



Parma, 25<sup>th</sup> July 2006 - Final

## **TASK FORCE ON ZOONOSES DATA COLLECTION**

### **MINUTES OF THE 7<sup>th</sup> MEETING** **Held in Parma on 6<sup>th</sup> / 7<sup>th</sup> July 2006**

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#### **AGENDA:**

1. Minutes from the last meeting
2. Declaration of interest
3. Feedback from the reporting on zoonoses 2005 - report from the Zoonoses Support Help Desk, validation of the data 2005, state of play with the Summary Report 2005, historical zoonoses data
4. Discussion and possible comments on the Manual for reporting on zoonoses, antimicrobial resistance and food-borne outbreaks 2006 – advanced draft
5. Discussion on amendments to the zoonoses reporting system and web application for 2007 - progress report from the IT Steering Committee
6. Draft report “good practices in the design of field surveys “ from the Working Group on design of field surveys - for discussion and possible endorsement
7. Information of the analyses of the Salmonella baseline study in laying hens - publication of the preliminary report, the letter from Gent University on the use of baseline study results
8. Progress reports from the other working groups under the Task Force and discussion on the draft proposals - Working Group on Monitoring Scheme on Salmonella and Campylobacter in Broiler Meat, Working Group on Monitoring of Antimicrobial Resistance, Working Group on Reporting on Food-borne Outbreaks
9. New working groups for analyses of Salmonella in broilers baseline survey and drafting baseline survey protocol for Salmonella in breeding pigs
10. Information on PulseNet Europe Network
11. Next meeting
12. Any other business

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#### **PARTICIPANTS:**

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

Peter Much (Austria), Luc Vanholme (Belgium), Petr Satran (Czech Republic), Christodoulos Pipis (Cyprus), Birgitte Helwigh (Denmark), Karoline Fernandez de la Hoz (European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control - ECDC), Jelena Sögel (Estonia), Niina Tammiranta (Finland), Pierre-Alexandre Beloeil (France), Matthias Hartung (Germany), Dimitris Vourvidis (Greece), Lisa O'Connor, Kilian Unger (Ireland), Patrizia Colangeli, Antonia Ricci, Alessandro Ripani,

Valentina Rizzi (Italy), Nicola Werner-Keišs (Latvia), Vaidotas Kiudulas (Lithuania), Joseph Schon (Luxembourg), Quentin Lawson (Malta), Merete Hofshagen (Norway), Eva Lech (Poland), Patrícia Tavares Santos, Ivone Serrano (Portugal), Katica Florjanc (Slovenia), M. Pulido Puente, José Luis Paramio Lucas (Spain), Harry Bailie (United Kingdom), Birgitte Borck (Zoonoses Collaboration Centre - ZCC), Andrea Gervelmeyer (BfR), Susanna Lukinmaa (Pulse-Net).

Observers:

Juerg Danuser (Switzerland), Antonio Petrini (OIE), Teodora Petkova (Bulgaria), Adriana Costache (Romania)

EFSA:

Pia Mäkelä (Chair), Frank Boelaert, Stef Bronzwaer, Sérgio Rodeia, Hubert Deluyker, Francesca Riolo (Science), Alun Jones (Communications), Carsten Behring, Bertrand De Baenst, Antoine de Troostembergh, Clark Darren (Information Technology), Miriam Grasselli and Simona Fusari Polli (Administrative).

MINUTES:

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**1. MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING**

Some minor comments were received on the draft minutes from the last meeting on 20 and 21 March 2006, during the consultation, which were taken into account. The final version is now published on EFSA's web site. Some corrections regarding the participant list will still be made.

**2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

None of the participants expressed an interest.

**3. FEEDBACK FROM THE REPORTING ON ZOONOSES 2005 - REPORT FROM THE ZOONOSES SUPPORT HELP DESK, VALIDATION OF THE DATA 2005, STATE OF PLAY WITH THE SUMMARY REPORT 2005, HISTORICAL ZOONOSES DATA**

Reporting of Zoonoses data 2005

The Chair provided an overview on the recent zoonoses reporting period regarding the year of 2005. The majority of the reports were for the first time received before the deadline, 31 May, and even the last one was sent by mid June. The Member States were congratulated for submitting their reports in such a timely manner. In general, the reporting took place without any major problems when compared to the previous reporting period of last year.

Carsten Behring told that from EFSA's point of view the stability of the web-based reporting system was good this year, and the helpdesk support, both on IT and science related issues, functioned well. Darren Clark gave a brief summary on the helpdesk support activities. The problems encountered during the reporting period were mainly related to PDF creation errors, adding/saving tables, user interface and general database errors.

## Validation of the data

This year the validation of national datasets from 2005 was performed by EFSA. A list of questions on missing or erroneous records was sent to all Reporting Officers, who either fully or partly corrected the records in the database. After the freezing of the dataset on 19 June, data was extracted into flat files, tested by automatic validation tools and some corrections still made. The complete dataset was sent, for analyses and reporting purposes, to the ZCC on 30 June. Reference was also made to the fact that not all problematic values on the dataset have been addressed. Consequently, reporting countries were still asked to provide clarifications / corrections, so to allow the ZCC, if possible, to take them into account for the 2005 Community Summary Report and, at least, to correct possible shortcomings in the database.

The validation exercise highlighted the need for more emphasis on the quality of data. Automatic validation tools should be established in the reporting system to prevent inputting mistakes. Also clearer recommendations on reporting of information with low sample size would be useful, as this kind of information does not always enable accurate analyses.

Germany raised a point concerning the inclusion of additional data into the datasets after the freezing and extraction of the data. EFSA explained that some corrections and adjustments can be acceptable after the freezing date, but the data has to be entered both in the flat files and zoonoses database in the same format.

## Feedback from the Reporting Countries

The reporting countries informed of encountering the following problems during this year's reporting period and suggested some improvements to the web application. Generally, the wizards were found too slow, and the browsing in the system still difficult. The vertical headings of the tables should be fixed. Some countries wished to have a possibility to create regional reports, recording the history of Reporting Officers and marking of text forms as completed. Some countries were faced with non-visible table regions and table names and changed order of the species/serovar columns. It might be useful to add some default animal/food categories and serovars in the tables. Many countries highlighted the good work done by the helpdesk support. EFSA will consider this feedback when planning the revision of the web reporting application for 2007.

## Summary report 2005

EFSA intends to produce this year also a small leaflet which will contain the short summary part of the Community report with nice layout. The members were invited to send pictures to be used in this leaflet.

Karoline Fernandez de la Hoz (ECDC) explained that the data on human zoonoses collected from Communicable Disease Surveillance Networks is currently being evaluated and will be sent on 17 July back to the Member States for consultation. The intention is to submit the final dataset to EFSA and to the ZCC by the 31 July.

## Historical data

A brief reference was made to the insertion of historical data in the zoonoses database. In order to allow the ZCC to consider this data for the analyses of trends on the 2005

Community Summary report, the Reporting Countries for which historical data has been created were asked to validate and submit these reports as soon as possible.

#### **4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE COMMENTS ON THE MANUAL FOR REPORTING ON ZOONOSES, ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE AND FOOD-BORNE OUTBREAKS 2006 – ADVANCED DRAFT**

No comments were received on the manual, but the Chair highlighted the need to revise the manual especially as regards reporting of Listeria monocytogenes and VTEC, as some difficulties were encountered with this reporting. Also the recommendations for reporting of low sample sizes should be addressed. **Further comments from the reporting countries are still welcome.** The Working Group will continue to develop the manual in light of the comments received and experience gained.

#### **5. DISCUSSION ON AMENDMENTS TO THE ZOONOSES REPORTING SYSTEM AND WEB APPLICATION FOR 2007 - PROGRESS REPORT FROM THE IT STEERING COMMITTEE**

A list of suggested new features and improvements (annexed) in the zoonoses web application were presented and discussed. Particularly, the possibility to provide the national report's data in a flat file format (Excel) was discussed and EFSA promised to submit the national data from 2005 to the Reporting Countries in this format so that they can test its usability. Carsten Behring also briefed the Task Force on progress made by the IT Steering Committee.

#### **6. DRAFT REPORT ON “GOOD PRACTICES IN THE DESIGN OF FIELD SURVEYS “FROM THE WORKING GROUP ON DESIGN OF FIELD SURVEYS - FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ENDORSEMENT**

Hubert Deluyker provided a short summary on achievements of this working group and on version 2 of the Guidance Document on Good Practices for Design of Field Surveys. The document was tabled for comments. OIE mentioned the need to update the reference to the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code. Another comment was made on the need to include a definition for ‘Surveillance’. It was agreed to harmonise the definitions with those deriving from Community legislation and the reporting manual. Task Force Members were invited to send additional comments directly to Hubert Deluyker ([hubert.deluyker@efsa.europa.eu](mailto:hubert.deluyker@efsa.europa.eu)) by 14 July. The draft document will still be sent to the BIOHAZ and AHAW panels, for consultation.

#### **7. INFORMATION OF THE ANALYSES OF THE SALMONELLA BASELINE STUDY IN LAYING HENS - PUBLICATION OF THE PRELIMINARY REPORT, THE LETTER FROM GENT UNIVERSITY ON THE USE OF BASELINE STUDY RESULTS**

The Chair opened the discussion explaining briefly the reasons that led EFSA to publish the Preliminary Report on the Salmonella baseline study in laying hens without proper notice on 14 June. EFSA has been discussing the need to publish the preliminary report because the publication of the final report was delayed by many months and the Member States were informed about this. The publication was prompted by the news that BBC had the report at their disposal and that it was going to be presented in their “Newsnight” programme. In that situation EFSA considered that the report had to be made public immediately.

EFSA's Press Officer, Alun Jones gave an overview of the media coverage received and EFSA's line taken. He also stressed EFSA's role in risk communication. In view of the

media interest exhibited, EFSA will consider on future baseline studies a press release. EFSA's main message should be about the European picture, explaining the relevant information.

Some Members expressed their objections concerning the publication of the preliminary report and told that the publicity has placed their national authorities in a difficult position. Several members saw that there was a need to communicate the risk for human health in question in order to avoid misinterpretations of the results.

EFSA concluded that there is a need for a publication strategy for the forthcoming baseline studies, and it would be beneficial if EFSA and the Member States could work together in this aspect. In particular, it should be agreed whether the preliminary report should be published and whether a press release should be made. The Members were asked to reflect this strategy, consult their colleagues at home and **send their views on the subject by end of September.**

Frank Boelaert made a short presentation on the progress in the analyses of the *Salmonella* baseline study in laying hens. The reanalyses of the prevalence figures has not brought any major changes. The Task Force will be consulted on the final report in the beginning of October. The final report should be delivered by mid October 2006.

The letter from the Gent University on the availability of the raw data of the baseline study for their research project was discussed. Some Members expressed their view of the possible misuse and misinterpretation of the data, especially as the baseline study was not designed to address different housing systems. Also more information on the research project would be needed. It was also suggested that the final report would provide the information needed. However, some Members did not have difficulties with submitting the data. EFSA will communicate this point of view to the Commission who will make the final decision on the subject.

## **8. PROGRESS REPORTS FROM THE OTHER WORKING GROUPS UNDER THE TASK FORCE AND DISCUSSION ON THE DRAFT PROPOSALS**

### Working Group on Monitoring Scheme on *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* in Broiler Meat

The Chair presented the state of play as regards the work of the WG. The aim is to draft a one year survey protocol, which will target fresh broiler meat and meat preparations at the slaughterhouse and retail level. The objective is to establish baseline prevalence for *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* and to obtain quantitative information on the numbers of *Campylobacter* in the meat. An advanced draft will be issued for the Commission by end of August. The document should be adopted at the next Task Force meeting.

### Working Group on Monitoring of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

Stef Bronzwaer presented the progress made by the WG. The scope is to set minimum requirements for data collection on AMR in *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter*. This way the minimum number of isolates, breakpoints and analytical methods are better harmonised to improve data comparability. The outline of the monitoring scheme overall was appreciated as well as the proposed use of epidemiological cut-off values and a constructive discussion followed. **Further comments may be provided to Stef Bronzwaer ([stef.bronzwaer@efsa.europa.eu](mailto:stef.bronzwaer@efsa.europa.eu)).**

## Working Group on Reporting on Food-borne Outbreaks

Andrea Gervelmeyer (BfR) presented the main results of the questionnaire survey, and a first outline of the future Community food-borne outbreak reporting system. Stef Bronzwaer informed the Task Force about the mandate and members of the Working Group on Food-borne Outbreaks. The Food-borne Outbreak Contractor will provide a first proposal of the food-borne outbreak reporting system by the end of July. The need and difficulties of reporting aggregated versus individual data on the outbreaks was discussed.

### **9. NEW WORKING GROUPS FOR ANALYSES OF SALMONELLA IN BROILERS BASELINE SURVEY AND DRAFTING BASELINE SURVEY PROTOCOL FOR SALMONELLA IN BREEDING PIGS**

The WG for analyses of Salmonella in broilers baseline study has already been established and it will start its activities very soon. A new WG will be set up for drafting a Salmonella baseline survey protocol in breeding pigs. **Members were asked to suggest candidates for this working group.**

### **10. INFORMATION ON PULSENET EUROPE NETWORK**

PulseNet Europe coordinator Susanna Lukinmaa gave a presentation of the PulseNet network funded by DG RESEARCH. PulseNet Europe is a surveillance network of public health, food and veterinary laboratories, whose primary goal is to facilitate real-time detection of clusters of food-borne infections throughout Europe, using as diagnostic and analytical tools of Pulsed-Field Gel Electrophoresis (PFGE) and BioNumerics software. The system currently covers isolates of Salmonella, Listeria monocytogenes and VTEC. A summary of the services / type of data provided to epidemiologists and food safety authorities was presented and discussed. The laboratories willing to join the Network can contact Mr. Lukinmaa (contact information is provided in the slides).

### **11. NEXT MEETING**

Next Task Force meeting is scheduled to take place in Parma on 16-17 October 2006.

### **12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

A draft letter to be sent to the Chief Veterinary Officers in order to plan informal visits by EFSA's zoonoses experts was discussed. The aim of the visits would be to foster intersectoral collaboration and the national level and to allow EFSA's and National Experts to share experiences and discuss issues relating to data collection and the zoonoses reporting process.

## ANNEX

### POSSIBLE NEW FEATURES OF ZOONOSES WEB APPLICATION 1.2 (2007)

- A way to export and save the reporting tables and text forms as Excel files.
- Additional note field per reporting table: this can be used for communication between the reporting officer and the reporters, e.g. about the progress done in the reporting and the share of tasks.
- Automated history per table: this feature would list who did a change at the specific time on a certain table. This would make it easy to find out who is working currently on a table.
- Automatic calculations on several tables for sums and percentages: to help the reporters and to prevent mistakes. This could apply, for example, to prevalence tables, disease status tables and antimicrobial resistance tables.
- Other data validation tools to tables (e.g. < or >)
- Linking of values in antimicrobial tables and disease status tables: when same values are used in several tables, an automatic simultaneous entry for all tables.
- New default prevalence tables: Staphylococcal enterotoxins, Enterobacter sakazakii, histamine, Q fever.
- New foodborne outbreak table(s) with possible XML import.
- A XML import for antimicrobial resistance quantitative tables.
- New vaccination table for the disease status tables.
- Fix and re-enable table for salmonella control programs (co-financed programmes).
- Bug fixing (26 bugs).
- Updating the pick lists.
- Possible fix for slow wizards due to much data (local storage).