

TASK FORCE ON ZONOSSES DATA COLLECTION

**MINUTES OF THE 11th MEETING
Held in Parma on 11-12 September 2007**

AGENDA:

1. Minutes from the last meeting
2. Declaration of Interest (DoI)
3. Feedback from 2006 Zoonoses Reporting
4. Revision of the Zoonoses Reporting Application for 2008
5. Preliminary discussion on collection of molecular typing data on zoonotic agents derived from animals and food
6. Discussion of the draft Report on harmonising the reporting of food-borne outbreaks through Community reporting system in accordance with Directive 2003/99/EC
7. Discussion and possible adoption of the draft Report on food-borne outbreak reporting system in place in the Member States of the European Union and on needs for information on food-borne outbreaks in the European Community – results of a questionnaire survey
8. Discussion and possible adoption of the draft Report on Analyses of *Salmonella* Baseline Survey in Broiler Flocks, Part B: factors associated to *Salmonella* flock prevalence, serovar distribution and antimicrobial resistance patterns
9. Discussion on data validation issues related to *Salmonella* baseline surveys in slaughter pigs and turkeys
10. Discussion on monitoring of MRSA in animals and food
11. Information from the Biological Hazard and Animal Health and Welfare Panels on questions related to zoonoses monitoring
12. Presentation of OIE regarding their data collection activities
13. Progress reports from the other working groups under the Task Force
 - Monitoring of Antimicrobial Resistance in indicator organisms and in *S. aureus* – adoption of the mandate
 - Analyses of baseline survey on *Salmonella* in turkeys
 - Analyses of baseline survey on *Salmonella* fattening pigs
14. Information on calls for proposals/ tenders
 - Development of harmonised schemes for monitoring and reporting of *Echinococcus*, *Trichinella*, *Cysticercus* and *Sarcocystis* as well as of rabies and Q fever in EU
 - In depth analyses of the antimicrobial resistance data from isolates derived from animals and food
15. Any other business
 - Work Plan 2007-2008 of the Zoonoses Unit

PARTICIPANTS:

Members and other National or Commission representatives:

Peter Much (Austria), Luc Vanholme (Belgium), Georgi Chobanov (Bulgaria), Petr Satran (Czech Republic), Birgitte Hellwich (Denmark), Jelena Sögel (Estonia), Saara Raulo (Finland), Mélanie Picherot (France), Matthias Hartung (Germany), Petra Szabados (Hungary), Kilian Unger, Anne Cowley (Ireland), Alessandro Ripani, Valentina Rizzi (Italy), Tatjana Ribakova (Latvia), Ingrida Miliute (Lithuania), Joseph Schon (Luxembourg), Rob Van Oosterom (The Netherlands), Merete Hofshagen (Norway), Jacek Osek (Poland), Andrea Cara d'Anjo (Portugal), Adriana Costache, Mirela Nicola (Romania), Marta Bedriová (Slovakia), Maria Luisa Pulido Puente, José Luis Paramio Lucas (Spain), Elina Lahi (Sweden), Harry Bailie, Lesley Larkin (The UK), Kris de Smet, Ari Hörman (European Commission)

Observers:

Daniel Chaisemartin (OIE), Jürg Danuser (Switzerland), Yurtalan Salih (Turkey), Albert Marinculić (Croatia)

EFSA:

Pia Mäkelä (the Chair), Frank Boelaert, Pierre-Alexandre Belœil, Alessandro Manelli, Pablo Nart, Francesca Riolo, Kenneth Mulligan (Zoonoses), Stef Bronzwaer (SCA), Carsten Behring, Chiara Bianchi, Alessandro Baretta (Information Technology), Marta Hugas, Eirini Tsigarida, Coralie Bultel (BIOHAZ), Sandra Correia Rodeia, Fabrizio De Massis (AHAW), Miriam Grasselli and Simona Fusar Poli (Administrative).

MINUTES:

The meeting was opened by welcoming all Task Force Members and Observers.

1. MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING

No comments were received on the draft minutes of the last Task Force meeting (TFM) held on the 26-27 March 2007. Minutes of the last TFM were adopted without any further comments of the TF members.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST (DOI)

Members and observers were requested to deliver their new Annual Declaration of Interests using the new template document. Further guidelines on the filling in of declaration of interests were provided to Task Force members. They should send it as a signed original by regular mail to EFSA (Pia Mäkelä or P-A. Belœil).

3. FEEDBACK FROM 2006 ZOOSES REPORTING

The contribution of the Member States (MS) in the timely reporting of 2006 data was much appreciated. Most of the national reports were received by end of the May timeline. Some difficulties were encountered in reporting of *Listeria* and antimicrobial resistance data due to shortcomings in the reporting tables. Most MS reported on items where trends would be followed, however for *Listeria* in ready-to-eat fish and sliced meat, only relatively little information was provided. In the 2006 Summary Report, statistical analysis of trends will be introduced for the first time. ZCC reminded the MS about the importance to update the historical data in the zoonoses database (in the frozen reports).

Regarding the coming years, it has become obvious that the quantity of the data has increased so much, that a review of the reporting format of the Community Summary Report is necessary. EFSA suggested to reduce the volume of the “level 3” tables and to focus in the main report on the most interesting information. A more comprehensive Summary Report including the detailed situations of all the zoonoses monitored could be only produced every third year, while during the years in between the report would include more in-depth analyses of the major zoonoses and maybe limited update of the others. EFSA will make concrete proposals in that sense for the next ZTF meeting in November.

4. REVISION OF THE ZOOSES REPORTING APPLICATION FOR 2008

A proposal for the revision of the web application was presented including several minor amendments and most importantly the introduction of new food-borne outbreak tables. In the light of the fruitful discussions of the meeting, revised proposal concerning the revisions of the web application for 2008 will be made by EFSA. In particular, it seems useful to add the possibility to use more than one breakpoint for antimicrobial resistance, to slightly modify *L. monocytogenes* tables as well as to add a default tables for *Enterococci* (antimicrobial resistance). A simplification of the pick lists will be considered. However, after discussion, the sulfonamides-trimetoprim line will be kept in antimicrobial tables.

5. PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION ON COLLECTION OF MOLECULAR TYPING DATA ON ZOONOTIC AGENTS DERIVED FROM ANIMALS AND FOOD

Concerning the needs on and the usefulness of the collection at the EU level of molecular typing data on zoonotic agents derived from animals and food, EFSA will start discussions with the relevant CRL's and will also ask to the BIOHAZ panel for its position on the subject.

6. DISCUSSION OF THE DRAFT REPORT ON HARMONISING THE REPORTING OF FOOD-BORNE OUTBREAKS THROUGH THE COMMUNITY REPORTING SYSTEM IN ACCORDANCE WITH DIRECTIVE 2003/99/EC

The Task Force was briefed on the draft *report on harmonizing the reporting of food-borne outbreaks through the Community reporting system in accordance with Directive 2003/99/EC*. Some members provided comments on some terms used in the pick-lists and on the scope of the reported outbreaks. The Commission expressed some concern on the wording related to amending the text of the Zoonoses Directive. The draft will be presented on the 14th of September by EFSA to the ECDC Advisory Forum for their comments.

Members were asked to send additional comments on the draft report by end of September.

A revised version of the document integrating also the comments of the ECDC Advisory Forum will be presented at the next meeting for final comments and adoption. It was underlined that an agreement on this text is needed quite quickly.

7. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT REPORT ON FOOD-BORNE OUTBREAK REPORTING SYSTEM IN PLACE IN THE MEMBER STATES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ON NEEDS FOR INFORMATION ON FOOD-BORNE OUTBREAKS IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY – RESULTS OF A QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY

The draft *report on foodborne outbreak reporting system in place in the Member States of the European Union and on needs for information on food-borne outbreaks in the European Community – results of a questionnaire survey* was endorsed by the Zoonoses Task Force.

8. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT REPORT ON ANALYSES OF SALMONELLA BASELINE SURVEY IN BROILER FLOCKS, PART B: FACTORS ASSOCIATED TO SALMONELLA FLOCK PREVALENCE, SEROVAR DISTRIBUTION AND ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE PATTERNS

The draft *Report on Analyses of Salmonella Baseline Survey in Broiler flocks, Part B: factors associated to Salmonella flock prevalence, serovar distribution and antimicrobial resistance patterns* was presented by Frank Boelaert. Some TF members made punctual comments, which did not challenge the analysis and the results at such, but implied minor revisions of the draft report.

EFSA will therefore propose a revised final report version to the ZTF for quick final comments and adoption through written procedure. A press release is not planned for the publication of the Part B Report since the publication of the Part A Report was already accompanied by a press release.

9. DISCUSSION ON DATA VALIDATION ISSUES RELATED TO SALMONELLA BASELINE SURVEYS IN SLAUGHTER PIGS AND TURKEYS

The Task Force was informed of the data flow adopted for the two on-going baseline surveys in turkeys and in slaughter pigs. As opposed to past baseline surveys it is now the Commission that bears the responsibility for the checking and the validation of the data submitted by the MSs.

MS were requested by the Commission to submit their results to the Commission as soon as possible so that the validation of the data submitted can be reliably done in due time.

10. DISCUSSION ON MONITORING OF MRSA IN ANIMALS AND FOOD

The EFSA working group on antimicrobial resistance propose a protocol to combine the sampling for MRSA to the *Salmonella* in breeding pig baseline survey. Stef Bronzwaer presented the proposal and received some supportive comments. Some concern was raised whether breeding pigs are the right target population and the WG was asked to address this in the proposal. The members were invited to consider the proposal and the discussion will be continued at the Commission Working Group meeting on 24 September. The Commission will explore the options for co-financing this survey.

11. INFORMATION FROM THE BIOLOGICAL HAZARD AND ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE PANELS ON QUESTIONS RELATED TO ZONOSSES MONITORING

The Task Force was informed that the present activities of the BIOHAZ panel related to monitoring of zoonoses concerned the review of the Community Summary Report (CSR) 2005 (in collaboration with the Animal Health and Animal Welfare panel), the surveillance and monitoring of *Toxoplasma* in humans, food and animals, the monitoring of VTEC and identification of human pathogenic VTEC types and the monitoring and identification of human enteropathogenic *Yersinia* spp.

The working group on the review of the CSR 2005 is a mixed working group composed of 16 members of the BIOHAZ and AHAW panels. The opinion is expected to be ready for adoption in December 2007. The terms of reference of the requests for opinions on monitoring *Toxoplasma*, VTEC and *Yersinia* were presented to the Task Force. The 3 opinions are due to be adopted in October 2007.

The other current uses by the Biohaz Panel of the data collected by the Zoonoses Unit concern (1) a Quantitative Microbiological Risk Assessment on *Salmonella* spp. in slaughter and breeding pigs (opinion expected by October 2009), (2) a Microbiological Risk Assessment on *Salmonella* in meat and meat products (opinion expected by October 2007), (3) a Qualitative Risk Assessment of food as a source for the acquisition by humans of antimicrobial resistant bacteria or bacteria-borne antimicrobial resistance genes (opinion expected by March 2008) and (4) a Microbiological Risk Assessment in feedingstuffs for food-producing animals as well as (5) an opinion on *L. monocytogenes* in ready to eat foods.

12. PRESENTATION OF OIE REGARDING THEIR DATA COLLECTION ACTIVITIES

Dr Chaisemartin from OIE gave an update on the current OIE activities on data collection. The presentation covered the different types of information collected as well as the on-going web-based reporting system.

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

- **Monitoring of Antimicrobial Resistance in indicator organisms and in *S. aureus* – adoption of the mandate**

The Task Force was presented the request from EFSA for a mandate concerning recommendations on a harmonised monitoring scheme of antimicrobial resistance in indicator organisms and MRSA. The mandate was approved by the Task Force.

- **Analyses of baseline surveys on *Salmonella* in turkeys and in slaughter pigs**

The Task Force was informed on the setting up of 2 new Working Groups, to be coordinated by Frank Boelaert. The aim of these WGs is to assist the Zoonoses Unit with the analysis approach, with the interpretation of the results and with the report writing related to the baseline surveys on *Salmonella* in turkeys and in slaughter pigs. Regarding the latter survey, Ireland raised the question of the reporting of the results from pig carcass contamination in the light of the large variation between slaughterhouses observed. This matter will be discussed in the WG.

The 2008 deadlines for the release of the part A and B reports proposed by EFSA to the Commission are the following:

	Baseline survey in turkeys	Baseline survey in slaughter pigs
Part A Report	End of March 2008	End of April 2008
Part B Report	End of May 2008	6 July 2008

14. INFORMATION ON CALLS FOR PROPOSALS/ TENDERS

- **Development of harmonised schemes for monitoring and reporting of *Echinococcus*, *Trichinella*, *Cysticercus* and *Sarcocystis* as well as of rabies and Q fever in EU**

The Chair informed the Task Force that a number of institutes have attended the call for proposals launched with the aim of developing harmonised schemes for monitoring and reporting of *Echinococcus*, *Trichinella*, *Cysticercus* and *Sarcocystis* in the EU. The several proposals already received are presently evaluated. More information will be given on the next TF meeting.

- **In depth analyses of the antimicrobial resistance data from isolates derived from animals and food**

The Chair informed the Task Force that a call will soon be launched with the aim of performing in-depth analysis of antimicrobial resistance data available for 2004, 2005 and 2006. Data will be treated confidentially and EFSA remains owner of the data.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- **Work Plan 2007-2008 of the Zoonoses Unit**

The Work Plan 2007-2008 of the Zoonoses Unit was presented by the Chair to the Task Force for information.

- **Visits to MS in relation to the zoonoses reporting**

Concerning the visits to MS in relation to the zoonoses reporting, MS for which a visit has been planned before the end 2007 and at the beginning of 2008 will receive an official letter to the attention of the CVO.