

PARMA, 18-19/11/2010

**Minutes of the
5th Meeting of the EFSA Scientific Network on
BSE-TSE**

Parma, 18-19 November 2010

Agenda

Item	Topic
1	Welcome and apologies
2	Adoption of the agenda
4	Briefing on Action Points from previous meeting
3	Briefing by Members and Observers on BSE-TSE related activities since last meeting occurring in their respective Countries
5	Update on EFSA's Policy for Networking with Member States
6	Current and recent BSE-TSE activities of EFSA's Panel on Biological Hazards
7	Space and Time distribution of animal TSEs
8	The study of the Zoonotic potential of TSEs
9	Presentation of the newly formed French National Agency for Health Security (ANSES)
10	New presentations by attending Network Members and Observers on activities in the BSE-TSE risk assessment filed
11	The EFSA model used for the revision of the BSE monitoring regime in some EU Member States
12	Presentation on the functioning of electronic tools available to the Network: The EFSA Scientific Extranet and the Information Exchange Platform.
13	Future direction of the Scientific Network on BSE-TSE
14	Date and venue for next meeting and AOB
15	Closure of the meeting

Participants

Members:

Austria (Herbert Budka), Belgium and Luxembourg (Stefan Roels), Bulgaria (Ilian Boykovski), Cyprus (Penelope Stylianou), Denmark (Larry G Paisley), Estonia (Olga Piirik), Finland (Hannele Tapiovara), France (Rozenn Saunier), Germany (Alexandra Fetsch), Greece (Maria Mavropoulou), Hungary (Zsuzsanna Szogyenyi), Ireland (John Griffin), Italy (Giuseppe Ru), Latvia (Edvins Olsevskis), Lithuania (Petras Maciulskis), the Netherlands (Aline De Koeijer), Poland (Miroslaw Polak), Romania (Theodora Vasile), Slovenia (Ivan Ambrozic), Slovak Republic (Janiuk Lubomir), Spain (Beatriz Muñoz Urtado), Sweden (Maria Noremark), United Kingdom (Patrick Burke),

Observers:

Switzerland (Peter Braam), Croatia (Branco Sostaric), the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (Spase Donovan), Turkey (Salih Yurtalan), Albania (Artan Belegu), Bosnia and Herzegovina (Senad Prasovic), Kosovo under UN Security Council Resolution 1244 (Ilijana Zymberaj), Montenegro (Aleksander Stamatovic), Serbia (Slavica Nikolic Stajkovic).

EFSA

Marta Hugas (Chair 1st day, Head of Unit, Biological Hazards Unit), Luis Vivas-Alegre (Chair 2nd day, Biological Hazards Unit), Torben Nilsson (Secretary to the Advisory Forum), Goran Kumric (Legal and Policy Affairs Unit), Fulvio Barizzzone (Biological Hazards Unit), Pietro Stella (Biological Hazards Unit).

Minutes

1. Opening, welcome and apologies for absence

The chair welcomed the participants to the 5th meeting of the EFSA Scientific Network on BSE-TSE. Apologies were received from Czech Republic (Pavel Vodrazka), Portugal (Maria Jose Pinto), Norway, European Commission Directorate-General for Health and Consumers (Martial Plantady), Directorate General Research (Vicky Lefevre and Heinz Schimmel).

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted including two additional items (numbers 9 and 12 of the Agenda included in page 1).

3. Briefing by EFSA on Action Points from the 2009 Network meeting

The chair informed to the Network Members and Observers on the state of the specific actions identified at the previous Network: Updating the contact details of Members and Observers, consideration on potential new Observers and access to the EFSA Information Exchange Platform.

4. Briefing by Members and Observers on BSE-TSE related activities since the 2009 Network meeting

All Members and Observers addressed to the group the details on their activities since the last Network meeting. Special emphasis was made in the epidemiological situation of the different countries both in bovines and small ruminants. The representative from Belgium and Luxembourg highlighted the issue of disinfecting closing laboratories previously employed for analysis of TSEs, and France informed the Network that some information in France was available. She will provide this information to any one interested.

5. Update on EFSA's Policy for Networking with Member States

The current EFSA policy for Networking with Member States was presented and some examples of ongoing Networks and details on the activities that can be developed in the frame of the Networks were provided. The different platforms in place for interaction between EFSA and the Member States (MSs), including the Information Exchange Platform, were introduced.

6. Current and recent BSE-TSE activities of EFSA's Panel on Biological Hazards

The work carried out by the BIOHAZ Panel on BSE and other TSEs since the last Network meeting was presented. Details included description of the Scientific Opinions and Technical Reports adopted, and both the ongoing and future tasks.

7. Space and Time distribution of Animal TSEs

The Italian representative presented an epidemiological review of the trend of Classical BSE, Atypical BSE, Classical Scrapie and Atypical Scrapie in different countries (i.e. EU Member States, European countries and non-European countries).

8. The study of the Zoonotic Potential of TSEs

Professor Herbert Budka (Austria), in his capacity of Vice-Chair of the BIOHAZ Panel, presented a review of the present tools employed for the study of the zoonotic potential of TSEs. He also summarised the scientific evidence and results of studies investigating the transmissibility of animal TSEs to humanised animal models. The aim of his presentation was to provide some useful background to the reader of the Scientific Opinion on the link between animal and human TSEs, which will be adopted by the BIOHAZ Panel in December 2010¹.

9. The French Agency ANSES

The French representative presented to the group the structure and functioning of the newly formed French Agency ANSES, that is a fusion of several agencies among which includes the previous organisation AFSSA (French Food Safety Agency).

10. Presentations by Network Members and Observers on the activities in the field of BSE-TSE risk assessment

Both Network Members and Observers joining the meeting for the first time delivered a presentation with details on the BSE-TSE risk assessment in their countries. Representatives from Estonia, Hungary, Turkey, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo under UN Security Council Resolution 1244, Montenegro and Serbia presented in this occasion. The presentations focused on the ministerial and administrative structure of their governments where BSE and TSE issues are dealt with. Details on their particular epidemiological situation, policies on Specified Risk Materials and feed controls were also presented, in particular for non-EU countries.

11. The EFSA model used for the revision of the BSE monitoring regime in EU Member States

Dr. Aline de Koeijer (the Netherlands), in her capacity as a Member of the BIOHAZ *ad hoc* Working Group on a Scientific Opinion on the second revision of the BSE monitoring regime in some EU MSs, presented the principles and functioning of the model used by EFSA for the evaluation of the BSE monitoring regime in the EU MSs. This methodology has been previously applied for the revision of the monitoring regime of some EU MSs, and is currently used in the ongoing work of a recent request for the revision of the EU monitoring regime in 25 EU MSs. The aim of her presentation was to provide some useful background to the reader of the Scientific Opinion on the second revision of the BSE monitoring regime in some EU MSs, which will be adopted by the BIOHAZ Panel in December 2010².

12. Presentation on the functioning of electronic tools available to the Network: The EFSA Scientific Extranet and the Information Exchange Platform.

Practical information on accession EFSA's Science-net was provided. The structure of the EFSA's Information Exchange Platform (IEP) was explained, including examples on the information that can be found in this platform. Members and Observers of the Scientific Network on BSE-TSE will be granted access to the IEP.

¹ Scientific Opinion on any possible epidemiological or molecular association between TSEs in animals and humans published on 19th January 2011: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/1945.htm>

² Scientific Opinion on second update on the risk for human and animal health related to the revision of the BSE monitoring regime in some Member States published on 13th December 2010: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/1946.htm>

13. Future direction of the Scientific Network on BSE-TSE

The Scientific Network on BSE-TSE has continuously expanded the inclusion of more MSs and with the formal attendance and participation of the EU Candidate and Potential Candidate Countries. The Network Members and Observers consider that future developments of the Scientific Network on BSE-TSE should be proportional to the future interest in the field of BSE-TSE.

The Italian representative proposed to follow with detail the epidemiological trend of the disease in the EU MSs and in the Candidate and Potential Candidate countries to present a summary report for each meeting. It was agreed to request this information on first instance to the European Commission, should this not be already available in the European Commission yearly reports.

The group agreed that the scope of the EFSA Scientific Network on BSE-TSE is on risk assessment, and that issues of Risk Management (e.g. training in control measures) are to be addressed through the European Commission.

14. Date and venue for next meeting and AOB

The next meeting will take place in the second half of 2011, dates to be arranged. The venue of the meeting will be identified later on. Suggestions by MSs to host the meeting are welcomed.

15. Closure of the meeting

The meeting was closed at 12.30 pm.