European Food Safety Authority

The Animal Health and Welfare (AHAW) Unit

ongoing activities and forecast

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AHAW Unit

The AHAW Panel

- The EFSA Panel on Animal Health and Welfare (AHAW) provides scientific advice to EU decision makers on specific questions relating to animal health and welfare issues, primarily in food producing animals, including aquatic animals.

- The AHAW Panel addresses health risks at the human-animal ecosystems interfaces.

- Ethical, socio-economic, cultural and religious aspects are outside the Panel remit.

The AHAW Panel

- The core activity of the AHAW Panel is to assess animal production systems and practices, and the conditions pertaining to animal health and welfare to ensure the safety of food at an EU level.

- The AHAW Panel has a unique capacity and expertise to address non-food related health and welfare questions.

- It benefits greatly from access to a network of world class experts and cooperation with other agencies operating in the field of animal health and animal welfare.

The AHAW Panel



The AHAW Unit

- Scientific and administrative support to the AHAW Panel and its ad hoc working groups
  - Plenary meetings of Panel
  - Working group meetings
  - Collaboration with BIOHAZ, ZOONOSES, EMRISK, AMU
- Cooperation with Member States
  - AHAW scientific network for risk assessment
  - Grants and procurements (Art. 36)
  - Public consultations
- Close collaboration with European Commission (Sanco D1, D5), EU Agencies (ECDC, EMA) and other international organisations (OIE, FAO)

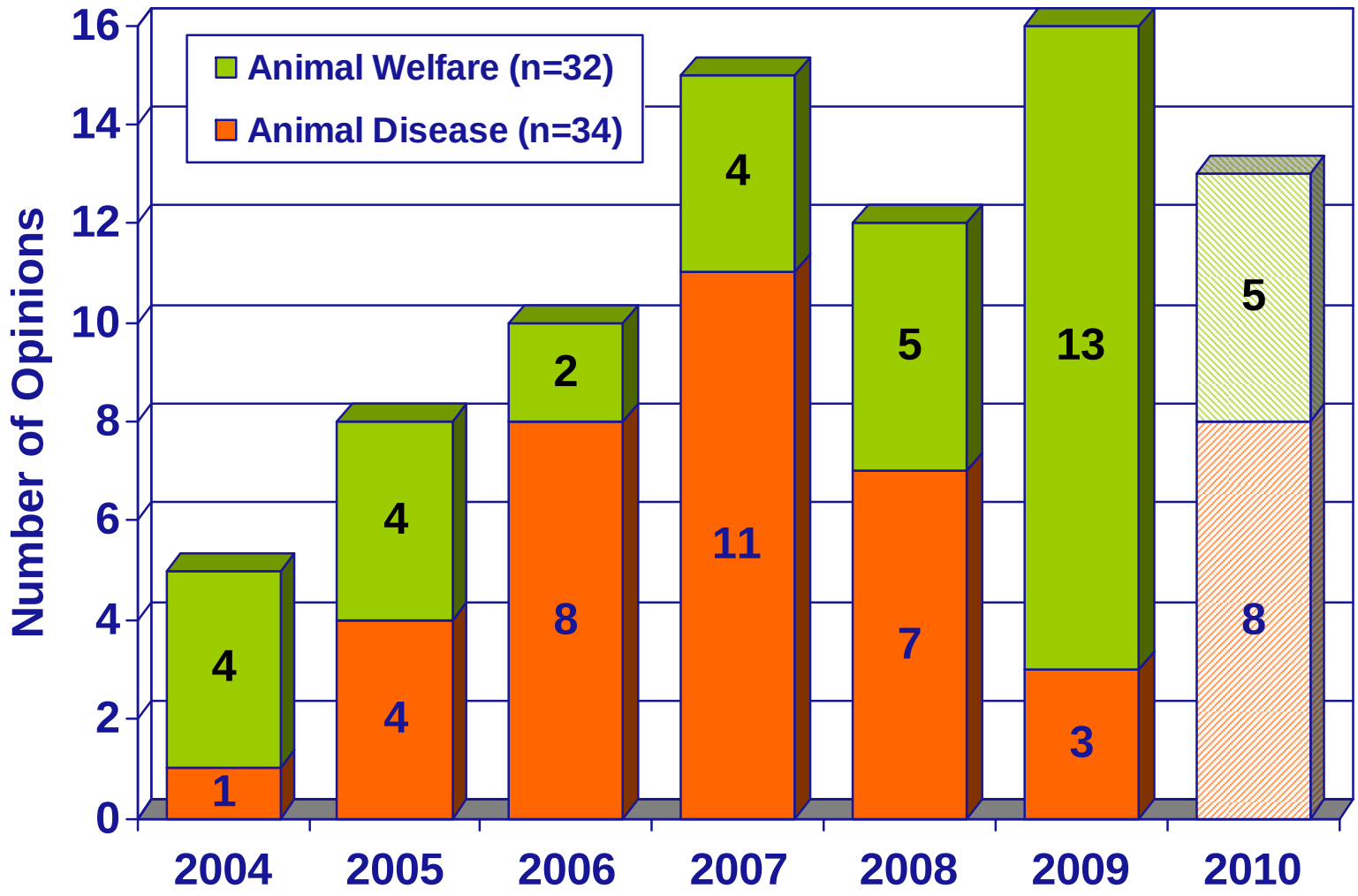
Position paper adopted November 2008

- Role of EFSA in contributing to the improvement of animal health in Europe
- Sets out EFSA's objectives to further reinforce EFSA's integrated approach in the animal health area in the context of the EU Animal Health Strategy

EFSA and the animal health strategy

- To deliver the best scientific advice at the right time and in the most appropriate manner for risk managers
- To decrease the time needed for risk assessment and scientific advice on animal health and welfare by enabling the rapid access to and use of already collected data by data exchange between EFSA and the EC
- To provide scientific support for EU surveillance programmes for animal diseases, zoonoses and animal welfare as well as analysing the results of surveillance
- To provide scientific support for EU crisis preparedness
- To avoid unnecessary divergence in opinions between EFSA and MS competent authorities or other relevant EU institutions
- To mobilise and coordinate scientific expertise throughout the EU on issues within the remit of EFSA

Scientific Opinions since 2004



Impact on the UE legislation

AHAW Scientific Opinion	Legislation
Avian Influenza: AHW aspects (2005), Migratory birds (2006), AI Vaccines (2007), Vaccination of zoo birds (2007), Risk introduction in poultry holdings (2008)	Directive 2005/94: Community measures for AI; and Decision 2006/7: suspending the import of non-treated feathers
AHW risks of the import of Captive Birds from third countries (2006)	Decision 2007/21: Import of captive-bred birds (wild birds banned) from authorised countries; and Regulation 318/2007: conditions for imports of certain birds
Rabies (2006), Echinococcosis (2007), Ticks (2007)	Regulation 454/2008 amending Reg. 998/2003 (EC) on health requirements applicable to the non-commercial movements of pet animals.

Impact on the UE legislation

AHAW Opinion	Legislation	Follow-up
Transport Welfare (2004). Microclimate transport (2004)	Regulation 1/2005, protection of the animals during transport	"… the Commission shall present a Report to the EP … taking into account scientific evidence". Current mandate on AW during transport
Stunning/killing of main commercial species (2004); Stunning/killing of minor specs (2006)	Council Regulation (EC) 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing	Recommendations on farm fish are not included. 7 SOs on stunning and killing of farmed fish were adopted in 2009
Vectors species for aquatic disease (3 SOs in 2007)	Com. Regulation (EC) 1251/2008 …laying down a list of vector species	Opinion on susceptible species was adopted in 2009 leads to amending the Council Directive 2006/88

Recent & ongoing work (Animal Health)

Adopted in 2010

- Risk of introduction of African Swine Fever
- Q fever

Ongoing

- Ticks and vector-borne diseases (ASF, CCHF)
- Novel influenza A/H1N1:
  - Emergence of possible new pandemic strains
  - AH implications of current H1N1 pandemic
- Oyster abnormal mortality
- Guidance on animal health and welfare aspects of GM-animals
- Meat inspection (*health & welfare*)

Recent & ongoing work (Animal Welfare)

- Welfare aspects of the genetic selection in standard broilers
- Housing & management of broiler breeders, parents and grandparents
- Animal welfare during transport – *all species*
- Practice of harvesting feathers from live geese
- Risk assessment guidelines for animal welfare
- Outcome based indicators for animal welfare: dairy cows

Art. 36 collaboration with Member States

- 2007
  - Classical swine fever, African swine fever, African horse sickness and arthropod disease vectors
- 2008
  - Epidemiology of different agents causing disease in aquatic animals
  - Tuberculosis in wildlife in the EU
  - Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever and Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease
- 2009
  - Collection of data on welfare and health aspects of genetic selection in broiler chickens

Consultations and Technical Meetings

- 2010 (Fall)
  - Meat inspection
- 2010
  - Harvesting feathers from live birds
    - *Technical meeting in May 2010*
    - *Public consultation planned for August 2010*
- 2009
  - Genetic selection in broilers
    - *Technical meeting in September 2009*
    - *Public consultation in April 2010*
- 2008
  - Welfare aspects of fish in husbandry systems

The AHAW Scientific Network

- The Scientific Network for Risk Assessment in Animal Health and Welfare was established in 2009
- The terms of reference are:
  1. to facilitate harmonisation of animal health and welfare assessment practices and methodologies
  2. to enhance exchange of information and data between EFSA and member states
  3. to achieve synergies in animal health and welfare risk assessment activities
- In 2010, the AHAW Scientific Network will hold a first meeting and a workshop on modeling and use of models in risk assessment for animal health

Thank you very much for your attention