



Parma, 5th May 2006 - Final

TASK FORCE ON ZONOOSES DATA COLLECTION

MINUTES OF THE 6th MEETING Held in Parma on 20th / 21st March 2006

AGENDA:

1. Minutes from the last meeting
2. Declaration of interest
3. Introduction to the revised web-based reporting system for zoonoses
4. Draft Manual for Reporting on Zoonoses, Antimicrobial Resistance and Food-borne Outbreaks in 2006 - discussion and comments
5. Practical arrangements concerning the reporting on zoonoses in 2006
6. Zoonoses Report 2004 – state of play
7. Training on use of the new features of the web-based reporting system
8. Draft report “*Good Practices in the Design of Field Surveys*” from the Working Group on Design of Field Surveys - discussion and comments
9. Preliminary information on the analyses of the *Salmonella* baseline study in laying hens
10. Information on the draft protocol for the baseline study in fattening pigs
11. Progress reports from other Working Groups under the Task Force
12. New Working Group for Analyses of *Salmonella* in Broilers baseline study
13. Data needs on tuberculosis in veal calves by the Biological Hazards Panel
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), Birgitte Helwigh (Denmark), Karoline Fernandez de la Hoz (European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control - ECDC), Jelena Sögel (Estonia), Terhi Laaksonen (Finland), Niina Tammiranta (Finland), Pierre-Alexandre Beloeil (France), Matthias Hartung (Germany), Dimitris Vourvidis (Greece), Toth Balazs (Hungary), Kilian Unger (Ireland), Anne Cummins (Ireland), Valentina Rizzi (Italy), Nicola Werner-Keišs (Latvia), Joseph Schon (Luxembourg), Quentin Lawson (Malta), Stasja Valkenburgh (Netherlands), Merete Hofshagen (Norway), Jacek Osek (Poland), Marta Ulikowska-Stadnik (Poland), Patrícia Tavares Santos (Portugal), Marta Bedriová (Slovak Republic), Katica Florjanc (Slovenia), Pilar Sanchez (Spain), José Luis Paramio Lucas (Spain), José Sáez Llorente (Spain), Sofia Boqvist (Sweden), Harry Bailie (United Kingdom), Birgitte Borck (Zoonoses Collaboration Centre - ZCC).

Observers:

Juerg Danuser (Switzerland), D. Chaisemartin (OIE), Ilian Bokovski (Bulgaria), Adriana Costache (Romania)

EFSA:

Pia Mäkelä (chair), Frank Boelaert, Hubert Deluyker, Stef Bronzwaer, Paolo Calistri, Sérgio Rodeia (Science), Carsten Behring, Bertrand De Baenst, Clark Darren (Information Technology), Alwyn Borg Myatt, Miriam Grasselli, Marika De Santis (Administrative)

MINUTES:

1. MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING

The minutes from the last meeting, held on 23rd of November 2005, were adopted, taking into account editorial comments from Members provided by e-mail. The final version will be published on EFSA's web site.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None of the participants expressed an interest.

3. INTRODUCTION TO THE REVISED WEB-BASED REPORTING SYSTEM FOR ZOOSES

The IT improvements introduced on the revised web-based reporting application (version 1.1) were presented by Carsten Behring, namely (1) the new features (such as fixed column headers, inclusion of save warners and save buttons, new wizards for text forms, tree form pick lists), (2) the updated and new tables, and (3) the improved database stability, so to avoid data loss.

A document named "*Best practices for using the zoonoses web application*" was presented and will be placed on the homepage of the zoonoses reporting web-based application, as additional support.

Changes on the scientific content of the web-based reporting system have been introduced. Information on several issues was made, e.g. (1) merging of tables on susceptible animal populations, (2) new disease status tables, either based on Community legislation or produced within Working Groups, (3) splitting of former food prevalence tables for *Salmonella* / *Campylobacter* / *Listeria* in new tables for each zoonotic agent, (4) new table for *Listeria* in animals, (5) reporting on "*number of isolates*" instead of "*percentage of isolates*" in the quantitative antimicrobial resistance tables, (6) changes on text forms for *Trichinella* in pigs and horses, due to the implementation of new Community legislation, (7) revision of the content of certain pick lists and wizards, (8) introduction of a validation system for addition of new animal / food / feed categories. It was also agreed to change the qualitative antimicrobial resistance tables to be in line with the quantitative ones (i.e. including "*number of isolates*" columns).

4. DRAFT MANUAL FOR REPORTING ON ZOOSES, ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE AND FOOD-BORNE OUTBREAKS IN 2006 - DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS

The Chair briefed the members of the Task Force on the general structure and content of the Draft Reporting Manual, thanking all members of the Working Group for the excellent work carried out.

Some specific information contained in the manual was highlighted, namely the programme context definitions and the concept of “*sampling unit*” in case of animals, food and feed. The Manual’s recommendations on how to report in case of no data available or in case of unspecified agent species were also addressed.

Members of the Task Force were invited to comment on the draft manual by the 24th of March 2006. After all comments have been taken aboard, the Manual will then be sent to all reporters during the following week, as an “*advanced draft document*” to be used during this year's reporting. Reporters will be also invited, during the reporting period, to send to EFSA their feedback and comments on this advanced draft document. This version of the Manual will be placed on the homepage of the zoonoses reporting web application.

Revision of the “*advanced draft version*” will take place after June 2006, under the same Working Group, in order to prepare a final version for 2007, to be published on EFSA’s website.

5. PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS CONCERNING THE REPORTING ON ZOOSES IN 2006

The Chair mentioned that the revised version (1.1) of the web-based reporting system is available as of 20th March and can be used for training and testing purposes until the 26th of March. Some detailed changes will still be introduced and the official reporting period will begin, as agreed during the meeting, on the 27th of March 2006. Some minor fixes will continue to be introduced on the web-based application, without any impact on the reporting, and an updated version (1.1.1) is expected to be released by end of April 2006.

A special remark was made highlighting the fact that, for the current reporting year, submission of national reports is to be completed by the 31st of May. EFSA will then check for data completeness of national reports by early June, freezing the dataset on the web-based application on the 12th of June 2006.

The Chair requested from Task Force members if they could supply names, emails and contacts of eventual new Reporting Officers, in order to update the mailing lists.

A reference was made to the organization of the zoonoses support helpdesk for the current reporting year. The email where to address questions / problems related to the reporting is zoonoses_support@efsa.eu.int and EFSA staff directly involved in receiving / replying scientific / IT issues was presented (Darren Clark for IT issues and Sérgio Rodeia to science related issues).

The Chair gave also a brief summary on some practical drafting and editorial arrangements concerning the future 2005 Zoonoses Community Summary Report. The main report, containing levels 1 and 2 information, should maintain the previous general structure, being published on EFSA’s website and in paper printed copies. Level 3 information (data summary

tables) will be published on EFSA's website and included in the CD attached to the paper printed copies of the coming Summary Report. The production of a leaflet containing level 1 summary information is being considered.

Members of the Task Force were asked to propose issues for the "*focus of the year*" of the 2005 Zoonoses Community Summary Report and suggestions to improve its presentation, taking in consideration the different potential target readers.

Karoline Fernandez de la Hoz (ECDC) gave then a brief presentation on the arrangements concerning the integration of human data in the 2005 zoonoses report. The tables containing human data will maintain the structure referred in the plan for the integration of zoonotic data (Commission C/3 WD 147). The issues to be addressed in the reporting are the overall number of zoonotic diseases. *Salmonella* tables will include the top ten serovars. A description of MS surveillance systems will also be made.

The timeframe for collection of human data foresees that MS and Disease Specific Networks (DSN) send all data to BSN / ECDC by the 31st of May 2006. A draft report and corresponding tables will be sent to MS, DSN and EFSA by the 7th of July, for comments. ECDC expects to deliver the final version of the document containing human data to EFSA by the 31st July 2006.

Some MS mentioned the possibility of discrepancies between the human data received from BSN and the dataset they will use at national level when drafting their national Zoonoses report. This dataset is typically received from the National Public Health Institutes. It was suggested that BSN could inform MS about the dataset they will provide to ECDC. EFSA and ECDC agreed to discuss this issue bilaterally afterwards.

6. ZOOSE REPORT 2004 – STATE OF PLAY

The Chair gave an overview on the current state of play of the "*Community Summary Report on Trends and Sources of Zoonoses, Zoonotic Agents and Antimicrobial Resistance in the European Union in 2004*". The Report has been published on EFSA's web site on the 21st of December 2005, together with a press release. National Reports were published on EFSA's web site on the 6th of January 2006.

The final printed versions will be distributed to EFSA's Advisory Forum, BIOHAZ and AHAW Panels, ECDC, European Commission, European Parliament, Council of the European Union, CVO's of MS and other stakeholders. Each MS will be sent a number of copies for national distribution. The Chair also noted that a mandate has been issued to the BIOHAZ and AHAW panel, so that by the 31st of July 2006, in close collaboration with ECDC, an opinion on the review of the Report is issued.

Some highlights of the report were presented. Reference was made to the high quality of the reports received from MS, to the extensive amount of data collected and to the excellent reports presented by the new MS. General comments were also made in regard to salmonellosis and campylobacteriosis (the most frequently reported zoonoses in humans) and to food-borne outbreaks in 2004.

7. TRAINING ON THE USE OF THE NEW FEATURES IN THE WEB-BASED REPORTING SYSTEM

A training session was organized to allow members of the Task Force to observe and practice on the new features of the web based reporting system.

8. DRAFT REPORT ON “GOOD PRACTICES IN THE DESIGN OF FIELD SURVEYS” FROM THE WORKING GROUP ON DESIGN OF FIELD SURVEYS – FOR DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS

Hubert Deluyker provided a short summary on the draft report of the Working Group on Design of Field Surveys. The document named “*Good Practices for Design of Field Surveys*” was presented and tabled for discussion and comments. In general, there were no major comments on the document. OIE and UK recommended a more detailed reference to the amount of resources / costs associated with the development of field surveys. OIE also recommend a clearer reference on the use of international recognized methods. UK also recommended the modification of the title of the chapter named “*Analytical Methods*” to “*Laboratory Methods*”. Task Force Members were invited to send any additional comments on the draft directly to Hubert Deluyker (hubert.deluyker@efsa.eu.int) by the 31st of March 2006, at the latest.

The Chair clarified that the final draft document, as with all documents approved under the Task Force, will be sent to the BIOHAZ and AHAW panels, for comments, after that finally endorsed to the Task Force, and then published in EFSA’s website.

9. PRELIMINARY INFORMATION ON THE ANALYSES OF THE SALMONELLA BASELINE STUDY IN LAYING HENS

Frank Boelaert presented a general overview of data collected under the baseline study aiming at estimating across the European Union the prevalence of *Salmonella* spp. in flocks of laying hens (*Gallus gallus*).

An overview of the descriptive analyses of validated data was presented, in particular the preliminary results on the *Salmonella* spp., *Salmonella* Enteritidis and *Salmonella* Typhimurium holding observed prevalence, as well as the overall proportion of positive samples and the within-flock proportion of positive samples. The Working Group will continue its work with further descriptive analyses and providing the Commission assistance regarding proposals for targets. A preliminary report will be sent, for comments, to the WG and to Task Force Members by the 30th of March and to the Commission by the 7th of April. A final report will be delivered later.

10. INFORMATION ON THE DRAFT PROTOCOL FOR THE BASELINE STUDY IN FATTENING PIGS

The Opinion on “*Risk assessment and risk mitigation options of Salmonella in pig production*”, adopted by the Panel on Biological Hazards, includes an annex with a recommendation for a baseline study on *Salmonella* spp. in fattening pigs. Paolo Calistri explained that the baseline study on fattening pigs is being set up under the scope of Regulation (EC) No. 2160/2003. The key points of the baseline study protocol were summarized, namely the option for bacteriological sampling at slaughterhouse level, allowing for the use of standardized methods and for the collection of additional data.

11. PROGRESS REPORTS FROM OTHER WORKING GROUPS UNDER THE TASK FORCE

The Chair informed that EFSA has set up, under the Task Force, a new Working Group on a harmonized monitoring scheme for *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* in broiler meat, following a request from the Commission. The Chair presented the members of the Working Group and mentioned that the layout of the mandate should assume the form of a survey protocol, allowing for the collection of data for both qualitative and quantitative analyses. Sampling is expected to occur from slaughterhouse and retail level, in fresh meat, meat preparations and minced meat, either domestic or imported.

Hubert Deluyker informed the Task Force that the Working Group on Monitoring Antimicrobial Resistance has just been recently set up. The main objectives of the Working Group are to set up a monitoring scheme that will allow the quantification of the prevalence of AMR resistance, follow temporal trends in MS, harmonise testing methodologies to improve comparison at EU level and, in a long goal, identify emerging resistance or specific patterns of antimicrobial resistance. The data collected will then be subject to descriptive analysis.

The Chair briefed the Task Force Members on the Working Group on Food-borne Outbreaks. This Working Group is currently being set up under EFSA's coordination, with the anticipated participation of Commission, ECDC, OIE, WHO, and MS experts. These experts on food-borne outbreaks will be indicated by ECDC (for human health issues) and by EFSA (for food related issues). Task Force Members were invited to propose additional candidates for the Working Group. The Chair also explained that a 2 year contract has been made with "BfR", the Food-borne Outbreak Contractor (FBOC), which is currently running a questionnaire survey to assess the data needs in terms of food-borne outbreaks at Community level. A proposal for a revised food-borne outbreak reporting system is expected by end of July 2006.

12. NEW WORKING GROUP FOR ANALYSES OF SALMONELLA IN BROILERS BASELINE STUDY

Frank Boelaert presented a short overview on the setting up of the Working Group for analyses of *Salmonella* in the broilers baseline study. EFSA has already agreed to take over the analyses of the study. The Working Group on laying hens will continue with this subject, but a few additional members could be taken aboard. A request was made to the Members of the Task Force to provide EFSA with additional names of experts for this Working Group until the 31st of March.

13. DATA NEEDS ON TUBERCULOSIS IN VEAL CALVES BY THE BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS PANEL

Paolo Calistri informed Task Force Members on data needs on tuberculosis in veal calves. The request has been presented by a Working Group set up under the BIOHAZ panel and addresses specifically the need on data related to the movement of veal calves between holdings / collection centres and tuberculosis findings, at slaughterhouse level, in calves coming either from officially free or non –officially free regions / countries. The members were asked to provide any information available in their country on this subject.

14. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Task Force is scheduled on a preliminary basis for the 4th /5th July 2006.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The setting up of the “*Zoonoses IT Project Steering Committee*” was mentioned as an additional information point of the agenda. This Committee will be meeting on a monthly basis. Its main aim is to ensure that the Zoonoses IT project remains in due course and that it delivers products of required quality.

Still under this point of the agenda, the Zoonoses Collaboration Centre made a request to all Members of the Task Force so that, when text from the previous reporting year is copied into the text forms of the web-based reporting system of the following year, a reference to “*In 2005*” is made for each updated / new parts of the text.

Before ending the session, the Chair mentioned that a letter will be sent to the Chief Veterinary Officers of MS so to assess the possibility of organizing EFSA’s visits and provide “on the spot” support, within the scope of the Zoonoses Data Collection.