

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

**29-30 APRIL 2009**

<b>1.</b>	<b>WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>PREVIOUS MINUTES ADOPTED BY WRITTEN PROCEDURE .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>COMMISSION SERVICES (CS) NEW MANDATES.....</b>	<b>2</b>
4.1.	NEW MANDATES FROM THE COMMISSION .....	2
<b>5.</b>	<b>SELF-MANDATES .....</b>	<b>2</b>
5.1.	SELF-MANDATE ON TICKS AS VECTORS OF ANIMAL DISEASES .....	2
<b>6.</b>	<b>OPINIONS AND REPORTS SUBMITTED FOR POSSIBLE ADOPTION/ ACCEPTANCE... 2</b>	
6.1.	STUNNING AND KILLING: TURBOT .....	2
6.2.	STUNNING AND KILLING: FARMED TUNA .....	3
6.3.	DAIRY COWS: IMPACT OF HOUSING AND MANAGEMENT ON DISEASES (CH. 17) .....	3
6.4.	WELFARE OF DAIRY COWS: SO BASED ON THE RA ON UDDER PROBLEMS.....	3
6.5.	WELFARE OF DAIRY COWS SO BASED ON RA ON METABOLIC AND REPRODUCTIVE PROBLEMS... 3	
6.6.	WELFARE OF DAIRY COWS SO BASED ON RA ON BEHAVIOUR, FEAR AND PAIN .....	3
<b>7.</b>	<b>WRITTEN COMMENTS ON THE STATE OF PLAY OF THE SCIENTIFIC OPINIONS AND REPORTS.....</b>	<b>3</b>
7.1.	SCIENTIFIC OPINION ON OVERALL DAIRY COW WELFARE ASSESSMENT .....	3
7.2.	BRUCELLA SUIIS .....	4
7.3.	DOCUMENT ON MODELLING IN ANIMAL HEALTH.....	4
7.4.	SELF-MANDATE ANIMAL WELFARE .....	4
7.5.	WELFARE OF BROILERS: IMPACT OF GENETIC SELECTION ON WELFARE OF BROILER CHICKENS AND WELFARE ASPECTS OF HOUSING AND MANAGEMENT OF BROILER BREEDERS .....	4
7.6.	EPIZOOTIC HAEMORRHAGIC DISEASE.....	4
7.7.	AFRICAN SWINE FEVER.....	4
<b>8.</b>	<b>MISCELLANEOUS .....</b>	<b>4</b>
8.1.	STATE OF THE NEW INFLUENZA VIRUS OUTBREAK IN MEXICO AND US.....	4
8.2.	PRESENTATION OF RISK ASSESSMENT APPROACHED IN PLANT HEALTH .....	5
8.3.	OPINIONS ADOPTED IN THE WEB.....	5
8.4.	FISH RESEARCH PRIORITIES .....	5
8.5.	NEXT PLENARY MEETING .....	5

## **PARTICIPANTS**

Bo Algers, Anette Bøtner, Donald Broom, Mariano Domingo, Joerg Hartung, Frank Koenen, David Morton, Christine Müller-Graf, Mohan Raj, Ronald Roberts, Mo Salman, Moez Sanaa, Mike Sharp; Philippe Vannier; Martin Wierup.

**OBSERVERS:** Caroline Plante (OIE), Stephane de La Rocque (FAO)

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION:** Xavier Pavard (DG SANCO)

**EFSA AHAW UNIT:** E. Franchi (administrative staff), M. Vilar, A. Afonso, F. Berthe, S. Correia, D. Candiani, F. De Massis, S. Dhollander, M. Georgiev, T. Grudnik, O. Ribó, J. Tarres and J. Serratos (scientific coordination).

### **1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No member declared any conflict of interest with regard to the items on the agenda. Apologies were received from the following panel members: Harry Blokhuis, Patrizia Costa, Matthias Greiner, Dirk Pfeiffer, Albert Osterhaus, and from Laurence Bonafos (European Commission).

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

The agenda was adopted.

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

The minutes of the previous 40<sup>th</sup> Plenary meeting held in Parma on the 18-19-20 March 2009 were unanimously adopted by written procedure by Panel members on 14 April 2009 and published on the web (<http://www.efsa.europa.eu>).

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

#### **4.1. New mandates from the Commission**

The official from the Commission informed the panel that no new mandates were ready to be discussed.

### **5. SELF-MANDATES**

#### **5.1. Self-mandate on ticks as vectors of animal diseases**

The proposal for a self-mandate for AHAW to review the geographical distribution of ticks which have proven involvement in the transmission of animal diseases and zoonosis in Eurasia and to provide a detailed update on the role of the tick vectors in the epidemiology of African Swine Fever (ASF) and Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) in Eurasia was accepted by the panel after considering all comments sent by Panel members.

The review on the role of ticks in the transmission of ASF in Eurasia will be complementary to the reports already provided by the Art. 36 project (CFP/AHAW/2007/02) and the mandate for AHAW on African Swine Fever (EFSA-Q-2009-00506). The panel agreed on the draft proposal to be proposed to the Executive Director.

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

#### **6.1. Stunning and Killing: Turbot**

A WG Meeting was held on 10-11 March 2009 and on 2-3 April. The Transversal WG Meeting was held in April by teleconference with the attendance of the Panel Members. The SO was

submitted to the panel, after the discussion and some amendments and the opinion was adopted by unanimity.

## **6.2. Stunning and Killing: farmed Tuna**

The Scientific opinion was discussed and after some clarifications, editorial changes, and revision of the conclusions and recommendations, the opinion was adopted by unanimity.

## **6.3. Dairy Cows: Impact of Housing and management on diseases (Ch. 17)**

The outcomes of the expert consultation on the impact of housing and management systems on infectious and parasitic diseases were commented and discussed. It was agreed that the section on longevity and welfare will be moved to Chapter 20 of the S. Report. Chapter 17 was discussed and modifications and amendments were suggested. It was agreed that some parts should be improved and some Tables amended and placed in the Annex of the Scientific Report with the support of some panel members. The amended version will be discussed for final acceptance in June plenary meeting.

## **6.4. Welfare of Dairy Cows: SO based on the RA on Udder Problems**

The conclusions and recommendations of the SO on Udder problems were discussed, from Chapter 13 onwards, as previous sections were already discussed and accepted in March. The scientific opinion was accepted for formal adoption in June.

The relevant conclusions and recommendations will be included into the fifth SO on the “Overall assessment of dairy cow welfare” (see below), which will be discussed for possible adoption in June.

## **6.5. Welfare of Dairy Cows SO based on RA on metabolic and reproductive problems**

The conclusions and recommendations of the SO on Metabolic and reproductive problems were discussed and accepted. The scientific opinion was accepted for formal adoption in June.

The relevant conclusions and recommendations will be included into the fifth SO on the “Overall assessment of dairy cow welfare” (see agenda item 7.1), which will be discussed for possible adoption in June.

## **6.6. Welfare of dairy cows SO based on RA on behaviour, fear and pain**

The conclusions and recommendations of the SO on behaviour, fear and pain were discussed and accepted. The scientific opinion was accepted for formal adoption in June. However several Panel Members expressed concerns that the animal welfare experts had been outvoted on one issue and considered that further action would have to be taken on this matter, perhaps a minority opinion or a letter concerning procedure in such circumstances

The relevant conclusions and recommendations will be included into the fifth SO on the “Overall assessment of dairy cow welfare” (see agenda item 7.1), which will be discussed for possible adoption in June.

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

## **7.1. Scientific Opinion on overall dairy cow welfare assessment**

The Conclusions and Recommendations from the 4 SOs based on the RAs will be identified, and integrated with the other conclusions and recommendations from the Scientific Report of a general nature or not related to any of the RAs, into the fifth SO on the “Overall assessment of dairy cow welfare”. The overall assessment will be submitted for discussion and possible adoption at the June plenary meeting.

## **7.2. Brucella suis**

The last meeting was held on 16/17 March 2009, and a webconference has been organised for the 12 May 2009. The Transversal meeting will take place on the 19 May 2009. The final version of the SO is planned to be presented during the Plenary in June for discussion and possible adoption.

## **7.3. Document on modelling in Animal health**

The third meeting will be held in May 18. The guidance is being developed with focus on the glossary, types of models and procedure for developing and incorporating quantitative models in the risk assessments.

## **7.4. Self-mandate Animal Welfare**

The final Report of the project for the development of the transport part of the guidelines was expected to be finished by June 2009, however the Institute dealing with the coordination of the project has been requesting to postpone the deadline. The call of proposals for the development of the Housing and Management RA Guidelines is under preparation and should be published by May 2009.

## **7.5. Welfare of broilers: impact of genetic selection on welfare of broiler chickens and welfare aspects of housing and management of broiler breeders**

The requested tasks for this mandate are to: **1)** collect, assess and collate all data available (published and unpublished) on genetics/welfare of broilers (to be available in February 2010), and **2)** to produce 2 scientific opinions on i) the impact of the selection of broiler breeder birds and ii) on housing and management of the grand-parent and parent stocks raised and kept for breeding purposes. A preparatory meeting was held on the 1 April with 3 Panel members and Commission officials. A letter to the Commission accepting the mandate was sent on April 7 2009. In order to allow the AHAW secretariat to start working on the WG expert's selection and meeting organization, chairmen were appointed:

## **7.6. Epizootic Haemorrhagic disease**

The mandate was presented by the Commission. The panel accepted the mandate and a chairman was nominated. In order to allow the Panel to examine the data collected through an Art 36 call for EHD (launched in 2008 and to be finalised in September 2009), the deadline of the mandate needed to be postponed from October to December 2009. A letter accepting the mandate and confirming this change was sent to DG SANCO on 7 April. The chairman for this mandate was appointed;

## **7.7. African Swine Fever**

The panel accepted the mandate and a chairman was nominated. A list of questions to be discussed and clarified at the kick-off meeting was circulated amongst the involved panel members and sent to the Commission. A letter of acceptance was sent to the Commission. The chairman for this mandate was appointed;

## **8. MISCELLANEOUS**

### **8.1. State of the new Influenza virus outbreak in Mexico and US**

A presentation concerning the current outbreak of influenza virus was made by Prof. Albert Osterhaus in a teleconference from 15.00-16.00 pm. EFSA's staff from the RA directorate attended, as well as Scientific Cooperation Assistance directorate and Communication. A discussion took place on the possible areas of EFSA's interests.

**8.2. Presentation of risk Assessment Approached in Plant Health**

The Panel agreed to invite the chairman and the HoU of Plant Health to make a presentation about the risk assessment methodology followed in the PLH Panel, however her attendance was postponed until the plenary meeting in September 2009.

**8.3. Opinions adopted in the web**

The five scientific opinion on fish Stunning and killing (salmon, trout, carp, seabass & seabream and eel) have been published in the EFSA web.

**8.4. Fish research priorities**

EFSA has prepared a working document to summarise the Panel recommendations on research needs as adopted in the scientific opinions on fish welfare (including the seven 2009 SOs on stunning and killing). This document was circulated and discussed during two meetings with panel members (web-conferences) and it was agreed to draft an AHAW statement. It was also agreed to include reference to the current lack of knowledge on stunning and killing methods in fish. A final version will be circulated for possible adoption in June.

**8.5. Next Plenary Meeting**

Next plenary meeting will take place in Parma on **3-4-5 June** (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> day from 09.00 to 18.00h and 3<sup>rd</sup> day from 8.30-15.30) in EFSA