



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

(13-14 FEBRUARY 2006)

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PARTICIPANTS

Bo Algers, Donald M. Broom, Michael Gunn, Joerg Hartung, David B. Morton, James Michael Sharp, Ronald J. Roberts, Georgios Theodoropoulos, Philippe Vannier, Martin Wierup, Marion Wooldridge, Per Have, Harry Blokhuis, Marina Verga, Dirk Pfeiffer (Monday 13 afternoon –videoconference),

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

European Commission (DG SANCO): S. Osaer; J. Fevrier (13 morning-videoconference) .

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 of this meeting.

Apologies were announced for Dirk Pfeiffer (13th morning and 14th), Xavier Manteca, Michel Pépin, Alejandro Schudel, Sanchez Vizcaino, Ilaria Capua and Stefano Cinotti.

The chairman announced the departure of M. Pittman from EFSA to the Commission services and acknowledged her work in supporting the AHAW Panel.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE XVII PLENARY MEETING

The minutes of the 17th Plenary Meeting held in Parma on 14-15th December, were unanimously adopted by written procedure on 2nd February 2006 and published on Internet (<http://www.efsa.eu.int>).

4. NEW MANDATES

Two new mandates have been received by EFSA. The Commission officials explained the scope of those mandates:

4.1. Rabies

The mandate on rabies was presented by J. Fevrier (video-conference from Brussels). The chairman for this WG was elected. EFSA and the chairman will start the activities as soon as possible in reply to the Commission. It was agreed that the kick-off meeting should take place in March.

4.2. Pig Welfare

The Commission official explained the mandate on welfare of sows and boars. Members of the AHAW Panel asked for clarification on some overlapping issues with the previous adopted opinion on October 2005 on welfare of piglets and weaners. The terms of reference were not clear enough to be accepted by the

Panel. Therefore EFSA secretariat was suggested to request a meeting with the appropriate Commission officials to discuss extensively the framework and details of this mandate. A chairman was elected in order to do the follow up of this request.

5. OPINIONS SUBMITTED FOR POSSIBLE ADOPTION

5.1. Stunning,

The chairman of the working group presented the report and the scientific opinion. The documents were discussed; some amendments were introduced, including editorial changes. The report was accepted as the basis for setting the conclusions and recommendations in the scientific opinion. The scientific opinion was adopted by unanimity.

5.2. Avian Influenza

5.2.1. Migratory birds and Avian Influenza

The chairman explained that this mandate was received on the 7th of November and since that date there have been 3 meetings of the Working group. The draft scientific report was presented by Dirk Pfeiffer in videoconference for possible comments on the different chapters. EFSA secretariat took notes of the several comments for amendments and it was explained that those comments will be discussed at the working group meeting on the 10th March.

Additionally it was agreed that a transversal working group will take place on the 20th March in order to finalize the scientific opinion for possible adoption at the next Plenary meeting on 28-29th March.

5.2.2. Avian Influenza update

The mandate for the update of the risk assessment on Avian Influenza should start as soon as the Opinion on migratory birds has been adopted.

5.3. Dairy by-products

The Chairman of the working group presented the scientific report, and the members of the Panel introduced several comments and amendments. It was agreed that a final meeting, including members of the AHAW Panel, should take place on the 6th March. The scientific opinion, based on the current report, will be presented for possible adoption in March 2006.

6. STATE OF PLAY OF THE SCIENTIFIC OPINIONS AND REPORTS

6.1. Welfare of calves

The chairman of the working group explained the state of play of this opinion. Next meeting will take place on 6th to 8th March in Brussels and will include field calves veterinarian experts so as to discuss some practical aspects of the Calves Welfare

risk assessment. The document is expected to be finalized in March and to be submitted to the members of the AHAW panel.

6.2. Brucellosis

H. Deluyker, on behalf of the chairman of the Working group, explained the state of play of the Opinion. The deadline for finalizing this opinion has been extended to July 2006 due to the need to evaluate all recent documentation received from the manufacturers of the diagnostic tests. Extra EFSA staff will support this task including an END starting on 15 March. Next WG meeting will take place on 21st March.

6.3. Captive birds

The chairman of the WG explained the situation of this report. Next meeting will take place on 16 February.

7. MISCELLANEOUS

7.1. Plenary meeting

Next plenary meeting will be held in Athens on the 28-29th March 2006. The Panel members accepted to start this XIXth plenary meeting on the 28th March at 09.00am to 18.00pm, and on 29th March from 09.00am to 17.00 pm.

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

A summary of recommendations for DG RTD was sent to the EFSA Scientific Committee by 20th January 2006.

7.3. Zoonoses mandate

Pia Makela, EFSA's coordinator for the Zoonoses report (published last December), presented a draft mandate addressed to AHAW Panel. After some questions the Panel agreed that the mandate was clear and the activities could start as soon as EFSA addresses this question.

7.4. Scientific Opinions in the web

EFSA secretariat informed that the IBR scientific opinion was published in the web. The FMD was adopted unanimously by written procedure on the 2nd February, and publication on the web is pending.

7.5. Publications

The discussion of a draft document about the interest and constraints of publication of scientific opinions and reports was postponed for the next plenary.