

Parma, 12 May 2010

EFSA Task Force of Zoonoses Data Collection
The 19th meeting
Held in Parma on 23-24 March 2010

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PARTICIPANTS:

Members and other National, ECDC or Commission representatives:

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Observers:

Drazen Knezevic (Croatia), Greta Nikolovska (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), Guzin Sahin (Turkey), Florence Cliquet (expert), Pierre Dorny (expert), Alessandro Mannelli (expert), Elsa Martello (expert), Edoardo Pozio (expert), Wolfgang Rabsch (expert), Richard Thiery (expert), Irene Zimmer (expert).

EFSA:

Pia Mäkelä (Chair), Frank Boelaert, Pierre-Alexandre Belœil, Fabrizio Abbinante, Giusi Amore, Elena Mazzolini, Teresa Felicio, 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 of 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. No additional comments were received at the meeting and the minutes will be published on the EFSA website.

2. Declaration of interest

None of the participants declared an additional interest related to the subjects of the meeting.

3. Reporting of zoonoses, food-borne outbreaks and antimicrobial resistance for 2009 in the framework of Directive 2003/99/EC

The chair informed the TF that two Community Summary Reports (CSRs) will be issued for the 2009 data, as was the case for 2008 data: the CSR on trends and sources of zoonoses, zoonotic agents and food-borne outbreaks in the European Union (EU) and the CSR on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in zoonotic agents and indicator bacteria in the EU. In the 2009 CSR on AMR, summarised data on antimicrobial resistance in *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* isolates from human cases, provided by ECDC, will be also included.

The MSs were informed that the reporting period will start on 8 April 2010 and will finish on 4 June 2010. The timetable for consultation and publication of the two CSRs was also presented.

4. Revised zoonoses reporting web application for 2009 data reporting

Fabrizio Abbinante reminded the TF that a Technical Report summarising the changes implemented to the new web application has been drafted. A demo of the new Zoonoses Web Reporting Application was presented with the relative instructions for log-in (username and password for Sciencenet to be used is available). The rights of the different users/profiles (data manager, reporting officer and reporter) were explained as well as the main rules and the functionalities for the different sections (“User management”, “Dictionary management”, “Report management”). The TF was reminded about the new features for tables and text forms.

The MSs were reminded to update the list of reporters to be registered as “users” and send it to EFSA, as from this year. MSs cannot register a person in the system if he/she is not included in the user list. The TF members and the other reporting countries were recommended to attend the training session on the new application scheduled on 12 April 2010.

5. Reporting the results of *Salmonella* control programmes

The chair introduced briefly the proposal for harmonisation of some terms included in the SANCO draft document on reporting the data on *Salmonella* control programmes. Sarolta Idei from Commission explained the background and the reasons for the harmonisation of reporting of the *Salmonella* results. In particular it was agreed to change the following terms used at present in the EFSA web application:

- “Meat production line” to “Broiler production line” (only for *Gallus gallus*)
- “Production period” to “Adult”
- “Rearing period” to “Before slaughter”.

The change will be implemented immediately for “rearing period” (to be replaced by “before slaughter”, already present in EFSA pick list). EFSA IT team will evaluate if it is possible to implement also the other changes in the coming reporting period (for 2009 data).

6. Draft EFSA report “Manual for reporting on zoonoses, zoonotic agents and antimicrobial resistance in the framework of Directive 2003/99/EC and of some other pathogenic microbiological agents for information derived from the reporting year 2009” and Draft EFSA report “Manual for reporting of food-borne outbreaks in the framework of Directive 2003/99/EC” - for discussion and possible endorsement

Valentina Rizzi summarised the amendments made into the zoonoses reporting manuals for the 2009 data. In particular she presented the new structure of the prevalence tables, the reporting on *Salmonella* in some animal populations (laying hens, broilers), *Yersinia*, VTEC and antimicrobial resistance. Also the amendments to the food-borne outbreak reporting were covered.

The MSs requested to amend the reporting on Q fever according to the draft report prepared by the grant consortium. Some additional comments (reporting on the use of *Salmonella* vaccines, on *Salmonella* in broilers and on *Toxoplasma*) were received and they will be taken into account in the final version of the manual. The TF was invited to send additional comments **by 29 March 2010**.

7. Discussion on the content of the Community Summary Report on zoonoses, zoonotic agents and food-borne outbreaks in 2009

The chair told the meeting that the content of the 2009 and 2010 CSRs have been discussed between EFSA, ECDC and ZCC. She also explained that the reporting on *Sarcocystis* is not recommended according to the final report of the grant project on parasites monitoring, but any information is welcome. The suggested planned content of the CSR 2009 as well as the preparation and publication timetable were presented and agreed upon.

8. Discussion on Community Summary Reports on antimicrobial resistance

The chair explained that, due to many comments from MSs, the 2004-2007 antimicrobial resistance (AMR) report was revised and then, after a second consultation, additional comments were provided. Therefore, the report has been revised once again.

Elena Mazzolini updated the experts on the problems faced and the final decision on how to present data. The same approach for the analysis of 2004-2007 AMR data will be implemented in the 2008 AMR report.

It was suggested to create a Working Group with MS experts to consider the best ways to analyse and present data on AMR. ECDC will be also consulted on the issue. The TF members supported the creation of this WG, for which they were invited to send suggestions for candidates to Pierre-Alexandre Beloeil (Pierre-alexandre.beloeil@efsa.europa.eu), including CVs and contact information.

9. Discussion on the outcome from the EFSA report on technical specifications for monitoring trends in zoonotic agents in foodstuffs and animal populations

The chair explained that the amendments suggested at the last TF meeting were implemented in a new version of the report, which was endorsed in a further written consultation. The report does not define monitoring schemes, but provides for, among other things, general guidance about how many years it will be needed to detect trends with different sample sizes.

10. Discussion on reports on the development of harmonised schemes for the monitoring and reporting of *Trichinella*, *Echinococcus*, *Cysticercus* and *Sarcocystis* in animals

Edoardo Pozio (CRL parasites) presented general considerations about the data collection and reporting of parasitic zoonoses. He highlighted bias, constraints and limitations both in the veterinary and in the human sectors, being mainly related to the non-mandatory reporting in several MSs, incorrect identification of the target populations for prevalence calculation, underreporting and analytical method limitations.

The four reports from EFSA's grant on development of the harmonised schemes for monitoring and reporting parasites were presented by Edoardo Pozio, Irene Zimmer and Pierre Dorny. During the discussion some concerns were raised by TF members and the Commission regarding the way of publishing these external reports, the content of which is not under EFSA's responsibility. It was suggested to consider a different way to publish this type of report (e.g. in another part of the website or with a different format). The chair promised to submit these concerns internally in EFSA.

Some comments about the correctness of data included in the reports were also made. It was agreed in future to forward to the TF the final draft reports informally to give MSs the opportunity to check their data before publication. According to this agreement, the TF will be consulted about the report on rabies.

The possibility to report region-based data on *Echinococcus* in animals in the framework of the annual reporting was discussed as well as possibilities to report on type of *Cysticercus* infection of the carcasses detected (light or heavy) and the type of the carcass (adult cattle or calves). The TF members were invited to give their views on these questions **by 30 April 2010** to zoonoses@efsa.europa.eu.

11. Discussion on the analyses of baseline surveys on *Salmonella* and MRSA in breeding pigs and *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella* in broilers

11a. Campylobacter and Salmonella in broilers

Teresa Felicio presented the sampling design and the main results of the analysis of the baseline survey on *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella* in broilers, part A, and the working plan for the two part B reports (one for *Campylobacter* and the other on *Salmonella*).

Pietro Stella from the BIOHAZ panel unit presented a request to the TF to reply to a questionnaire about information on intervention measures applied at MS level for *Campylobacter* in broiler production and on the percentage of farms and slaughterhouses applying these measures. This would support the BIOHAZ panel with their work on current mandate on “*Campylobacter* in broiler meat production: control options and performance objectives and/or targets at different stages of the food chain”. The TF agreed to reply to a questionnaire on these issues to be circulated in April or May.

11b. MRSA in breeding pigs

Pierre-Alexandre Beloeil presented the part B report on the baseline survey on MRSA in breeding pigs, to be published in April. Data on the trade of breeding pigs in EU has been used in the analyses. The part B report investigated the impact of a limited set of potentially associated factors on the risk of holding contamination with MRSA. It was clarified that, even though antimicrobial consumption might be a risk factor, antimicrobial usage was not investigated in the report because relevant data were not available in the framework of the MRSA survey. However, it has been indicated that it will be recommended by the report that explanatory studies should be performed to further assess the effect of managerial practices, including antimicrobial usage, on MRSA contamination.

11c. Salmonella in breeding pigs

Giusi Amore presented the plan and the structure of analysis for the part B of the report on *Salmonella* in breeding pigs. The publication is scheduled for end of September.

12. XML reporting survey results

Fabrizio Abbinante presented the summary of the results of the questionnaire on XML, some conclusions and recommendations. He informed the TF that a meeting with IT representatives from interested countries has been scheduled in September to discuss the technicalities of both Excel and XML files and on file transmission. The reporting countries were invited to have a look at the XML schemes, even if they are not planning to use them, before the meeting in September.

13. Progress reports from working groups

The chair updated the meeting on the progress of the WG on food-borne outbreak reporting. The work is on-going and the final report is expected by end 2010.

14. Grant and contract projects

14a. Reporting and monitoring of rabies and Q fever

Florence Cliquet (CRL rabies) summarised the grant project report on rabies and presented the main proposal of the draft final report. It is suggested that reporting at European level should be done only once to one of the European organisations who could share it with the others. The TF will be

informally consulted about the final draft of the report on rabies as regards the correctness of the national data.

Richard Thiery gave a brief overview on the draft project report on Q fever. The animal population to be monitored are domestic ruminants and definitions of clinically affected herds are suggested.

14b. Survey methods for pathogens in food

The chair summarised the state of progress of this grant. Some amendments have been requested to the contractor and the revised final report is still expected.

14c. Analyses of Salmonella serovar data and source attribution analyses

The contractor did not receive human data during the life span of the contract, now finished. A new call will be launched to incorporate the source attribution analyses to the report.

14d. Reporting of vector-borne zoonoses

Alessandro Mannelli summarised the background, objectives and working plan of the grant project, which covers 6-7 vector-borne diseases. He also apologised for the misleading e-mails sent to some TF members by the contractor. The TF agreed on replying to a questionnaire regarding monitoring data at national level.

15. Presentations from Member States

Emergence of S. Typhimurium-like strains in Europe, Wolfgang Rabsch, Germany.

Wolfgang Rabsch gave a presentation on *S. Typhimurium* like strains (monophasic strains), providing information on the geographical distribution and actual (increasing) trends in the EU, animal sources (pigs and cattle) and food sources (chicken meat and pork). He clarified that the diagnostic methods (specific PCR and PFGE) have provided the evidence that these strains are real *S. Typhimurium* and highlighted that the reporting for these strains is not harmonised within the EU.

16. Any other business

Spain kindly invited the Task Force to have its next meeting on 22 -23 June 2010 in Madrid. This invitation was gratefully accepted by TF. The meeting following that will take place on 9-10 November 2010 in Parma.

The Chair provided feedback from the external review of the scientific quality of two outputs from the Zoonoses Unit (Proposed technical specifications for a survey on *Listeria monocytogenes* in selected categories of ready-to-eat food at retail in the EU, Report of the Task Force on Zoonoses Data Collection on the Analysis of the baseline survey on the prevalence of *Salmonella* in turkey flocks in the EU, 2006-2007: Part B). The review had been a positive one.