Scientific opinions (2003-07)-(2008-09)

	2003-07 Adopted	2008-09 On going	WP 08 SANCO	TOTAL
<b>A.diseases incl. zoonosis</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>(9)</b>	<b>24 + (9)</b>
Food producing animals	14	2	(6)	16 + (6)
Companion animals	3	-	(1)	3 + (1)
Wild animals	3	2	(2)	5 + (2)
<b>Animal Welfare</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>21+ (3)</b>
Food producing animals	12	6	(3)	18 + (3)
Laboratory animals & pets	1	-	-	1
Wild animals	2	-	-	2
<b>Self-mandates/guidelines</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>/</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>(12)</b>	<b>49+(12)</b>

## Animal disease-Food Safety

e.g. Laying  
Hens systems

Productivity

Behaviour

Physiology

- 1 Low level
2. Medium level
3. High level

# Approach on Animal Disease mandates

Opinions	Hazard Ident.	Risk Pathways	Qual RA	Semi Qua RA	Quant RA	Stakeholder
MAP/ticks/RVF/ FMD/AI	X	X	X			
PRRS/IBR	X	X	X	X		
AI Migrat/zoo	X	X	X			(X)
Dairy prod.	X	X	X	(X)	(X)	
Brucel.Diagnost.	X	X	X		SCA	(X)
Vac AI/ND/BT	X	X	X			(X)
Tubercul. Deer	X	X	X		SCA	
BT Vect/V.	X	X	X	X	SCA	(X)

# Approach on Animal Welfare mandates

Opinions	Hazard Ident.	Risk Pathways	Qual RA	Semi/Quant RA	Food Safety BIOHAZ /CONTAM	Stake-holders
Transport/ Stunning 1	X		(x)			----
Microclimate	X					----
Piglet castration	X		(x)		(X)	----
Lay hens/Pig W	X	(X)	(x)		(X)	----
Rabbit W.	X	X	(X)			----
Lab animals	X		(x)			X
Stunning 2	X	X	X		(X)	----
Calves Welfare	X	X	X		(X)	(X)

# Approach on Animal Welfare mandates

Opinions	Hazard Ident.	Risk Pathways	Qual RA	Semi Q/ RA	Food Safety	Stake-holders
Pig Welfare (3)	X	X	X	(x)	(X)	-----
Fish Welfare (5)	X	X	X	(x)	(X)	X
Dairy cows	X	X	X	(x)	(X)	X
Seals	X	X	X	(x)		X

# Rules of procedure: Set of measures to improve efficiency

Risk question

Risk pathway

Data

Risk assessment

(Risk assessment)

Conclusions / Recommendations

/ Recommendations for Future research



Scientific Report  
(Ad hoc WG)

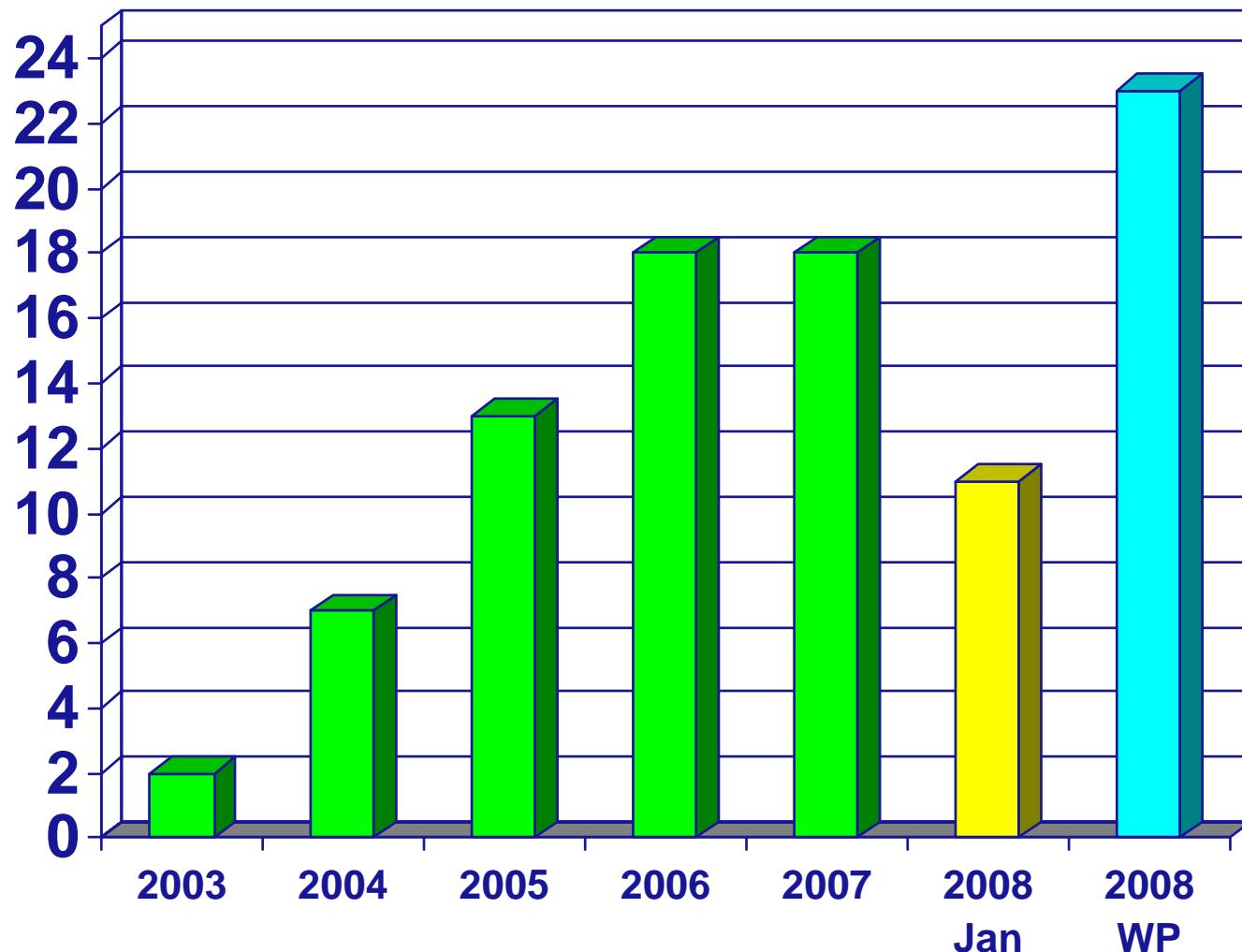


↓  
Transversal WG  
↓  
Scientific Opinion  
AHAW Panel

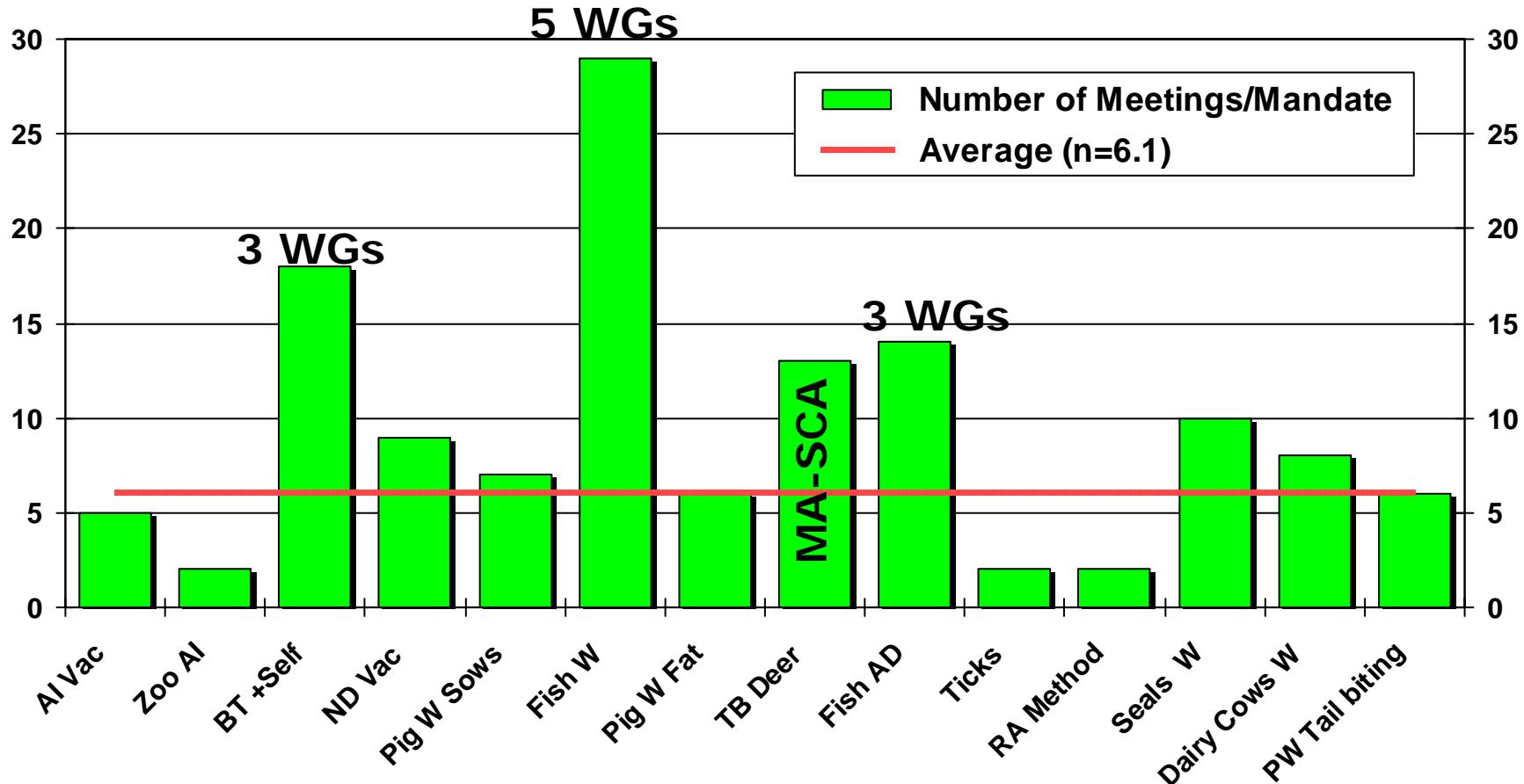
# Set of measures to improve efficiency

1. Chairmanship of WG decided by the Panel
2. Examination of question Kick off meeting with RM
3. Selection of ad hoc candidates (DG RTD, Projects, scientific papers) according **the specific area of knowledge** as set up in the initial table of contents for the SO.
4. < 40 % panel members in the ad hoc WG
5. Review of the final draft opinion
  - by at least 2 members of the Panel not involved in the WG
  - Critical comments from all Panel Members to the plenary meeting

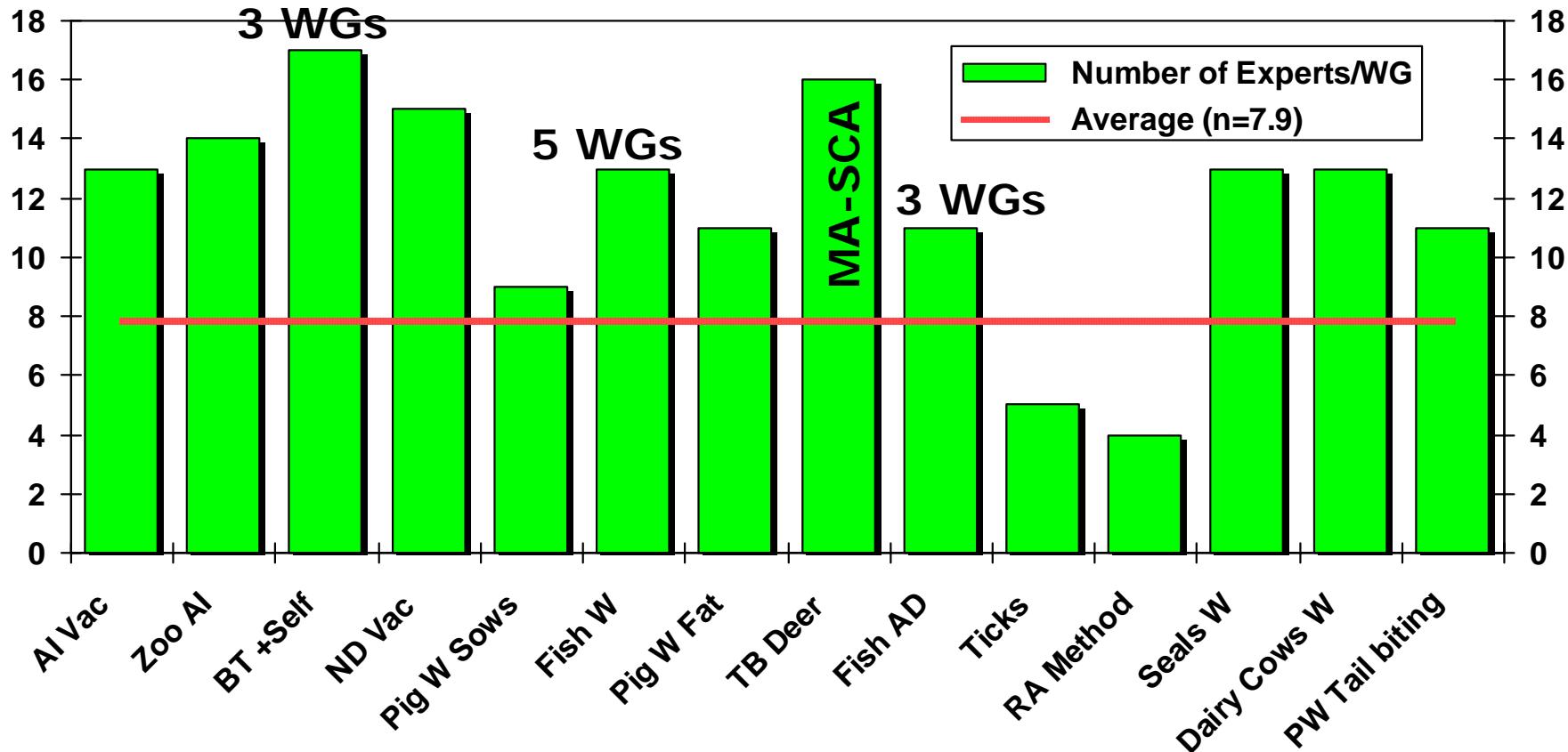
# Number of « Ad hoc » Working Groups/Year (2003-08)



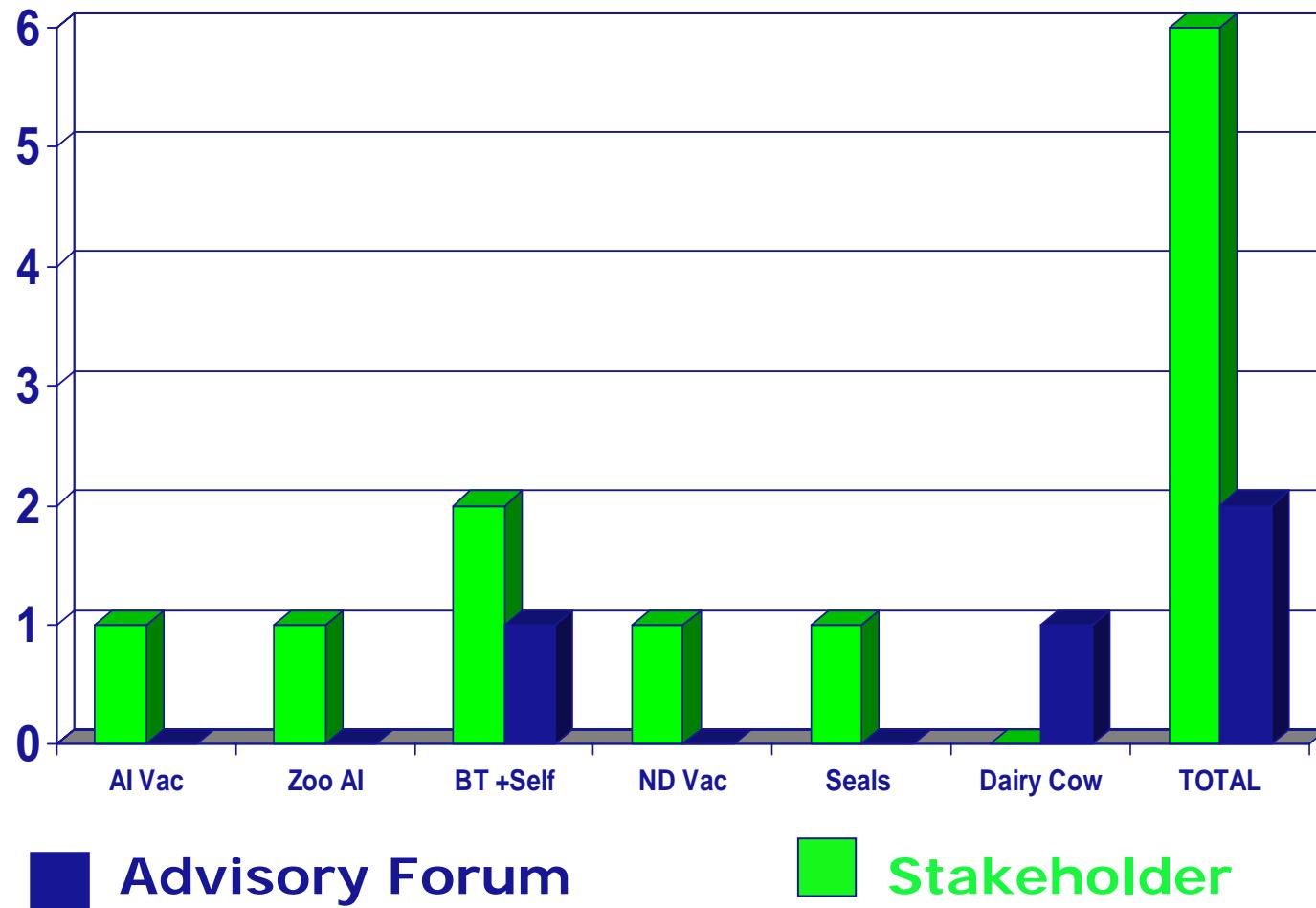
# Number of WG meeting/mandate in 2007\*



# Number of experts /WG in 2007

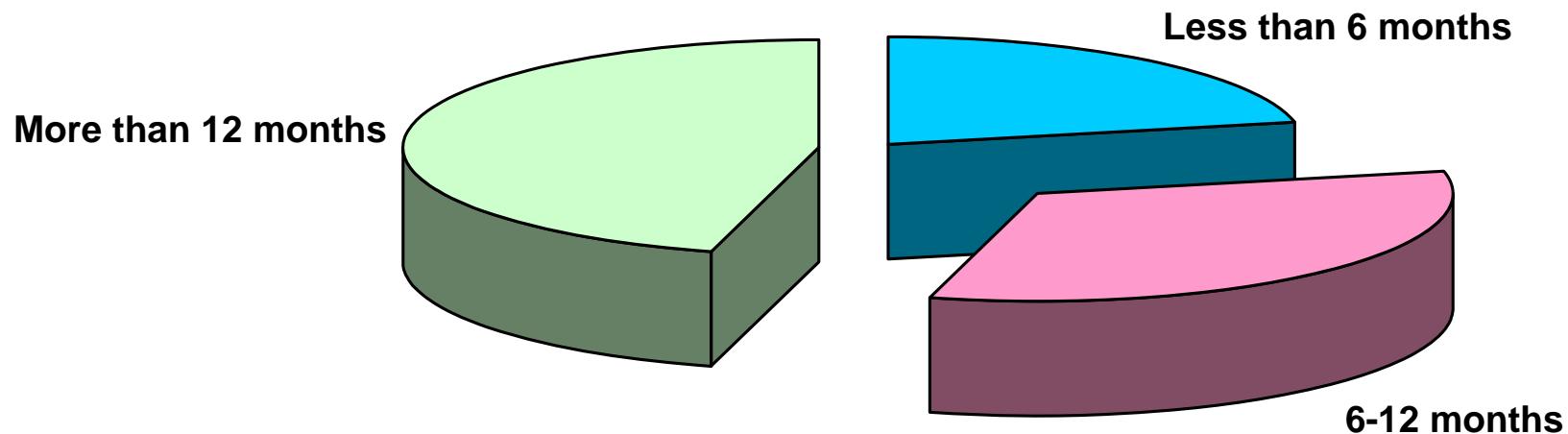


# Stakeholder and Advisory Forum meetings/ mandate in 2007

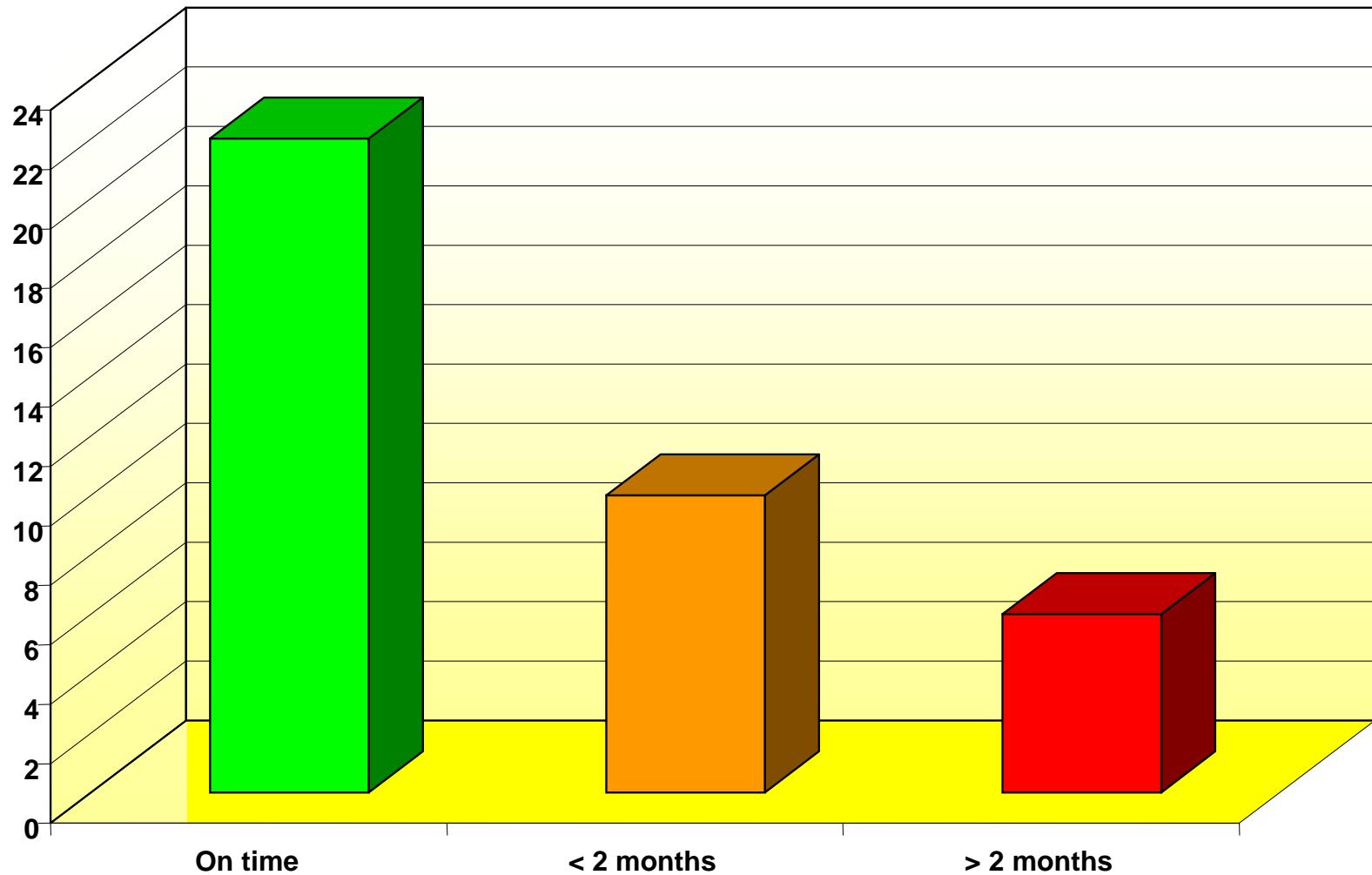


# Time to deliver opinions (month)

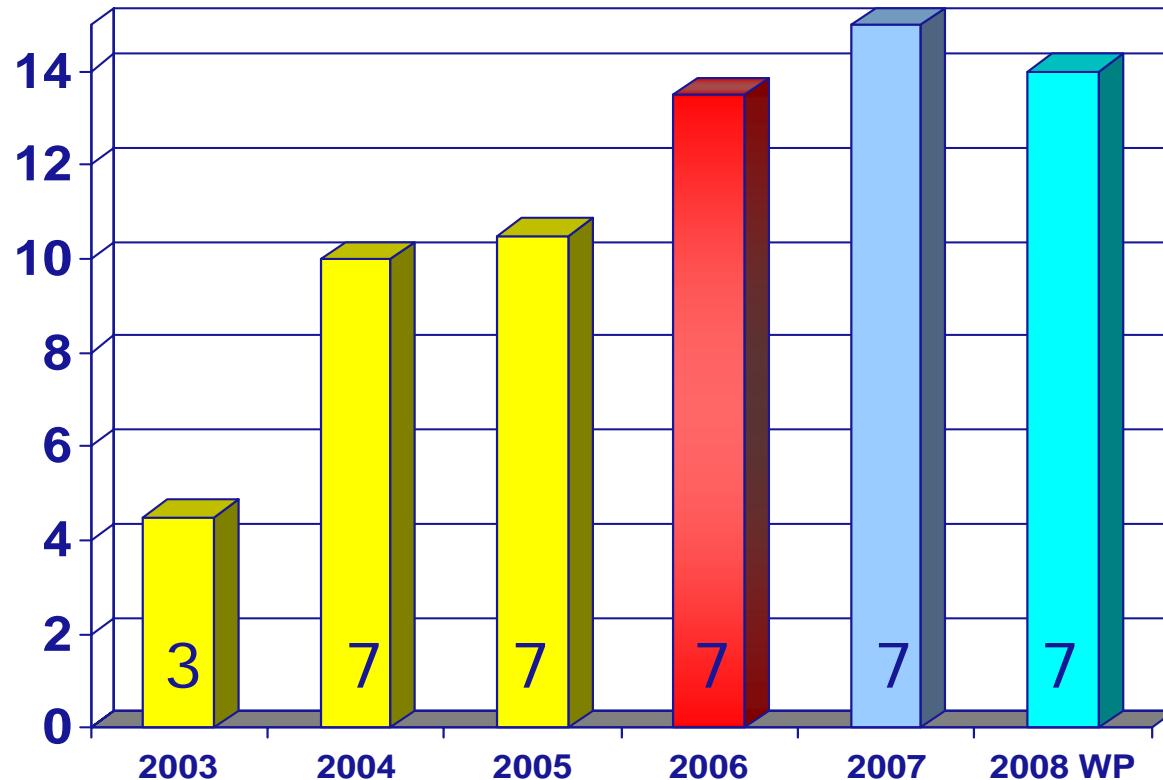
## Mandate 2003-2007



# Compliance with deadlines



# Plenary meeting days 2003-2008



Plenary Meetings of 1/1,5/ 2 days

Management Board January 2008

# AHAW Interaction with other EU and International Institutions

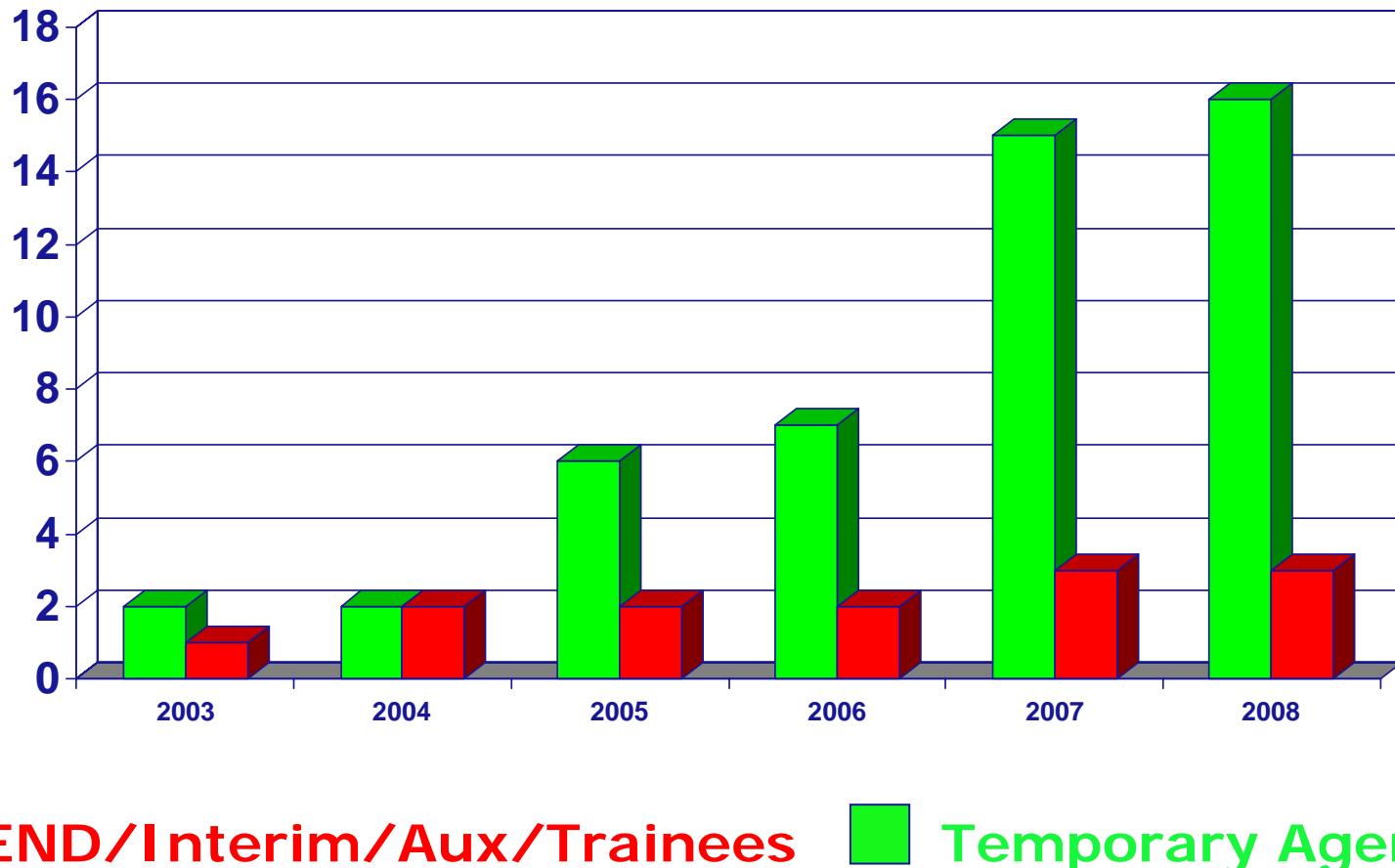
	OIE	FAO	EMEA	ECDC
2003	1 Panel member	/	/	/
2004	1 Panel member	Experts on FMD/RVF/AI	/	/
2005	1 Panel member	AI	Rabies	AI
2006	1 P. Observer*	1 Observer* Experts on AI/BT	AI/Rabies/ Echinoc	AI
2007	1 P. Observer	1 P. Observer BT/AI	BT/AI/ND/ Tick	AI
2008	1 P. Observer	1 P. Observer	CSF/AI/BT	AI

\* EFSA Agreement with OIE and FAO to accept one expert as observer to

# AHAW Staff Jan 2008

## after Christmas holidays





# Tasks of AHAW Unit

- Organisation of the meetings –administrative
- Scientific preparation of the documents
  - Search of literature
  - Search of experts
  - Coordination of all scientific contributions
  - Drafting some scientific contributions
  - Link with Risk managers on the mandates (follow up)
  - Formatting of the opinion
  - Handling scientifically the possible discrepancies and preparing objective documents for the discussion
  - Minutes of ALL meetings
  - Publication in the web after review of the content and format
  - Communication to scientific fora of their EFSA work (papers)
  - Leadership in methodology (rules of procedures)

	Scientific papers	Scientific posters	International Scientific events	
			Presentations	Attendance
2004	2	-	12	-
2005	2	-	8	3
2006	2	1	16	14
2007	6	4	19	10
2008	1 (in press)	-	2	-

# Calls Art 36 AHAW Panel 2006-08

	<b>AD</b>	<b>AW</b>
<b>2006</b> <b>(Procurement)</b>		1 (AW RA Guidelines developpment: basic info on expertise and Cent. of excellence)
<b>2007</b> <b>Art 36</b>	1  (Scientific review on AHS, CSF, ASF and Arthropods/vectors)	1  (AW RA Guidelines on Stunning and Killing of food producing animals)
<b>2008</b> <b>Art 36</b>	2  -Tech Platform/Vac/Diag  -Scientific update of AD including aquatic dis.	1  (AW RA Guidelines on Transport of food producing animals)

- ◆ **Workload of the Panel is very HIGH**
- ◆ **Consequences** : at mid term, high risk not to maintain motivation of the experts of the panel ⇒ exhausted
- ◆ **Increase of work** ⇒ Need to increase the accuracy of opinions ⇒ dialogue more stringent between DG SANCO and EFSA. (one out of 5-6 keys of the problem)
  - ↳ Real usefulness of the opinions, expectations of RM
  - ↳ Problem of Broadness of questions and Mandates
  - ↳ Feed back already done but can be improved

- Real improvement during the last year with the increase of the staff from the AHAW unit,
- Efficient help for the chairs of the WG and the experts,
- Increase of the internal expertise with the Scientific Co-operation and assistance Directorate,
- Importance to maintain a good balance between internal and external Expertise and to prevent any confusion between the both Directorates and their deliverables,
- Use of art 36 to prepare the work of Panel
- How to improve input from national agencies when similar work was done at national level?

- ◆ In the Welfare field → Real progress and excellent dialogue between RM (DG SANCO) and EFSA ⇒ Major step to request welfare indicators → precise, measurable, clear expectation from the Commission.
- ◆ In the Welfare field : sometimes, difficulties to give absolute objective opinions → confusion between ethical considerations and scientific approach ⇒ extreme importance of a cross-bred expertise, collective expertise. Absolute need of a multidisciplinary approach.
- ◆ Often : School of thinking which prevents contradictory debate. Major hazard for credibility of Panel and EFSA.

- ◆ Experience from the AHAW Panel

Food chain is a "continuum" – Regulation bodies are often separated AW#AH#FS → Absolute need for risk assessors to consider all the factors which could have an influence on food safety → Strong interaction between factors of Production (including AW-AH-Quality of products ← farming conditions).

- ◆ When Regulation bodies totally separated → It has an impact on the work of the Panel. Need of a good interaction for regulation bodies including food safety.
- ◆ In the Animal Health field, Relationships RA/RM: more complicated, More complex : real expectation from the Commission ??

Need to clarify the role of EFSA in AH and in AH Crisis in agreement with the Commission: whereas will and potential from the Panel to help the RM to anticipate, to prevent major crisis. (in compliance with CAHP in regard to prevention).

Remind!! Emerging risk and Zoonosis : Major sources are live animals !

- ◆ **Self Mandate on Blue Tongue** = origin ? Major emerging risk and epidemiological feature: Major importance to understand  
⇒ to prevent another crisis (Rift Valley Fever ?) – BT is now a major AH and economical crisis in E.U.
- ◆ **Major regret:** it was impossible for the experts and for myself to understand the rationale of the opposition of the commission on the self mandate = to improve for the future the role of EFSA in AH crisis (Goal for all the experts= to help the Commission)
- ◆ **Hope for the future and major step done at the last Plenary.** Good dialogue and exchanges with the Commission (AH Unit) on new mandates on BT and Tuberculosis in deers → solution agreed easily (with new questions raised for TB)

- ◆ **DG ENV (Seals) / DEV (FMD)** → Good dialogue and articulation between RM/RA. Seals : good example of interaction in a positive climate for a very sensitive opinion!
- ◆ **DG Research** : Constant presence in the Panel. Very good dialogue → Good feedback on the interest of opinions.
- ◆ **OIE/FAO/EMEA/ECDC**: important collaboration as observers and members of WG (EMEA when vaccines or common topics: FAO and RFV or AI)

On behalf of the Panel and Personal thanks :

- 1/ to J. SERRATOSA and staff AH / AW Unit very busy with EFSA (time conflict with my job) – Thanks to the quality of the work done, quality of relationship, trust and real support of the staff = hard work for the staff.**
  
- 2/ to the executive director and the Management Board for the facilities offered to the experts and the increase of fees and indemnities : it was appreciated by the members of the Panel.**

**THANK YOUR FOR YOUR ATTENTION**