



Brussels, 20 July 2004 - draft /PM

MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON REPORTING ON ZONOSES
Held in Brussels on 5 July 2004

AGENDA:

1. Information of the recent activities in EFSA concerning the zoonoses data collection
2. Information of EUROSTAT's project on Food Safety Statistics
Ms Ana-Maria Martinez Palou, EUROSTAT
3. Discussion on the reporting on data from animal populations
4. Discussion on the draft templates for zoonoses reporting (Document EFSA/zoon/2004/1)
5. Discussion on the proposed changes to certain excel tables regarding zoonotic agents in foodstuffs (Document EFSA/zoon/2004/2)
6. Any other business

PARTICIPANTS:

National representatives:

Peter Much (Austria), Luc-Henri Vanholme (Belgium), Christodoulos Pipis (Cyprus), Petr Satran (Czech Republic), Birgitte Borck (Denmark), Piret Priisalu (Estonia), Niina Tammiranta (Finland), Pierre-Alexandre Beloeil (France), Matthias Hartung (Germany), Dimitris Vourvidis (Greece), Toth Balazs (Hungary), Alma Dudgeon (Ireland), Lisa O'Connor (Ireland), Paolo Calistri (Italy), Antonia Ricci (Italy), Nicole Werner-Keiss (Latvia), Joseph Schon (Luxembourg), Quentin Lawson (Malta), Rob van Oosterom (the Netherlands), Merete Hofshagen (Norway), Dariusz Wasyl (Poland), Sofia Rebelo Quintans (Portugal), Milos Juras (Slovak Republic), Katica Florjanc (Slovenia), José Andrés Gil Berduque (Spain), Eva Olsson Engvall (Sweden), Harry Bailie (the United Kingdom)

EFSA:

Pia Mäkelä, Jordi Serratosa Vilageliu (Science), Bertrand De Beanst (Information Technology)
Radika Potier (Administrative staff)

European Commission:

Jean-Charles Cavitte, Sarolta Idei (DG Health and Consumer Protection, DG SANCO)
Ana Martinez Palou (EUROSTAT)

Community Reference Laboratory (CRL)
Annemarie Käsbohrer (BfR Berlin)

Observes:
Katrín Schmidt (WHO)

MINUTES:

1. INFORMATION OF THE RECENT ACTIVITIES IN EFSA CONCERNING THE ZOONOSES DATA COLLECTION

Pia Mäkelä gave some information concerning the setting up of the Task Force on zoonoses data collection and the Working Groups on zoonoses reporting. All the Member States except one had submitted the name of their national representatives for the Task Force. EFSA was still waiting for comments from the Commission. For the Working Groups eligible candidates were received from 21 countries and the Scientific Panels. The intention is to appoint the Task Force and the Working Groups in the near future. Together 6 countries have sent their comments on the current summary report on zoonoses and the reporting tables. The other countries were invited to send their comments before the end of August. EFSA informed that it had received several tenders for the “EFSA Zoonoses Collaborator”, and these tenders are currently being assessed.

2. INFORMATION OF EUROSTAT’S PROJECT ON FOOD SAFETY STATISTICS

Mrs Ana Martinez Palou from the Eurostat gave a presentation regarding their project on food safety statistics. The intention of the project is to make quantitative evaluations of data on the safety of food products. The scope will be from farm to fork covering food and feed production, imports, distribution and consumption. The approach is to make an inventory and analysis of the data already available without creating double reporting systems. A database will be created for the data collected. The priority areas identified are products with distinctive marks, controls and monitoring activities as well as food consumption. The aim is to define food safety indicators and propose common methodologies to improve the quality of the data. Zoonoses data is one of the items considered under the controls and monitoring activities. At a recent meeting the zoonoses data was found to be complicated and in most cases not comparable.

3. DISCUSSION ON THE REPORTING ON DATA FROM ANIMAL POPULATIONS

The possibility to get data on animal populations from the Eurostat statistics was discussed. Mrs Martinez Palou informed that this type of data is collected by Eurostat from the Member States. However, the data currently collected was considered to be often rather old and not detailed enough for the purpose of zoonoses data collection. The Member States were not in favour of obtaining this type of data from the Eurostat and instead supported the further development of the collection under the zoonoses Directive 2003/99/EC. It was, however, agreed to study and compare the data available in the Eurostat system and in the zoonoses collection system.

4. DISCUSSION ON THE DRAFT TEMPLATES FOR ZOONOSES REPORTING

The draft templates proposed in the document EFSA/zoon/2004/1 were discussed. These templates are intended to be used to enter the narrative part of the national zoonoses reports into the new internet reporting system. Some amendments suggested by the participants were agreed to the general template forms as well as to the specific templates. An agreement was found on the structure of most of the proposed templates. Only the templates on antimicrobial resistance, food-borne outbreaks and animal populations need still to be further developed. Proposal to introduce pick-up lists of standard wordings and instructions for the content of the information to be entered were presented and supported by many countries. EFSA promised to send the agreed templates with the accepted amendments for a final check to the participants within a week, after which these templates are considered as agreed. The Member States were invited to send further comments on the templates on antimicrobial resistance, food-borne outbreaks and animal populations as well as suggestions for the pick-up lists by 16 August. A new version of these remaining templates will be discussed at the next meeting on 9 September 2004.

5. DISCUSSION ON THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO CERTAIN EXCEL TABLES REGARDING ZOONOTIC AGENTS IN FOODSTUFFS

Some comments from the Member States were received regarding the proposed changes to the excel tables presented in the document EFSA/zoon/2004/2. The amended tables were agreed to be sent for the final check together with the agreed templates.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business discussed.