

Parma, 14 January 2010

EFSA Task Force of Zoonoses Data Collection

The 18th meeting

Held in Stockholm on 14 December 2009

AGENDA:

1.	Minutes from the last meeting.....	2
2.	Declaration of interest.....	2
3.	Draft EFSA report on the technical specifications for monitoring trends in zoonotic agents in foodstuffs and animal populations – for discussion and possible endorsement.....	2
4.	Draft EFSA report on the updated technical specifications for the harmonised reporting of food-borne outbreaks through the Community reporting system in accordance with Directive 2003/99/EC – for discussion and possible endorsement.....	3
5.	Progress report from the WG on the statistical analysis of temporal and spatial trends of zoonotic agents in animals and food.....	3
6.	Draft manual of reporting of zoonoses and antimicrobial resistance data in the framework of Directive 2003/99/EC.....	3
7.	Information from the finalisation of the Community Summary Reports 2008.....	4
8.	Information on the draft Community Summary Report on antimicrobial resistance 2004-2007.....	4
9.	Baseline survey analyses.....	5
	<i>9a. WG Campylobacter and Salmonella in broilers and broiler meat</i>	<i>5</i>
	<i>9b. WG on Salmonella in breeding pigs</i>	<i>5</i>
	<i>9c. WG on MRSA in pigs.....</i>	<i>5</i>
10.	Information on the revision of the Zoonoses reporting web application for 2009 data.....	5
11.	Information on the results from the questionnaire survey on the use of XML in the Zoonoses reporting.....	6
12.	Grant and contract projects	6
	<i>12a. Reports on the harmonised monitoring and reporting of Trichinella, Echinococcus, Cysticercus and Sarcocystis.....</i>	<i>6</i>
	<i>12b. Grant project on survey methods for pathogens in food.....</i>	<i>7</i>
	<i>12c. Project on the analyses of Salmonella serovar data and source attribution analyses.....</i>	<i>7</i>
13.	Presentations	7
	<i>13a. Petr Šatrán: Survey on Salmonella and Campylobacter in broiler meat at retail in the Czech Republic.....</i>	<i>7</i>
	<i>13b. Hajime Toyofuku: Food-borne zoonoses in Japan</i>	<i>7</i>
14.	Any other business	7

PARTICIPANTS:

Members and other National, ECDC or Commission representatives:

Peter Much (Austria), Luc Vanholme (Belgium), Iliyan Bankov (Bulgaria), Petr Šatrán (Czech Republic), Hanne Rosenquist (Denmark), Eve Kukk (Estonia), Saara Raulo (Finland), Julien Santolini (France), Matthias Hartung (Germany), Dimitris Vourvidis (Greece), Robert Kocsis (Hungary), Kilian Unger (Ireland), Veronica Cibir, Simona Iannetti, Vincenza Prencipe (Italy), Nicole Werner Keiss (Latvia), Snieguole Ščeponavičiene (Lithuania), Joseph Schon (Luxembourg), Rob Van Oosterom (the Netherlands), Jasek Osek (Poland), Patricia Inacio (Portugal), Manca Pavsic (Slovenia), José Luis Saez Llorente, Carlos Valencia Gonzáles (Spain), Elina Lahti, Ann Lindberg (Sweden), Lesley Larkin (the United Kingdom), Jürg Danuser (Switzerland), Johanna Takkinen (ECDC), Birgitte Helwich (ZCC), Sarolta Idei, Leena Rasanen, Kris De Smet (EC).

Observers:

Drazen Knezevic (Croatia), Alessandro Mannelli (expert), Annemarie Käsbohrer, Alexandra Fetsch (BfR), Jean Pierre Vermeersch (OIE), Hajime Toyofuko (Japan).

EFSA:

Pia Mäkelä (Chair), Frank Boelaert, Pierre-Alexandre Belœil, Fabrizio Abbinante, Giusi Amore, Elena Mazzolini, Valentina Rizzi (Science), Marco Leoni (Information Technology), Miriam Grasselli and Simona Fusar Poli (Administration).

MINUTES:

The meeting was opened by welcoming all the Task Force (TF) members and observers. The chair informed the participants on some changes to the agenda.

1. Minutes from the last meeting

Comments previously received by email from the Member States (MSs) have been taken into account in the new version of the minutes, which have been uploaded on Sciencenet and will be published on the EFSA website. No additional comments were received at the meeting.

2. Declaration of interest

The TF members and observers who had not already submitted the electronic format of their annual Declaration of Interest (DoI) were kindly reminded to do so. None of the participants declared a conflict of interest related to the subjects of the meeting.

3. Draft EFSA report on the technical specifications for monitoring trends in zoonotic agents in foodstuffs and animal populations – for discussion and possible endorsement

Frank Boelaert presented the amendments implemented in the new version of the report. Additionally, some critical points of the report were clarified: the report is about trend analysis at Community or

MS-group level, but not at MS level; the assumptions (scenarios) proposed can be changed according to the different situation at European Union (EU) or MS-group level; the report gives only general indications on sample size from the trend analyses perspective, because sample size is not the main objective of the report. As for the suggested sample sizes, it is the number of samples which should be taken from MSs at each time point in order to be able to detect the foreseen trends. It is the minimum number of samples to be taken, but which can be increased by MSs. Usually, if there is already a control programme in place, the sample size is automatically satisfied.

It was suggested that very clear terminology be used (trend watching versus trend analysis) and that it be stated that the report is not a protocol (the intention is not to draw a future baseline protocol), and should provide general guidance on the issue. General suggestions for amending and improving the text were also given by the TF members.

The MSs who provided their comments during the meeting and those still planning to send comments were invited to send them by email **by 23 December 2009**. A new version of the report will be prepared in January 2010 for endorsement.

4. Draft EFSA report on the updated technical specifications for the harmonised reporting of food-borne outbreaks through the Community reporting system in accordance with Directive 2003/99/EC – for discussion and possible endorsement

Pia Mäkelä informed the TF on the progress of the report. The TF members and ECDC's Food- and Waterborne Diseases (FWD) network have been consulted and no agreement has been reached regarding the revision of the reporting system. Therefore, it has been decided to postpone the deadline of the report to the end of next year and to add new members to the Working Group (WG).

5. Progress report from the WG on the statistical analysis of temporal and spatial trends of zoonotic agents in animals and food

Alessandro Mannelli gave a presentation on the second part of the report on the statistical analysis of temporal and spatial trends. This part will focus on spatial analyses, as well as on trend analyses, using software other than SAS. Specifically, case studies on spatial analysis have been carried out using data provided by Austria and by Italy. The most cautious spatial analysis approach has been used.

MSs were invited to consult national experts (statistician epidemiologists) and send additional comments **by 15 January 2010**. The report will then be finalised after verifying that all aspects of the terms of reference have been addressed.

6. Draft manual of reporting of zoonoses and antimicrobial resistance data in the framework of Directive 2003/99/EC

Valentina Rizzi explained the amendments to the zoonoses reporting manual for the 2010 reporting period regarding *Salmonella* in some animal populations (laying hens, broilers, and turkeys), *Yersinia*, VTEC and antimicrobial resistance breakpoints.

The MSs supported the proposal to update the pick lists for *Yersinia enterocolitica*, with the inclusion of biotype/serotype combinations. Regarding VTEC pick lists and the inclusion of *eae* and *vtx* results, it was concluded that the issue needs more reflection. It was also decided to drop the change regarding *Salmonella* in turkeys reporting considering that the relative control programme will start in 2010 and will be reported next year. The reporting manual will be updated accordingly.

Some questions were raised on the total number of flocks to be reported and the confirmatory test for samples tested positive during industry sampling. These issues are under discussion in a specific WG of the Commission, so it was decided to postpone any further discussion whilst awaiting the proposal from the EC WG.

7. Information from the finalisation of the Community Summary Reports 2008

Pia Mäkelä informed the meeting that the 2008 CSR was sent for consultation to the MSs, the ECDC FWD network and the AHAW and BIOHAZ panels. Many comments were received and publication is foreseen on 28 January 2010; on that occasion a press briefing will be organised in Brussels. Pia Mäkelä also presented some of the main findings of the report.

ECDC's representative announced that the baseline survey on *Listeria* had been discussed at the ECDC Advisory forum and that the MSs have been asked to store all *Listeria* strains to be characterised further by molecular typing methods and used for source attribution.

The chair informed MSs that some problems (strange symbols) have been spotted in the national reports in the text form copied from previous years. As EFSA is not able to resolve these problems, MSs were invited to have a look at their national reports and, if necessary, correct the data in the database. Marco Leoni and Fabrizio Abbinante will send an email to the reporting officer with the instructions for correcting the wrong text symbols and the reporting manual will be updated accordingly.

The chair announced that the second part of the 2008 CSR (on antimicrobial resistance - AMR) will be published in February 2010.

8. Information on the draft Community Summary Report on antimicrobial resistance 2004-2007

Elena Mazzolini updated the experts on the progress of the report informing them that some work is still needed to improve the results presentation and to set the epidemiologic cut-off values for the disk diffusion method from the quantitative data submitted for the CSR. Consequently, publication of the report has been postponed and MSs would be consulted once again on the modifications implemented. The summary of results was also presented.

9. Baseline survey analyses

9a. WG *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella* in broilers and broiler meat

Frank Boelaert updated the TF on the state of progress of the analysis of *Campylobacter* in broilers baseline survey. A draft report A on the prevalence figures has been almost finalised.

9b. WG on *Salmonella* in breeding pigs

Giusi Amore gave a presentation on the state of progress of the draft report A. Observed prevalence and *Salmonella* serovar frequency distribution were presented as well as the plan for the analyses to be included in report B.

9c. WG on MRSA in pigs

Pierre-Alexandre Beloeil presented the objectives of the analyses underpinning Part B report and in particular, the potential risk factors to be included in the analysis. It was indicated that the analysis will be performed for the production and breeding holdings separately. He informed the TF that the issue of the final Part B report is planned by mid-March.

The relation between the use of antibiotics and antibiotic resistance was raised and the Commission explained that EMEA has been asked to collect information on antibiotics usage.

Frank Boelaert proposed to use TRACES data to complement the analyses underpinning the MRSA in breeding pigs report part B. The MSs agreed on this proposal but suggested caution with the interpretation of the results, as association does not imply causation.

10. Information on the revision of the Zoonoses reporting web application for 2009 data

Fabrizio Abbinante presented the technical report on the Revision of the Zoonoses Web Reporting Application for 2010 and summarised the changes to be implemented in the AMR tables (copying of the cut-off values from the EFSA recommendations, simplification of the breakpoint tables, automatic import of the results from the quantitative tables into the qualitative tables, automatic check of N and n in the qualitative tables), in the prevalence tables (*Salmonella* in breeding flocks of *Gallus gallus* and in other poultry, *Listeria* in food, *Yersinia* and VTEC in food and animals), in the phagetype and serovar tables and in the food-borne outbreak (FBO) section (new order of the fields for the verified FBOs, changed label for mixed outbreaks, mandatory reporting for the type of evidence, revision of the pick lists “Place of origin” and “Causative agent”, choice if including or not verified FBOs in the printing of the whole report).

He also informed the TF that printing a set of empty tables for a given zoonoses agent will be possible as well as the submission of AMR data using XML format (the new XML schema will be published in February or at the beginning of March). He also informed the TF that the Excel file including all the tables for reporting 2009 data will be sent in January 2010.

The MSs were also informed that the reporting period will start on 6 April 2010 and a training session will be organised during the week of 12 April 2010 for those countries interested. Many MSs declared interest in this training.

Fabrizio Abbinante presented the new rules for accessing the Zoonoses Web Application. He announced that from 2010 one single account (i.e. the so-called “LDAP account”) will be used to access all EFSA’s extranet applications including the Zoonoses Web Application. This means that from 2010, in order to access the Zoonoses Web Application, both Reporting Officers and Reporters need to have an LDAP account in place. In practical terms, for the addition of new reporters to the web reporting application, each reporter officer has to send an official request to the Zoonoses support asking to create first an LDA account; after the receipt of the LDAP account “Username and Password”, and only then, can the reporters be added to the Zoonoses Web Application. This procedure will allow EFSA to manage better all users for audit as well as for security and access control purposes.

To facilitate the implementation of this new system which will be in place in 2010, EFSA data managers will contact the reporting officers asking for the list of national reporters that require access to the zoonoses web application in 2010. EFSA will make sure that an LDAP account is set up for all the people listed by the Reporting Officers before the start of the next reporting season.

The granting of access to Tables and Text Forms will not be changed, so those privileges will be granted by the Reporting Officer to the Reporters by using the Zoonoses Web Application.

The MSs were informed that the LDAP account that will be used in Zoonoses is in practice the same account as that for Sciencenet. Therefore, in order to improve the control of access to documents published on Sciencenet, the TF agreed to move the TF documents to a new folder to guarantee their confidentiality.

11. Information on the results from the questionnaire survey on the use of XML in the Zoonoses reporting

Fabrizio Abbinante informed the TF that several MSs have replied to the questionnaire but eight countries are still outstanding. MSs who have not yet returned the questionnaire were invited to do so by **15 January 2010**. A summary of the results will be presented at the next TF meeting.

12. Grant and contract projects

12a. Reports on the harmonised monitoring and reporting of Trichinella, Echinococcus, Cysticercus and Sarcocystis

The chair presented the state of progress of this grant: three of the reports (on *Echinococcus*, *Cysticercus* and *Sarcocystis*) are finalised and the *Trichinella* report almost. The reports will be published after Christmas as scientific reports submitted to EFSA. The reports will be discussed at the next TF meeting.

12b. Grant project on survey methods for pathogens in food

Annemarie Käsbohrer (BfR) summarised the objectives and the decisions made for drafting the survey protocols. She described the food-borne pathogens to be covered as well as the food categories to be sampled, the stage in the food chain where sampling is to be performed, the sampling strategy, and the analytical methods to be used and the data to be collected. Finally, she provided a protocol for each pathogen/stage combinations. It was clarified that the sample size seems sometimes quite low, but it is a compromise between simplicity and accuracy and, in any case, is a minimum value which can be increased by MSs. The final report will be ready by the end of 2009.

12c. Project on the analyses of Salmonella serovar data and source attribution analyses

Frank Boelaert summarised the project's progress. As the contractor did not receive the data on serovars in human cases, only food and animal data were included in the analysis, so far. The intention is to cover human data as well in 2010.

13. Presentations

13a. Petr Šatrán: Survey on Salmonella and Campylobacter in broiler meat at retail in the Czech Republic.

Petr Šatrán presented the situation of human salmonellosis and campylobacteriosis in the Czech Republic in recent years and the *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* prevalence in broiler flocks; he also presented the results of a survey on *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* in broiler meat at retail.

13b. Hajime Toyofuku: Food-borne zoonoses in Japan

Hajime Toyofuku gave a short overview on the organisation of the Zoonoses Data Collection system in Japan where the Infectious Disease System and the Food-borne Outbreak System are regulated by different laws. He also presented the situation in humans and the prevalence in animals and foodstuffs of the most relevant pathogens in Japan as well the monitoring programmes carried out recently in Japan for different zoonotic agents in animal populations.

14. Any other business

The Next TF meetings will take place on:

- 23 and 24 March 2010 in Parma
- 22 and 23 June 2010
- November (dates still to be defined)