EFSA
European Food Safety Authority

Parma, 21 October 2005

TASK FORCE ON ZOONOSES DATA COLLECTION

MINUTES OF THE 4th MEETING
Held in Parma on 29-30 September 2005

AGENDA:

1. Minutes from the last meeting
2. Organisational issues: declaration of interest, prepaid tickets
3. The reporting on zoonoses in 2005 and the use of the web-based reporting system
4. State of play with the Community Summary Report 2004
5. Discussion on the revision of the reporting system
6. Discussion and possible endorsement of the merged report from the Working Groups on zoonoses reports and zoonoses reporting tables and manuals
7. EUROSTAT draft database on food control
8. Letter from OIE
9. Draft summary plan to analyse the *Salmonella* baseline study in laying hens
10. Progress reports from the other current working groups under the Task Force (and BIOHAZ panel)
11. Setting up new working groups for monitoring of *Salmonella*/*Campylobacter* in broiler meat and antimicrobial resistance
12. Collaboration with the human health sector and ECDC
13. Visits to the Member States to enhance the collaboration in reporting on zoonoses
14. Next meeting
15. Any other business

PARTICIPANTS:

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), Pierre-Alexandre Beloil (France), Matthias Hartung (Germany), Dimitris Vourvidis (Greece), Balazs Toth (Hungary), Alma Dudgeon (Ireland), Anne Cummins (Ireland), Paolo Calistri (Italy), Alessandro Ripani (Italy), Nicole Werner-Keiss (Latvia), Joseph Schon (Luxembourg), Stasja Valkenburg (the Netherlands), Rob van Oosterom (the Netherlands), Merete Hofshagen (Norway), Jacek Osek (Poland), Maria de Graça Mariano Fernandes (Portugal), Marta Bedriová (Slovak Republic), Luisa Puente (Spain), José Sáez LLorente (Spain), Sofia Boqvist (Sweden), Jenny Frőssling (Sweden), Paul Gayford (the United Kingdom), Annemarie Käsbohrer (CRL), Birgitte Borck (ZCC), Sherrie Kelly (ZCC), Jean-Charles Cavitte (the Commission, DG SANCO, through telephone connection), Ana Martinez Palou (the Commission, EUROSTAT)

Observers:
Juerg Danuser (Switzerland), D. Chaisemartin (OIE), Adriana Costache (Romania), Emanuil Emanuilov (Bulgaria)

EFSA:
Pia Mäkelä, Frank Boelaert, Hubert Deluyker (Science), Mitch Ward, Carsten Behring, Bertrand De Beanst (Information Technology), Hélène Fenech, Miriam Graselli, Alwyn Borg Myatt (Administrative staff)

MINUTES:

1. MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING

Pia Makela informed that the comments received from the members on the minutes from the previous meeting on 21-22 April 2005 were taken aboard, and that these minutes are already published on EFSA web site.

2. ORGANISATIONAL ISSUES: DECLARATION OF INTEREST, PREPAID TICKETS

EFSA lawyers took a position according to which all the persons attending the meetings of the Task Force and its working groups, have to give an annual declaration of interest. The signed declaration should be submitted to EFSA within 2 weeks.

3. THE REPORTING ON ZOONOSES IN 2005 AND THE USE OF THE WEB-BASED REPORTING SYSTEM

EFSA gave report on the experience gained during the reporting and the application of the new web-based reporting system. EFSA apologized for the difficulties encountered with the web-based system. The actions taken to improve the functionality of the system and to solve the problems were described. The Member States explained their experiences. Many countries faced difficulties and it is obvious that the amount of problems varied for each country. The main problems were related to contacts between the application and the local users.

4. STATE OF PLAY WITH THE COMMUNITY SUMMARY REPORT 2004

EFSA and ZCC gave a report on the progress made with the Community Summary Report 2004. The final draft Report should be available on 25 October, after which it will be sent for 3 week's consultation to all Member States, Norway, the Commission and other relevant stakeholders. The Report should be published before the Christmas.

5. DISCUSSION ON THE REVISION OF THE REPORTING SYSTEM

EFSA's Information Technology team described the measures to be taken to solve the problems related to the reporting system for the year 2006. A progress report from the Working Group on Revision of Zoonoses Reporting Manual was presented, and its proposals for revision of the current reporting tables and pick list were discussed. It was agreed to replace the current tuberculosis and brucellosis tables with the corresponding tables from

Commission Decisions. The majority of the participants were in favour of keeping the tables for reporting the zoonoses cases in humans in the system, at least for national use pending the introduction of arrangements to receive the data from the Communicable Disease Networks. A number of comments to improve the pick lists and reporting were received. The members were invited to send further comments on the tables and pick lists by 7 October 2005. These comments will be considered by the Working Group, and the lists and tables will be sent for further consultation before the final agreement at the end of October.

6. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ENDORSEMENT OF THE MERGED REPORT FROM THE WORKING GROUPS ON ZOONOSES REPORTS AND ZOONOSES REPORTING TABLES AND MANUALS

The two reports from the working groups have been merged into one report. EFSA explained that the report still has to be submitted to the Biological Hazards (BIOHAZ) panel and the Animal Health Animal Welfare panel for comments, and after that, it will be tabled for the final endorsement at the next Task Force meeting. The practicality and timetable of the proposed harmonisation was discussed.

7. EUROSTAT DRAFT DATABASE ON FOOD CONTROL

Ana Martinez Palou from EUROSTAT gave a report on the latest developments in the Task Force dealing with food control data. The pilot database is initially meant for internal use by the Commission and Community institutions. It has been agreed that only data coming from harmonized programmes will be incorporated in the database. For the zoonoses sector, it was agreed that the monitoring of bovine tuberculosis, brucellosis, *Salmonella* in fowl breeding flocks and *Trichinella* in slaughter animals will be considered as harmonized fields.

8. LETTER FROM OIE – FOR DISCUSSION

Dr Chaisemartin from OIE presented OIE's wishes concerning the reporting system. These related mainly to the access to the data for verification purposes on the consent of the Member State in question. OIE is also interested in getting the annual data directly from the system in cases where there is overlapping reporting to OIE and the Community. The Commission (DG SANCO) sent comments on this issue, which were elaborated by Jean-Charles Cavitte. The members supported in principle the possibility to share data with OIE under defined conditions. It was agreed that EFSA, together with the Commission and relevant organisations, will draft conditions for participation in the system and access to the database.

9. DRAFT SUMMARY PLAN TO ANALYSE THE SALMONELLA BASELINE STUDY IN LAYING HENS

Frank Boelaert presented a report on the work done in the Working Group on Analyses of Salmonella Baseline Study in Laying Hens, and presented the draft analyses plan for the study. The format of tables and estimation of true prevalence was discussed. The members were invited to send further comments by e-mail after the meeting.

10. PROGRESS REPORTS FROM THE OTHER CURRENT WORKING GROUPS UNDER THE TASK FORCE AND BIOHAZ PANEL

Hubert Deluyker reported the progress made in the Working Group on Guidelines for the Design of Field Studies. The Task Force supported the idea to have a stakeholder

consultation or colloquium on the draft guidelines. Frank Boelaert, on behalf of the BIOHAZ panel coordinators, gave an update on the work done by the Working Group on Salmonella in Pigs, which falls within the BIOHAZ panel. Members were invited to propose some additional members for a subgroup of this Working Group, whose task will be to prepare a proposal for a baseline study protocol for salmonella in fattening pigs.

11. SETTING UP NEW WORKING GROUPS FOR MONITORING OF SALMONELLA/CAMPYLOBACTER IN BROILER MEAT AND ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

EFSA will set up two new working groups to draft harmonised monitoring schemes for *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* in broiler meat, and monitoring of antimicrobial resistance in animals and food. The Task Force was invited to suggest eligible candidates for these working groups.

12. COLLABORATION WITH THE HUMAN HEALTH SECTOR AND ECDC

EFSA announced that, in collaboration with ECDC, it will organise the first joint meeting between the human health and veterinary/food experts on data collection on zoonoses and food-borne outbreaks. This meeting will take place on 22 November 2005 in Parma, and the Task Force will be invited.

13. VISITS TO THE MEMBER STATES TO ENHANCE THE COLLABORATION IN REPORTING ON ZOONOSES – FOR DISCUSSION

EFSA announced that it is willing to conduct annual visits to the Member States in order to learn about the practical arrangements of reporting at national level, to have the opportunity to meet the national reporters, and, if possible, to enhance collaboration at national level. Each year, 3-5 countries could be visited. The members of the Task Force were positive towards this initiative. EFSA will send an official letter to the Member States addressing the issue, and asking Member States if they would be willing to invite EFSA, and if so, to inform EFSA.

14. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on 23 November 2005 in Parma, in conjunction with the human health and veterinary/food experts meeting.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

EFSA informed that the web-based reporting system would not be available on 13-14 October due to the move of servers to Parma.