

Parma, 20 October 2008 – revision 2

EFSA Task Force of Zoonoses Data Collection
The 14. meeting
Held in Parma on 17-18 June 2008

AGENDA:

1. Minutes from the last meeting
2. Declaration of interest (DoI)
3. Introduction of the Scientific Cooperation and Assistance Directorate (SCA) and its strategy to collect food safety data
4. New rules and web system for Declaration of Interests
5. Revised financial rules for EFSA reimbursements
6. Feedback from 2007 zoonoses data reporting and validation
7. Discussion on the format of Community Summary Report 2007
8. Discussion on possible actions based on BIOHAZ panel's opinion on *Yersinia*
9. Discussion on the reports A on the *Salmonella* baseline surveys in turkeys and slaughter pigs and presentations on the data analyses carried out
10. Discussion on possible modifications to the report on proposed technical specifications for a coordinated monitoring programme for *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* in broilers meat in the EU
11. New mandates from the Commission: a baseline survey protocol for *Listeria monocytogenes* in ready-to-eat foods
12. Discussion of proposed timelines for the reports on baseline surveys in *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella* in broilers and *Salmonella* in MRSA in breeding
13. Progress reports from Working Groups
14. Progress reports on the Article 36 Grant projects and calls:
15. Discussion on the collection of molecular typing data
16. Visits to the Member States related to the zoonoses reporting
17. Presentations from the members on current activities related to the monitoring of zoonoses
18. Any other business

PARTICIPANTS:

Members and other National or Commission representatives:

Luc Vanholme (Belgium), Petya Petkova (Bulgaria), Petr Šatrán (Czech Republic), Birgitte Helwigh (Denmark, ZCC), Jelena Sögel (Estonia), Saara Raulo (Finland), Melanie Picherot (France), Matthias Hartung (Germany), Dimitris Vourvidis (Greece), Attila Nagy (Hungary), Kilian Unger, Lisa O'Connor (Ireland), Valentina Rizzi (Italy), Tatjana Ribakova (Latvia), Robertas Scerbavicius (Lithuania), Joseph Schon (Luxembourg), Rob Van Oosterom (The Netherlands), Merete Hofshagen (Norway), Jasek Osek, Aleksandra Olbrycht (Poland), Patricia Taveres Santos (Portugal), Marta

Bedriova (Slovakia), Alenka Babusek (Slovenia), M. Luisa Pulido Puente, Josè Saez Llorente (Spain), Elina Lahti (Sweden), Virgil Marcel Eftimie (Romania), Lesley Larkin (United Kingdom), Jürg Danuser (Switzerland), Sarolta Idei (European Commission - COM), Renate del Rosario (EUROSTAT).

Observers:

Yurtalan Salih (TK)

EFSA:

Pia Mäkelä (the Chair), Hubert Deluyker, Frank Boelaert, Alessandro Mannelli, Pierre-Alexandre Beloëil, Fabrizio Abbinante, Billy Amzal, Pablo Nart, Jan Deertz, Gabriele Fabbri (Science), Mari Varho (Finance), Chiara Bianchi, Marco Leoni, Alessia Panizza, Ernesto Guisado Ferrer (Information Technology), Miriam Grasselli and Simona Fusar Poli (Administrative)

MINUTES:

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

1. Minutes from the last meeting

Editorial comments received from Estonia were still to be taken into account in the final version of the minutes. No further comments were received during the meeting and the minutes of the last Zoonoses Task Force (TF) meeting were approved. They will be published on the EFSA website.

2. Declaration of interest (DoI)

The TF members who had not already filled in the annual Declaration of Interest (DoI) were kindly reminded to do it. None of the participants declared an interest related to subjects of the meeting.

3. Introduction of the Scientific Cooperation and Assistance Directorate (SCA) and its strategy to collect food safety data

Hubert Deluyker, Director of SCA, gave a presentation on the organization and the tasks of the Scientific Cooperation and Assistance Directorate. The presentation placed the work of the Zoonoses Data Collection Unit into a broader perspective. Regarding the data collection, the remit of the SCA directorate is not only to collect information on zoonoses but also on food consumption, chemical occurrence as well as on pesticide residues. One of the priorities of the SCA Directorate is to establish a pan-European food consumption database. The collection activities should be based on networks of Member States' (MSs) specific institutes.

4. New rules and web system for Declaration of Interests

According to the EFSA's internal rules each expert attending EFSA meeting should yearly submit DoIs to be published on EFSA website. Ernesto Guisado Ferrer presented the new IT tool developed by EFSA to smoothen the process of collecting, updating and publishing DoIs was presented. "A

guidance document on declarations of interest” and a “user guide” were distributed to the TF members. The TF members were kindly asked to submit their respective DoIs for 2008 by means of the new electronic system by the end of June. EFSA Helpdesk is available to support TF member in this task.

5. Revised financial rules for EFSA reimbursements

Mari Varho gave a presentation on the revised financial rules for EFSA reimbursements and slides were provided to TF members. It was indicated that if the TF members wish to use a private bank account for reimbursements, they need a derogation statement from their employer.

6. Feedback from 2007 zoonoses data reporting and validation

Fabrizio Abbinante gave a report of the past reporting period from the IT point of view. Most of the national reports were received within the deadline. One MS used the XML transfer option for foodborne outbreaks. EFSA had carried out most of the data validation and the MSs have been contacted, if needed. During the reporting period there was only one major problem that required the application to be shut down for fixing. Other problems encountered were mainly related to printing of the PDF tables, user privileges and creation of new report version. Together 245 requests were received in the zoonoses support helpdesk, majority of which were IT related or concerned additions to the pick lists. Planned improvements for next year’s reporting cover full automatic handing of pick lists and database re-engineering to ease the data extraction.

The TF members expressed additional needs for improvements to the application, and these included a possibility to copy antimicrobial resistance (AMR) data between the tables and use of XML for the AMR data, automatic validations in *Listeria* in food tables, adding columns for sampling stage and framework to prevalence tables, a possibility to add several serovars/ phagetypes simultaneously to the tables and improvements in scrolling features and enlarging of the screen. The members were asked still to send the suggestion by e-mail to EFSA.

Pia Makela explained the problems encountered with the *Listeria* in the food data and promised that EFSA will clarify the use of the table. Frank Boelaert gave an overview of the reporting of *Salmonella* in *Gallus gallus* breeding flocks in 2007. Not all MSs reported all the required information and there were also some MSs that may have reported sample based data instead of flock based. A proposal to analyse the data in terms of the *Salmonella* target was made and this included indicators (% positive tested flocks) and use of scatter plot graph with the 1% target line. The breeding flocks’ data was discussed and most MSs indicated that they have reported to EFSA the same dataset as to Commission. EFSA and the Commission will make efforts to clarify the reporting and analyses of the results for next year.

7. Discussion on the format of Community Summary Report 2007

The agreed proposal for a new format of the Community Summary Reports was discussed in terms of 2007 report. EFSA’s plan is to split the Summary Report 2007 into two parts, A and B. Part A will include an in-depth analyses for *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter*, *Listeria*, tuberculosis due to *M. bovis*, *Brucella* and rabies. For VTEC, *Yersinia*, *Trichinella* and *Echinococcus* there will be lighter overview. In addition, all the reported data for the zoonoses will be included in the Level 3 tables.

Report B will contain the foodborne outbreak data. As regards antimicrobial resistance data, a separate in-depth report of the historical and 2007 data will be prepared under a project to be outsourced. The TF members generally supported the plan. The Commission underlined the fact that the categorisation of the zoonotic agents proposed is flexible and easily modifiable in order to enable inclusion of an emerging zoonotic agent and to account other developments.

8. Discussion on possible actions based on BIOHAZ panel's opinion on *Yersinia*

It was concluded from the discussion with the TF members that most of the MSs were in favour of EFSA preparing harmonised guidelines for surveys to be carried out at the national level as regard *Yersinia enterocolitica*. The TF members were invited to propose experts to a working group that will be given the task. The proposals should be sent to EFSA by 30 June.

9. Discussion on the reports A on the *Salmonella* baseline surveys in turkeys and slaughter pigs and presentations on the data analyses carried out

Frank Boelaert, Alessandro Mannelli and Pierre-Alexandre Beloeil gave presentations on the methodology used to assess the prevalences in the frame of the baseline surveys. The notion of stratified sampling was explained. It was also shown how the analysis performed accounted for the disproportionate stratified sampling and clustering issues. The differences between the numerical values of the raw proportion of positive samples, the un-weighted prevalence and the weighted prevalence were also illustrated by the data of the slaughter pig baseline study. The concepts of association between outcome and explanatory variables, as well as those of collinearity and interaction between explanatory variables were also developed.

10. Discussion on possible modifications to the report on proposed technical specifications for a coordinated monitoring programme for *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* in broilers meat at retail in the EU

EFSA has received a mandate from the Commission to clarify if the above mentioned programme at retail will provide information that can be used to verify the implementation of the Community *Salmonella* criteria and, if not, to update the specifications. The former working group that prepared the technical specifications has been re-convened to consider the matter. The intention is to use modeling and simulation to assess the compliance with the criteria and to add quantitative analysis of *Salmonella* to the programme. Billy Amzal presented the planned modeling approach. The deadline for the mandate is 31st August, and therefore the TF will be consulted of the revised report during the month of August.

11. New mandates from the Commission: a baseline survey protocol for *Listeria monocytogenes* in ready-to-eat foods

Another new mandate from the Commission regarding drafting a proposal for a baseline survey protocol for *Listeria* in ready-to-eat foods was received. A working group for this purpose was already set up and the first meeting will take place in July. During the discussion it was recognised that the contamination of the ready-to-eat foods should be made at the end of the shelf-life. Also imported food from other MSs and third countries should be included in the sampling plan. The major challenge for the working group will be to choose the food products to be covered.

12. Discussion of proposed timelines for the reports on baseline surveys in *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella* in broilers and *Salmonella* in MRSA in breeding

Regarding the timelines for the reports on the on-going baseline surveys, EFSA has proposed to first issue the reports on the prevalence of *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella* in broiler meat and on MRSA prevalence in breeding pigs, in autumn 2009, and the report on the prevalence of *Salmonella* in breeding pigs by the beginning of 2010. During the discussion at the meeting, it was agreed to move the issuing of the Report A on *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* in broiler meat survey before the Report B on MRSA in pigs survey. Additionally, some members would have prioritised more the reports on survey on *Salmonella* in breeding pigs. Based on this discussion, EFSA will send a formal proposal to Commission on the timelines.

13. Progress reports from other Working Groups

Pia Makela gave a progress report from the working groups (WG) on trends and VTEC. Regarding the WG on VTEC, a number of TF members considered that the monitoring should encompass also other serogroups than VTEC 0157, for example VTEC O26 and O111. Alessandro Mannelli gave a brief report from the statistical working group and presented the possibilities to analyse the spatial data.

14. Progress reports on the Article 36 Grant projects and calls

Irene Zimmer, the coordinator of the project on harmonised monitoring and reporting schemes for parasites, had send a written report on the progress made. Four work packages have been established to deal with the different parasites. Pia Makela informed the meeting of two additional Article 36 project calls that are open, one on harmonised monitoring and reporting schemes for Q fever and rabies, and one for survey methods for foodborne pathogens in food. Also a normal procurement call (contract) is open regarding the analyses on antimicrobial resistance and *Salmonella* serovar data.

15. Discussion on the collection of molecular typing data

The collection of molecular typing data regarding isolates of zoonotic agents from animals and food has been discussed with the Community Reference Laboratories (CRLs) and the Commission. It has been agreed to start by an inventory of the available methods in the MSs. This will be carried out by EFSA if the TF agree, and EFSA will consult the relevant CRLs about the formulation of the questionnaire. The Commission is planning to contact ECDC about the molecular typing data collection. The TF members agreed to take care of the inventory in their respective countries. The inventory will concern *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter*, *Listeria monocytogenes* and *Staphylococcus aureus*.

16. Visits to the Member States related to the zoonoses reporting

Pia Makela gave a short overview of the 10 MS visits already made. These visits have proved to be very useful for further strengthening of the working relationship between EFSA and the competent

authorities involved in monitoring and reporting zoonoses. Before the end of 2008, 2 to 3 visits could still be organised, and EFSA will contact the relevant MSs. EFSA is also planning to present general conclusions of the visits to the TF.

17. Presentations from the members on current activities related to the monitoring of zoonoses

Dr. Melanie Picherot from France gave an interesting presentation on the electronic tool used in France to gather information on the laying hen and breeding flocks monitored for *Salmonella* infection. The application is based on Internet, and data recorded include the characteristic and origin information of the flocks, type of suspicion, sample and serovar information and the measures taken. The application also provides for indicators and geographical information at the country level. In the future the system will be part of a larger database, SIGAL.

18. Any other business

Pia Makela gave a short report on the EFSA's recent mandate on chlorination of chicken carcasses. The Zoonoses Unit has been involved in the discussions of a related monitoring plan.

Regarding the on-going baseline surveys, MSs were requested to provide the names of the survey coordinators and their deputies in order to ease the exchange of information between EFSA and MSs during the data validation exercise.

The Netherlands informed the meeting that their national institutions would be interested to use the laying hen baseline survey dataset in risk assessments. The Netherlands was advised to send a formal letter on the request to the Commission and EFSA.

The next Task Force meeting will take place on the 16th October 2008 in Brussels prior to the International Colloquium on Emerging Animal Diseases on 17th October. Belgium gave some further information on the registration to the Colloquium.