



Parma, 18th December 2006 - Final

TASK FORCE ON ZOOSES DATA COLLECTION

MINUTES OF THE 8th MEETING **Held in Parma on 16th / 17th October 2006**

AGENDA:

1. Minutes from the last meeting
2. Declaration of interest
3. State of play with draft Community Summary Report on Zoonoses 2005
4. Opinion from BIOHAZ and AHAW panels on Review of the Community Summary Report on Trends and Sources of Zoonoses, Zoonotic Agents and Antimicrobial Resistance in the European Union in 2004 - discussion on needs to action
5. Discussion on amendments to the zoonoses reporting system and web application for 2007
6. Possible adoption of the draft report on Good Practices in Design of Field Surveys
7. Possible adoption of the draft report on proposed technical specifications for a Coordinated Monitoring Programme for *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* in Broiler Meat in EU
8. Discussion on proposal for an improved reporting system for food-borne outbreaks and related pick lists in the framework of Directive 2003/99/EC (proposal from BfR contractor)
9. Discussion on the proposal for a harmonized monitoring scheme of antimicrobial resistance in *Salmonella* in *Gallus gallus*, turkeys, and pigs and *Campylobacter jejuni* and *C. coli* in broiler chickens and turkeys
10. Reports and results of the baseline surveys
 - a) Information of the final report on the *Salmonella* baseline study in laying hens
 - b) Discussion on the publication policy for the baseline survey reports (preliminary and final reports)
 - c) Discussion on the further letter from Gent university on the use of the laying hen baseline study results
11. Progress reports from the other working groups under the Task Force
 - a) IT Project Steering Committee
 - b) Working Group on analyses of *Salmonella* in broilers baseline study
 - c) Working Group on baseline survey protocol for *Salmonella* in breeding pigs
12. Information from Dutch authorities of MRSA in pigs
13. Updating the list of Task Force members
14. Any other business

PARTICIPANTS:

Members and other National or Commission representatives:

Peter Much (Austria), Luc Vanholme (Belgium), Petr Satran (Czech Republic), Christodoulos Pipis (Cyprus), Birgitte Helwich (Denmark), Jelena Sögel (Estonia), Terhi Laaksonen (Finland), Pierre-Alexandre Beloeil (France), Matthias Hartung (Germany), Dimitris Vourvidis (Greece), Petra Szabados (Hungary), Anne Cummings, Lisa O'Connor, Kilian Unger (Ireland), Antonia Ricci, Alessandro Ripani, Valentina Rizzi (Italy), Nicola Werner-Keišs (Latvia), Nijole Kazlauskienė (Lithuania), Joseph Schon (Luxembourg), Rob Van Oosterom, Albert Johannes De Neeling (Netherlands), Quentin Lawson (Malta), Merete Hofshagen (Norway), Josek Osek (Poland), Patrícia Tavares Santos (Portugal), Marta Bedriova (Slovakia), Atencia Fernandez Angeles, Josè Saez Llorente (Spain), Harry Bailie, Lesley Larkin (United Kingdom), Karoline Fernandez de la Hoz (European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control - ECDC), Kris De Smet (European Commission), Birgitte Borck (Zoonoses Collaboration Centre) and Andrea Gervelmeyer (BfR),

Observers:

Antonio Petrini (OIE), Alexandrov Tsviatko, (Bulgaria), Adriana Costache (Romania), Cornelio Neff (Switzerland)

EFSA:

Pia Mäkelä (Chair), Frank Boelaert, Stef Bronzwaer, Sérgio Potier Rodeia, Francesca Riolo, Paolo Calistri, Sandra Correia Rodeia (Science), Carsten Behring, Bertrand De Baenst, Antoine De Troostembergh (Information Technology), Miriam Grasselli and Simona Fusari Polli (Administrative)

MINUTES:

1. MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING

No comments were received on the draft minutes sent for consultation since last meeting on 6 and 7 July 2006. The final version is now published on EFSA's web site.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None of the participants expressed an interest.

3. STATE OF PLAY WITH THE DRAFT COMMUNITY SUMMARY REPORT ON ZOOSES 2005

The Chair made a brief presentation on the draft Summary Report, highlighting the fact that it has been the first one under Directive 2003/99/EC and prepared in collaboration with the ECDC. The collaboration between the two agencies and the ZCC worked also well. The Chair also noted the inclusion of new chapters on other zoonoses, namely on BSE/TSE and Avian Influenza, where the information was provided by the European Commission. In order to better assess trends at European level, the chair mentioned the need for more consistent

data over the years. A list of the main fields where to improve consistency on data collection was presented (Annex) and members we asked to consider it for the next meeting.

Karoline Fernandez de la Hoz (ECDC) briefed the Task Force on the collection of the data on human cases. The dataset was analysed by ECDC and incorporated in the Summary Report. Further harmonization efforts on the data collection process will be made for the forthcoming year.

Birgitte Bork from ZCC made then a brief presentation on the main conclusions of the summary report.

The Summary report was launched for consultation on 9 October, and Member States were asked to provide their comments by the 1st of November 2006.

4. OPINION FROM BIOHAZ AND AHAW PANELS ON REVIEW OF THE COMMUNITY SUMMARY REPORT ON TRENDS AND SOURCES OF ZOOSES, ZONOTIC AGENTS AND ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE IN THE EUROPEAN UNION IN 2004 - DISCUSSION ON NEEDS TO ACTION

Paolo Calistri (from the BIOHAZ panel) and Sandra Correia Rodeia (from the AHAW panel) presented the main conclusions and the associated recommended actions on the review of the Community Summary Zoonoses Report 2004. The opinion is expected to be published soon together with a press release. The Chair mentioned the intention to address the recommendations made on the opinion concerning VTEC, *Yersinia* and *Toxoplasma* in 2007, asking the BIOHAZ panel for scientific advice.

5. DISCUSSION ON AMENDMENTS TO THE ZOOSES REPORTING SYSTEM AND WEB APPLICATION FOR 2007

Carsten Behring (IT) presented an overview of the proposed changes to be introduced on the next version of the web based application, to be used in 2007. These include several improvements, namely ordering the list of institutions, installing fixed line headers, improving the speed of slow wizards, provision of automatic calculation or warning signs on some tables, linking values in some tables, installing a drop down menu for sampling unit, including an additional note field per table and introducing some minor changes on the antimicrobial and outbreak tables.

Other new features include the possibility of providing for 2 reporting officers per country, an automated history per table, improved completion markers for text forms and tables, establishing different rights to reporters regarding different tables and to allow the downloading of flat Excel data files per country.

The Chair introduced other suggested amendments to the system, including data validation tools, some minor changes to the existing tables and 4 new default prevalence tables - on *Coxiella burnetii* (Q fever) in animals, staphylococcal enterotoxins in food, *Enterobacter sakazakii* in food, and histamine in food. A discussion on the usefulness of automatic calculation tools for several tables (disease status, antimicrobial) took place. Some members expressed their concern that these calculations are not always valid, and would make the system less flexible. Alternatively, a warning mark in case of incorrect summing could be introduced so as to indicate if the sum of species/serotypes do not add up to the total. The new prevalence tables related to food are being introduced as a result of a COM request, the main aim being the collection of data to assess the compliance with the criteria set out in

Regulation (EC) N° 2073/2005. The Chair clarified that the collection of information on the new prevalence tables will be done on a voluntary basis.

Task Force members were invited to send additional comments on the suggested amendments, especially on the proposed amendments to the antimicrobial resistance tables, by end of October 2006.

6. POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT REPORT ON GOOD PRACTICES IN DESIGN OF FIELD SURVEYS

Frank Boelaert summarized the main changes introduced on the draft report since the last Task Force Meeting. The majority of the comments were taken aboard, along with the comments made by the BIOHAZ and AHAW panels. As no additional comments were made, the Task Force adopted the report, which will be published on EFSA's web page.

7. POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT REPORT ON PROPOSED TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR A COORDINATED MONITORING PROGRAMME FOR SALMONELLA AND CAMPYLOBACTER IN BROILER MEAT IN EU

The Chair briefly summarized the main changes introduced on the report after the discussion at the Commission Working group meeting on 11 September and the last EFSA Working Group meeting on the 5th of October. These changes include the inclusion of a chapter on the rationale for the choices made concerning the scope and the design of the current proposal, along with a clarification of the text concerning the sampling at retail level. The Task Force adopted the document in principle, although minor comments are acceptable by the 20th of October.

8. DISCUSSION ON THE PROPOSAL FOR AN IMPROVED REPORTING SYSTEM FOR FOODBORNE OUTBREAKS AND RELATED PICK LISTS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF DIRECTIVE 2003/99/EC (PROPOSAL FROM BfR CONTRACTOR)

Andrea Gervelmeyer from BfR gave a short description on the current state of play of the proposal. Written comments to the proposal were received from Germany, Sweden, Finland and Norway. Being a shared task with ECDC, Karoline Fernandez de la Hoz informed the Task Force about the outcome of the consultation of the ECDC's Advisory Forum. The Forum had stressed good collaboration with ECDC and EFSA in the reporting, particularly as ECDC is planning to set a surveillance system for outbreaks in general.

Some Task Force members requested further improvements, namely the clarification of the concept of "Outbreak" and the collection of information on whether the food products causing the outbreak were imported or not. Additional comments to the current proposal were asked until the 20th of October. The Working Group on foodborne outbreaks will continue its work in the light of comments received.

9. DISCUSSION ON THE PROPOSAL FOR A HARMONIZED MONITORING SCHEME OF ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE IN SALMONELLA IN GALLUS GALLUS, TURKEYS, AND PIGS AND CAMPYLOBACTER JEJUNI AND C .COLI IN BROILER CHICKENS AND TURKEYS

Stef Bronzwaer presented the progress made by the Working Group on antimicrobial resistance and the outline of the current proposal that was tabled for this meeting. Germany raised the question why food was not covered by these specifications. Stef Bronzwaer explained that this was a consequence of the decision to build the antimicrobial resistance

monitoring on the existing or forthcoming control or monitoring programmes that cover only live animals and not food. However, as mentioned in the document, further guidance in areas not being covered by the current proposal may be considered in the future. France suggested that the results should be presented not only as "resistance rates" (number of resistant bacteria / number of bacteria tested) but also as "prevalences of resistant bacteria" (number of samples positive for resistant bacteria / number of samples tested). Stef Bronzwaer explained that the working group had discussed this, as well as the use of a combined indicator, and considered that while a combined indicator did not seem feasible it would be possible to link resistance-trends to trends in prevalence, if the scheme is implemented adequately.

10. REPORTS AND RESULTS OF THE BASELINE SURVEYS

A) INFORMATION OF THE FINAL REPORT ON THE SALMONELLA BASELINE STUDY IN LAYING HENS

Frank Boelaert made a short report on the progress of the analysis of the *Salmonella* baseline study in laying hens. Reference was made to the *Salmonella* holding observed prevalence and the design-bias, as well as to factors associated with *Salmonella* positivity, such as sample type, flock production type, vaccination status, number of hens in the holding and season, amongst others. The final report will be sent for consultation to members of the Task Force in November.

B) DISCUSSION ON THE PUBLICATION POLICY FOR THE BASELINE SURVEY REPORTS (PRELIMINARY AND FINAL REPORTS)

The Chair presented EFSA's current revised proposal on the publication policy for baseline survey reports. After discussion it was agreed not to use the term "preliminary report", as it is often misunderstood. Instead the reports will be named the 1. and the 2. report on the subject. EFSA promised to provide further clarification on the content of these two reports. The majority of Task Force members requested additional time for commenting on the current proposal. The Chair mentioned that comments will be welcome even prior to the next Task Force meeting, where further discussion of this subject will take place.

C) DISCUSSION ON THE FURTHER LETTER FROM GENT UNIVERSITY ON THE USE OF THE LAYING HEN BASELINE STUDY RESULTS

As requested during last Task Force meeting, further details on the main objective of the project of the Gent University were provided. Antonia Ricci, representing a partner of the project, explained the Task Force that this project is being developed within the framework of the Community co-financed research SAFEHOUSE project, aiming the introduction of changes in the housing system of laying hens in order to improve animal welfare and simultaneously assessing the potential health risk to consumers resulting from those changes. The possibility of studying the data collected during the laying hen baseline study would allow a first look at existing data and eventually help in the further design of the project. The dataset would be made anonymous and the data would not be presented without consent of EU authorities.

The majority of Task Force members expressed to be in favour of giving the laying hen dataset on the conditions proposed. Spain wanted to first consult their national authorities and abstained. The Commission representative was informed about the outcome of this discussion.

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

A) IT PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE (PSC)

Carsten Behring made a short progress report on the work of the PSC. Reference was made to the last meeting held on 11 September and to the results of the user and reporting officer surveys. Concerning the user survey results, the majority of participants found no major connection problems upon reporting and feels that the system speeds up the zoonoses reporting process. The final results of the user and reporting officer surveys will be sent to all Task Force members and reporting officers.

Reference was also made to the planned new features of the web application for 2007 (see point 5 of the minutes). These improvements will be introduced by February 2007 and tested by end of March 2007. The new web application version (1.2) will then be released.

B) WORKING GROUP ON ANALYSES OF *SALMONELLA* IN BROILERS BASELINE STUDY

Frank Boelaert briefed the Task Force on the setting up of this Working Group. Members of the group will mainly be the same ones that participated in the analysis of the *Salmonella* in laying hen baseline study dataset. A first meeting of the Working Group is scheduled in two weeks. The dataset will be sent by the Commission to the Working Group in November 2006, after being received from the MS.

C) WORKING GROUP ON BASELINE SURVEY PROTOCOL FOR *SALMONELLA* IN BREEDING PIGS

Frank Boelaert also briefed the Task Force on the setting up of this Working Group, explaining that the first meeting will be held just after the end of this Task Force, on the 17th of October. The survey proposal, containing the technical specifications and rationale, should be finalised by March 2007.

12. INFORMATION FROM DUTCH AUTHORITIES OF MRSA IN PIGS

Dr. Albert De Neeling made an interesting presentation concerning a survey performed in the Netherlands for methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) in pig farming. The study, conducted at slaughterhouse level, found a high prevalence of samples being positive to MRSA. The study also concluded that no geographical clustering of contaminated batches could be found. The presentation was followed by an animated discussion. Some other MS plan to make similar surveys in their country.

13. UPDATING THE LIST OF TASK FORCE MEMBERS

The Chair asked all Task Force Members to verify if names, addresses and contacts on the list distributed are correct.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair informed the Task Force that letters have been sent to all Chief Veterinary Officers in order to plan informal visits in the area of the zoonoses reporting process. The Chair mentioned that some replies have been received and that visits aiming the sharing of experiences and discussion on issues relating to data collection and the zoonoses reporting process are now being planned.

The next meeting of the Task Force is scheduled on a preliminary basis on the 24th and 25th of January 2007.

ANNEX

The Community Summary Report on Zoonoses

The Directive 2003/99/EC foresees the following of trends in zoonotic agents, antimicrobial resistance and foodborne outbreaks. Trend watching requires consistent data over the years from the MS. The data should be (relatively) comparable within the country.

Trends would be useful for:

Salmonella in

- fresh broiler meat (S. spp)
- fresh pig meat (S. spp)
- table eggs (S. spp)
- breeding flocks of *Gallus gallus* : egg production line and the meat production line (S. spp., S.E. and S.T.)
- flocks of laying hens (S. spp., S.E. and S.T.)
- flocks of broilers (S. spp.)
- fattening pigs (S.spp.)
- antimicrobial resistance in *Gallus gallus* and pigs

Campylobacter in

- Fresh broiler meat
- Flocks of broilers
- Antimicrobial resistance in *Gallus gallus*

Listeria monocytogenes

- Ready-to-eat foods (fishery products)

Bovine tuberculosis and bovine/caprine/ovine brucellosis

- Non-free countries

Trichinella – wildlife

Echinococcus

Rabies: domestic and pet animals and wildlife