

**ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE UNIT**

**MINUTES OF THE 44<sup>th</sup> PLENARY MEETING OF THE PANEL ON  
ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE**

**10-11 September 2009**

**PARTICIPANTS**

Anette Bøtner, Don Broom, Mariano Domingo, Frank Koenen, David Morton, Pascal Oltenacu, Albert Osterhaus, Fulvio Salati, Mo Salman, James Michael Sharp, Jan Arend Stegeman, Endre Szücs, Hans-Hermann Thulke, Philippe Vannier, Martin Wierup.

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

Xavier Pavard (DG SANCO)

**EFSA AHAW UNIT**

E. Franchi (administrative staff), A. Afonso, I. Alpigiani, F. Berthe, S. Correia Rodeia, D. Candiani, S. Dhollander, M. Georgiev, T. Grudnik, O. Ribó, J. Tarres and Per Have (scientific coordination).

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

The Chairman welcomed the Panel members to this meeting.

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Declarations of Interests, EFSA screened the Specific Declaration of interest (SDoI) filled in by the Panel members for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the beginning of this meeting.

Apologies were received from the following panel members: Marcus G. Doherr, Jörg Hartung, Linda Keeling, Simon More, Moez Sanaa, Anthony John Francis Webster and from Caroline Plante (OIE), Stephane de La Rocque (FAO), Laurence Bonafos (COM).

**2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

The agenda was adopted.

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

The minutes of the inaugural (43<sup>rd</sup>) Plenary meeting held in Parma on the 2-3 July 2009 were unanimously adopted by written procedure by Panel members on 27 July 2009 and published on the EFSA 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 a draft mandate has been prepared on the influence of genetic parameters on resistance to stress and infectious disease agents of commercial broilers. The mandate is intended to complement the mandate on the impact of genetic selection on broiler welfare. The draft was circulated to Panel members and discussed. The difference between general effects on stress/immune suppression (innate immunity) and specific resistance to infectious agents was highlighted during the discussion. The final wording is still pending in SANCO.

### **4.2. Discussion of a possible self-mandate on TB in wildlife**

Based on the draft report received in response to an Art. 36 grant a proposal for a possible self-mandate has been drafted. Some Panel members have been asked to comment in detail on the report and terms of reference. The main points of the report were presented to the Panel. The draft proposal for a self-mandate was discussed and a new proposal will be presented at the next plenary.

### **4.3. Discussion of a possible self-mandate on AHS**

Based on the report received in response to an Art. 36 grant a proposal for a possible self-mandate has been drafted. The main points of the report were presented to the Panel. The draft proposal for a self-mandate was discussed and a new proposal will be presented at the next plenary.

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

No opinions were submitted for adoption at this plenary meeting.

## **6. PROGRESS REPORTS AND DISCUSSION OF CURRENT MANDATES**

### **6.1. Self-mandate on “Good Practice in Conducting Scientific Assessments in animal health using modelling” (EFSA-Q-2009-408)**

The 5<sup>th</sup> meeting was held on 9 September. The new chairman for the WG, appointed at the inaugural meeting of the AHAW Panel July 2-3, gave a detailed presentation of the current status and explained the overall approach to respond to the mandate; the guidance document will be restructured considering as core the procedure to follow when incorporating a model in the scientific assessment. The glossary and the description of the different types of models will be annexed to the main guidance. The 3<sup>rd</sup> term of reference, concerning the criteria or questions to guide a WG through the process, will be integrated while describing the procedure. Comments and questions from Panel members will be considered by the WG before submitting the draft guidance to the Panel for adoption.

## **6.2. African swine fever (EFSA-Q-2009-506)**

The risk assessment approach was presented and comments were noted. The deadline for this mandate is 31/03/2010.

## **6.3. Tick-Vectors of African swine fever and Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (M-2009-124)**

The current state of play of the development of the opinion on tick vectors was presented by the Chairman. The working group composition, plan of activities and methodological approach were presented.

## **6.4. Epizootic Haemorrhagic disease (EFSA-Q-2009-503)**

The Chairman gave a short presentation of the background and status of the mandate and also included a short overview of the draft report from the Art. 36 grant. The second WG meeting was on the 8-9/9/09. The WG has discussed the draft final report of the Art. 36 grant CFP/EFSA/AHAW/2008/04 and the proposed risk assessment methodology. The deadline for this mandate is 31/12/09. The scientific report will be presented at the October plenary meeting and the opinion will be submitted for possible adoption at the December plenary.

## **6.5. Self-mandate on “Development of Animal Welfare Risk Assessment Guidelines (EFSA-Q-2007-168)”**

In line with a decision taken to cover this self-mandate in the framework of Art. 36, three Calls for Proposals have been launched on the development of Risk Assessment Animal Welfare Guidelines: 1) Stunning and Killing (final report received), 2) Transport (final report foreseen November 2009) and 3) Housing and Management (Call for proposal published, proposals under evaluation). A Working Group will be set up to elaborate these Guidelines from the Final Reports of the Art. 36 Grants.

A deadline for adoption was originally foreseen on September 2009. A request for a deadline extension to April 2011 was agreed by the Panel and it was also agreed that the output should be considered as a guidance. A letter will be sent to the EFSA's Executive Director requesting a new output type and deadline. A proposal on how to proceed was also presented to the Panel for discussion and it was decided to establish one working group for the entire mandate. The document with the scope, objectives and main contents of the guidelines will be prepared in order to be submitted to the Panel for discussion during the next Plenary on 28-29 October. A Panel member was proposed as Chairman for the WG.

## **6.6. Mandate on the impact of the genetic selection of broilers (M-2009-0087)**

The requested tasks for this mandate (M-2009-0087) are to: 1) collect, assess and collate all data available (published and unpublished) on genetics/welfare of broilers (deadline: February 2010); and 2) to produce two 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 (deadline: June 2010). A preparatory meeting was held on the 1st of April with 3 Panel members, EFSA officers and Commission officials. Discussion also covered possible future mandate on resistance to diseases. A letter to the

Commission accepting the mandate was sent on April 7<sup>th</sup>. The chairmen for both Working Groups were appointed: Jörg Hartung (broiler breeders) and David Morton (broilers). The two Working Groups have been created and the first meeting was held from June 30<sup>th</sup> to July 2<sup>nd</sup>. The second WG meeting is scheduled on September 24-25. In collaboration a public call for data was opened in July with a deadline for October 15. A Technical Meeting with stakeholders will be held on September 23. A call for proposals under Art. 36 was launched in June. One proposal was received by EFSA and is evaluated for funding. The grant recipient will assess the data collected to prepare systematic review by the working groups. Deadline for the delivery of grant outcomes is by end of January 2010.

## **7. OTHER ISSUES**

### **7.1. New EFSA journal and templates for opinions**

A detailed presentation of the new EFSA journal aiming at increasing the visibility of EFSA was given to the Panel. It was clarified that reports from Art. 36 grants will not be published in the journal. The purpose of the journal, target audience and effect on citation and scientific merit were discussed. Strong concerns were raised on the lack of possibility to acknowledge staff and WG members. The new journal should not prevent further publication of scientific material generated in opinions and EFSA fully encourages such publication. Supplements could also be published whenever feasible.

### **7.2. Update on pandemic influenza H1N1**

Albert Osterhaus gave a presentation on influenza viruses in birds and mammals with a focus on pandemic viruses. Possible implications for animal health were discussed in the light of the current human pandemic.

### **7.3. Bovine besnoitiosis**

Mariano Domingo gave a short presentation on bovine besnoitiosis as an emerging disease in Europe (Portugal, Spain, France, Germany and Italy). If no measures are applied it is possible that the disease may spread further in Europe. It is a protozoan disease and cattle is an intermediate host. Protozoan cysts multiply in the skin with an inflammatory response. The agent is transmitted by flies or iatrogenically. It is NOT a zoonosis. Epidemiology, transmission and diagnostics need to be investigated.

### **7.4. Any other business**

Meeting dates for plenaries in December 2009 and December 2010 were discussed and it was agreed to fix 1-2 December 2009 and 1-2 December 2010.

A discussion on topics for possible future mandates focused on the need for dialogue with both SANCO, DG RES and other DGs to better anticipate upcoming issues.