



EFSA
European Food Safety Authority

Brussels, 13th July 2004

MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON REPORTING ON ZONOOSES **Held in Brussels on 4 May 2004**

AGENDA:

1. Opening of the meeting
Dr Herman Koëter, Deputy Executive Director, Director of Science
2. Information and discussion on EFSA's plans to develop the zoonoses reporting system
 - setting up a Task Force (consultation forum) and working groups
 - Contracting with a zoonoses collaborator (invitation to tender: <http://www.efsa.eu.int> under procurement)
 - zoonoses database and internet reporting system
 - 'monitoring of zoonoses' on EFSA's website
3. Review of the presentation of the Community summary report on zoonoses
 - Discussion
 - Setting up a working group
4. Review of the of the reporting tables and manual
 - Discussion
 - Setting up a working group
5. Information on items raising from the Commission working group on zoonoses on 5 April 2004
DG SANCO
 - Priorities for the harmonisation of sampling schemes
 - Preparation of draft sampling schemes
6. Any other business

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PARTICIPANTS

National contact persons for zoonoses:

Peter Much (Austria), Hein Imberechts (Belgium), Christodoulos Pipis (Cyprus), Petr Kucinsky (Czech Republic), Birgitte Borck (Denmark), Tine Hald (Denmark), Piret Priisalu (Estonia), Terhi Laaksonen (Finland), Riitta Maijala (Finland), Pierre-Alexandre Beloeil (France), Matthias Hartung (Germany), Dimitris Vourvidis (Greece), Katalin Szabo (Hungary), Balazs Toth (Hungary), Dorothy Bailey (Ireland), Alma Dudgeon (Ireland), Lisa O'Connor (Ireland), Paolo Calistri (Italy), Antonia Ricci (Italy), Ugo Santucci (Italy), Dace Santare (Latvia), Algis Dranseika (Lithuania), Joseph Schon (Luxembourg), Merete Hofshagen (Norway), Marek Kukier (Poland), Dariusz Wasyl (Poland), Sofia Rebelo Quintans (Portugal), Milos Juras (Slovak Republic), Katica Florjanc (Slovenia), José Alejo Alcantara del Barrio (Spain), José Andrés Gil Berduque, (Spain), Sofia Boqvist (Sweden), Nils Fall (Sweden), Harry Bailie (the United Kingdom)

Apologies:

Rob van Oosterom (the Netherlands)

EFSA:

Herman Koëter, Pia Mäkelä, Marta Hugas, Jordi Serratos Vilageliu (Science)
Thierry Beniflath, Gwenaëlle Quivy, Bertrand De Beanst (Information Technology)
Sylvie Daloze, Angela Cohen. (Administrative staff)

European Commission

Jean-Charles Cavitte, Sarolta Idei, Frans Karcher, Taina Säteri (DG Health and Consumer Protection, DG SANCO).

Community Reference Laboratory (CRL)

Annemarie Käsbohrer (BfR Berlin)

Observes:

Katrin Schmidt (WHO), Jurg Danuser (Switzerland)

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

Herman Koëter opened the meeting and welcomed the participants, particularly the new Member States. He highlighted EFSA's commitment to further develop the zoonoses data collection system and the importance of a good cooperation between EFSA and the national contact points in the Member States.

2. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ON EFSA'S PLANS TO DEVELOP THE ZOOSES REPORTING SYSTEM

2.1 Setting up a Task Force and working groups

EFSA informed the participants that it will establish a Task Force to develop the zoonoses data collection, and in fact, the intention is to invite to this taskforce the national zoonoses contact persons (or any other person the Member State regards appropriate). The Task Force will be used as a consultation forum for all matters related to zoonoses monitoring. This suggestion was supported by the participants. EFSA will send to the national contact persons a draft terms of reference for this Task Force for their comments and later a formal nomination letter.

EFSA also told about its plans to set up smaller working groups to consider items related to zoonoses monitoring in more detail. The Member States will be invited to suggest suitable experts for these working groups, and also other experts, such as members of EFSA's Scientific panels will be invited. The working groups will report to the main Task Force.

The Scientific Coordinators of the Biological Hazards and the Animal Health and Welfare Panels informed the meeting about the discussions on the zoonoses data collection taken place in the panels. Both panels are interested to be involved in the development of this data collection.

2.2 Contracting with a zoonoses collaborator

EFSA informed the participants of its invitation to tender to request for scientific and technical assistance for reporting on zoonoses. The invitation for tender is available on EFSA's website. The intention is to use the further contractor ("Zoonoses Collaboration Centre") to prepare the draft Community Summary report on zoonoses under the supervision of EFSA and to assist EFSA in all matters related to zoonoses data collection. EFSA used this opportunity to express its commitment to respect the legal deadline for the publishing of the Community Report (end of November) and asked the Member States for their part to meet the time line for submission of the national reports.

2.3 Zoonoses database and internet reporting system

The plans of EFSA to build an internet reporting system and database for zoonoses information were presented by Gwenaelle Quivy. The Member States presented many questions on the utilization and structure of this system. A number of countries were interested in arrangements, which would help to exchange information between the regional and central levels within a country. The length of the period when the Member States would be able to change the information in the database was also discussed. Some Member States expressed concerns about the security of the system. The Commission highlighted that EFSA's proposal had been discussed informally, and certain matters need still to be considered, such as Commission's access to the entire national reports, date of submission of the reports, as well as safety and confidentiality of the data. EFSA informed that it will be necessary to organise a meeting with this group to agree on the templates to be used in the internet reporting in the beginning of July.

2.4 'Monitoring of zoonoses' on EFSA's website

EFSA told that there will be an own webpage for zoonoses monitoring on its website, where the relevant documents will be placed. The participants agreed to have there also the list of the members of the Task Force (or national contact points).

3. REVIEW OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE COMMUNITY SUMMARY REPORT ON ZOOSES

The Member States expressed their views on the needs to review the Community Summary Report. In most Member States the national zoonoses reports are commonly used in the administration and sometimes also by other stakeholders, such as the industry. Also the Community summary report is used in a number of Member States. Especially the descriptions of the national monitoring programmes and comparisons between countries were found interesting. Often the obligation to submit a report to EC also enhances the production and publication of a national report. Wishes to include simpler data in the summary report and to have more summary tables for results from foodstuffs were expressed. It was also emphasized that the results coming from non-harmonised national monitoring schemes are providing interesting information, as well. EFSA told that its intention will be to ask for more detailed written comments by e-mail, where a set of specific questions will be included. EFSA is also going to set up a working group to consider the review of the report, and the Member States were asked to send names for appropriate candidates for the members to EFSA.

4. REVIEW OF THE OF THE REPORTING TABLES AND MANUAL

The Member States were asked for their views on the review of the reporting tables and manuals. It was generally emphasized that for the Member States the first priority is to collect information for their own use. The harmonization of the monitoring schemes was often supported, but it was also pointed out the more detailed information of the sampling schemes and methods will enable better comparability even though the schemes were different. There seemed to be needs to clarify the type of sampling used (random, targeted, clinical samples). It was also stressed that the purpose for the collection of data is often different for different zoonoses, and this should be taken into account. EFSA will ask for more detailed written comments on the subject by e-mail. EFSA is also going to set up an own working group to consider the priorities for the revision of the reporting tables and manual. The Member States were asked to submit appropriate candidates for this working group to EFSA.

5. INFORMATION ON ITEMS RAISING FROM THE COMMISSION WORKING GROUP ON ZOOSES ON 5 APRIL 2004

Jean-Charles Cavitte from DG SANCO gave some further information of the outcome of this meeting. Eleven countries had provided feedback after the meeting regarding the issue of progressive harmonisation of the monitoring schemes in the priority areas of zoonoses data collection. This included schemes for antimicrobial resistance and Campylobacter in broiler chickens, where work has already been initiated by the Community Reference Laboratory in Berlin. Most countries had identified as additional priorities the sampling schemes for zoonotic agents, such as salmonella, Campylobacter and Listeria monocytogenes, in foodstuffs at retail level and salmonella in animal populations.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The traceability of foodstuffs at the retail level was shortly discussed.