



Parma, 19 March 2007 - Final

TASK FORCE ON ZOONOSES DATA COLLECTION

MINUTES OF THE 9th MEETING **Held in Parma on 24-25 January 2007**

AGENDA:

1. Minutes from the last meeting
2. Declaration of Interest (DoI)– information on EFSA’s policy on DoIs
3. State of play with the Community Summary Report on Zoonoses 2005
4. Opinion from BIOHAZ and AHAW panels on the 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 need for action
5. Discussion on reporting the 2006 zoonoses data and revision of the zoonoses reporting manual
6. Information and state of play with the amendments to the zoonoses reporting system and web application for 2007
7. Discussion and possible adoption of the draft report including a proposal for a harmonized monitoring scheme of antimicrobial resistance in *Salmonella* in fowl (*Gallus gallus*), turkeys, and pigs, and *Campylobacter jejuni* and *C. coli* in broilers
8. Reports and results of the baseline surveys
 - a) Discussion of the final report on the *Salmonella* baseline study in laying hens
 - b) Discussion on the publication policy for the baseline survey reports
 - c) Discussion on analyses of *Salmonella* in broilers baseline study
 - d) Discussion on the policy for requests to obtain the baseline study dataset
9. Progress reports from the other working groups under the Task Force
 - a) IT Project Steering Committee
 - b) Working Group on baseline survey protocol for *Salmonella* in breeding pigs
 - c) Working Group on Foodborne Outbreaks
10. Visits to the Member States in relation to the Zoonoses reporting
11. Updating the list of Task Force members / Contact Points for zoonoses data collection
12. Any other business

PARTICIPANTS:

Members and other National or Commission representatives:

Peter Much (Austria), Luc Vanholme (Belgium), Georgi Chobanov (Bulgaria), Petr Šatrán (Czech Republic), Christodoulos Pipis (Cyprus), Ole Heuer (Denmark), Jelena Sögel (Estonia), Terhi Laaksonen (Finland), Pierre-Alexandre Beloeil (France), Matthias Hartung (Germany), Dimitris Vourvidis (Greece), Petra Szabados (Hungary), Kilian Unger (Ireland), Antonia Ricci, Alessandro Ripani, Valentina Rizzi, Luca Busani (Italy), Nicola Werner-Keiss (Latvia), Nijole Kazlauskienė (Lithuania), Joseph Schon (Luxembourg), Rob Van Oosterom, (Netherlands), Merete Hofshagen (Norway), Jacek Osek (Poland), Patrícia Tavares Santos (Portugal), Adriana Costache (Romania),

Marta Bedriova (Slovakia), Manca Pavsic (Slovenia), Luisa Pulido Puente, Josè Luis Paramio Lucas (Spain), Sofia Boqvist (Sweden), Harry Bailie, Lesley Larkin (United Kingdom), Andrea Ammon (European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control - ECDC), Kris De Smet (European Commission) and Danilo Lo Fo Wong (Zoonoses Collaboration Centre)

Observers:

Caroline Planté (OIE), Jürg Danuser (Switzerland)

EFSA:

Pia Mäkelä (the Chair), Frank Boelaert, Stef Bronzwaer, Billy Amzal, Francesca Riolo, Kenneth Mulligan, Sérgio Potier Rodeia (Science), Dirk Detken (Legal Affairs), Carsten Behring, Bertrand De Baenst (Information Technology), Miriam Grasselli and Simona Fusar Poli (Administrative)

MINUTES:

The meeting was opened by welcoming all Task Force Members. A special welcome reference was made to Bulgaria and Romania as new Members States, and also to Andrea Ammon from ECDC and to Danilo Lo Fo Wong from ZCC.

1. MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING

Some comments were received on the draft minutes of the last Task Force meeting held on the 16 and 17 October 2006, and were taken aboard. The final version has been published on EFSA's web site.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None of the participants expressed an interest. Dirk Detken, from EFSA's Legal Unit gave a presentation on declaration of interests, highlighting that it was considered as primarily a transparency activity and that interests declared and conflicts of interests were different issues. EFSA's decision on publishing the declarations on its website was highlighted. Reference was made to specific circumstances evolving around the role of Task force Members. The members were invited to consider declaring interests arising from being employed in national or international bodies with tasks mirroring those of EFSA under the intellectual interests. This also includes participation in public interest groups, professional / scientific societies and any organization that has an interest or involvement in EFSA's work.

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

The Zoonoses Community Summary Report 2005 was published on EFSA's web site on 14.12.2006 with a press release. The main findings highlighted were that campylobacteriosis has overtaken salmonellosis as the most frequently reported zoonoses in humans, and the high prevalences of *Campylobacter* found in broiler meat. The frequent finding of fluoroquinolone resistant *Campylobacter* was also specifically addressed. ECDC, ZCC and the Member States were thanked for the good collaboration during the reporting.

The printed brochure of zoonoses in 2005 is already available. The printing of the main report is in progress, and should be finalised in March. Those Task Force members who have not yet informed EFSA about the number of brochures and printed copies of the report they need, were kindly invited to provide this information as soon as possible to sergio.potierrodeia@efsa.europa.eu.

The translation of the report in other EU languages was discussed, but there were no general request for that. Efforts will be made in bringing the reports to the public knowledge.

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

The main recommendations given in the opinion to improve the monitoring and reporting of zoonoses were discussed. ECDC will, on its behalf, address those recommendations that relate to human cases. The recommendations on VTEC and *Toxoplasma* will be further considered by the BIOHAZ panel in relation to the recent mandates on these zoonoses. The EFSA working groups on foodborne outbreaks and reporting manual revision will take into account the recommendations of the panels in their work. EFSA also promised to investigate the discrepancies between data collected by international organisations. In addition, the CRL's will be consulted about the use of molecular methods. The requests for mandates already submitted to the BIOHAZ panel concerning VTEC, *Yersinia* and *Toxoplasma*, were distributed for information.

Spain pointed out that in the opinion there were some misunderstandings concerning the Community system for control and eradication of bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis. Spain was asked to submit their comments in writing so that they could be forwarded to the panel secretariats.

5. DISCUSSION ON REPORTING THE 2006 ZOONOSES DATA AND THE REVISION OF THE REPORTING MANUAL

The discussion on the revised document on the following of trends in zoonotic agents in the fields of public health relevance was continued. Some changes were agreed upon, namely adding the trends for *Salmonella* in feedingstuffs and *Trichinella* in farmed wildlife and *E. multilocularis* in foxes, as well as other minor adjustments. EFSA will provide a revised document for the next Task Force meeting. It was pointed out that the document only gives recommendations to Member States, and that surveys carried out every 2 or 3 years would suffice.

A short resume on the main changes foreseen to the zoonoses reporting manual was given. The Working Group under the Task Force is aiming to: (1) shorten the manual, (2) reshuffle the different chapters and content to ensure easy consultation to reporting officers and reporters (3) clearly separate those recommendations that relate to monitoring from those relating to reporting, and, (4) consult the Community Reference Laboratories on the recommended diagnostic/analytical methods. The chapter on antimicrobial resistance will be revised in line with the recommendations of the corresponding harmonized monitoring scheme.

The possible overlapping of monitoring included in the multi-annual control programmes foreseen in Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004, and data that fall under the scope of Directive 2003/99/EC, was discussed. COM representative, Kris De Smet, informed the Task Force that he will investigate the relationship of these activities from the legal point of view.

EFSA informed the Task Force of its intention to launch projects to prepare proposals for harmonised monitoring and reporting schemes for certain zoonoses under Article 36 of Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002. The national institutes listed in accordance with the Article could receive grants for carrying out these projects. The aim is to start from Q fever, rabies and parasitic zoonoses.

6. INFORMATION AND STATE OF PLAY WITH THE AMENDMENTS TO THE ZOONOSES REPORTING SYSTEM AND WEB APPLICATION FOR 2007

The state of play on the revision of the web based reporting application was presented by Carsten Behring. Good progress has been done, and the new features will, among other things, allow reporting officers to give different rights to reporters, provide communication fields between reporters, and include new tables for Q fever and some non-zoonotic pathogens. There will probably not be enough time to revise the qualitative antimicrobial resistance table this year. After discussion, Task Force members agreed on keeping the possibility of having 2 reporting officers as an option for the coming years. The release of the new web application version is foreseen to take place on 15 March 2007, after an intensive testing period.

7. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT REPORT INCLUDING A PROPOSAL FOR A HARMONIZED MONITORING SCHEME OF ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE IN *SALMONELLA* IN FOWL (*GALLUS GALLUS*), TURKEYS, AND PIGS AND *CAMPYLOBACTER JEJUNI* AND *C. COLI* IN BROILERS

The report was tabled for possible adoption and Stef Bronzwaer provided an explanation on how the comments received earlier were taken aboard in the document. Some comments were still given regarding the draft report. The report was adopted in principle, and EFSA will, after consulting the relevant Working Group, circulate the final text version to the Task Force members for a final check.

8. REPORTS AND RESULTS OF THE BASELINE SURVEYS

A - DISCUSSION OF THE FINAL REPORT ON THE *SALMONELLA* BASELINE STUDY IN LAYING HENS

Frank Boelaert presented the draft final report of the *Salmonella* baseline study in laying hens. An interesting finding was that the factors related to different *Salmonella* serovars differed, indicating that the epidemiology of these serovars varies. The Task Force was asked to send comments on the report by 7.2.2007, at the latest. The Commission asked for a clearer analysis of the impact of holding and flock size variables. After adoption, the report will be published on EFSA's web-site without a press release.

B - DISCUSSION ON THE PUBLICATION POLICY FOR THE BASELINE SURVEY REPORTS

The revised document outlining EFSA's publication policy for the *Salmonella* baseline survey was discussed. Two reports (A and B) will be produced from each baseline study, and both of them will be published. A press release will likely be issued with the A report, containing the prevalence figures. The Task Force did not have any other major comments on the document (annexed).

C - DISCUSSION ON ANALYSES OF *SALMONELLA* IN BROILERS BASELINE STUDY

Frank Boelaert gave a progress report on the analysis of the *Salmonella* baseline study in broilers presenting the first draft figures for EU prevalence. Specific questions were addressed regarding the flock and holding prevalences, the policy for missing information of the total number of broiler flocks and the serovars to be further investigated. It was concluded that both flock and holding prevalences will be reported and that the sensitivity analysis of the impact of the sample size will be based on the *S. Enteritidis* / *S. Typhimurium* prevalence. The prevalence outcome variables to consider for the risk factor analyses – maximum four – are proposed to be *S. Enteritidis*, *S. Typhimurium*, *S. Infantis* and 'non - *S. Enteritidis* / non - *S. Typhimurium* / non - *S. Infantis*'. The Working Group needs to discuss this latter issue further.

The Task Force will be asked to provide updated figures on the number of broiler flocks existing in their country in order to improve the accuracy of the statistical analyses. The Task Force was informed that the analysis of antimicrobial resistance, serotypes and phage type data will be outsourced. Additionally, the Commission and EFSA informed the Task Force that, due to the tight timelines for setting the target, EFSA is planning, on the request of the Commission, to submit preliminary results on the prevalence figures for the Task Force and Commission Working Group. As these results will not be validated by the Member States, they have to be regarded highly confidential.

D - DISCUSSION ON THE POLICY FOR REQUESTS TO OBTAIN THE BASELINE STUDY DATASET

The Task Force was briefed on the arrangements to provide the dataset from the *Salmonella* baseline study in laying hens to the “Safehouse Project”. It was agreed that the dataset could be provided in a format where two to three countries are combined randomly to guarantee the anonymity of the data. The Chair proposed that future requests for the baseline datasets are analysed by EFSA and by two volunteers from the Task Force. The Task Force agreed on the proposal made.

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

A - IT PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE

Carsten Behring provided a progress report on the IT Project Steering Committee activities. The setting of priorities for the amendments / new features on the web application, the approval of the release of the new web application version, and the work on exporting data via XML, are the main ongoing issues at this committee.

B - WORKING GROUP ON BASELINE SURVEY PROTOCOL FOR *Salmonella* IN BREEDING PIGS

Frank Boelaert gave a brief report on the drafting of a baseline study on the prevalence of *Salmonella* in breeding pigs. In the current draft, it is proposed to include all pig herds having breeding pigs to be eligible for sampling. Pooled pen faeces samples have been suggested. Two other working group meetings are scheduled in order to deliver a draft proposal to the Task Force in March.

C - WORKING GROUP ON FOODBORNE OUTBREAKS

Stef Bronzwaer informed the Task Force that the original proposal for an improved reporting system on foodborne outbreaks has been simplified after feedback received from Task Force members and ECDC's Advisory Forum. The main features of the current proposal were explained. The contractor, BfR, will carry out an evaluation of the current reporting system, with the objective of assessing its acceptability and data quality.

The Task Force also agreed upon initiating harmonisation work for monitoring of antimicrobial resistance in indicators (*E. coli* and *Enterococci*). The task will be taken over by the same working group, which drafted the report on antimicrobial resistance in *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter*.

10. VISITS TO THE MEMBER STATES IN RELATION TO THE ZONOSES REPORTING

EFSA has received kind invitations from several Member States to visit their country. A proposed timetable for the visits was presented together with a suggested visit programme. Task Force members were invited to inform EFSA if the proposed timetable is suitable for their country.

11. UPDATING THE LIST OF TASK FORCE MEMBERS / CONTACT POINTS FOR ZOONOSES DATA COLLECTION

The Task Force was asked to update the information on the “List of Task Force Members” and on the “List of National contact points for zoonoses monitoring and data collection”, where applicable.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The dates for the next Task Force meetings in 2007 were agreed upon, and they will be:

26-27 March 2007; 11-12 September 2007 and 8 November 2007. The 8 November meeting will take place in Glasgow, adjacent to an International Conference on Zoonoses: From Science to Policy on 5-7 November 2007.

EFSA asked the Task Force if it would agree upon preparing articles for scientific journals on the *Salmonella* baseline study in laying hens and the monitoring scheme for antimicrobial resistance in *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter*. The members expressed their agreement on the plan.



European Food Safety Authority

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EFSA *Salmonella* baseline survey reports – publication policy outline

This policy is intended to be applied in the publication of the future EFSA reports on *Salmonella* baseline surveys. The policy proposed is in line with the principles of the existing Management Board's Decision concerning access to documents (of 16.09.2003). The proposal has been discussed on several occasions with the Task Force on Zoonoses Data Collection and it has been modified to take into account the views and concerns of the Member States.

The procedure of preparing and publishing the baseline survey reports

EFSA will receive the baseline study datasets from the Commission. While the data is being analysed and the **draft** reports are under preparation in EFSA, the reports are **confidential**.

Similarly, when the Zoonoses Task Force members (the Member States) are consulted about the draft reports in order to allow the MS to validate their figures and to comment on the conclusions made, the **draft** report will be **confidential**.

However, when the **1. report (part A)** is issued after the consultation, in order to be used by the Commission and the MS to set the *Salmonella* reduction target; it is not any more a draft and has been validated by the MS. Thus the results (prevalence figures) are not subject to changes. The report is therefore regarded a **public document**. EFSA aims to publish the preliminary report on its web site immediately when it is issued.

Eventually the **2. report (part B)** follows. The draft part B report is **confidential** until the results have been validated by the MS (the Task Force), and after finalisation it will be **published** on EFSA web site.

The difference between **the part A. and B report** is that the part A report does not include all the data and analyses performed. This is because EFSA has not time enough to carry out all the analyses by the timeline when the Commission wants the prevalence figures in order to start the discussion on the reduction target. However, the prevalence figures in the part A report are the final ones.

Solution

As the term “preliminary report” tends to be misunderstood, it seems best to name the reports in a way that is not misleading regarding the nature of the documents. Therefore the following report titles are proposed:

The **1. report** will be called “Analyses of *Salmonella* baseline survey in xxx (animal population in question), part A: Report on the prevalence of *Salmonella* in xxx”

The **2. report** will have the title “Analyses of *Salmonella* baseline survey in xxx: part B: Report on factors associated to *Salmonella* positivity in xxx”

Immediately following the finalization of the part A report, the following will be done:

- (i) under embargo of 24-48 hours the report will be distributed to the Task Force on Zoonoses Data Collection, the Advisory Forum and the Commission,
- (ii) after the embargo, published on EFSA website,
- (iii) after the embargo, any foreseen communication activities (e.g. press release) will be carried out at the same time it is published on the web.

The same applies to the part B report, if necessary.

The content of the reports will be as follows:

The A part report (prevalence report):

- The observed Community and Member State specific prevalences,
- With-in flock/herd proportion of positive samples,
- Simulation of the impact of number of samples on the prevalence figures,
- *Salmonella* serovar distribution in the Community and Member States,
- Overview of the quality of the bacteriological testing,
- Overview of the animal population in EU.

The B part report (positivity factor analyses report):

- Regression analyses of factors associated with *Salmonella* positive samples/holdings,
- Descriptive analyses of *Salmonella* serovar and phagetype information,
- Descriptive analyses of information on antimicrobial susceptibility of the *Salmonella* isolates.

Compared to the laying hen baseline study, the bivariate (univariate) analyses has been dropped from the A part report. This is because the multiple regression analysis (to be presented in the B part report) is scientifically sounder and its outcome might differ from the bivariate analyses.