



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 Canidiani, 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

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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:
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3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

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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

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