

## Scientific Panel on Animal Health and Welfare

### Minutes of the 111<sup>th</sup> Plenary meeting

**Held on 11-12 June 2018, Parma, (Italy)**

**(Agreed on 20 June 2018)**

#### **Participants Plenary 11-12 June**

■ Panel Members

Anette Bøtner, Dominique Bicout, Sandra Edwards, Margaret Good, Christian Gortázar Schmidt, Virginie Michel, Miguel Angel Miranda, Søren Saxmose Nielsen, Simon More, Mohan Raj, Liisa Sihvonen, Hans Spoolder, Jan Arend Stegeman, Hans-Hermann Thulke, Antonio Velarde, Preben Willeberg, Christoph Winckler

■ Hearing expert

None

■ EFSA

ALPHA UNIT: Laura Amato, Sotiria-Eleni Antoniou, Inma Aznar, Alessandro Broglia, Denise Candiani, Sofie Dhollander, Andrey Gogin, Nikolaus Kriz, Frank Verdonck, Gabriele Zancanaro

APDESK UNIT: Remigio Marano

■ EUROPEAN COMMISSION (via teleconference)

DG SANTE: Francesco Berlingieri

#### **1. Welcome and apologies for absence**

The chair welcomed the meeting participants. Apologies were received from Andrew Butterworth, Paolo Calistri and Klaus Depner.

#### **2. Adoption of the agenda**

The agenda was adopted.

#### **3. Declarations of Interest of Scientific Panel Members**

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Declarations of Interests (DoI), EFSA screened the Annual (ADoI) and Specific Declaration of Interest (SDoI) provided by the Panel Members for the present meeting. The Panel members were asked to confirm that no further interests had to be declared in the context of the agenda of the meeting. No conflict of interest has been identified.

#### **4. Agreement of the minutes of the 110th Plenary meeting held on 6-7 March 2018, Parma, (Italy)**

The minutes of the previous plenary meeting have been adopted by written procedure.

#### **5. New Mandates**

##### **5.1. New Art31 Mandate: Request for a scientific report on Lumpy Skin Disease ([M-2018-0064](#))**

The draft report on exit strategy for LSD was presented. The main comments discussed were about the assessment approach and the methodology, in particular about the mathematical model to simulate spread and estimate the duration of vaccination to get rid of the disease. This will be explained in details in the updated draft. Preliminary results were presented but only as example, the WG will produce new figures in the following weeks. The report is foreseen to be approved by end of September, the advanced draft will be distributed for discussion at the plenary meeting in September.

#### **6. Scientific outputs submitted for possible adoption**

##### **6.1. Scientific opinion on African Swine Fever ([EFSA-Q-2018-00141](#))**

The draft Scientific Opinion was presented to the Panel and the comments were discussed. After some modifications mainly in the summary and conclusions, the Panel adopted the Opinion unanimously. Clarifications were made in the final opinion on the figure displaying the wild boar management zones after focal introduction, and the consistent use of terminology pertaining to density and wild boar abundance index.

##### **6.1. Revision of guidance of the assessment criteria for studies evaluating the effectiveness of stunning interventions regarding animal protection at the time of killing ([EFSA-Q-2017-00711](#))**

The guidance was discussed by the Panel after it underwent the process of Public Consultation (PC). About 60 comments were received from interested parties. All eligible comments were assessed by the Working Group. The discussed guidance was therefore an updated version which took into account the relevant comments received from the PC. The guidance was adopted unanimously by the Panel.

The technical report from the PC was also presented to the Panel members for their information. It includes a summary of the nature of the comments received and how they were addressed or reasons why they were not. All single received comments are also reported.

The guidance document and the technical report will be published on EFSA's website by mid-July 2018.

#### **7. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion**

None

#### **8. Update on ongoing mandates**

### **8.1. Scientific and technical assistance on avian influenza monitoring (Mar-Apr-May 2018) ([EFSA-Q-2017-00269](#))**

The main outcomes of the AI monitoring report on the reporting period Mar-May were presented to the Panel. HPAI A(H5N6) wild bird cases were detected from East to West Europe, suggesting multiple primary introductions via migrating wild birds. Compared to the same reporting period in 2017, there are fewer HPAI wild bird cases detected in 2018. A high proportion of raptor and scavenger cases were reported. Relative to the number of wild bird events, there have been few HPAI outbreaks in poultry. Close monitoring is required of HPAI A(H5N1) and A(H5N8) in Africa and the Middle East. The synergies of the monitoring reports with the update reports from the EURL and FAO were discussed. Member States will be contacted in Sep to collect their feedback on the monitoring reports.

### **8.2. Art. 31: Scientific and technical assistance on avian influenza surveillance ([EFSA-Q-2018-00469](#))**

The Panel was updated on the AI Standing Working Group activities on the drafting of a scientific report describing the data needs for future AI surveillance reports. The identified outcomes and their link with the data needs were presented and discussed. Reducing the aggregation of submitted data on temporal and geographic dimensions and the collection of denominator data (poultry populations) will be the first targets to improve the scientific quality of the analysis.

### **8.3. Art. 31: Scientific and technical assistance on African swine fever ([EFSA-Q-2018-00053](#))**

A brief update was provided to the Panel concerning the activities on the report of the standing working group on African swine fever, providing an analysis of the ASF epidemiology in the EU. The model to evaluate the different management strategies to stop the spread of the disease in wild boar populations was awarded to the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research. A short preliminary section on the methodology for the modelling approach will be discussed during the plenary in July.

## **9. Feedback from the Scientific Committee/Scientific Panels, EFSA, the European Commission**

### **9.1. EFSA including its Working Groups /Task Forces**

#### **9.1.1. BIOHAZ Panel scientific opinion Salmonella control in poultry flocks ([EFSA-Q-2017-00692](#))**

The Panel was informed on the WG activities related to TORs 3 and 4 of the mandate. For TOR3, a literature review on risk factors for Salmonella in laying hens is ongoing. The focus is on studies in the EU and equivalent high income countries, but could also consider relevant studies from other global regions if relevant production systems, management and housing practices apply. For TOR4, the literature review will underpin the assessment of risk factors related to management systems and practices and welfare indicators in laying hen and broiler flocks.

### 9.1.2. Data collection on animal diseases and surveillance (SIGMA) ([EFSA-Q-2018-00080](#))

The Panel was updated on the three main events related to the SIGMA project, i.e. (i) the Animal Health and Welfare Network meeting, held on 14-15 May 2018, and the related Event Report; (ii) the SIGMA Working Group (WG) meeting, held on 4-5 June 2018, where the feedback from the Network was discussed and included in the draft Scientific Report and; (iii) the kick-off meeting with the SIGMA Consortium, where the first deliverables and related deadlines were discussed. EFSA highlighted the possibility to use the Network Event report (available @ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/supporting/pub/en-1428>) as an illustrative document to refer to in case of any intercepted interest on this initiative. Member States were requested during the Network meeting to nominate a SIGMA ambassador. These persons recently received a questionnaire, aiming to generate an overview per country on the institutions involved in animal health data collections.

The next task of the SIGMA WG is to incorporate (a) the data model designed by the ENETWILD consortium to collect information on wild boar populations and (b) the data model (in progress) related to the avian influenza surveillance data collection. The achievement of having a single, comprehensive and standardised data model for each 'ad hoc' data collection (i.e. for each disease and related target population that EFSA is asked to deal with) will ensure full interaction and compatibility across the collected data and continuity over time.

## 9.2. European Commission

None

## 10. Any other business

### 10.1. Rapid Risk Assessment guidelines FAO

The Panel was informed on the workshop organised by FAO to develop guidelines on rapid risk assessments (Rome, 20-22 June). EFSA staff and two members of the AHAW 2018-2021 Panel will attend the workshop.

### 10.2. Upcoming training on uncertainty

The Panel was informed that an AHAW-specific training on uncertainty will be organised adjacent to the November Plenary.

### 10.3. Feedback from AHAW network meeting – AH session

The Panel was informed on the presentations given by Member State representatives during the AHAW Network meeting. The suggested case-control studies analysing the risk factors for ASF introduction into domestic pig holdings was briefly discussed.

### 10.4. Looking back at three years AHAW Panel: achievements and challenges

An overview of the AHAW achievements between July 2015 and June 2018 was presented, followed by a discussion on feedback collected from Panel members and EFSA staff. The main [outcomes](#) will be re-discussed during the inauguration plenary of the AHAW Panel 2018-2021.