



**EFSA**  
European Food Safety Authority

Brussels, 1 February 2005

## **TASK FORCE ON ZONOSSES DATA COLLECTION**

### **MINUTES OF THE 1. MEETING Held in Brussels on 16 December 2004**

#### **AGENDA:**

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1. Organisation of the work of the Task Force on Zoonoses Data Collection
2. Update on current activities in EFSA related to reporting of zoonoses
3. Discussion on EFSA's electronic web-based reporting system and the database for the national zoonoses reports
4. State of play in relation to the collection and reporting of data on human zoonoses cases at EU level
5. Any other business

#### **PARTICIPANTS:**

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##### Members and other national or Commission representatives:

Peter Much (Austria), Luc Vanholme (Belgium), Petr Satran (Czech Republic), Ole Heuer (Denmark), Piret Priisalu (Estonia), Terhi Laaksonen (Finland), Matthias Hartung (Germany), Dimitris Vourvidis (Greece), Anne Cummins (Ireland), Paolo Calistri (Italy), Antonia Ricci (Italy), Nicole Werner-Keiss (Latvia), Joseph Schon (Luxembourg), Quentin Lawson (Malta), Olaf Stenvers (the Netherlands), Merete Hofshagen (Norway), Jacek Osek (Poland), Dariusz Wasyl (Poland), Sofia Quintans (Portugal), Milos Juras (Slovak Republic), Katica Florjanc (Slovenia), José Luis Paramio Lucas (Spain), Sofia Boqvist (Sweden), Harry Bailie (the United Kingdom), Annemarie Käsbohrer (CRL), Birgitte Borck (ZCC), Jean-Charles Cavitte (the Commission, DG SANCO), Philippe Loopuyt (the Commission, DG SANCO), Ana Martinez Palou (the Commission, EUROSTAT)

##### Observers:

Katrin Schmidt (WHO), Juerg Danuser (Switzerland)

##### EFSA:

Pia Mäkelä (Science), Gwénaëlle Quivy, Bertrand De Beanst (Information Technology)  
Martine Lartigue (Administrative staff)

## **1. ORGANISATION OF THE WORK OF THE TASK FORCE ON ZOOSES DATA COLLECTION**

EFSA formally nominated the Task Force on 10 December 2004. It has 33 members from all the Member States, Norway, the Commission, the Community Reference Laboratory for the Epidemiology of Zoonoses and the Zoonoses Collaboration Centre. Observers were invited from WHO, OIE and Switzerland. Also other representatives than the members are welcome to attend the meetings. The Task Force's terms of reference are annexed. Its main task is to advise and assist EFSA on all matters related to zoonoses data collection.

Working groups may be set up under the Task Force. These working groups will report to the Task Force. It was agreed to apply a procedure where the draft reports of the working groups would be submitted to the Task Force for comments before their finalisation. Two working groups have already been appointed. The Working Group on Zoonoses Report has a mandate to consider needs to revise the presentation of the national and Community Summary Reports on Zoonoses. The Working Group on Zoonoses Reporting Tables and Manual's mandate is to consider needs for harmonisation of the reporting and monitoring schemes. Both working groups have a deadline of 28 February 2005.

## **2. UPDATE ON CURRENT ACTIVITIES IN EFSA RELATED TO REPORTING OF ZOOSES**

EFSA informed that its Zoonoses Collaboration Centre has been selected and it is the Danish Institute for Food and Veterinary Research. The contact person is Dr Birgitte Borck.

EFSA is in a process of preparing an invitation to tender in order to seek for assistance for building a multidisciplinary data collection system for foodborne outbreaks in the Community. This system should cover the needs of the veterinary, food and public health sectors.

EFSA's zoonoses monitoring team will move to Parma in the end of March 2005.

## **3. DISCUSSION ON EFSA'S ELECTRONIC WEB-BASED REPORTING SYSTEM AND THE DATABASE FOR THE NATIONAL ZOOSES REPORTS**

Gwénaëlle Quivy (EFSA) gave an update on the situation with the construction of the web based reporting system and the database. The first prototype for the data collection process had just been finished and it was presented. The second prototype will cover data reporting process and annexed tools. The prototype 1 will be validated in January, and copies of the main screens of the prototype will be distributed to all Task Force members for their comments. The second prototype will be available in end of March and an *ad hoc* working group will validate it. The Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, Germany, Czech Republic, the United Kingdom, Norway and the Eurostat volunteered for the working group.

### Comments on the web-based reporting system:

The members asked for possibilities to add comments in the tables and to copy the tables. More rules for filling in the templates and tables were requested, e.g. to indicate if tables are not filled in or a mistake in the filling is done. A list of Salmonella serovars would be preferable in order to avoid spelling mistakes.

Member States will be asked at some stage to inform EFSA of who is going to be their reporting officer. It was agreed that the reporting officers would distribute the rights to enter the system to the other reporters in their country. The possibility to give different profiles of these rights was discussed. Such an option could be available in version 2 (available in 2006), and this possibility has to be discussed later in depth.

EFSA promised to send the latest version of the excel files used as a basis of the web based reporting system to the Member States in the beginning of January. Also copies of the draft prototype 1 main screens will be sent for comments at the same time.

The freezing of the national data sets were discussed in length, and it was concluded that the 2. freezing should take place quite late to enable the Member State to complete their reports. However, after this freezing only minor amendments should be entered, not any more new data. The Member States would have a possibility to check and amend the information in the reports during the final consultation period. EFSA and ZCC will further discuss the freezing dates and inform the Task Force about that. The old amendments would be merged in text of the reports whenever a new freezing is made.

Generation of a harmonized set of tables and charts in the reports referred to in Article 9(1) was supported, provided that the ones not containing relevant information could be deleted.

Some Member States expressed a need to have the reports referred to in Article 9(1) also in text and excel formats. This could be possible in 2006, and the item will be discussed again later in the year after some experience from the reporting system has been gained.

EFSA requested that all the reports would be submitted in English in order to avoid delays in the preparation of the Community Summary Report.

### Use and access to the information:

The question of the use of the information submitted by the Member States for purposes other than for the Community Summary Report was discussed. The information could be used for scientific activities within EFSA and be transferred to other Community institutions. The Member States wished to be informed about such a use only if new interpretations or combinations of the data had been made.

EFSA's current plan for the access to the information in the database is conservative. Most of the Member States and the Commission supported this approach, but some Member States were in favour of a more liberal policy. The issue will be further discussed after the reports from the existing Working Groups under the Task Force are received.

### Training:

Two training days on the use of the system will be organised in April 2005. In addition EFSA will provide self-paced trainings, on-line tutorials and a web conference in accordance with the Member States' wishes.

#### **4. STATE OF PLAY IN RELATION TO THE COLLECTION AND REPORTING OF DATA ON HUMAN ZOOSES CASES AT EU LEVEL**

EFSA informed the Task Force of the on-going discussions within the Commission and its ESCON Committee regarding the integration of the data on zoonoses from the Communicable Disease Networks with the data on zoonotic agents in animals and food. Good progress has been made in a positive atmosphere. The members can send their comments on the draft plan for this integration to EFSA.

#### **5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

EFSA gave some further information on the copies of the questionnaires on Quantitative Microbiological Risk Assessment, which were sent to the Task Force members. The members are welcome to answer the questionnaires or to forward them to other appropriate persons.

The next meeting of the Task Force is likely to take place on 8 February 2005, but the date is not yet confirmed.

## ANNEX I

### **Terms of reference of the EFSA's Task Force on Zoonoses Data Collection**

The role of the Task Force is to advise and assist the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) in cooperation with the European Commission on all scientific and practical matters related to the collection and reporting of data on monitoring of zoonoses in the European Community in the framework of the mandate and provisions of Directive 2003/99/EC. These matters include advising and assisting on

- the creation and development of an electronic reporting system and a database for zoonoses information;
- development of a renewed reporting system for zoonoses and zoonotic agents, antimicrobial resistance and food-borne outbreaks in the Member States. Other European countries having an interest in providing data will also be considered;
- harmonisation of zoonoses monitoring and the surveillance schemes used in the monitoring;
- setting priorities for the harmonisation of monitoring approaches/techniques and data collection for zoonoses of international significance; and
- coordination of the national data collection.

The Task Force may also be consulted about other scientific matters related to zoonoses data collection within the remit of EFSA.

The terms of reference of the Task Force will be amended, when necessary.