



BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS, ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 26th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE PROTECTION OF PIGS

Held by WEB-conference, 14 and 16 June 2022

(Agreed on 28 June 2022)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
 - Julio Alvarez (16/06)
 - Sandra Edwards
 - Sonia Ivanova Peneva
 - Christine Leeb (14/06)
 - Hans Spoolder
 - Antonio Velarde (14/06)
- Hearing Experts¹:
 - Laura Boyle
 - Niamh O'Connell
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
 - Not Applicable
- EFSA:
 - BIOHAW Unit: Chiara Fabris, Marika Vitali, Yves Van der Stede (16/06)
 - MESE Unit: Olaf Mosbach-Schulz
- Others:
 - Anna Valros (attending the discussion on Specific Scenarios/EKE exercises – via the EFSA Framework Contract on support services for Expert Knowledge Elicitation)

¹ As defined in Article 15 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/expertselection.pdf

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Annual Declarations of Interest, please refer to Annex. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 25th WEB-Working Group meeting held on 23rd May 2022

The minutes of the 25th WEB-Working Group (WG) meeting were agreed by written procedure on 02 of June 2022⁴.

5. Scientific topics for discussion⁵

5.1. Discussion on the draft Scientific Opinion (SO) submitted for in-dept discussion - Feedback from EFSA AHAW Panel discussion

The draft SO, in particular the Chapters assessing the Specific Scenarios and reporting on the EKE exercises, were discussed in-depth by the EFSA AHAW Panel at the plenary meeting on the first of June.

At the beginning of the WG meeting, the feedback from the Panel was presented and discussed. WG experts went through the draft SO, Panel comments were discussed and addressed. Relevant modifications to the draft were agreed: e.g., in relation to the sections on Specific Scenarios 1 (exposure variable: grouping time), and 4 (exposure variables: weaning age and type of flooring).

5.2. Finalisation of the draft SO to be submitted for possible adoption by the EFSA AHAW Panel

Ad-hoc inputs from WG experts were required along the text to finalise the draft SO before the submission of the document to the EFSA AHAW Panel for possible adoption at the next plenary meeting.

The following sections were checked in details by the WG experts and optimised for adoption: abstract, summary, space allowance for weaners and rearing pigs (Specific Scenario 4), welfare

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁴ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/wqs/animal-health/wg-clone-welfare-farmtofork-protection-pigs.pdf>

⁵ <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2020-00484>

of boars, ABMs at slaughter to monitor on-farm welfare (Specific Scenario 5). The conclusions and the results of the uncertainty analysis were also discussed in detail and agreed.

6. Next meeting

Not foreseen.



Annex

Interests and actions resulting from the screening of Annual Declarations of Interest (ADoI)

In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Prof. Sandra Edwards the following interest has been declared: she is member of the Technical Advisory Committee for pigs of the Red Tractor (UK), which constitutes a Conflict of Interest (CoI) with the mandate of the EFSA Working Group in hand. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁶ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁷, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted in accordance with Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management.

Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on the protection of pigs, and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice-chairman or rapporteur of the Working Group.

⁶ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁷ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS, ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 25th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE PROTECTION OF PIGS

Held by WEB-conference, 23 May 2022

(Agreed on 02 June 2022)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
Sandra Edwards
Sonia Ivanova Peneva
Christine Leeb
Hans Spoolder
- Hearing Experts¹:
Laura Boyle
Niamh O'Connell
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not Applicable
- EFSA:
BIOHAW Unit: Chiara Fabris, Eliana Lima, Marika Vitali
MESE Unit: Olaf Mosbach-Schulz
- Others:
Anna Valros (attending the discussion on Specific Scenarios/EKE exercises – via the EFSA Framework Contract on support services for Expert Knowledge Elicitation)

¹ As defined in Article 15 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/expertselection.pdf

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Annual Declarations of Interest, please refer to Annex. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 24rd WEB-Working Group meeting held on 11 and 16th May 2022

The minutes of the 24rd WEB-Working Group (WG) meeting were agreed by written procedure on 30th of May 2022⁴.

5. Scientific topics for discussion⁵

The WG initially discussed some exposure variables related to Sp.Sc. 4 on the welfare of weaners and rearing pigs, in particular:

- space allowance: the draft narrative text and supporting data were presented and discussed. In particular the analysis of the data generated from the extensive literature search was discussed in details. Suggestions to the text were taken into account and a new version of the document was agreed together with the relevant conclusions.
- types of flooring: the updated version of the document was presented and discussed. The comments provided by the WG were addressed, the document was updated accordingly, and relevant conclusions were agreed.
- castration: the draft narrative text was presented; WG comments to the text were discussed and a final version of the document was agreed. Previous EFSA conclusions on the practice of castration (EFSA, 2005) were reviewed and new conclusions were agreed.

Subsequently, the WG experts went through the draft Scientific opinion (SO) and checked it thoroughly; agreement was found on the updated version to be submitted to the EFSA AHAW Panel for in-dept discussion at the June Plenary meeting. It was also agreed to ask the Panel for feedback on how to organise the Conclusions, which are currently listed underneath each relevant assessment chapter, in the EFSA template.

6. Any Other Business

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁴ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/wqs/animal-health/wq-clone-welfare-farmtofork-protection-pigs.pdf>

⁵ <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2020-00484>

6.1. Project management

Panel feedback and comment will be shared with WG experts, to solve the last pending issues and optimise the text before its adoption, which is foreseen by the end of June.

7. Next meeting

June 14 and 16, 2022 – web meeting



Annex

Interests and actions resulting from the screening of Annual Declarations of Interest (ADoI)

In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Prof. Sandra Edwards the following interest has been declared: she is member of the Technical Advisory Committee for pigs of the Red Tractor (UK), which constitutes a Conflict of Interest (CoI) with the mandate of the EFSA Working Group in hand. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁶ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁷, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted in accordance with Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management.

Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on the protection of pigs, and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice-chairman or rapporteur of the Working Group.

⁶ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁷ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS, ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 24th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE PROTECTION OF PIGS

Held by WEB-conference, 11 and 16 May 2022

(Agreed on 30 May 2022)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
Sandra Edwards
Sonia Ivanova Peneva
Christine Leeb
Hans Spoolder
Antonio Velarde (11/05)
Beat Wechsler
- Hearing Experts¹:
Laura Boyle (16/05)
Niamh O'Connell
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not Applicable
- EFSA:
BIOHAW Unit: Chiara Fabris, Marika Vitali, Lukas Pantenburg
MESE Unit: Olaf Mosbach-Schulz
- Others:
Anna Valros (11/05; attending the discussion on Specific Scenarios/EKE exercises – via the EFSA Framework Contract on support services for Expert Knowledge Elicitation)

¹ As defined in Article 15 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/expertselection.pdf

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Annual Declarations of Interest, please refer to Annex. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 23rd WEB-Working Group meeting held on 27th April 2022

The minutes of the 23rd WEB-Working Group (WG) meeting were agreed by written procedure on 9th of May 2022⁴.

5. Scientific topics for discussion⁵

5.1. Discussion on the mandate Specific scenarios (Sp.Sc.)/EKE exercises

A number of sections produced by WG experts to assess some of the exposure variables related to Sp.Sc. 4, on the welfare of weaners and rearing pigs, were presented and discussed. In particular:

- 'enrichment material': the draft narrative text was presented and discussed. The rankings of diverse materials were discussed and consensus was achieved. The structure and content of the document were agreed as well as the relevant conclusions;
- 'air quality': the draft narrative text was presented, comments provided by WG experts were addressed. The effect of NH₃ on pigs was discussed, the current literature was investigated and previous EFSA scientific outputs were consulted. The document was updated and relevant conclusions were agreed;
- 'types of flooring': the draft narrative text was presented and discussed. It was noted that several aspects of this topic (e.g. % of solid floor) were already investigated in details in previous EFSA scientific outputs (e.g. EFSA, 2005) also in relation to the welfare consequences that animals can experience. WG inputs and comments were discussed; an updated version of this document will be discussed at the next WG meeting;

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁴ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/wqs/animal-health/wq-clone-welfare-farmtofork-protection-pigs.pdf>

⁵ <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2020-00484>

- 'space allowance' – the analysis of the data extracted from the literature in relation to the parameters 'tail biting' and 'growth rate' was presented. WG experts discussed how these data should be better represented. The structure of the text complementing this analysis was discussed; it was agreed that at the next WG meeting a document on the assessment of this exposure variable will be presented and discussed.
- In addition, in the context of mutilations: a) the narrative text addressing 'tail docking' was discussed in detail; the content was updated according to experts comments and final conclusions were agreed; b) the structure of the document on 'castration' was presented and discussed. The WG agreed to stress in the document the relevance of describing alternatives to surgical castration and methods for pain relief if surgical castration is performed.

Subsequently, the text addressing Sp.Sc.5 (on ABMs at slaughter to monitor the welfare on farm) was presented and discussed in detail. WG comments were addressed, the document was updated accordingly, and final conclusions were agreed.

WG experts also discussed the document describing the assessment of Sp.Sc. 2 and 3 on the welfare of farrowing/lactating sows and piglets and of the relevant exposure variables (space allowance, nest-building material, crate closing time, time of confinement, enrichment material). The text was thoroughly checked, the structure was agreed, comments were addressed and relevant conclusions were finalised.

5.2. Discussion on the draft Scientific opinion (SO)

The overall structure of the draft SO was discussed. It was agreed to have a chapter for the assessment of Common ToRs 1, 2 and 3 and separate assessment chapters on the welfare of the diverse pig categories, focused on Common ToRs 4 and 5 and the relevant Sp.Sc.

The draft narrative texts on 'the effect of the litter size on the welfare of sow and piglets' and on 'the time for adaptation to new farrowing facilities' were presented and discussed. Comments provided by WG experts were addressed, and relevant conclusions were agreed. It was also agreed to include these texts in the chapter of the draft SO dealing with the welfare of farrowing and lactating sows and piglets, at the end of the assessment addressing Sp. Scenarios 2 and 3.

Finally, the structure of the section addressing Sp.Sc. 4 on the welfare of weaners and rearing pigs was discussed in detailed. It was agreed to assess firstly the diverse exposure variables and to have at the end an overview section summarising the relationship between tail biting and the risk factors (exposure variables) assessed in the previous sections.

6. Any Other Business

6.1. Project management, tasks and assignments

Timeline and deadlines of the project were discussed. Last pending tasks were identified and distributed among the WG experts.

7. Next meeting

May 23, 2022 – web meeting



Annex

Interests and actions resulting from the screening of Annual Declarations of Interest (ADoI)

In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Prof. Sandra Edwards the following interest has been declared: she is member of the Technical Advisory Committee for pigs of the Red Tractor (UK), which constitutes a Conflict of Interest (CoI) with the mandate of the EFSA Working Group in hand. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁶ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁷, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted in accordance with Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management.

Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on the protection of pigs, and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice-chairman or rapporteur of the Working Group.

⁶ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁷ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS, ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 23th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE PROTECTION OF PIGS

Held by WEB-conference, 27 April 2022

(Agreed on 09 May 2022)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
Sandra Edwards
Sonia Ivanova Peneva
Christine Leeb
Hans Spoolder
Antonio Velarde (AM)
Beat Wechsler
- Hearing Experts¹:
Laura Boyle
Niamh O'Connell
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not Applicable
- EFSA:
BIOHAW Unit: Chiara Fabris, Marika Vitali, Lukas Pantenburg
MESE Unit: Olaf Mosbach-Schulz
- Others:
Anna Valros (attending the discussion on Specific Scenarios/EKE exercises – via the EFSA Framework Contract on support services for Expert Knowledge Elicitation)

¹ As defined in Article 15 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/expertselection.pdf

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Annual Declarations of Interest, please refer to Annex. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 22th WEB-Working Group meeting held on 06th April 2022

The minutes of the 22th WEB-Working Group (WG) meeting were agreed by written procedure on 20th of April 2022⁴.

5. Scientific topics for discussion⁵

The meeting was focused on discussing the mandate specific scenarios (Sp.Sc.) and a number of related exposure variables. In addition, WG experts discussed and agreed to include in the draft Scientific opinion (SO) a section on the effects of litter size on the welfare of sows and piglets as update of EFSA previous assessment on this topic (in 2007).

5.1. Discussion on the mandate Specific scenarios (Sp.Sc.)/EKE exercises

The text addressing Sp.Sc.5 (on ABMs at slaughter to monitor the welfare on farm) was presented and discussed in detail. WG comments were addressed and the document was updated accordingly. It was agreed to explain that the final scores of the ABM selection process resulted from a group discussion based on the single independent judgments. It was also agreed to use the final scores attributed to each ABM against selection criterion 2 (welfare consequences) to indicate if that ABM was considered a good iceberg indicator or not. The text will be developed following the WG suggestions and presented for final discussion at the next WG meeting.

An updated text on Sp.Sc. 1 on the welfare of gilts and dry sows in relation to the exposure variable 'grouping time' was presented and discussed. The document was tailored to explain the welfare consequences that gilts and dry sows can experience when grouped and which mitigation measures can be put in place. Considerations on the welfare of the sows kept in stalls were kept

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁴ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/wqs/animal-health/wq-clone-welfare-farmtofork-protection-pigs.pdf>

⁵ <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2020-00484>

as background information. The comments of the WG experts were discussed and addressed, the text was revised and relevant conclusions were agreed.

Subsequently the WG discussed some of the exposure variables related to Sp.Sc. 4, on the welfare of weaners and rearing pigs, in particular:

- A draft narrative text on 'type of flooring' was presented and discussed. On the basis of the clarifications provided by the EC it was agreed that the assessment of type of flooring should consider the connection to tail biting and also welfare implications. It was suggested to refer to the EFSA SOs of 2005 and 2007 where the welfare consequences affected by the type of flooring were assessed. The text will be developed following the WG suggestions and presented at the next WG meeting.
- Finally updated versions of the documents on 'health status' and 'diet composition' were presented and discussed. The comments provided by the WG were addressed, the documents were updated accordingly, and relevant conclusions were agreed.

6. Any Other Business

6.1. Project management, tasks and assignments

Timeline and deadlines of the project were discussed and agreed. Specific tasks were also agreed and assigned to the WG experts.

7. Next meeting

May 11 and 16, 2022 – web meeting



Annex

Interests and actions resulting from the screening of Annual Declarations of Interest (ADoI)

In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Prof. Sandra Edwards the following interest has been declared: she is member of the Technical Advisory Committee for pigs of the Red Tractor (UK), which constitutes a Conflict of Interest (CoI) with the mandate of the EFSA Working Group in hand. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁶ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁷, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted in accordance with Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management.

Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on the protection of pigs, and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice-chairman or rapporteur of the Working Group.

⁶ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁷ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS, ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 22th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE PROTECTION OF PIGS

Held by WEB-conference, 06 April 2022

(Agreed on 20 April 2022)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
Sandra Edwards
Sonia Ivanova Peneva
Christine Leeb
Hans Spoolder
Beat Wechsler
- Hearing Experts¹:
Laura Boyle
Niamh O'Connell
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not Applicable
- EFSA:
BIOHAW Unit: Chiara Fabris, Marika Vitali, Lukas Pantenburg
MESE Unit: Olaf Mosbach-Schulz
- Others:
Anna Valros (attending the discussion on Specific Scenarios/EKE exercises – via the EFSA Framework Contract on support services for Expert Knowledge Elicitation)

¹ As defined in Article 15 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/expertselection.pdf

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Annual Declarations of Interest, please refer to Annex. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 21th WEB-Working Group meeting held on 28th March 2022

The minutes of the 21th WEB-Working Group (WG) meeting were agreed by written procedure on 5th of April 2022⁴.

5. Scientific topics for discussion⁵

5.1. Discussion on the mandate Specific scenarios (Sp.Sc.)/EKE exercises

A draft document overarching Sp. Scenarios 2 and 3 was presented. The aim of this document is to combine the diverse texts produced by the WG on the diverse exposure variables assessed in relation to the welfare of sows in the pre-farrowing stage, and sows and piglets from farrowing to weaning, in different farrowing house systems offering different degrees of behavioural freedom. The exposure variables that were assessed are: quantity of space, temporal availability of space and quality of space. The structure of the document was commented and agreed. Suggestions for improvement were proposed and an updated version of the document will be presented at next WG meeting.

Subsequently the WG discussed some of the exposure variables related to Sp.Sc. 4, on the welfare of weaners and rearing pigs, in particular:

- the analysis of the dataset on 'space allowance' in relation to the ABMs 'tail lesions' and 'growth rate' was presented and discussed in detail. Data reported in the literature showed that increasing space allowances have positive effect in terms of animal welfare on both these ABMs. These outcomes will be taken into consideration in the text addressing this scenario.
- An updated version of the narrative text on 'health status' was discussed. The WG provided comments on the inclusion of biological underlying mechanism linking health status and tail biting. As example of shared risk factors between tail biting and health problems, it was also suggested to report the link to gastrointestinal disorders. The text will be developed following the WG suggestions and presented for final discussion at the next WG meeting.

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁴ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/wqs/animal-health/wg-clone-welfare-farmtofork-protection-pigs.pdf>

⁵ <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2020-00484>

- In the context of mutilations, the WG discussed an updated version of the narrative text on 'tooth reduction'. The comments collected from the AHAW Panel during the March Plenary meeting were addressed. The differences on welfare grounds reported in the literature on the methods to reduce tooth were emphasised. The text was revised and relevant conclusions were proposed.

An updated text on Sp.Sc. 1 on the welfare of gilts and dry sows in relation to the exposure variable 'grouping time' was presented and discussed. Main comments were addressed, the text was revised, the list of measures to mitigate the welfare consequences experienced by sows when mixed/re-grouped was discussed, and relevant conclusions were proposed.

6. Any Other Business

6.1. Project management, tasks and assignments

Timeline and deadlines of the project were discussed and agreed. Specific tasks were also agreed and assigned to the WG experts.

7. Next meeting

April 27, 2022 – web meeting



Annex

Interests and actions resulting from the screening of Annual Declarations of Interest (ADoI)

In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Prof. Sandra Edwards the following interest has been declared: she is member of the Technical Advisory Committee for pigs of the Red Tractor (UK), which constitutes a Conflict of Interest (CoI) with the mandate of the EFSA Working Group in hand. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁶ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁷, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted in accordance with Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management.

Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on the protection of pigs, and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice-chairman or rapporteur of the Working Group.

⁶ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁷ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS, ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 21th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE PROTECTION OF PIGS

Held by WEB-conference, 28 March 2022

(Agreed on 05 April 2022)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
 - Sandra Edwards
 - Sonia Ivanova Peneva
 - Christine Leeb
 - Hans Spoolder
 - Antonio Velarde (AM)
 - Beat Wechsler
- Hearing Experts¹:
 - Laura Boyle
 - Niamh O'Connell
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
 - Not Applicable
- EFSA:
 - BIOHAW Unit: Chiara Fabris, Marika Vitali, Lukas Pantenburg
 - MESE Unit: Olaf Mosbach-Schulz
- Others:
 - Anna Valros (attending the discussion on Specific Scenarios/EKE exercises – via the EFSA Framework Contract on support services for Expert Knowledge Elicitation)

¹ As defined in Article 15 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/expertselection.pdf

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Annual Declarations of Interest, please refer to Annex. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 20th WEB-Working Group meeting held on 9th March 2022

The minutes of the 20th WEB-Working Group (WG) meeting were agreed by written procedure on 25th of March 2022⁴.

5. Scientific topics for discussion⁵

5.1. Discussion on the mandate Specific scenarios (Sp.Sc.)/EKE exercises

At the beginning of the meeting, the Chair provided WG experts with feedback from the discussion with the EFSA AHAW Panel on the three documents that were submitted for a first reading at the March Panel Plenary meeting (i.e. on Sc.Sc. 2-nest-building material, Sp.S 3- enrichment material and Sp.Sc. 4-mutilations-tail docking) and on the Panel agreement in relation to the Uncertainty assessment and approach in the AW F2F mandates.

Subsequently, a draft narrative text on tail lesions in rearing pigs in relation to Sp.Sc.5 (on ABMs at slaughter to monitor the welfare on farm) was presented and discussed. The structure of the document and the content were commented. Suggestions for improvement were proposed to the sections of the document on the description of the ABM, link to welfare consequences on farm, assessment and automation. WG experts also provided some scientific publications that could be relevant to the text.

An updated text on Sp.Sc. 1 on the welfare of gilts and dry sows in relation to the exposure variable 'grouping time' was presented and discussed. It was agreed to tailor the document to explain the welfare consequences that gilts and dry sows can experience when mixed at different points in time and to emphasise which measures can be put in place to mitigate these welfare consequences and make a smooth mixing.

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁴ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/wgs/animal-health/wg-clone-welfare-farmtofork-protection-pigs.pdf>

⁵ <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2020-00484>

Subsequently the WG discussed some of the exposure variables related to Sp.Sc. 4, on the welfare of weaners and rearing pigs, in particular:

- an updated version of the draft narrative text on 'weaning age' was presented and discussed. The comments of the WG experts were discussed and addressed, the text was revised and relevant conclusions were proposed.
- The analysis of the dataset with information extracted from the literature on 'space allowance' was presented and discussed in detail. It was agreed to include additional literature in the analysis and to focus it on ABMs related to 'tail biting', 'growth' and 'aggression'.
- A first draft on 'health status' was discussed. The WG agreed on the structure of the text and agreed to focus it to the relationship between health status and tail biting. Some additional scientific publications were suggested to integrate the text with examples on this relationship. In addition, as assessment of the health problems connected to rearing conditions, it was agreed to make reference to the sections of the draft Scientific opinion addressing Common ToRs 4 and 5 on the health-related welfare consequences that were ranked as highly relevant for weaners and rearing pigs in the considered husbandry systems.
- Finally, in the context of mutilations, the WG discussed an updated version of the draft narrative text on 'tail docking'. The WG agreed to extend the section on mitigation measures at pen and farm-level and explain narratively the evidence reported in the literature on how pain can be mitigated, in particular in relation to 'instruments', 'age', and 'length of the tail'.

6. Any Other Business

6.1. Project management, tasks and assignments

Timeline and deadlines of the project were discussed and agreed. Specific tasks were also agreed and assigned to the WG experts.

7. Next meeting

April 07, 2022 – web meeting



BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS, ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE UNIT

Annex

Interests and actions resulting from the screening of Annual Declarations of Interest (ADoI)

In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Prof. Sandra Edwards the following interest has been declared: she is member of the Technical Advisory Committee for pigs of the Red Tractor (UK), which constitutes a Conflict of Interest (CoI) with the mandate of the EFSA Working Group in hand. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁶ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁷, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted in accordance with Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management.

Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on the protection of pigs, and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice-chairman or rapporteur of the Working Group.

⁶ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁷ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS, ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 20th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE PROTECTION OF PIGS

Held by WEB-conference, 09 March 2022

(Agreed on 25 March 2022)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
Sandra Edwards
Sonia Ivanova Peneva
Christine Leeb
Hans Spoolder
Antonio Velarde (AM)
- Hearing Experts¹:
Laura Boyle
Niamh O'Connell
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not Applicable
- EFSA:
BIOHAW Unit: Chiara Fabris, Marika Vitali, Lukas Pantenburg
MESE Unit: Olaf Mosbach-Schulz
- Others:
Anna Valros (attending the discussion on Specific Scenarios/EKE exercises– item 5.2 - via the EFSA Framework Contract on support services for Expert Knowledge Elicitation)

¹ As defined in Article 15 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/expertselection.pdf

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Annual Declarations of Interest, as well as the Oral Declaration(s) of Interest at the beginning of the meeting, and for conflicts of interest identified therein, please refer to Annexes I and II, respectively.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 19th WEB-Working Group meeting held on 21st and 23rd of February 2022

The minutes of the 19th WEB-Working Group (WG) meeting were agreed by written procedure on 07th of March 2022⁴.

5. Scientific topics for discussion⁵

5.1. Discussion on the draft Scientific opinion (SO)

The WG discussed the structure of the section(s) addressing the exposure variables listed in Sp.Sc. 4 on the welfare of weaners and rearing pigs. Taking into account the clarification provided by the EC, it was proposed that each exposure variable listed in the mandate is discussed primarily in relation to its potential or existing correlation with the risk of tail biting. Subsequently, the chair updated the WG on the outcomes of the discussion of the EFSA welfare F2F WG on the uncertainty assessment, and informed that a common approach for all F2F opinions was agreed. Finally, the WG discussed the drawings of husbandry systems to be inserted in the draft SO.

5.2. Discussion on the mandate Specific scenarios (Sp.Sc.)/EKE exercises

The WG experts discussed and finalised the exercise on the assessment of ABMs at slaughter to monitor welfare on-farm (Sp.Sc.5) in the case of 'culled sows'. The outcomes of the exercise were presented and discussed. A final set of ABMs was identified, to be further described on the basis of the scientific literature. Subsequently, the WG discussed the structure of the section(s) addressing this Sp.Sc. It was agreed to draft a template where, for each ABM, reporting description, interpretation, and considerations supporting the selection process. It was agreed that a first draft will be developed and discussed at the next WG meeting.

The dataset with information extracted from the literature on Sp.Sc.4 in relation to space allowance was then presented and discussed. It was agreed to detail the data extracted on the

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁴ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/wqs/animal-health/wg-clone-welfare-farmtofork-protection-pigs.pdf>

⁵ <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2020-00484>

group size and type of flooring as reported in the selected literature (e.g. to specify if the floor was fully or partly slatted). Additional literature was proposed to be included in the analysis.

An updated text on Sp.Sc.1 on the welfare of gilts and dry sows in relation to the exposure variable grouping time was presented and discussed. Proposals were made to respond to the mandate question, and to provide scientific evidence in relation to the European Citizen Initiative 'end of the cage age'. It was agreed to: i) describe the process of mixing, ii) focus the text on the welfare consequences that gilts and dry sows may experience when grouped at different points in time from weaning (in the case of sows) or few days before service (in the case of gilts) up to 28 days after service, and iii) to identify the measures that can mitigate these welfare consequences (including the use of mixing pens).

Subsequently, the WG discussed Sp.Sc.4 in the context of mutilations, and specifically of tail docking. A draft narrative text was presented and discussed. It was agreed that the text should describe, in the case that tail docking is really needed, how this mutilation should be correctly performed to be effective in the reduction of tail biting, and which are the strategies for pain relief.

Finally, the WG discussed the draft narrative text on Sp.Sc.4 in relation to weaning age. The content and structure of the text and supporting figures/graphs were commented. It was concluded that the evidence provided was enough to draw conclusions and that an EKE exercise was not necessary for this exposure variable.

6. Any Other Business

6.1. Project management

Timeline and deadlines of the project were discussed and agreed. The WG was informed that the following three sections of the draft SO were submitted to the AHAW Panel for a first reading and discussion at the March Plenary meeting: the assessment of Sp.Sc. 2 on the welfare of gilts and dry sows in relation to the provision of nest-building material, Sp.Sc. 3 on the welfare of farrowing/lactating sows and piglets from farrowing to weaning in relation to the provision of enrichment material, and the text on teeth reduction that was produced to address Sp.Sc.4 in the context of mutilations.

6.2. Tasks and assignments

Specific tasks were agreed and assigned to the WG experts together with relevant timelines.

7. Next meeting

March 28, 2022 – web meeting



Annex I

Interests and actions resulting from the screening of Annual Declarations of Interest (ADoI)

In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Prof. Sandra Edwards the following interest has been declared: she is member of the Technical Advisory Committee for pigs of the Red Tractor (UK), which constitutes a Conflict of Interest (CoI) with the mandate of the EFSA Working Group in hand. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁶ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁷, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted in accordance with Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management.

Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on the protection of pigs, and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice-chairman or rapporteur of the Working Group.

⁶ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁷ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

Annex II

Interests and actions resulting from the Oral Declaration of Interest done at the beginning of the meeting

With regard to this meeting, Dr. Niamh O'Connell declared the following interest: she is Principal Investigator on the project 'Developing appropriate environmental enrichment strategies for broiler breeders'. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁸ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁹, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, the interest above was not deemed to represent a Conflict of Interest for the expert concerned.

⁸ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁹ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS, ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 19th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE PROTECTION OF PIGS

Held by WEB-conference, 21 and 23 February 2022

(Agreed on 07 March 2022)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
Sandra Edwards
Sonia Ivanova Peneva
Christine Leeb
Hans Spoolder
Antonio Velarde
Beat Wechsler
- Hearing Experts¹:
Laura Boyle (on 23/02)
Niamh O'Connell
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not Applicable
- EFSA:
BIOHAW Unit: Chiara Fabris, Marika Vitali, Mimi Kalcheva
MESE Unit: Olaf Mosbach-Schulz
- Others:
Anna Valros (attending the discussion on Specific Scenarios/EKE exercises– item 5.2 - via the EFSA Framework Contract on support services for Expert Knowledge Elicitation)

¹ As defined in Article 15 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/expertselection.pdf

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Annual Declarations of Interest, please refer to Annex. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 18th WEB-Working Group meeting held on 07 February 2022

The minutes of the 18th WEB-Working Group (WG) meeting were agreed by written procedure on 17th of February 2022⁴.

5. Scientific topics for discussion⁵

5.1. Discussion on the mandate Common ToRs

The assessment of uncertainty was discussed, and it was agreed to bring it to the attention of the EFSA welfare F2F WG. The working group agreed on the selection of the husbandry systems to be reproduced with drawings in the Scientific opinion.

5.2. Discussion on the mandate Specific scenarios (Sp.Sc.)/EKE exercises

The questionnaire to select the ABMs at slaughter to monitor welfare on farm (SpSc.5) was presented. It was agreed, for each ABM, to base the selection on four criteria: 1) number of related welfare consequences on farm, 2) automation possibility (technology readiness level), 3) current use at slaughter, 4) importance rated from the AHAW Network. It was agreed that information to address criteria 3 and 4 were taken from the AHAW Network exercise⁶. The WG was asked to express expert opinion on criteria 1 and 2. The importance of the four criteria was also weighted. The ABMs lung lesion- pneumonia and lung lesion-pleuritis were merged because in practice the two ABMs are assessed at the same time. Two questionnaires were produced, one for finishing pigs and the other for culled sows. The experts compiled the two questionnaires. The

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁴ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/wqs/animal-health/wg-clone-welfare-farmtofork-protection-pigs.pdf>

⁵ <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2020-00484>

⁶ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/supporting/pub/en-7028>

outcome on finishing pigs was analysed, presented and discussed. A final set of ABMs was identified, to be further described on the bases of scientific literature.

The EKE dossier on Sp.Sc.4 -weaning age was presented. Data analysis and graphs from the ABMs belly nosing and mortality were presented. The WG reported the following criticalities on the data available: absence of data regarding the unexposed population, different recording methods, high intra-litter variation and big inter-litter variation for belly nosing, many confounding factors for mortality. Considering these limitations, the WG decided to assess this scenario narratively. However, the performed analysis evidenced a trend on the effect of weaning age that is informative on the level of welfare experienced by the weaning piglet (even if not exhaustive) and that could be included in the narrative text. It was agreed to include a section of the narrative text that will also consider the current knowledge about tail biting in relation to the age of weaning.

The WG discussed Sp.Sc.3, on the welfare of farrowing/lactating sows and piglets from farrowing to weaning, in relation to the provision of enrichment material. The document was discussed in detail and modifications were suggested. It was agreed to add a table with the main enrichment materials found in literature and to include information on other ABMs in the text (if present). Final agreement was achieved for the main text, draft conclusions and recommendations.

Subsequently, the WG discussed Sp.Sc.4 in the context of mutilations (tail docking). A draft structure for the narrative text of this Sp.Sc. was presented and discussed within the WG. It was agreed to summarize the main hazards for tail biting, but that detailed information on that will be addressed when assessing the other exposure variables on Sp.Sc.4. It was also agreed that the focus will be on the correct procedure to perform tail docking if it is really needed, and on strategies to minimize pain.

6. Any Other Business

6.1. Project management

Timelines and deadlines of the project were discussed; the plan for the next meetings until the adoption of the draft SO (June 2022), was agreed.

6.2. Tasks and assignments

Specific tasks were assigned and agreed. In particular WG experts were invited to update the texts addressing Sp.Sc 1- grouping time and Sp.Sc. 4- tail docking to be discussed at next meeting, and to complete the questionnaire on SpSc5- ABMs at slaughter for culled sows.

7. Next meeting

March 09, 2022 – web meeting



Annex

Interests and actions resulting from the screening of Annual Declarations of Interest (ADoI)

In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Prof. Sandra Edwards the following interest has been declared: she is member of the Technical Advisory Committee for pigs of the Red Tractor (UK), which constitutes a Conflict of Interest (CoI) with the mandate of the EFSA Working Group in hand. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁷ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁸, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted in accordance with Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management.

Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on the protection of pigs, and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice-chairman or rapporteur of the Working Group.

⁷ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁸ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS, ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 18th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE PROTECTION OF PIGS

Held by WEB-conference, 07 February 2022

(Agreed on 17 February 2022)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
Sandra Edwards
Sonia Ivanova Peneva
Christine Leeb
Hans Spoolder
Beat Wechsler
- Hearing Experts¹:
Laura Boyle
Niamh O'Connell
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not Applicable
- EFSA:
BIOHAW Unit: Chiara Fabris, Marika Vitali, Mimi Kalcheva
MESE Unit: Olaf Mosbach-Schulz
- Others:
Anna Valros (attending the discussion on Specific Scenarios/EKE exercises– item 5.2 - via the EFSA Framework Contract on support services for Expert Knowledge Elicitation)

¹ As defined in Article 15 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/expertselection.pdf

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Annual Declarations of Interest, please refer to Annex. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 17th WEB-Working Group meeting held on 10 and 12 January 2021

The minutes of the 17th WEB-Working Group (WG) meeting were agreed by written procedure on 02nd of February 2021⁴.

5. Scientific topics for discussion⁵

5.1. Discussion on the draft Scientific Opinion (SO)

Main comments to the sections of the draft SO on Common ToRs 4 and 5 were discussed and addressed. Modifications to the draft were agreed and consistency was checked among sections addressing the diverse pig categories.

Following on the discussion on the high variety of pig husbandry systems, WG experts agreed on the need of complementing the description of some systems with photos or drawings. It was agreed to focus on those husbandry systems that are generally less known/common or which development is relatively recent (e.g. piglets' artificial rearing systems) and to make reference to previous EFSA outputs or other sources for the other systems.

5.2. Discussion on the mandate Specific scenarios (Sp.Sc.)/EKE exercises

An updated document addressing Sp.Sc. 1, on the welfare of gilts and dry sows in relation to the exposure variable 'grouping time' was presented. The content of the document was discussed in detail and agreed. The period under consideration ('from entering the service area until the end of the fourth week of pregnancy') was sub-divided on the basis of the pig reproductive physiology. Four sub-periods were identified and defined (oestrus period, post-oestrus, establishing of pregnancy and confirmation of pregnancy). Welfare consequences that can be experienced by gilts and dry sows when kept in groups during these four periods will be described together with the associated mitigation strategies.

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁴ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/wgs/animal-health/wg-clone-welfare-farmtofork-protection-pigs.pdf>

⁵ <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2020-00484>

Subsequently the WG discussed Sp.Sc. 3, on the welfare of farrowing/lactating sows and piglets from farrowing to weaning, in relation to the provision of enrichment material. Due to the scarce scientific evidence available to reply (semi) quantitatively in terms of kind of material), a narrative text was presented to address this Sp.Sc. The document was discussed in detail and modifications were suggested. It was agreed to extend the assessment on the effect of enrichment material provided during lactation on pig behaviour after weaning (in relation e.g. to tail-biting). An update of this document will be presented at the next WG meeting.

The WG also discussed Sp.Sc. 4 on the welfare of weaners and rearing pigs in relation to the exposure variable 'weaning age'. Following on previous WG discussions on this item, the outcomes of the data analysis on distress vocalisations, pig-directed behaviours, enteric diseases and mortality were presented and discussed. Relevant ABMs were in fact considered promising for a quantitative (EKE) approach to this Sp.Sc. It resulted that no or scarce information is available on the 'unrestricted population' (i.e. late weaning of piglets, e.g. above 40 days of life), whereas most of the information are on weaning at 21 and 28 days of life. Looking at the statistical model that was presented, the WG agreed to further investigate the approach for 'vocalisations', 'belly nosing' and 'mortality' in order to study whether significant effects of weaning at 21 days compared to weaning at 28 days can be quantified. It was agreed that relevant pilot EKE questions will be developed and discussed at next WG meeting to take final decision if this Sp.Sc. needs to be addressed via EKE.

Finally, on Sp.Sc. 4 in relation to 'space allowance', the WG was invited to discuss the format of the file where reporting the data extracted from the literature. The essential information relevant to the exposure variable (e.g. weight of the animals, m² per animal) was agreed as well as the kind of experimental settings and confounding factors (e.g. group size and type of flooring) that should be collected. Following on this discussion, an Excel file will be prepared and made available to the WG experts for data extraction.

6. Any Other Business

6.1. Feedback from the January meeting with EFSA welfare F2F WG and European Commission

The outcomes from the January EFSA welfare F2F WG meeting and from the exchange with EC were presented and discussed. The documents commented at the meeting that were of relevance for the WG on the protection of pigs were on Sp.Sc. 3-enrichment material, Sp.Sc. 4-Tooth reduction, and Sp.Sc. 5 on the ABMs at slaughter.

6.2. Project management

Timelines and deadlines of the project were discussed; dates for the next WG meetings up to the possible adoption of the draft SO (June 2022) were agreed.

6.3. Tasks and assignments

Specific tasks were assigned and agreed. Working group experts were invited to have a look at the documents that were discussed at last meeting of the EFSA welfare F2F WG (see item 6.1 above), and comment on their final version. Experts were also invited to update the texts addressing Sp.Sc 1- grouping time, Sp.Sc. 3, on enrichment materials for sows and piglets, and to finalise the sections of the draft SO on Common ToRs 4 and 5, on the basis of the inputs collected during the meeting.

7. Next meeting

February 21 and 23, 2022 – web meeting



BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS, ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE UNIT

Annex

Interests and actions resulting from the screening of Annual Declarations of Interest (ADoI)

In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Prof. Sandra Edwards the following interest has been declared: she is member of the Technical Advisory Committee for pigs of the Red Tractor (UK), which constitutes a Conflict of Interest (CoI) with the mandate of the EFSA Working Group in hand. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁶ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁷, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted in accordance with Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management.

Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on the protection of pigs, and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice-chairman or rapporteur of the Working Group.

⁶ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁷ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS, ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 17th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE PROTECTION OF PIGS

Held by WEB-conference, 10 and 12 January 2022

(Agreed on 02 February 2022)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
Sandra Edwards
Sonia Ivanova Peneva
Christine Leeb
Hans Spoolder
Antonio Velarde
Beat Wechsler
- Hearing Experts¹:
Laura Boyle
Niamh O'Connell
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not Applicable
- EFSA:
BIOHAW Unit: Chiara Fabris, Mimi Kalcheva, Marika Vitali, Lina Mur
MESE Unit: Olaf Mosbach-Schulz
- Others:
Not Applicable

¹ As defined in Article 15 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/expertselection.pdf

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Annual Declarations of Interest, as well as the Oral Declaration(s) of Interest at the beginning of the meeting, and for conflicts of interest identified therein, please refer to Annexes I and II, respectively.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 16th WEB-Working Group meeting held on 06, 08 and 10 December 2021

The minutes of the 16th WEB-Working Group (WG) meeting were agreed by written procedure on 07th of January 2021⁴.

5. Scientific topics for discussion⁵

5.1.1. Discussion on the draft Scientific Opinion (SO) - Feedback from AHAW Panel discussion

The text of the draft SO on Common ToRs 1, 2 and 3 was discussed in-depth by the EFSA AHAW Panel at the December plenary meeting. The AHAW Panel also agreed on the structure of Common ToRs 4 and 5.

During the WG meeting, the feedback from the Panel was presented, the WG experts went through the draft SO, Panel comments were discussed and addressed; relevant modifications to the draft were agreed: e.g., in the Interpretation of the Common ToRs the definitions of specificity and sensitivity of the ABMs were added.

5.2. Update on the mandate specific scenarios (Sp.Sc.)

The Chair provided WG experts with feedback from the discussion with the EFSA welfare F2F WG (Task Force) on Sp. Scenarios 2 (nest-building material) and 5 (assessment of ABMs at slaughter to monitor on-farm welfare).

In particular, for Sp.Sc. 2, an updated text on the welfare of gilts and dry sows in relation to the provision of nest-building material was discussed and all comments were addressed. The outcomes of the semi-quantitative analysis aimed at identifying the most suitable material were fine-tuned, and the relevant conclusions were proposed.

The WG agreed to investigate the possibility of following a similar (semi-quantitative) approach also for addressing Sp.Sc. 3 (on the welfare of sows and piglets from farrowing to

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁴ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/wgs/animal-health/wg-clone-welfare-farmtofork-protection-pigs.pdf>

⁵ <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2020-00484>

weaning) in relation to the exposure variable 'enrichment material'. Updates on this item will be discussed at the next WG meeting.

Subsequently, WG experts discussed Sp.Sc.4, on the welfare of weaners and rearing pigs in relation to the exposure variable 'weaning age'. The updated data set extracted from the literature was presented and discussed in detail. The welfare problems most frequently reported in the literature are distress vocalisations, pig-directed behaviours, enteric diseases and mortality. From the evidence reported, WG experts identified a set of ABMs related to these welfare problems that could be promising for a quantitative approach to this Sp.Sc. It was then agreed to try to derive from the literature more precise quantitative information on these ABMs and to further analyse the data. The outcomes of this analysis will be discussed at the next WG meeting.

In addition, WG experts discussed the literature search strategies for assessing some of the other exposure variables of Sp.Sc. 4, e.g., 'enrichment' and 'air quality'. In particular, according to the clarifications provided by the EC, the risks associated to tail biting (i.e., the risk to become a tail biter/tail bitten victim weaner/rearing pig) should be considered in the assessment; therefore, to better frame the searches, it was agreed to include 'tail' as keyword in the search strings.

Finally, an updated document addressing Sp.Sc. 1, on the welfare of gilts and dry sows from entering the service area until the end of the fourth week of pregnancy, was presented and discussed. The proposed structure of the document was discussed in detail and modifications were suggested. It was agreed to focus the document on the assessment of the welfare consequences experienced by the animals (welfare consequences that were identified by an ad-hoc expert consensus exercise) and to provide the associated mitigation strategies. It was proposed to produce an outcome table reporting the hazard(s) that could lead to each welfare consequence, the measures that could help to prevent/correct the hazard(s) or that can mitigate the welfare consequence. An update of this document will be presented at the next WG meeting.

6. Any Other Business

6.1. Project management

Timelines and deadlines of the project were discussed. It was agreed that updated sections on Common Tors 4 and 5, agendas for 2022 WG meetings and plan of EKE exercises will be discussed at next WG meeting.

WG experts were informed that an update on Sp.SC. 5, on the assessment of ABMs at slaughter to monitor on-farm welfare, will be circulated by e-mail and were invited to provide feedback on it.

6.2. Tasks and assignments

Specific tasks were assigned and agreed. In particular, in relation to the draft SO, WG experts were invited to focus (finalise and comment) on the sections addressing Common ToRs 4 and 5.

7. Next meeting

February 07, 2022 – web meeting



BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS, ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE UNIT

Annex I

Interests and actions resulting from the screening of Annual Declarations of Interest (ADoI)

In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Prof. Sandra Edwards the following interest has been declared: she is member of the Technical Advisory Committee for pigs of the Red Tractor (UK), which constitutes a Conflict of Interest (CoI) with the mandate of the EFSA Working Group in hand. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁶ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁷, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted in accordance with Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management.

Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on the protection of pigs, and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice-chairman or rapporteur of the Working Group.

⁶ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁷ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



Annex II

Interests and actions resulting from the Oral Declaration of Interest done at the beginning of the meeting

With regard to this meeting, Dr. Christine Leeb declared the following interests: she is supervisor of PhD thesis for the research project 'IBest'- Innovations for existing rearing and finishing pig barns in Austria, and coordinator of the project 'SauWohl' - Improving pig health and welfare by fermented herbal extracts in rearing and finishing pigs. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁸ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁹, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, the interests above were not deemed to represent a Conflict of Interest for the expert concerned.

With regard to this meeting, Dr. Laura Boyle declared the following interest: she is co-coordinator of a project on 'development of alternative and high welfare systems of pig production'. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹⁰ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management¹¹, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, the interest above was not deemed to represent a Conflict of Interest for the expert concerned.

⁸ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁹ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

¹⁰ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

¹¹ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 16th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE PROTECTION OF PIGS

Held by WEB-conference, 06-08-10 December 2021

(Agreed on 07 January 2022)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
Sandra Edwards
Sonia Ivanova Peneva
Christine Leeb
Hans Spoolder
Antonio Velarde (on 06 and 08/12)
Beat Wechsler (on 06/12)
- Hearing Experts¹:
Laura Boyle
Niamh O'Connell
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not Applicable
- EFSA:
ALPHA Unit: Chiara Fabris, Mimi Kalcheva, Marika Vitali
AMU Unit: Olaf Mosbach-Schulz
- Others:
Anna Valros (attending the discussion on Specific Scenarios/EKE exercises– item 5.2 - via the EFSA Framework Contract on support services for Expert Knowledge Elicitation)

¹ As defined in Article 15 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/expertselection.pdf

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Annual Declarations of Interest, please refer to Annex. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 15th WEB-Working Group meeting held on 29 November 2021

The minutes of the 15th WEB-Working Group (WG) meeting were agreed by written procedure on 03rd of December 2021⁴.

5. Scientific topics for discussion⁵

5.1. Discussion on the draft Scientific Opinion (SO)

The text of the draft SO on ToRs 1, 2 and 3 of the Common ToRs was reviewed on the basis of the new contributions provided by the WG experts: the WG checked it thoroughly and agreement was found on the updated version to be submitted to the EFSA AHAW Panel for in-dept discussion at the December Plenary meeting. It was also agreed to ask for Panel's feedback on the structure of the section addressing ToRs 4 and 5 of the Common ToRs for gilts and dry sows (section 3.5 of the draft SO). Once agreed by the AHAW Panel, the same structure will be applied to the following sections addressing ToRs 4 and 5 in relation to the other five pig categories (sections from 3.6 to 3.10). For each pig category, outcome tables linking the highly relevant welfare consequences, ABMs, hazards, preventive, corrective and mitigation measures, and conclusions from the assessment of the Common ToRs will also be included.

5.2. Discussion on specific scenarios (Sp.Sc.) and EKE exercises

Sp.Sc. 2 on the welfare of gilts and dry sows in relation to the provision of nest-building material was firstly discussed. WG experts were informed that the EFSA welfare F2F WG provided positive feedback on the proposal to address this scenario with a 'semi-quantitative and semi-narrative' approach, i.e. with a consensus exercise complementing the narrative text. Based on the evidence reported in the narrative document, the WG ran a consensus exercise on the suitability of different nest-building materials to elicit specific nest-building behaviours. In preparation for the exercise, and to have a common understanding of the elements to elicit, the WG agreed and defined in detail the specific nest-building behaviours

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁴ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/wqs/animal-health/wq-clone-welfare-farmtofork-protection-pigs.pdf>

⁵ <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2020-00484>

and the list of nest-building materials to consider. The behaviours were also 'weighted' in terms of importance, and the materials were qualitatively defined in terms of dimensions (i.e. small particles vs. large particles) and quantity (i.e. deep layer vs. minimal supply). The WG experts voted which behaviour(s) can be expressed by the pregnant sow with the diverse nest-building materials, by applying a three-scale scoring system. The preliminary outcomes of the exercise were presented, and it was agreed to discuss and fine-tune them at next WG meeting. In addition, WG experts agreed to present the methodological approach to this Sp.Sc. and the preliminary outcomes of the scoring exercise at next meeting of the EFSA welfare F2F WG (Task Force).

Subsequently, WG experts discussed Sp.Sc.4, on the welfare of weaners and rearing pigs in relation to the exposure variable 'weaning age'. The data set extracted from the literature comparing post-weaning effects of different weaning ages was presented. Papers focused on production measures in the post-weaning period were excluded except for the few where longer-term growth performance was reported. The overview provided was very extensive. The welfare problems most frequently reported in the literature relate to abnormal behaviours and enteric diseases. WG experts discussed in detail the ABMs that could be suitable for an EKE exercise; however, it was noted that ABMs were inconsistently reported in the literature, no ABM showed a large body of comparable studies, and a linear trend was not clearly identified. Looking at the evidence, WG experts agreed that for the moment it is difficult to identify a 'reference' ABM to reply quantitatively on this Sp.Sc.; a qualitative approach was then considered. The main scientific question the WG is asked to answer on 'weaning age' was discussed. According to the clarifications provided by the EC, the correlation between different weaning systems (weaning of piglets at different ages) and the risks of tail biting at a later stage (i.e. the risk to become a tail biter/tail bitten victim weaner/rearing pig) should be assessed. This in view of a possible revision of the current legislation on the minimum weaning age. Finally, the WG agreed to have a look at the data from the literature on artificial rearing systems, before taking the final decision on the methodological approach to this Sp.Sc.

Following on the discussion during the previous WG meeting, it was agreed to narratively address Sp.Sc. 1, on the welfare of gilts and dry sows from entering the service area until the end of the fourth week of pregnancy, by describing the effect of regrouping on the welfare of these animals. In this stage, gilts and dry sows may experience diverse welfare consequences, of different intensity, depending on the time they are grouped. On the basis of the pig reproductive physiology, three sensitive time points were identified: i) after weaning (approx. four days before service), ii) one week after service and iii) 28 days after service (current legal requirement for grouping pregnant gilts and sows). WG experts identified the main welfare consequences that gilts and dry sows experience when grouped at each of these time points by consensus exercise. Considerations on biology of the sows at each time point and the measures to mitigate the identified welfare consequences will also be reported in the narrative text. In fact, according to the clarifications provided by the EC, in the context of the end of the cage age, EFSA is requested to assess the conditions under which phasing out of individual stalls can benefit sow's welfare, the risks associated with different grouping times, and the measures that could prevent or correct these risks. Updates on this item will be discussed at the next WG meeting.

Finally, the item Sp.Sc. 5 on the assessment of ABMs at slaughter to monitor animal welfare on farm was discussed. WG experts were informed on the feedback provided by the EC: it was clarified that the goal of this assessment is to list measures that could be used as an indication of welfare on the farm of origin, and that can provide indication on on-farm welfare of the overall population in a region/country. The ABMs do not necessarily need to be very specific of a certain welfare problem but could provide an indication of the general welfare on farm. On this basis, the approach to address this Sp.Sc. was updated and presented to the WG. After revision and agreement of the protocol and starting from the list of ABMs

discussed by the EFSA AHAW Network members in June '21⁶, the WG experts ran a first exercise to screen which ABMs should be further analysed. The ABMs resulting from the screening exercise will be described on the basis on a set of agreed criteria. Relevant information will be gathered from the scientific literature and the outcomes of EFSA AHAW Network exercise. The WG will assess this information in a second exercise aimed at selecting the ABMs to suggest for monitoring at the slaughterhouse as indicators of on-farm pig welfare. It was agreed that a preliminary literature search on these ABMs will be run, and the outcomes will be presented and discussed at the next WG meeting. In addition, WG experts agreed to present the methodological approach to this Sp.Sc. and the preliminary outcomes of the screening exercise at next meeting of the EFSA welfare F2F WG.

6. Any Other Business

6.1. Project management

Timelines and deadlines of the project were discussed. It was agreed that at next meeting feedback from the discussions of the EFSA AHAW Panel (on the Common ToRs) and the EFSA welfare F2F WG (on the Sp. scenarios) will be provided. At next meeting, the agendas for 2022 WG meetings and the plan of EKE exercises will be also discussed.

6.2. Tasks and assignments

Specific tasks were assigned and agreed as well as deadlines. In particular, in relation to the draft SO, WG experts were invited to finalise the sections addressing ToRs 4 and 5 of the Common ToRs and to comment on the text.

7. Next meeting

January 10th and 12th 2022 – web meeting

⁶ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/supporting/pub/en-7028>



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

Annex

Interests and actions resulting from the screening of Annual Declarations of Interest (ADoI)

In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Prof. Sandra Edwards the following interest has been declared: she is member of the Technical Advisory Committee for pigs of the Red Tractor (UK), which constitutes a Conflict of Interest (CoI) with the mandate of the EFSA Working Group in hand. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁷ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁸, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted in accordance with Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management.

Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on the protection of pigs, and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice-chairman or rapporteur of the Working Group.

⁷ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁸ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 15th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE PROTECTION OF PIGS

Held by WEB-conference, 29 November 2021

(Agreed on 03 December 2021)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
Sandra Edwards
Sonia Ivanova Peneva
Christine Leeb
Hans Spoolder
Antonio Velarde
- Hearing Experts¹:
Laura Boyle
Niamh O'Connell
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not Applicable
- EFSA:
ALPHA Unit: Chiara Fabris, Mimi Kalcheva, Marika Vitali
AMU Unit: Olaf Mosbach-Schulz

¹ As defined in Article 15 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/expertselection.pdf

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Annual Declarations of Interest, please refer to Annex. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 14th WEB-Working Group meeting held on 08 and 12 November 2021

The minutes of the 14th WEB-Working Group (WG) meeting held on 08th and 12th November 2021 were agreed by written procedure on 26rd of November 2021.

5. Scientific topics for discussion⁴

5.1. Discussion on specific scenarios (Sp.Sc.) and EKE exercises

Initially, the Chair provided WG experts with a feedback from the discussions with the EFSA AHAW Panel and the EFSA welfare F2F Task Force in particular on the draft C&Rs from the EKE exercises on space allowance related to Sp.Sc. 3 (on the welfare of farrowing/lactating sows and piglets from farrowing to weaning), and the approach to Sp.Sc. 5 on the use of ABMs to monitor the level of welfare on pig farms. Draft C&Rs were updated following the suggestions received.

Subsequently, the data extracted from the literature on Sp.Sc. 1 (*on the welfare of gilts and dry sows – from entering the service area until the end of the fourth week of pregnancy*) in relation to the exposure variable 'grouping time' were presented and discussed in detail to decide if this scenario should be addressed via EKE exercises or narratively. After assessing the evidence provided, WG experts agreed that evidence is not sufficient and data are not enough comparable to identify a reference ABM for an EKE exercise; a narrative approach would probably be preferable. However, a consensus exercise was necessary to identify which welfare consequences are mainly affected by diverse grouping times and to weight the impact of these times on each welfare consequence. Outcomes of this exercise will be discussed at next WG meeting.

5.2. Discussion on the draft Scientific Opinion (SO)

The text of the draft SO was reviewed and updated with a view of preparing it for the EFSA AHAW Panel discussion at the December Plenary meeting. In particular, on the basis of the comments submitted by stakeholders via Public Consultation and the questions raised during the discussion of the EFSA AHAW Panel at the November Plenary meeting, the WG agreed to

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁴ <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2020-00484>

extend the section in the Common ToRs of the draft SO describing group suckling farrowing systems. In particular, it was agreed that different group suckling systems will be described and the reasons why they will not be further assessed will be explained.

6. Any Other Business

6.1. Project management

Timelines and deadlines of the project were discussed. It was agreed that at next meeting the discussion on Sp. scenarios and EKE exercises will be based on the following items: Sp.Sc.1-grouping time; Sp.Sc. 2-nesting material; Sp.Sc. 4-weaning age; Sp.Sc. 5-ABMs at slaughter. In addition, the plan for 2022 WG meetings and EKEs exercises will be also discussed at next meeting.

6.2. Tasks and assignments

Specific tasks were assigned and agreed as well as deadlines. In relation to the drafting of the SO, WG experts were invited to finalise firstly pending tasks related to the sections that will be presented for EFSA AHAW Panel discussion at the December Plenary meeting.

7. Next meeting

December, 06th, 08th and 10th 2021 – web meeting



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

Annex

Interests and actions resulting from the screening of Annual Declarations of Interest (ADoI)

In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Prof. Sandra Edwards the following interest has been declared: she is member of the Technical Advisory Committee for pigs of the Red Tractor (UK), which constitutes a Conflict of Interest (CoI) with the mandate of the EFSA Working Group in hand. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁵ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁶, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted in accordance with Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management.

Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on the protection of pigs, and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice-chairman or rapporteur of the Working Group.

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁶ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 14th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE PROTECTION OF PIGS

Held by WEB-conference, 08 and 12 November 2021

(Agreed on 26 November 2021)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
Sandra Edwards
Sonia Ivanova Peneva
Christine Leeb
Hans Spoolder
Antonio Velarde (on 08/11)
Beat Wechsler (on 08/11)
- Hearing Experts¹:
Laura Boyle
Niamh O'Connell
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not Applicable
- EFSA:
ALPHA Unit: Chiara Fabris, Mimi Kalcheva, Eliana Lima, Marika Vitali
AMU Unit: Olaf Mosbach-Schulz

¹ As defined in Article 15 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/expertselection.pdf

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Annual Declarations of Interest, please refer to Annex. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 13th WEB-Working Group meeting held on 25 and 27 October 2021

The minutes of the 13th WEB-Working Group (WG) meeting held on 25th and 27th October 2021 were agreed by written procedure on [05th of November 2021](#).

5. Scientific topics for discussion⁴

5.1. Discussion on the draft Scientific opinion (SO)

New contributions to the draft SO provided by WG experts were discussed and relevant comments were addressed. The section on the 'assessment of the welfare of gilts and dry sows' was discussed in detail and finalised. The consistency between the narrative text and the information reported in the corresponding outcome table was also checked. It was agreed to use this section as 'template' for drafting the following ones, on the assessment of the other pig categories.

Stakeholders' comments to the draft SO submitted via the Public Consultation that were screened as relevant, and the corresponding feedbacks from WG experts, were discussed. It was agreed to address these comments directly in the draft SO by modifying the text. Replies to the comments that were identified as not relevant will be discussed in a later stage.

5.2. Discussion on the specific scenarios (Sp.Sc.)

An updated document reporting the outcomes of the EKE exercises on space allowance in relation to Sp.Sc. 3 on the welfare of farrowing/lactating sows and their piglets was discussed in detail to draw the relevant conclusions. It was also discussed how to translate the EKE results into recommendations on the amount of space that should be given to the sows in the farrowing/lactating accommodations.

The WG also discussed how to include the EKE exercises in the text of the draft SO, in terms of background information, narrative text supporting the ABM(s) identified for elicitation, description of the specific elicitation, and visual representation of the results. It was agreed that further discussion is needed to address this issue and guarantee consistency among sections addressing the Sp. scenarios.

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁴ <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2020-00484>

The updated narrative text on teeth reduction that was produced to address Sp.Sc.4 in the context of mutilations was also discussed in detail. Additional references were taken into consideration and agreement on the revised version was achieved. WG experts considered that the scientific evidence provided was enough to address the mandate question and to draw conclusions on the measures to prevent this practice and how teeth reduction should be performed, when it is necessary. The document will be cleaned before including it in the draft SO.

A drafted approach to address Sp.Sc. 5 on the *assessment of ABMs collected in slaughterhouses to monitor the level of welfare on pig farms (e.g., tail damage, stomach ulcers, lung lesions)* was presented and discussed. It was proposed and agreed to take as starting point the outcomes of the meeting with Representatives of the Member States of the EFSA AHAW Network that was held in June 2021 on this specific topic. WG experts raised questions on the extent of the assessment that is requested. In particular, it should be clarified if the mandate asks EFSA to produce a list of ABMs to be used at slaughter to monitor pig welfare on farm or if these ABMs should also be assessed in terms of essential attributes (e.g. validity, sensitivity, specificity). Information on scoring methods and sample size could also be included in the assessment. The WG agreed to clarify the goal of this Sp.Sc. with EC before proceeding with the assessment.

Subsequently, WG experts discussed those cases where a Sp.Sc. will be approached narratively and not via EKE exercises due to the scarce scientific evidence. An example is Sp.Sc. 2 on the welfare of gilts and dry sows when assessed in relation to the provision of nest-building material. In this case, in fact, the evidence extracted from the literature was not sufficient to reply quantitatively using the EKE methodology that was applied to the other Sp. scenarios. To address this Sp.Sc. with conclusions on the kind of nesting-material that should be provided, a consensus exercise that could complement the narrative text was proposed and discussed. WG experts agreed to share this proposal with the other EFSA F2F WGs and, in the case of positive feedback, to 'test' this approach in a following meeting.

Finally, preliminary data extracted from the literature on Sp.Sc.4, on the welfare of weaners and rearing pigs, in relation to the exposure variable 'weaning age', were presented in view of a possible EKE exercise on this topic. Looking at the evidence that was provided, WG experts discussed which ABMs could be suitable for the elicitation. It was agreed to exclude publications comparing growth rate because this indicator is not only welfare-related, and many confounding factors might have an effect on it.

6. Any Other Business

6.1. Project management

Timelines of the project were discussed. The activities that need to be finalised in 2021 were identified and prioritised and the agendas for the last WG meetings of 2021 were agreed. WG experts were informed that the following items will be discussed at next meeting of the EFSA welfare F2F WG: i) draft C&Rs from the EKE exercises on space allowance related to Sp.Sc. 3, ii) approach to Sp.Sc. 5 on the use of ABMs to monitor the level of welfare on pig farms, and iii) proposal for addressing Sp. scenarios narratively with a consensus exercise. An overview of stakeholders' comments submitted via the Public Consultation and the draft C&Rs from the EKE exercises on space allowance related to Sp.Sc. 3 will be presented and discussed at the November Plenary meeting of the EFSA AHAW Panel. Finally, it was agreed that the sections of the draft SO that were subjected to Public Consultation will be scheduled for AHAW Panel discussion at the December Plenary meeting.

6.2. Tasks and assignments

Specific tasks were assigned and agreed as well as deadlines. In relation to the draft SO, WG experts were invited to finalise the sections that will be discussed at the December AHAW Plenary meeting.

7. Next meeting

November 29th, 2021 – web meeting



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

Annex

Interests and actions resulting from the screening of Annual Declarations of Interest (ADoI)

In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Prof. Sandra Edwards the following interest has been declared: she is member of the Technical Advisory Committee for pigs of the Red Tractor (UK), which constitutes a Conflict of Interest (CoI) with the mandate of the EFSA Working Group in hand. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁵ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁶, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted in accordance with Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management.

Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on the protection of pigs, and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice-chairman or rapporteur of the Working Group.

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁶ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 13th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE PROTECTION OF PIGS

Held by WEB-conference, 25 and 27 October 2021

(Agreed on 05 November 2021)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
Sandra Edwards
Sonia Ivanova Peneva
Christine Leeb
Hans Spoolder
Antonio Velarde
Beat Wechsler (on 25/10)
- Hearing Experts¹:
Laura Boyle (on 27/10)
Niamh O'Connell
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not Applicable
- EFSA:
ALPHA Unit: Chiara Fabris, Mimi Kalcheva, Eliana Lima, Marika Vitali
AMU Unit: Olaf Mosbach-Schulz
- Others:
Not Applicable

¹ As defined in Article 15 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/expertselection.pdf

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Laura Boyle for the 25th of October.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Annual Declarations of Interest, please refer to Annex. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 12th WEB-Working Group meeting held on 11 and 15 October 2021

The minutes of the 12th WEB-Working Group (WG) meeting held on 11th and 15th October 2021 were agreed by written procedure on [21th of October 2021](#).

5. Scientific topics for discussion⁴

5.1. Discussion on the specific scenarios (Sp.Sc.)

The WG initially discussed a draft text proposed to address narratively Sp.Sc.2 on the welfare of gilts and dry sows (from the time they are transferred into the farrowing facilities up to the completion of farrowing in housing systems offering different degrees of behavioural freedom), in relation to the provision of nesting/enrichment material. A narrative approach seemed to be the best solution to address this Term of Reference, because of the scarce evidence to reply quantitatively. In particular, from the extracted literature, different nest-building materials were used, making the comparison between studies difficult to be addressed with an EKE. The proposed structure of the document was discussed in detail and agreed. It was emphasised the need of providing some nesting material to the sows. When comparing the different materials, the WG experts discussed the possibility of indicating which material could be suggested. When specific information is lacking in the scientific literature, the experts' opinion will be based on the biological needs of the animals. Further information on the quantity of material will be also investigated.

Subsequently, the WG discussed the updated narrative text on tooth reduction that was drafted to address Sp.Sc.4, in the context of mutilations. The WG agreed with the improved structure and amendment of the text; additional references were proposed. In addition, the WG discussed which elements of the risk assessment should be considered to address this Term of Reference.

Finally, the WG analysed in detail the results of the EKE exercises that were carried out in previous WG meetings, concerning Sp.Sc. 2 and Sp.Sc. 3 in relation to the exposure variables 'space allowance' and 'crate opening time'. The main outcomes were discussed, and the relevant conclusions were

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁴ <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2020-00484>

proposed. In particular, the draft table listing the behavioural patterns that a sow can express with increased space allowances was discussed and updated according to the EKE results.

5.2. Discussion on the draft Scientific opinion (SO)

The WG completed the outcome table for gilts and dry sows, which is linking the highly relevant welfare consequences, ABMs, hazards, preventive, corrective and mitigation measures. Following the discussion on this outcome table, the relevant sections of the draft SO were checked for consistency and updated accordingly.

Lastly, the comments received by the PC on the draft SO were presented and discussed. WG experts were asked to assess specific comments and propose relevant feedbacks for further discussion within the WG.

6. Any Other Business

6.1. Project management

Timelines of the project were discussed. The activities that need to be finalised before the end of 2021 were identified; it was discussed how to prioritise them and plan the agendas of the next meetings.

6.2. Tasks and assignments

Specific tasks were assigned and agreed as well as deadlines. In relation to the draft SO, WG experts were invited to finalise pending tasks according to the comments collected during the meeting. In addition, it was agreed that pending outcome tables will be drafted by one of the experts, and the proposals will be scheduled for discussion at next WG meetings.

7. Next meeting

November 8th and 12th, 2021 – web meeting



Annex

Interests and actions resulting from the screening of Annual Declarations of Interest (ADoI)

In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Prof. Sandra Edwards the following interest has been declared: she is member of the Technical Advisory Committee for pigs of the Red Tractor (UK), which constitutes a Conflict of Interest (CoI) with the mandate of the EFSA Working Group in hand. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁵ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁶, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted in accordance with Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management.

Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on the protection of pigs, and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice-chairman or rapporteur of the Working Group.

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁶ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 12th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE PROTECTION OF PIGS

Held by WEB-conference, 11 and 15 October 2021

(Agreed on 21 October 2021)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
Sandra Edwards
Sonia Ivanova Peneva
Christine Leeb
Hans Spoolder
Antonio Velarde
- Hearing Experts¹:
Laura Boyle
Niamh O'Connell (on 11/10)
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not Applicable
- EFSA:
ALPHA Unit: Chiara Fabris, Mimi Kalcheva, Eliana Lima, Marika Vitali
AMU Unit: Olaf Mosbach-Schulz
- Others:
Not Applicable

¹ As defined in Article 15 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/expertselection.pdf

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Annual Declarations of Interest, as well as the Oral Declaration(s) of Interest at the beginning of the meeting, and for conflicts of interest identified therein, please refer to Annexes I and II, respectively.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 11th WEB-Working Group meeting held on 13 and 15 September 2021

The minutes of the 11th WEB-Working Group (WG) meeting held on 13th and 15th September 2021 were agreed by written procedure on [4th of October 2021](#).

5. Scientific topics for discussion⁴

5.1. Discussion on EKE exercises to address specific scenarios (Sp.Sc.)

In preparation for the EKE exercise, the evidence dossier relevant to Sp.Sc. 2 on *the welfare of gilts and dry sows, from the time they are transferred into the farrowing facilities up to the completion of farrowing in housing systems offering different degrees of behavioural freedom*, in relation to space allowance and confinement in crate was discussed in detail; definitions and assumptions were agreed on. Firstly, the WG discussed the relevant pig categories as stated in the Sp.Sc. (gilts and dry sows) and whether a redefinition of these categories for the purpose of the EKE was needed. The WG agreed that this is one of those cases where some of the welfare consequences occur in a different pig category to that where the exposure variable is experienced; in fact, welfare issues which are most pertinent to this Term of Reference related to maternal behaviour and are more readily measured in farrowing sows. It was also agreed that prevention of nest-building behaviour in crated pregnant gilts and sows is a very important welfare issue during the days before farrowing. However, assessing the data extracted from the scientific literature, it was noted that nest-building is defined and measured in a variety of ways and that a direct comparison of data from different studies is not possible. Thus, it was agreed to look at this aspect indirectly: 'farrowing duration per piglet' (in terms of 'inter-piglet birth interval') was identified as a suitable indicator of the welfare consequence 'inability to express maternal behaviour' and was proposed as reference ABM for the EKE exercise. It was also highlighted that, according to the definition provided in the draft SO, 'inability to express maternal behaviour' includes the aspect of 'nest-building'. The relevant EKE exercise was run on day two of the WG meeting.

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁴ <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2020-00484>

As follow-up on previous EKEs, the outcomes of the elicitation on Sp. scenario 3, space allowance - farrowing and lactating sows - locomotory behaviour, were also discussed and main conclusions were commented. A draft table summarising the outcomes of the EKE and listing the behavioural pattern that a sow can express with increased space allowances was presented and discussed in detail. Specific inputs were provided by WG experts to better develop the table.

In preparation for a possible EKE to address Sp.Sc. 4 on the welfare of weaners and rearing pigs in relation to weaning age, the WG also discussed the literature search strategy and the subsequent extraction of data. Special emphasis should be given to tail biting and the factors that might influence it (e.g. gut health). It was agreed to proceed in line with the other Sp. Scenarios, meaning to focus the search protocol to the specific exposure variable (i.e. weaning age) and to consider the influencing factors as confounders. It was agreed also that early weaning should be taken into consideration in this exercise.

5.2. Discussion on the draft Scientific opinion (SO), outcome tables

The WG experts discussed and revised the inputs provided to the outcome table linking the highly relevant welfare consequences, ABMs, hazards, preventive, corrective and mitigation measures, in the case of gilts and dry sows. Comments were discussed and addressed; the outcome table updated accordingly. Subsequently, it was agreed to have in the draft SO a table with the overall outcome of the 'ranking exercise' on the most relevant welfare consequences. With different colours and symbols, the table should visualise for each combination 'pig category X husbandry system' which welfare consequences were ranked as highly relevant, the ones of moderate or minor relevance and the non-applicable ones.

In addition, the WG discussed a narrative text on tooth clipping that was drafted to address Sp. Sc. 4 in the context of mutilations. A narrative approach seemed to be the best solution to address this Term of Reference, because of the scarce data to base an EKE on. The proposed structure of the document was discussed in detail and agreed. It was suggested to have some background information, with description of the procedure and the purpose of this practice, and reference to the current legislation in the EU Member States. To broader the context, it was agreed to refer to this mutilation as tooth 'reduction' instead of 'clipping'. Specific comments were provided by WG experts to the draft for further improvement. It was also suggested to extract from the relevant literature quantitative information on key ABMs across the different tooth reduction options to compare them in a structured way.

6. Any Other Business

6.1. Project management

Timelines and deadlines of the project were discussed. The activities that need to be finalised before the end of 2021 were identified; it was discussed how to prioritise them and plan next working group meetings.

The WG was informed that the Public Consultation on the draft SO published on the 27th of July 2021 was closed on the 13th of October.

6.2. Tasks and assignments

Specific tasks were assigned and agreed as well as deadlines; in relation to the draft SO, WG experts were invited to finalise pending tasks according to the comments collected during the meeting.

7. Next meeting

October 25th and 27th, 2021 – web meeting



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

Annex I

Interests and actions resulting from the screening of Annual Declarations of Interest (ADoI)

In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Prof. Sandra Edwards the following interest has been declared: she is member of the Technical Advisory Committee for pigs of the Red Tractor (UK), which constitutes a Conflict of Interest (CoI) with the mandate of the EFSA Working Group in hand. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁵ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁶, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted in accordance with Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management.

Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on the protection of pigs, and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice-chairman or rapporteur of the Working Group.

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁶ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

Annex II

Interests and actions resulting from the Oral Declaration of Interest done at the beginning of the meeting

With regard to this meeting, Dr Hans Spoolder declared the following interest: he is coordinator of the mEATquality project in the framework of the Horizon 2020 programme. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁷ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁸, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, the interest above was not deemed to represent a Conflict of Interest for the expert concerned.

⁷ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁸ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 11th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE
PROTECTION OF PIGS

Held by WEB-conference, 13 and 15 September 2021

(Agreed on 04 October 2021)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
Sandra Edwards
Sonia Ivanova Peneva
Christine Leeb
Hans Spoolder
Antonio Velarde
- Hearing Experts¹:
Laura Boyle
Niamh O'Connell
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not Applicable
- EFSA:
ALPHA Unit: Chiara Fabris, Mimi Kalcheva, Eliana Lima, Marika Vitali
AMU Unit: Olaf Mosbach-Schulz
- Others:
Not Applicable

¹ As defined in Article 15 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/expertselection.pdf

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Annual Declarations of Interest, please refer to Annex. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 10th WEB-Working Group meeting held on 05-06 July 2021

The minutes of the 10th WEB-Working Group (WG) meeting held on 05-06th July 2021 were agreed by written procedure on 23rd of July 2021.

5. Scientific topics for discussion⁴

5.1. Discussion on EKE exercises to address specific scenario (Sp. Sc.) 2

Two exposure variables were taken into account as relevant to Sp. Sc. 2 on the welfare of gilts and dry sows – from the time they are transferred into the farrowing facilities up to the completion of farrowing in housing systems offering different degrees of behavioural freedom: 'nesting/enrichment material' and 'space allowance'.

After discussing the data extracted from the relevant publication, WG experts agreed that for the moment there is not enough evidence to reply quantitatively (in terms of kind of material) on Sp. Sc. 2 – gilts and dry sows in relation to the exposure variable 'nesting/enrichment material'. Few studies make a comparison between materials and there are not enough data to identify differences among materials. It was agreed to initially address this topic narratively and to leave a possible approach via EKE to further discussion.

In the case of 'space allowance', the WG discussed the data extracted from the literature, and agreed to proceed with an EKE exercise on 'farrowing duration' as 'reference' ABM and indicator of the welfare consequence 'inability to express maternal behaviour'. An *ad-hoc* evidence dossier collecting the relevant scientific data on this topic will be prepared and circulated to the experts as basis for the EKE exercise to be run during next WG meeting.

5.2. Discussion on the draft scientific opinion (SO), outcome tables

The WG discussed the structure of the outcome tables; to address the Common ToRs, these tables aim at linking the highly relevant welfare consequences, ABMs, hazards, preventive, corrective and mitigation measures. It was agreed to have one single outcome table per pig

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁴ <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2020-00484>

category; this implies the necessity of indicating the husbandry system(s) for which each welfare consequence was scored as highly relevant. A preliminary outcome table on gilts and dry sows was drafted in order to provide an overview on the assessment of the welfare of these animals in the three husbandry systems that have been fully assessed in the Common ToRs (individual stalls, indoor group housing, outdoor paddock systems). The WG agreed that narrative text describing hazards, hazard's preventive and corrective measures and measures to mitigate the welfare consequence should be included in the main text of the opinion, together with references, if any.

6. Any Other Business

6.1. Project management

Timelines and deadlines of the project were discussed and agreed; the plan for next WG meetings and EKEs exercises (up to December 2021) was also updated.

6.2. Tasks and assignments

Specific tasks were assigned and agreed as well as deadlines; in relation to the draft SO, WG experts were invited to finalise pending tasks according to the comments collected during the meeting.

In addition, in preparation for the EKE exercise, the WG experts were invited to provide any additional evidence on the relationship between the exposure variable and the selected ABM that should be considered in the exercise.

7. Next meeting

October 11th and 15th, 2021 – web meeting



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

Annex

Interests and actions resulting from the screening of Annual Declarations of Interest (ADoI)

In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Prof. Sandra Edwards the following interest has been declared: she is member of the Technical Advisory Committee for pigs of the Red Tractor (UK), which constitutes a Conflict of Interest (CoI) with the mandate of the EFSA Working Group in hand. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁵ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁶, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted in accordance with Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management.

Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on the protection of pigs, and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice-chairman or rapporteur of the Working Group.

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁶ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 10th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE PROTECTION OF PIGS

Held by WEB-conference, 05-06 July 2021

(Agreed on 23 July 2021)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
Sandra Edwards
Sonia Ivanova Peneva
Christine Leeb
Hans Spoolder
Antonio Velarde
Beat Wechsler
- Hearing Experts¹:
Laura Boyle
Niamh O'Connell
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not Applicable
- EFSA:
ALPHA Unit: Chiara Fabris, Mimi Kalcheva, Eliana Lima
AMU Unit: Olaf Mosbach-Schulz
- Others:
Not Applicable

¹ As defined in Article 15 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/expertselection.pdf

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Annual Declarations of Interest, please refer to Annex. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 9th WEB-Working Group meeting held on 08 June 2021

The minutes of the 9th WEB-Working Group (WG) meeting held on 08th June 2021 were agreed by written procedure on [25th of June 2021](#).

5. Scientific topics for discussion⁴

5.1. Discussion on the draft Scientific opinion (SO)

The text of the draft SO was reviewed and finalised with a view of preparing it for public consultation. The WG agreed on the structure of the opinion in relation to the order of topic presentation (gilts, sows, piglets, weaners, rearing pigs and finally boars). For simplicity, from the list of welfare consequences proposed by the Task Force (TF), the WG was keen of not including a reference to welfare consequences that do not directly relate to pigs (e.g. motion stress, which is relevant for the transport mandate); it was decided to bring this proposal to the TF. The text on the description of the most relevant welfare consequences was reviewed for consistency as well as the text of the tables on related ABMs. The final list of ABMs that should be described was agreed and additional scientific references added when necessary.

5.2. Discussion on EKE exercises to address the specific (Sp.) scenarios

Two EKE exercises were run during the meeting: EKE 1) exposure variable 'crate opening time' and pig category 'piglets', and EKE 2) exposure variable 'space allowance' and pig category 'piglets'. Both exercises regarded Sp. Scenario 3. The elicitations were run on the basis of the evidence dossiers that were prepared prior to the meeting. The dossier for EKE 1) gathered the scientific evidence available on piglet mortality under a decreasing amount of time that the sow is crated, measured in days after farrowing, from 'crated all the time' to 'no farrowing crate'. The exercise was focused on the ABM 'liveborn piglet mortality' as an indicator of the welfare consequences 'prolonged hunger', 'cold stress' and 'soft tissue lesions and integument damage'. The dossier for EKE 2) was based on the same ABM and welfare consequences but

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁴ <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2020-00484>

reported the scientific evidence available on liveborn piglet mortality under increasing space allowances to the sow (i.e. increasing available area per sow (m²)).

In preparation for next EKE exercises, the WG experts discussed the welfare consequences observed in gilts and dry sows from the time they are transferred into the farrowing facilities up to the completion of farrowing, arising from exposure to: i) a farrowing facility with increasing space (Sp. Scenario 2, exposure variable: space allowance), and ii) a farrowing facility with different materials for nest-building (Sp. Scenario 2, exposure variable: nesting/enrichment material). The WG discussed possible 'reference' ABMs and agreed to firstly proceed with a more detailed evaluation of the available scientific evidence on these topics. The WG will continue the discussion on these two exposure variables in the next meeting and next EKE exercises will be planned accordingly.

6. Any Other Business

6.1. Project management

Timelines and deadlines of the project were discussed; the plan for next WG meetings and EKEs exercises (up to December 2021) was also updated.

The WG experts were informed that the process for recruiting additional experts for the EKE exercises is proceeding.

6.2. Tasks and assignments

Specific tasks were assigned and agreed as well as deadlines; in relation to the draft SO, WG experts were invited to finalise pending tasks according to the comments collected during the meeting.

7. Next meeting

September 13th and 15th, 2021 – web meeting



Annex

Interests and actions resulting from the screening of Annual Declarations of Interest (ADoI)

In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Prof. Sandra Edwards the following interest has been declared: she is member of the Technical Advisory Committee for pigs of the Red Tractor (UK), which constitutes a Conflict of Interest (CoI) with the mandate of the EFSA Working Group in hand. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁵ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁶, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted in accordance with Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management.

Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on the protection of pigs, and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice-chairman or rapporteur of the Working Group.

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁶ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 9th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE PROTECTION OF PIGS

Held by WEB-conference, 08 June 2021

(Agreed on 25 June 2021)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
Sandra Edwards
Sonia Ivanova Peneva
Christine Leeb
Hans Spoolder
Antonio Velarde (until 13:00 h)
- Hearing Experts¹:
Laura Boyle
Niamh O'Connell
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not Applicable
- EFSA:
ALPHA Unit: Chiara Fabris, Mimi Kalcheva, Eliana Lima
AMU Unit: Olaf Mosbach-Schulz
- Others:
Not Applicable

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

¹ As defined in Article 15 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/expertselection.pdf

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Annual Declarations of Interest, please refer to Annex. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 8th WEB-Working Group meeting held on 17 and 19 May 2021

The minutes of the 8th WEB-Working Group (WG) meeting held on 17th and 19th May 2021 were agreed by written procedure on [28th of May 2021](#).

5. Scientific topics for discussion⁴

5.1. Discussion on EKE exercises to address the specific (Sp.) scenarios

As follow-up on last WG meeting, the outcomes of the EKE exercise on Sp. scenario 3, space allowance - farrowing and lactating sows - locomotory behaviour, were discussed and main conclusions were commented. No further welfare consequences and ABMs were identified to be elicited, therefore the EKE exercise on space allowance and sows for Sp. scenario 3 was considered concluded. However, the WG experts agreed that other relevant ABMs (e.g. turning around behaviour, ability to maintain different functional areas...) could be included in the narrative assessment, to provide a better overview of the behaviours expected with increased space allowances.

Subsequently, in preparation for next EKE exercises, the WG experts discussed the welfare consequences observed in piglets arising from exposure to: i) a farrowing sow crated for an increasing amount of time (Sp. Scenario 3, exposure variable: crate opening time), and ii) a farrowing sow in a pen with increasing space (Sp. Scenario 3, exposure variable: space allowance available to the sow). The WG discussed the 'reference' ABMs and agreed to proceed with the EKE exercises on 'total mortality of live born piglets from birth to weaning' for both exposure variables, as indicator of the following welfare consequences: 'soft tissue lesions and integument damage', 'prolonged hunger' and 'cold stress'. *Ad-hoc* evidence dossiers collecting the relevant scientific data on these topics will be prepared and circulated to the experts as basis for the EKE exercises to be run during next WG meeting.

The WG experts also discussed a plan on the EKEs to run in the context of the first two Sp. Scenarios of the EC mandate. Preliminarily, it was proposed to consider 'grouping time', 'space allowance' and 'nesting material' as suitable exposure variables to be elicited. The WG will continue the discussion in the next meeting to identify the 'reference' ABMs to explore in the EKEs.

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁴ <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2020-00484>

5.2. Discussion on the draft Scientific opinion (SO)

Sections 3.2 and 3.3 of the draft SO on the pig categories and husbandry systems have been thoroughly discussed and proof-read to prepare the draft for a public consultation that could be launched over summer. New contributions provided to section 3.5 on the 'most relevant welfare consequences for pigs and related ABMs' were discussed; the description of welfare consequences was harmonised and consistency in the description of ABMs' specificity was discussed. The WG experts agreed to finalise this section by next WG meeting.

6. Any Other Business

6.1. Project management

Timelines and deadlines of the project were discussed; suitable dates for next WG meetings and EKEs exercises (up to December 2021) were also discussed.

The WG experts were informed that, according to the discussion held during previous WG meetings, the process for recruiting additional experts for the EKE exercises is on-going.

6.2. Tasks and assignments

Specific tasks were assigned and agreed as well as deadlines; in relation to the draft SO, WG experts were invited to finalise pending tasks according to the comments collected during the meeting.

In addition, in preparation for the EKE exercises, the WG experts were invited to comment in written the evidence dossiers that will be circulated after the meeting, and to provide any additional evidence on the relationship between the exposure variables and the selected ABMs that should be considered in the exercise.

7. Next meeting

July 5th-6th, 2021 – web meeting



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

Annex

Interests and actions resulting from the screening of Annual Declarations of Interest (ADoI)

In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Prof. Sandra Edwards the following interest has been declared: she is member of the Technical Advisory Committee for pigs of the Red Tractor (UK), which constitutes a Conflict of Interest (CoI) with the mandate of the EFSA Working Group in hand. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁵ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁶, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted in accordance with Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management.

Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on the protection of pigs, and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice-chairman or rapporteur of the Working Group.

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁶ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 8th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE PROTECTION OF PIGS

Held by WEB-conference, 17 and 19 May 2021

(Agreed on 28 May 2021)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
 - Julio Alvarez
 - Sandra Edwards
 - Sonia Ivanova Peneva
 - Christine Leeb
 - Hans Spoolder
 - Antonio Velarde
 - Beat Wechsler
- Hearing Experts¹:
 - Laura Boyle
 - Niamh O'Connell
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
 - Not Applicable
- EFSA:
 - ALPHA Unit: Chiara Fabris, Mimi Kalcheva, Eliana Lima, Denise Candiani
 - AMU Unit: Olaf Mosbach-Schulz
- Others:
 - Not Applicable

¹ As defined in Article 15 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/expertselection.pdf

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Annual Declarations of Interest, please refer to Annex. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 7th WEB-Working Group meeting held on 23 April 2021

The minutes of the 7th WEB-Working Group (WG) meeting held on 23rd April 2021 were agreed by written procedure on 10th of May 2021.

5. Scientific topics for discussion⁴

5.1. EKE exercises to address the specific scenarios

The WG experts were initially trained on the methodology used to elicit expert knowledge and an overview on how to express uncertainties through probabilities was provided. All evidence should be gathered and summarised before the elicitation to avoid biases; for this reason, experts had been asked to share any scientific publications of interest prior to the meeting.

Additionally, the conceptual model developed for the Farm to Fork mandates was presented. This model includes considerations on the expected behaviour of an "unexposed population", this is, a hypothetical population of animals not constrained by a restriction of space, or a restriction in one of the exposure variables considered.

Subsequently, the elicitation was run on the basis of the evidence dossier that was prepared prior to the meeting (exposure variable "space allowance" and pig category "farrowing and lactating sows"). This dossier gathered the scientific evidence available on activity of lactating sows under increasing space allowances (i.e. increasing available area per sow (m²)). The exercise was focused on the animal-based measure "locomotory behaviour" as an indicator of the welfare consequence "restriction of movement".

The WG noted that, although the effects on welfare of time spent in the crate will be assessed on another EKE, data from scientific studies on crated sows should also be considered in this exercise. The Group also agreed that figures from outdoor studies pigs could be considered as evidence for the "unexposed population".

The results on space allowance were discussed and agreed on the basis on the outcomes of the exercise.

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁴ <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2020-00484>

5.2. Discussion on the draft Scientific opinion (SO)

The new contribution provided to the draft SO and specifically to the section on the “most relevant welfare consequences for pigs and related ABMs” were discussed in detail. The WG discussed the best structure to describe and present the animal-based measures. It was agreed that considerations on qualitative sensitivity and specificity will be added to the definition and interpretation of the ABM.

6. Any Other Business

6.1. Project management

Timelines and deadlines of the project were discussed. The WG discussed the methodology to apply in the specific scenarios and it was agreed that the exposure variables directly related with the topic “end of end of the cage age” should be prioritised and, if needed, addressed with an EKE. The final decision on the number of EKE exercises to be carried out will be taken in the next meetings.

Additionally, it was agreed that the WG experts will be informed on dates of next WG meetings between October and December 2021.

6.2. Tasks and assignments

Specific tasks were assigned and agreed as well as deadlines for finalising pending tasks. WG experts were invited to finalise the section of ABMs on the scientific opinion according to the comments collected during the meeting.

In addition, in preparation for the EKE exercise, the WG experts were invited to propose, based on the literature, the ABMs to be considered in the next EKEs.

7. Next meeting

June 8th, 2021 – web meeting



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

Annex

Interests and actions resulting from the screening of Annual Declarations of Interest (ADoI)

In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Prof. Sandra Edwards the following interest has been declared: she is member of the Technical Advisory Committee for pigs of the Red Tractor (UK), which constitutes a Conflict of Interest (CoI) with the mandate of the EFSA Working Group in hand. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁵ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁶, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted in accordance with Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management.

Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on the protection of pigs, and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice-chairman or rapporteur of the Working Group.

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁶ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 7th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE PROTECTION OF PIGS

Held by WEB-conference, 23 April 2021

(Agreed on 10 May 2021)

Participants

■ Working Group Members:

Julio Alvarez
Sandra Edwards
Sonia Ivanova Peneva
Christine Leeb
Hans Spoolder
Beat Wechsler

■ Hearing Experts¹:

Laura Boyle
Niamh O'Connell

■ European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

Not Applicable

■ EFSA:

ALPHA Unit: Chiara Fabris, Eliana Lima, Sara Gisella Omodeo
AMU Unit: Olaf Mosbach-Schulz

■ Others:

Not Applicable

¹ As defined in Article 15 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/expertselection.pdf

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Annual Declarations of Interest, please refer to Annex. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 6th WEB-Working Group meeting held on 23 March 2021

The minutes of the 6th WEB-Working Group (WG) meeting held on 23rd March 2021 were agreed by written procedure on [9th April 2021](#).

5. Scientific topics for discussion⁴

5.1. Discussion on Specific scenarios (Sp.Sc.)

The methodology to address the specific scenarios was presented and discussed in detail with specific emphasis to the EKE protocol, and the assumptions behind the approach were clarified.

For testing the methodology, the WG agreed to focus on Sp. SC. 3 on *the welfare of sows and piglets from farrowing to weaning in different housing systems offering different degrees of behavioural freedom*. Following *ad-hoc* literature searches, the data extracted from the literature on two exposure variables, 'space allowance' and 'time spent in the crate', and the relationships between these exposure variables, the welfare consequences and the animal-based measures (ABMs) were presented and discussed in detail. In particular, the experts identified the highest relevant welfare consequences for sows and piglets resulting from these two exposure variables: the WG experts agreed that 'restriction of movements' and (secondarily) 'resting problems' are the most important welfare consequences for farrowing and lactating sows in the case of 'space allowance'; whereas, 'soft tissue lesions and integument damage' was considered to be the most important welfare consequence for piglets when considering both exposure variables.

The WG experts also debated the selection of a single 'reference' ABM per each combination of exposure variable and pig category. The selection was based on specific criteria, such as: the availability of scientific evidence in peer-reviewed literature on the use of the ABM and the link between the ABM and the most relevant welfare consequence, the practical implementation of the ABM and its feasibility to be measured under field conditions. The WG discussed the potential 'reference' ABMs and agreed to proceed with the EKE exercise on 'proportion of time walking' for farrowing and lactating sows in the case of 'space allowance', and with 'total mortality from birth to weaning' for piglets in the

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁴ <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2020-00484>

case of exposure variable 'time spent in the crate'. *Ad-hoc* evidence dossiers collecting the relevant scientific data on these topics will be prepared; the definition of the reference ABMs will be fine-tuned at next meeting when the evidence dossiers will be discussed.

5.2. Discussion on the draft Scientific opinion (SO) – most relevant welfare consequences and related ABMs

The new contribution provided to the draft SO and specifically to the section on the 'most relevant welfare consequences for pigs and related ABMs' were discussed in detail. Specifically, the WG discussed the text defining and interpreting the ABMs relative to the welfare consequences.

6. Any Other Business

6.1. Project management

Timelines and deadlines of the project were discussed. WG experts discussed the need of involving additional experts for the EKE exercises. It was agreed to include one expert from Southern Europe to complement the expertise of the WG.

6.2. Tasks and assignments

Specific tasks were assigned and agreed; deadlines for finalising pending tasks were also agreed. WG experts were invited to finalise the definition and interpretation of the ABMs, according to the comments collected during the meeting.

In addition, in preparation for the EKE exercise, the WG experts were invited to provide their comments to the evidence dossiers that will be circulated after the meeting, and to provide any additional evidence on the relationship between the exposure variables and the selected ABMs that should be considered in the exercise.

7. Next meeting

May 17th and 19th 2021 – web meeting



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

Annex

Interests and actions resulting from the screening of Annual Declarations of Interest (ADoI)

In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Prof. Sandra Edwards the following interest has been declared: she is member of the Technical Advisory Committee for pigs of the Red Tractor (UK), which constitutes a Conflict of Interest (CoI) with the mandate of the EFSA Working Group in hand. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁵ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁶, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted in accordance with Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management.

Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on the protection of pigs, and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice-chairman or rapporteur of the Working Group.

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁶ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 6th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE PROTECTION OF PIGS

Held by WEB-conference, 23 March 2021

(Agreed on 09 April 2021)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
 - Sandra Edwards
 - Sonia Ivanova Peneva
 - Christine Leeb
 - Hans Spoolder
 - Antonio Velarde
 - Beat Wechsler
- Hearing Experts¹:
 - Laura Boyle
 - Niamh O'Connell
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
 - Not Applicable
- EFSA:
 - ALPHA Unit: Denise Candiani, Chiara Fabris, Eliana Lima, Mimi Kalcheva, Sara Gisella Omodeo
- Others:
 - Not Applicable

¹ As defined in Article 15 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/expertselection.pdf

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Annual Declarations of Interest, please refer to Annex. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 5th WEB-Working Group meeting held on 3 March 2021

The minutes of the 5th WEB-Working Group meeting held on 3 of March 2021 were agreed by written procedure on [19 March 2021](#).

5. Scientific topics for discussion⁴

5.1. Discussion on specific scenarios (SpSc)

The wording of the SpScs, as reported in the mandate, and the exposure variables that the WG agreed to take in consideration were presented; the WG experts discussed and agreed that SpSc 2 should be intended as 'The welfare of gilts and sows – from the time they are transferred into the farrowing facilities up to the completion of farrowing in housing systems offering different degrees of behavioural freedom'. In addition, the WG agreed on the interpretation of SpSc 2, SpSc 3 and related exposure variables.

The methodology proposed by the Task Force (TF) to address SpScs was also presented and discussed; it was agreed that a pilot exercise should be performed during next WG meeting to clarify the whole process.

The preliminary results of data extraction from the literature on the exposure variables 'space allowance' and 'crating time/time spent in the crate', related to SpSc 2 and SpSc 3, were also presented and discussed to agree on the approach that should be followed in data extraction exercise (e.g. inclusion/exclusion criteria, number of tables...)

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁴ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2020-00484>

5.2. Discussion on the new structure of the draft Scientific opinion (SO)

The new structure of the draft SO was also discussed. It was suggested to disentangle the description of the husbandry systems from the welfare assessment: the WG agreed to create a separate section on the 'description of the pig husbandry systems' (for each pig category), followed by the section on 'detailed description of the most relevant welfare consequences for pigs'.

The WG experts went through the draft SO: the new contributions provided were discussed in details and relevant modifications agreed, pending comments were addressed.

The WG agreed that the exercise on outcome tables should be postponed after completion of the description of the most relevant welfare consequences and related animal-based measures (ABMs).

6. Any Other Business

6.1. Project management

Timelines and deadlines of the project were discussed.

6.2. Tasks and assignments

Specific tasks were discussed and agreed, deadlines for finalising pending tasks were also agreed.

7. Next meeting

April 23rd 2021 – web meeting



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

Annex

Interests and actions resulting from the screening of Annual Declarations of Interest (ADoI)

In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Prof. Sandra Edwards the following interest has been declared: she is member of the Technical Advisory Committee for pigs of the Red Tractor (UK), which constitutes a Conflict of Interest (CoI) with the mandate of the EFSA Working Group in hand. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁵ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁶, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted in accordance with Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management.

Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on the protection of pigs, and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice-chairman or rapporteur of the Working Group.

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁶ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 5th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE PROTECTION OF PIGS

Held by WEB-conference, 3 March 2021

(Agreed on 19 March 2021)

Participants

■ Working Group Members:

Sandra Edwards
Christine Leeb
Hans Spoolder
Antonio Velarde
Beat Wechsler

■ Hearing Experts¹:

Laura Boyle
Niamh O'Connell

■ European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

Not Applicable

■ EFSA:

ALPHA Unit: Eliana Lima, Mimi Kalcheva, Sara Gisella Omodeo
AMU Unit: Olaf Mosbach-Schulz

■ Others:

Not Applicable

¹ As defined in Article 15 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/expertselection.pdf

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Annual Declarations of Interest, please refer to Annex. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 4th WEB-Working Group meeting held on 11 February 2021

The minutes of the 4th WEB-Working Group meeting held on 11 February 2021 were agreed by written procedure on [24 February 2021](#).

5. Scientific topics for discussion⁴

5.1. Exercise on the most relevant welfare consequences

The preliminary outcomes and level of uncertainty of the 'individual ranking exercise' on the most relevant welfare consequences for system 15 ('Piglets kept indoor in artificial rearing systems') were presented and discussed. The WG found an agreement on the final ranking and identified the most relevant welfare consequences for this system. Subsequently, for all systems, the WG confirmed the outcomes of the overall exercise and, therefore, it was considered finalised.

5.2. Discussion on the draft Scientific opinion (SO)

A new structure of the draft SO where the pig welfare assessment was organised by animal categories was presented and discussed in detail. It was suggested to add, before the description of the systems, a section with a general description of the most relevant welfare consequences for pigs and the related ABMs and to report the reasoning of the ranking of the most relevant welfare consequences, the hazards and related preventive and corrective measures in the specific section of each system. It was also agreed to move the sub-sections on pig category 'general management' before the description of the relevant systems. An updated structure of the draft SO will be produced before next WG meeting.

Subsequently, the WG experts discussed the methodology proposed by the Task Force to address the mandate request relative to 'specific scenarios'. A pilot data extraction from the literature on 'space allowance' related to specific scenario 3 (welfare of sows and piglets from farrowing to weaning) was presented and discussed. The aspects that more likely impact the pig welfare ('exposure variables') in each specific scenario were then identified; proposals to assess them were also discussed.

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁴ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2020-00484>

6. Any Other Business

6.1. Project management

Timelines and deadlines of the project were discussed; the dates of the next WG meetings (up to September 2021) were agreed.

6.2. Tasks and assignments

Specific tasks were discussed and agreed, deadlines for finalising pending tasks were also agreed.

7. Next meeting

March 23rd 2021 – web meeting



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

Annex

Interests and actions resulting from the screening of Annual Declarations of Interest (ADoI)

In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Prof. Sandra Edwards the following interest has been declared: she is member of the Technical Advisory Committee for pigs of the Red Tractor (UK), which constitutes a Conflict of Interest (CoI) with the mandate of the EFSA Working Group in hand. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁵ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁶, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted in accordance with Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management.

Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on the protection of pigs, and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice-chairman or rapporteur of the Working Group.

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁶ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 4th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE PROTECTION OF PIGS

Held by WEB-conference, 11 February 2021

(Agreed on 24 February 2021)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
 - Sandra Edwards
 - Christine Leeb
 - Antonio Velarde
 - Hans Spoolder
 - Beat Wechsler
- Hearing Experts¹:
 - Laura Boyle
 - Niamh O'Connell
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
 - Not Applicable
- EFSA:
 - ALPHA Unit: Eliana Lima, Mimi Kalcheva, Sara Gisella Omodeo
 - AMU Unit: Olaf Mosbach-Schulz
- Others:
 - Not Applicable

¹ As defined in Article 15 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/expertselection.pdf

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Annual Declarations of Interest, please refer to Annex. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 3rd WEB-Working Group meeting held on 11 January 2021

The minutes of the 3rd WEB-Working Group meeting held on 11 January 2021 were agreed by written procedure on [19 January 2021](#).

5. Scientific topics for discussion⁴

5.1. Exercise on the most relevant welfare consequences

The WG experts were firstly informed that the Task Force (TF) updated the list of specific welfare consequences and relevant descriptions, according to the suggestions received by the 'Farm-to-Fork' WGs.

Subsequently, the preliminary outcomes and level of uncertainty of the 'individual ranking exercise' on the most relevant welfare consequences were presented. The WG experts were invited to discuss them to find an agreement on the final ranking. The exercise was finalised for 15 systems (combination of 'animal category X husbandry system'), and the one on 'Piglets kept indoor in artificial rearing systems' will be finalised during next WG meeting.

5.2. Discussion on the draft Scientific opinion (SO)

Instructions produced by the TF, to ensure consistency among the 'Farm-to-Fork' WGs, on how to cite the text of previous EFSA/Scientific Veterinary Committee publications were presented to the WG.

The WG experts revised the most updated text on the description of animal categories, husbandry systems and welfare consequences. Relevant comments were discussed and addressed. The WG reviewed the final list of systems and agreed on the ones that should be described only narratively.

The structure of the draft SO was also discussed: the WG agreed that an assessment organised by animal category would be preferred. In addition, the WG suggested to include a sub-section on 'General management' to the description of the animal categories. It was agreed that the structure of the draft SO should be revised accordingly.

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁴ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2020-00484>

6. Any Other Business

6.1. Project management

The WG experts were informed that, according to the discussion held during previous WG meeting, the process for recruiting an additional expert from Eastern Europe is on-going.

Timelines and deadlines of the project were discussed; suitable dates for the next WG meetings (up to September 2021) were also discussed.

6.2. Tasks and assignments

Specific tasks were assigned, and relevant deadlines were agreed. WG experts were invited to run the 'individual ranking exercise' on the main welfare consequences for the last pending system (Piglets kept indoor in artificial rearing systems), complete the description of animal categories and systems, and draft the description of the main welfare consequences.

7. Next meeting

March 3rd 2021 – web meeting



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

Annex

Interests and actions resulting from the screening of Annual Declarations of Interest (ADoI)

In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Prof. Sandra Edwards the following interest has been declared: she is member of the Technical Advisory Committee for pigs of the Red Tractor (UK), which constitutes a Conflict of Interest (CoI) with the mandate of the EFSA Working Group in hand. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁵ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁶, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted in accordance with Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management.

Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on the protection of pigs, and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice-chairman or rapporteur of the Working Group.

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁶ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 3rd MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE PROTECTION OF PIGS

Held by WEB -conference, 11 January 2021

(Agreed on 19 January 2021)

Participants

■ Working Group Members:

Julio Alvarez

Sandra Edwards

Christina Leeb

Antonio Velarde

Beat Wechsler

Christoph Winkler (AM only)

■ Hearing Experts¹:

Laura Boyle

Niamh O'Connell

■ European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

Not Applicable

■ EFSA:

ALPHA Unit: Denise Candiani, Chiara Fabris, Mimi Kalcheva, Sara Gisella Omodeo

AMU Unit: Olaf Mosbach-Schulz

¹ As defined in Article 15 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/expertselection.pdf

- Others:
Not Applicable

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Annual Declarations of Interest, please refer to Annex. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 2nd WEB-Working Group meeting held on 11 December 2020

The minutes of the 2nd WEB-Working Group meeting held on 11 December 2020 were agreed by written procedure on [17 December 2020](#).

5. Scientific topics for discussion⁴

5.1. Exercise on the most relevant welfare consequences for some husbandry systems

The WG experts were firstly informed that the list of specific welfare consequences has been updated by adding 'predation stress' and 'unfitness for transport'. Moreover, it was agreed that 'tail biting' (from the point of view of the bitten pig) should be included in 'soft tissue lesions and wounds'. The WG also discussed that umbilical hernias are relevant for pigs and they agreed that any type of hernia should be included under the welfare consequence 'umbilical disorders and hernias' (new proposed denomination).

Subsequently, the WG experts carried out the exercise to identify the most relevant welfare consequences for 15 systems (combination of 'animal category X husbandry system') in the context of farming of pigs. The preliminary outcomes of the exercise were presented and discussed.

5.2. Discussion on the update on the description of animal categories

The updated text on the description of animal categories was discussed by the WG experts, relevant comments were addressed and suggestions for finalising the draft were agreed. It was also agreed that the section on 'compromised animals' should be renamed as 'Animals in need of treatment or separation' and include also aggressive pigs, that need to be kept separated.

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁴ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2020-00484>

5.3. Discussion on the contribution on the description of husbandry systems

The list of husbandry systems per animal category was discussed and revised. The WG experts agreed to group. The WG experts identified a final number of 27 systems to be described in the draft opinion; it was further confirmed which systems should be assessed under the Common ToRs, the ones under the Specific Scenarios, and the ones that will be described narratively only.

The text on the description of husbandry systems was discussed by the WG experts, relevant comments were addressed and suggestions for updating the draft were agreed. It was also agreed to include some information on nutrition and ventilation, when pertinent.

6. Any Other Business

6.1. Project management

Timelines and deadlines of the project were discussed. The WG experts highlighted the need of involving one expert from Eastern Europe with practical experience on the field, to bring the relevant specificity on pig farming into the WG discussion. It was agreed that EFSA staff will work on this proposal.

6.2. Tasks and assignments

Specific tasks were assigned, and relevant deadlines were agreed. WG experts were invited to finalise the description of the animal categories and update the one of the husbandry systems, according to the comments collected during the meeting.

In addition, the WG experts were invited to get prepared for further discussion on the exercise on the relevant specific welfare consequences.

7. Next meeting

February 11th 2021 – web meeting



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

Annex

Interests and actions resulting from the screening of Annual Declarations of Interest (ADoI)

In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Prof. Sandra Edwards the following interest has been declared: she is member of the Technical Advisory Committee for pigs of the Red Tractor (UK), which constitutes a Conflict of Interest (CoI) with the mandate of the EFSA Working Group in hand. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁵ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁶, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted in accordance with Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management.

Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on the protection of pigs, and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice-chairman or rapporteur of the Working Group.

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁶ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 2nd MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE PROTECTION OF PIGS

Held by WEB -conference, 11 December 2020

(Agreed on 17 December 2020)

Participants

■ Working Group Members:

Julio Alvarez
Sandra Edwards
Christina Leeb
Hans Spoolder
Beat Wechsler

■ Hearing Experts¹:

Laura Boyle
Niamh O'Connell

■ European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

Not Applicable

■ EFSA:

ALPHA Unit: Denise Candiani, Chiara Fabris, Mimi Kalcheva, Sara Gisella Omodeo
AMU Unit: Olaf Mosbach-Schulz

■ Others:

¹ As defined in Article 15 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/expertselection.pdf

Not Applicable

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Annual Declarations of Interest, please refer to Annex. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 1st WEB-Working Group meeting held on 20 November 2020

The minutes of the 1st WEB-Working Group meeting held on 20 November were agreed by written procedure on [3 December 2020](#).

5. Scientific topics for discussion⁴

5.1. Exercise and discussion on the relevant welfare consequences selected for husbandry systems

The new list of specific welfare consequences and relevant description, produced by the TF, has been presented to WG experts; some suggestions for making it more 'pig specific' were provided, to be submitted for TF discussion. The methodology for selecting the most relevant specific welfare consequences was presented in terms of criteria for relevance, identification procedure and assessment of uncertainty. Starting from the list of welfare consequences, trial exercises have been performed for the following husbandry systems: 'rearing pigs in indoor group housing'; 'farrowing and lactating sows kept indoor in individual crates'. The preliminary outcomes of the exercises have been presented and discussed.

5.2. Discussion of the description of the pig animal categories

The text on the description of animal categories has been discussed by the WG experts, relevant comments have been addressed and suggestion for updating the draft have been agreed. It was also agreed to add a section on 'general characteristics of the pigs' before the ones dedicated to the different animal categories. It was also agreed to add a section on 'compromised animals', including e.g. sick, injured, bullied animals, has been added.

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁴ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2020-00484>

6. Any Other Business

6.1. Project management

Timelines and deadlines of the project were discussed; the dates of the next WG meetings were confirmed and agreed up to April 2021.

6.2. Tasks and assignments

Specific tasks were assigned, and relevant deadlines were agreed. Working Group experts were invited to update the description of the animal categories, according to the comments collected during the meeting; a short text on the husbandry systems will be drafted to be discussed at next WG meeting.

In addition, the WG experts were invited to get prepared for further discussion on the exercise on the selection of the relevant specific welfare consequences for husbandry systems.

7. Next meeting

January 11th 2021 – web meeting



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

Annex

Interests and actions resulting from the screening of Annual Declarations of Interest (ADoI)

In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Prof. Sandra Edwards the following interest has been declared: she is member of the Technical Advisory Committee for pigs of the Red Tractor (UK), which constitutes a Conflict of Interest (CoI) with the mandate of the EFSA Working Group in hand. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁵ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁶, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted in accordance with Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management.

Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on the protection of pigs, and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice-chairman or rapporteur of the Working Group.

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁶ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 1st MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE PROTECTION OF PIGS

Held on WEB -conference, 20 November 2020

(Agreed on 03 December 2020)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
Sandra Edwards
Christina Leeb
Hans Spoolder
Beat Wechsler
- Hearing Experts¹:
Laura Boyle
Niamh O'Connell
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not Applicable
- EFSA:
ALPHA Unit: Chiara Fabris, Mimi Kalcheva, Sara Gisella Omodeo
- Others:
Not Applicable

¹ As defined in Article 15 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/expertselection.pdf

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Annual Declarations of Interest, please refer to Annex. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

4. Scientific topics for discussion⁴

The mandate on the protection of pigs was presented in the context of the Farm-to-Fork Strategy. Common Terms of Reference (ToRs) and Specific Scenarios were discussed. The list of welfare consequences with the definitions proposed by the Task Force (TF) was reviewed and WG suggestions will be presented and considered at the next TF meeting. The pig animal categories that will be assessed under Common ToRs and Specific Scenarios have been discussed in detail and a final list has been agreed. The husbandry systems were discussed for each animal category and a final list has been produced. It has been further agreed which husbandry systems will be assessed under the Common ToRs, the ones under the Specific Scenarios, and the ones that will be described narratively only.

5. Any Other Business

5.1. Project management

Timelines and deadlines of the project were discussed; the dates of the next WG meetings were agreed (up to April 2021).

5.2. Tasks and assignments

Specific tasks were assigned, and relevant deadlines were agreed. Working Group experts were invited to make a mental exercise in terms of estimated incidence X severity X duration to identify the 5 main specific welfare consequences per each husbandry system from the revised list produced by the TF. Outcomes of this exercise will be discussed during the next TF meeting. In addition, a short text for each animal category will be produced to be revised and agreed at next WG meeting.

6. Next meeting

11th of December 2020 – web meeting

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁴ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2020-00484>

Annex

Interests and actions resulting from the screening of Annual Declarations of Interest (ADoI)

In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Prof. Sandra Edwards the following interest has been declared: she is member of the Technical Advisory Committee for pigs of the Red Tractor (UK), which constitutes a Conflict of Interest (CoI) with the mandate of the EFSA Working Group in hand. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁵ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁶, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted in accordance with Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management.

Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on the protection of pigs, and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice-chairman or rapporteur of the Working Group.

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁶ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf