

## **ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE UNIT**

# **MINUTES OF THE 49<sup>th</sup> PLENARY MEETING OF THE PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE**

**26-27 April, 2010, web-meeting**

## **1. PARTICIPANTS**

### **AHAW PANEL MEMBERS**

Anette Bøtner, Don Broom, Mariano Domingo, Marcus G. Doherr, Jörg Hartung, Linda Keeling, Frank Koenen, Simon More, David Morton (April 27), Pascal Oltenacu, Albert Osterhaus (April 26), Fulvio Salati, Mo Salman, Moez Sanaa, James Michael Sharp, Jan Arend Stegeman, Endre Szücs, Hans-Hermann Thulke, Philippe Vannier, Martin Wierup.

### **EFSA AHAW UNIT**

Scientific officers: Ana Afonso, Franck Berthe, Sandra Correia Rodeia, Sofie Dhollander, Milen Georgiev, Per Have, Oriol Ribó, Jordi Tarres, Diana Quiliquini.

Administrative assistant: E. Franchi.

### **EUROPEAN COMMISSION (DG SANCO)**

Marina Marini (Unit 03, Science and Stakeholders), Francisco Reviriego Gordejo, Sandra Mesman (Unit D1, Animal Health), Laurence Bonafos, Judit Krommer (Unit D5, Animal Welfare), Sebastien Goux (Unit G1, GMO)

## **2. OPENING AND APOLOGIES**

Because of air traffic disruption related to the volcanic eruption in Iceland, the 49<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting of the AHAW Panel was organised as a web-meeting. The Chairman welcomed the Panel members and other attendants. He apologized for the possible difficulties that may have arisen from converting the plenary to the web format. He welcomed Marina Marini as the new SANCO interface representative and thanked Xavier Pavard for his achievements with the Panel.

Apologies were received from OIE and FAO observers.

## **3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

The draft agenda was reduced to the following items: adoption of the draft Opinion on Q-fever, presentation of new mandates on welfare indicators for dairy cows, and guidance on health and welfare of GM-animals. The agenda was adopted.

## **4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Declarations of Interests (DoI), EFSA screened the Annual and Specific Declaration of Interest (SDoI) provided by the Panel Members for the

present meeting. No interests were declared in the SDoIs submitted in relation to the current agenda but the previously declared interests were still considered valid for this plenary<sup>1234</sup>. The Panel Members confirmed that no further declarations of interests were to be made in the context of the adopted agenda.

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

The minutes of the 48<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting of the AHAW Panel held in Parma on 11-12 March, 2010 were unanimously adopted by a written procedure by Panel members on 31 March, 2010 and published on the EFSA web (<http://www.efsa.europa.eu>).

## **6. NEW MANDATES**

### **6.1. Draft mandate for a scientific opinion concerning the use of animal-based measures to assess the welfare of dairy cows**

The Commission intends to adopt a more outcome-based approach to animal welfare legislation while maintaining some prescriptive rules where necessary. A draft mandate for a scientific opinion concerning the use of animal-based measures to assess the welfare of dairy cows was presented and discussed. The background of this request is the EU legislation on the protection of animals kept for farming purposes (Council Directive 98/58/EC), the Community Action Plan on the Protection and Welfare of Animals 2006-2010, the Welfare Quality® project, and the EFSA Scientific Report and Scientific Opinions on the effects of farming systems on dairy cow welfare and disease. The overall objective for the Commission is to move from a prescriptive legislation based on resource and management inputs towards a flexible legislation based on welfare parameters to be measured directly on the animals. This draft mandate constitutes a first request for a scientific opinion on dairy cows and

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<sup>1</sup> In the SDoI filled for the January plenary meeting of the AHAW Panel, Dr. P. Vannier declared the following interest: oyster mortality. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on declarations of interests and implementing documents thereof, the interest was deemed to represent a potential conflict of interest. Pursuant to EFSA's Procedure on Identifying and Handling Declarations of Interest point C.III.b, the said expert should not chair discussions related to the mandate on oyster mortality.

<sup>2</sup> In the SDoI filled for the January plenary meeting of the AHAW Panel, Prof. A. Osterhaus declared the following interest: pandemic influenza virus. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on declarations of interests and implementing documents thereof, the interest was deemed to represent a potential conflict of interest. Pursuant to EFSA's Procedure on Identifying and Handling Declarations of Interest point C.III.b, the said expert should not chair discussions related to pandemic influenza virus.

<sup>3</sup> In an ADoI submitted before the January plenary meeting of the AHAW Panel, Prof. D. Broom declared the following interest: consultancy for animal transport. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on declarations of interests and implementing documents thereof, the interest was deemed to represent a potential conflict of interest. Pursuant to EFSA's Procedure on Identifying and Handling Declarations of Interest point C.III.b, the said expert should not chair discussions related to the mandate on animal transport.

<sup>4</sup> In an ADoI submitted before the January plenary meeting of the AHAW Panel, Prof. J. Hartung declared the following interest: consultancy for animal transport. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on declarations of interests and implementing documents thereof, the interest was deemed to represent a potential conflict of interest. Pursuant to EFSA's Procedure on Identifying and Handling Declarations of Interest point C.III.b, the said expert should not chair discussions related to the mandate on animal transport.

similar requests should follow for pigs and poultry. The request is to 1) identify how the assessment protocols suggested by the Welfare Quality® project cover the main hazards identified in EFSA scientific opinions (and vice-versa); 2) identify how animal-based measures could be used to ensure the fulfilment of the recommendations of EFSA scientific opinions on the welfare of dairy cows; 3) identify which relevant animal welfare issues cannot be assessed using animal-based measures for dairy cows and what kind of alternative solutions are available to improve the situation; and 4) list main factors in the various husbandry systems which have been scientifically proven to have negative effects on the welfare of dairy cows.

## **6.2. Request for a revision of the guidance for risk assessment on GM animals and derived food and feed, including animal health and welfare aspects (EFSA-Q-2010-00698)**

On 26 March, 2010, the European Commission sent a mandate requesting EFSA to develop guidance on animal health and welfare aspects of GM animals in addition to the guidance on safety assessment of GM animal-derived food and feed. EFSA has accepted the mandate. In accordance to its policy on transparency, EFSA will organise a public consultation on the draft guidance of animal health and animal welfare aspects of GM animals. All relevant animal health and welfare aspects will be reflected in the guidance on GM animal-derived food and feed safety assessment. In addition, certain animal health and welfare aspects may need to be coordinated with the guidance on environmental risk assessments currently developed by the EFSA GMO Panel, which should be finalised by the end of 2011. Considering the above points, and in order to deliver a comprehensive guidance package, EFSA has proposed 31 December, 2011 as a deadline for this mandate.

## **7. OPINIONS SUBMITTED FOR POSSIBLE ADOPTION**

### **7.1. Q fever (EFSA-Q-2010-00010)**

The draft opinion was developed on the bases of the Q fever WG experts' contributions. It includes data from the EFSA/ECDC Zoonoses Reports (2006, 2007, 2008), an ad hoc consultation with EU MS, published scientific literature, and additional information provided by the Q fever WG experts and ECDC in relation to public health. The draft opinion was presented and discussed by the AHAW Panel during its March plenary meeting. Proposals of conclusions and recommendations were drafted at a transversal meeting with some Panel Members in April 2010. A draft of the Q fever opinion was submitted for adoption to the AHAW Panel during this plenary. The Panel had a thorough discussion of the conclusions and recommendations and the opinion was adopted unanimously on 27 April, 2010. A specific chapter and relevant conclusions on food safety were adopted by the BIOHAZ Panel on 21 April, 2010 and were incorporated into the opinion.

## **8. OTHER ISSUES**

### **8.1. Self-mandate of the Scientific Committee on statistical approaches to assess adverse or biologically relevant effects**

Mo Salman was nominated as a representative of the AHAW Panel in the WG that will be formed by the Scientific Committee.

### **8.2. Self-mandate of the Scientific Committee on risk assessment terminology in food and feed safety**

Hans-Hermann Thulke was nominated as a representative of the AHAW Panel in the WG that will be formed by the Scientific Committee.

### **8.3. Letter from EFFAB with comments on the dairy cow opinion.**

The letter was circulated to the Panel Members for comments. A draft response will be discussed during the next plenary meeting.

### **8.4. Comments on EMA Reflection Paper on Data Requirements for Swine Influenza Vaccines against Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 Influenza**

EFSA received a request to comment on the reflection paper produced by EMA/CVMP, specifically, to comment on the data requirements for swine influenza vaccines against pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza. The request was forwarded to the WG experts on potential implications of the current H1N1 pandemic influenza for animal health (EFSA-Q-2009-00935). The WG prepared a working document and circulated it to the Panel for discussion. A response letter will be drafted on the basis of the comments received from both bodies.