



**MINUTES OF THE XXVII<sup>TH</sup> PLENARY MEETING OF THE PANEL ON  
ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE -**

**26 AND 27 APRIL 2007**

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## **PARTICIPANTS**

Donald Broom, Mariano Domingo, Daniel Guemene, Matthias Greiner, Joerg Hartung, Per Have, Frank Koenen, David Morton, Christine Müller-Graf, Albert Osterhaus (27 April), Dirk Pfeiffer, Ronald Roberts, Mo Salman(26 April), Moez Sanaa, Philippe Vannier.

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION (DG SANCO):** Mrs S. Osaer and Mr. F. Reviriego,  
**INVITED OBSERVERS:** Mr H. Needham (ECDC), and on 27 April Dr Preben Willeberg (CVO DK)

**EFSA:** E. Franchi and H. Figoluszka (administrative staff AHAW Unit); S. Correia, O. Ribó, A. Afonso, F. De Massis, D. Candiani, E. Aiassa, J. Serratosa (Scientific Coordination AHAW Unit)

### **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 received from Bo Algers, Harry Blokhuis, Patrizia Costa, Michael Sharp, Martin Wierup and Marion Wooldridge (AHAW Panel) and Mr J. Pinto (FAO).

### **2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

The amended agenda was adopted.

### **3. PREVIOUS MINUTES ADOPTED BY WRITTEN PROCEDURE**

The minutes of the previous 26th Plenary Meeting held in Parma on 8-9<sup>th</sup> March 2007 were unanimously adopted by written procedure by the Panel members on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2007 and published on the web (<http://www.efsa.europa.eu>).

### **4. COMMISSION SERVICES (CS)**

#### **4.1. New Mandates**

An Opinion concerning animal welfare aspects of the killing and skinning of seals was presented by DG SANCO official and discussed. The Panel agreed to accept the mandate and the chairman was elected.

Additionally, it was announced a new EFSA mandate concerning the Community Summary report on “Trends and sources of zoonoses, zoonotic agents and antimicrobial resistance in the European Union in 2005”. This mandate will be circulated among Panel members and the procedure will be discussed at the next Plenary meeting in June.

### **5. OPINIONS AND REPORTS SUBMITTED FOR POSSIBLE ADOPTION/ACCEPTANCE**

#### **5.1. Newcastle Disease**

The Opinion was submitted for adoption following the written procedure on the 30<sup>th</sup> March. Minor amendments have been received from some Panel members and some WG experts, and the opinion was adopted unanimously.

### **5.2. Bluetongue**

It was agreed unanimously that the chairman of the AHAW panel for the discussion of this Report and Opinion should be handed over to the Vice-chair of the AHAW panel, Prof Don Broom, as proposed by the two vice-chairs Joerg Hartung and Don Broom, in order to facilitate the management of the discussions. A short chronology of all the meetings was explained including the last meeting held in Brussels (19 April) in the context of the Advisory Forum, where all Member States representatives of EU national risk assessment organisations, through their respective experts on bluetongue, were invited and asked to provide comments, to the draft scientific report and the drafted conclusions and recommendations.

The scientific Report was accepted. Two scientific opinions were submitted for adoption: one sent from the European Commission on the control of vectors and vaccines and the second one from EFSA concerning the origin and occurrence of the disease in the EU. After consideration of all comments presented by the EU Commission some revisions were proposed and then all conclusions and recommendations in both documents were unanimously adopted.

### **5.3. Avian influenza vaccines**

The Transversal WG Meeting took place on the 27 March, and the last WG Meeting was held on April 10 in order to finalise the Opinion, which was sent to the AHAW Panel on April 13. No major amendments were received by the EFSA secretariat. The Opinion was briefly discussed (due to the lack of time) and no concerns were expressed by Panel members or the Commission. It was decided to submit this opinion for adoption following the written procedure.

### **5.4. Framework for EFSA AHAW Risk Assessments**

It was decided to postpone the discussion for possible adoption at the next plenary meeting due to the absence of the chairman of this WG and the lack of time for discussion.

## **6. GENERAL DISCUSSION**

### **6.1 Recommendations from Prof. Willeberg as a CVO on the format and contents of the previously adopted AHAW's opinions.**

Prof. Preben Willeberg presented his points of view and on the EFSA's working procedures. A very fruitful dialogue followed and it was agreed that some points could be of interest to improve current tasks.

## **7. THE STATE OF PLAY OF THE SCIENTIFIC OPINIONS AND REPORTS**

### **7.1. Pig Welfare; 1) Tail biting; 2) Sows and Boars; 3) Fattening**

On May 9<sup>th</sup> a teleconference among the three chairmen is scheduled to discuss the main issues common to the three Scientific Reports (format, common sections, welfare measurable indicators, deadlines...).

7.1.1. **Tail biting WG:** the last meeting was held on 29/03/07. A consensus score was reached (in one of the two populations) on the RA evaluations produced by the experts individually. The next meeting on 7-8/05/07, is to be focused on the presentation of the first RA outcomes, the score agreement on the 2nd population, and the discussion on the Draft Scientific Report..

7.1.2. **Sows and Boars WG:** the last meeting was held on 17-18/04/07. An agreement on the score on the RA evaluations was reached for all the target populations. Next WG meeting is planned for 15/05/07 in order to present the RA process outcomes and discuss the Scientific Report. WG members will compile the conclusions and recommendations within next 27 May. Panel Members will be requested to participate to the Transversal Meeting of 8 June in Brussels. The submission of the scientific opinion to the panel members is foreseen for 13 June, for possible adoption during the Plenary Meeting of 27-28 June.

7.1.3. **Fattening WG:** at the last meeting on 12-13/04/07 a draft concerning the Food Safety section was presented. During the next meeting on 16/05/07 a further discussion is scheduled , based on the results of the RA process and draft conclusions. The report should be ready for discussion at the next Panel meeting in June.

## **7.2. Fish Welfare; 1) Atlantic Salmon; 2) Trout Species; 3) Carp Species; 4) sea bass and gilthead sea bream; 5) European eel**

7.2.1. ***Fish Welfare- Atlantic Salmon:*** The last meeting was held on 27-28/03/07 and the next WG meeting is scheduled for the 10-11 May. A transversal meeting has been scheduled for the 5/7/07. The WG discussed the issue of welfare indicators as requested by the Commission. The Opinion will be submitted to the panel for possible adoption in September.

7.2.2. ***Trout welfare group:*** The first meeting was held on 29/03/07. A table of contents was decided and tasks distributed. The next WG meeting is scheduled for the 25 April.

## **7.3. Welfare of Dairy Cows**

The first meeting with the WG members was held on 07/03/07. The approach to the Draft was discussed and a proposal of table of contents was agreed. Many experts in dairy cow management and genetic selection were contacted for their publications, in order to collect articles and unpublished data on the topic. Next meeting is planned for 14/05/07.

## **7.4. Tuberculosis in deer**

Two meetings have been held since the last Plenary: 12-13 March and 16-17 April. Data on deer production and control strategies has been collected through a questionnaire distributed to the EFSA's Zoonoses network. A systematic literature review has been started in order to collect data on TB diagnostic tests' sensitivity (Se) and specificity (Sp). The next meetings will be in Dublin, 7-8 of May and 18-19 June.

**7.5. Vector species and live stages of susceptible species as regards certain aquatic animal diseases: a) Fish; b) Molluscs; and c) Crustacea**

A letter accepting the TOR, the deadline and clarifying some issues was sent to the EU Commission. A teleconference was organized for the 18 April to discuss the Risk Assessment approach for these three opinions.

7.5.1. The first WG meetings for fish was held on the 30/3/07, and the plan of contents and Risk Assessment approach were discussed. The next WG meeting will be held on the 30 April

7.5.2. The first WG meeting for mollusc diseases was held on the 23/4/07 the plan of contents and Risk Assessment approach were discussed.

**8. MISCELLANEOUS.**

**8.1. Letter on the welfare animals during transport**

A draft letter will be circulated to the Panel members for possible acceptance following the written procedure or discussion at the next plenary meeting.

**8.2. Discussion on FEFAC letter: Calves welfare**

A draft answer letter has been prepared and will be circulated for possible acceptance following the written procedure or discussion at the next plenary meeting.

**8.3. Next Plenary Meeting**

The next plenary meeting will take place in Parma the next 27 June from 09.00 to 18.00h and 28 June from 08.30 to 15.30h.