



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 9TH MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON CONTROL MEASURES CATEGORY A DISEASES-AHL

TELE-conference, 3rd December 2020

(Agreed on 17th December 2020)¹

Participants

■ Working Group Members:²

- Arjan Stegeman
- Arvo Viltrop
- Eyal Klement
- Helen Roberts (chair)
- Julio Alvarez
- Karl Ståhl
- Kris De Clercq
- Simon Gubbins

■ Contractor P95 representatives:

- Jean-Baptiste Hanon
- Estelle Méroc

■ From EFSA ALPHA unit:

- Elisabeth Dorbek-Kolin
- Gabriele Zancanaro
- Inma Aznar
- Sotiria-Eleni Antoniou

¹ Minutes should be published within 15 working days of the final day of the relevant meeting.

² Indicate first full name and then surname (John Smith) all throughout the document.

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 Independence³ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁴, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

4.1. Discussion on specific instructions for the contractor P95

The working group went through the latest versions of outputs provided by the contractor P95 and discussed about the specific instructions for future outputs. Also, the timeline and work distribution for future outputs were discussed. EFSA agreed to share a document first among WG members, and later with P95 contractors, where the agreed changes to the coming outputs are presented.

4.2. ASF final discussion

The working group went through the latest version of the ASF opinion and discussed the matters that still needed to be clarified in the opinion. The working group also agreed to go forward with the adoption of this opinion during the panel meeting on 18 December.

4.3. Discussion on LSD prior to the next panel meeting

The working group went through the latest version of the LSD opinion and discussed topics that needed to be clarified in the opinion. Also, the timeline for this opinion was updated; the working group agreed that this opinion will be presented to the panel for the adoption during the panel meeting in January 2021, with a deep discussion taking place at the 18th of December Panel Meeting.

4.4. Agreement on final lay-out details of the opinions

The working group discussed and agreed on some final lay-out details that will be applied to all of the opinions, also the future ones.

4.5. Planning new actions

The timeline for the next round of opinions was discussed and agreed on.

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

⁴ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

5. Task distribution and wrap up

5.1. Methodology report

To be prepared and sent for publication by EFSA; publication foreseen in December 2020.

5.2. HPAI opinion

To be prepared and sent for publication by EFSA; publication on the 14th January 2021 at the latest.

5.3. ASF opinion

To be prepared for panel adoption by the experts and EFSA on the 18th of December 2020.

5.1. AHS opinion

To be prepared for the written adoption on the 16th of December 2020.

5.1. LSD opinion

To be prepared for deep reviewing by the experts at the 18th of December Panel meeting, with adoption expected on the January 2021 Panel meeting.

5.1. FMD opinion

To be prepared for panel adoption by the experts and EFSA; discussed during the next WG meeting in January; presented to the panel for deep reviewing in January 2021.

6. Next meeting

A proposal for the next meeting has been made by EFSA; next meeting will be held in January 2021, exact date and time to be confirmed.



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 8TH MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON CONTROL MEASURES CATEGORY A DISEASES-AHL

TELE-conference, 3rd November 2020

(Agreed on 6th November 2020)¹

Participants

■ Working Group Members:²

Arjan Stegeman

Arvo Viltrop

Eyal Klement

Helen Roberts (chair)

Julio Alvarez Sanchez

Karl Ståhl

Kris De Clercq

Simon Gubbins

■ EFSA:

ALPHA Unit: Alessandro Broglia, Elisabeth Dorbek-Kolin, Gabriele Zancanaro, Inma Aznar, Sotiria-Eleni Antoniou,

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

¹ Minutes should be published within 15 working days of the final day of the relevant meeting.

² Indicate first full name and then surname (John Smith) all throughout the document.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence³ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁴, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

4.1. Discussion on LSD and FMD opinions

The future timeline and other related issues for LSD and FMD opinions were discussed.

4.2. Discussion on AHS, ASF and HPAI opinions, and the methodology report

The comments from the Panel were discussed for each opinion and the methodology report.

5. Task distribution

Tasks were distributed among the experts and EFSA staff to meet the internal deadline for sending out the AHS, ASF and HPAI opinions and the methodology report to the EC and the Panel.

6. Next meeting

A proposal for the next meeting has been made by EFSA; next meeting will be held on 3rd December 2020.

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

⁴ 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 CONTROL MEASURES CATEGORY A DISEASES-AHL

TELE-conference, 16th October 2020

(Agreed on 3rd November 2020)¹

Participants

■ Working Group Members:²

Arjan Stegeman

Arvo Viltrop

Helen Roberts (chair)

Julio Alvarez Sanchez

Karl Ståhl

Kris De Clercq

Simon Gubbins

■ EFSA:

ALPHA Unit: Elisabeth Dorbek-Kolin, Inma Aznar, Sotiria-Eleni Antoniou, Gabriele Zancanaro

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Eyal Klement.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

¹ Minutes should be published within 15 working days of the final day of the relevant meeting.

² Indicate first full name and then surname (John Smith) all throughout the document.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence³ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁴, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

4.1. Finalising ToR 3

The working group went through the latest versions of kernels made for HPAI, AHS and ASF and made final decisions and comments about them.

4.2. Finalizing ToR 2

The working group was divided into sub-working groups for each diseases the same way as in previous meetings. Each sub-group worked on their opinion for ToR2 (HPAI, LSD, AHS and ASF groups).

5. Task distribution

5.1. ToR 3

Make the edits before next Monday (Oct 19th) and make the opinions ready for a review from the Panel. The opinions will be reviewed in the next Panel meeting (Oct 28th).

5.2. ToR 2

Make the edits before next Monday (Oct 19th) and make the opinions ready for a review from the Panel. The opinions will be reviewed in the next Panel meeting (Oct 28th).

5.3. Tasks for EFSA

EFSA staff will go over the opinions, make the edits that were discussed during the meeting and provide it to the WG members before Monday (Oct 19th).

6. Next meeting

A proposal for the next meeting has been made by EFSA; next meeting will be held on **3rd November 2020**.

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

⁴ 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 CONTROL MEASURES CATEGORY A DISEASES-AHL

TELE-conference, 8th October 2020

(Agreed on 12th October 2020)¹

Participants

■ Working Group Members:²

Arjan Stegeman

Arvo Viltrop

Helen Roberts (chair)

Karl Ståhl

Kris De Clercq

Eyal Klement

■ EFSA:

ALPHA Unit: Inma Aznar, Elisabeth Dorbek-Kolin, Sotiria-Eleni Antoniou, Gabriele Zancanaro

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Julio Alvarez Sanchez and Simon Gubbins.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

¹ Minutes should be published within 15 working days of the final day of the relevant meeting.

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In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence³ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁴, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

4.1. ToR 2: reviewing the outputs from the contractor for AHS and HPAI

The working group went through the latest versions of outputs provided by the contractor P95 and discussed about the timeline for future outputs. It was agreed that EFSA will incorporate the outputs of the contractor in the relevant opinions. A discussion on other outputs relevant to the semen scenario in ToR 2 was also held. These outputs will be also incorporated in the opinions by EFSA.

4.2. Finalizing ToR 1

The working group members worked on ToR 1 for the different opinions. Working group members, responsible for each of the diseases, had the opportunity to discuss with other working group members the structure of this ToR.

5. Task distribution

5.1. ToR 1

Finish up the ToR1 for the opinions on AHS, HPAI and ASF before the next WG meeting. WG members need to liaise with the WG modeller and/or EFSA to run existing models and the RiBESS+ tool to finish up the laboratory guidelines. For ASF, and as the contractor results will not be available for now, it was agreed that a guestimate for the time between infection and suspicion could be used in terms of running the model. The model can be run again after the final outputs from the contractor have been received.

5.2. Tasks for EFSA

EFSA will have an overview of all the opinions in order to standardize the structure of ToR 1.

6. Next meeting

A proposal for the next meeting has been made by EFSA; next meeting will be held on 16th October 2020. During the next meeting ToR3 will be finalised.

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

⁴ 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 CONTROL MEASURES CATEGORY A DISEASES-AHL

TELE-conference, 28th August 2020

(Agreed on 7th September 2020)¹

Participants

■ Working Group Members:²

Arjan Stegeman

Arvo Viltrop

Helen Roberts (chair)

Julio Alvarez Sanchez

Karl Ståhl

Kris De Clercq

Simon Gubbins

■ Hearing Experts³:

Not Applicable

■ European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

Not Applicable

■ EFSA:

ALPHA Unit: Elisabeth Dorbek-Kolin, Gabriele Zancanaro, Inma Aznar, Sotiria-Eleni Antoniou

■ Others:

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³ As defined in Article 17 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/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.

Not Applicable

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Eyal Klement.

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 Independence⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁵, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

4.1. Discussion on ToR 3: Transmission kernels

Each sub-working group presented the transmission kernels obtained from the literature on the diseases they had been assigned to (LSD (Lumpy skin disease), FMD (Foot and mouth disease), ASF (African swine fever), HPAI (Highly pathogenic avian influenza) and AHS (African horsesickness); this was followed by discussion after each presentation. When the kernels were based on outside-the-EU disease outbreaks, the representativeness of the different kernels was discussed. From these kernels the proportion of transmission of virus outside a circular zone of a given radius had been calculated and was also presented. The WG agreed that the large proportion of transmission observed at lower radius lengths was the result of the exponential increase on the number of farms in the area of concern, as the radius becomes larger. One of the main purposes of the setting up of a minimum radius for the protection and surveillance zone is to rapidly detect potential secondary cases. As a potential solution towards what it was perceived as a bias, the working group agreed in estimating the relative probability of a farms located at a given radius distance from the primary case, presenting these results for different radius distances. These relative probabilities could help them in understanding where the initial sampling effort should be placed subsequent to a disease outbreak. The results of this analysis will be presented at the next Panel Meeting (23.-24. September 2020).

4.2. ToR 1: presentations of specific scenarios to be run using model/RiBESS+ (by disease)

The work carried out by experts on ToR 1 was also presented and discussed for different scenarios. The work done on Foot and Mouth disease (FMD) was discussed as an example. For FMD, an assessment of Annex I of the Delegated Act had been carried out. A discussion was held on whether the assessment was meant to be done on the information presented in this Annex or in older pieces of legislation (not anymore in place, since AHL was brought in). A decision was made to contact European Commission in order to specify if they want the WG to assess purely the Annex I or also any

⁴ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

older legislations if existent. The WG agreed also to present the results for ToR 1 in the next Panel Meeting.

4.3. Harmonization of the 'Geographical distribution of the disease' section and update on the procurement contract for ToR 2

The scale for presenting the distribution of the disease and the sources for the relevant data were decided. Specific tasks were distributed among the WG experts. The WG experts were updated about the results of the kick-off meeting with the contractor for the procurement of ToR 2.

5. Task distribution

5.1. ToR 3

WG members will continue working on the tasks distributed in the previous meeting and will compose a presentation for the next Panel Meeting.

5.2. ToR 1

EFSA staff will contact EC for specification and will let the WG know the results of the discussions via email. In mean time, WG members will compose a presentation of the results for the Next Panel meeting.

5.3. Harmonization of the 'Geographical distribution of the disease' section

Specific tasks were distributed among the WG experts.

6. Next meeting

A proposal for the next meeting has been made by EFSA; next meeting will be held in September/October 2020.



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 4TH MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON CONTROL MEASURES CATEGORY A DISEASES-AHL

TELE-conference, 29th July 2020

(Agreed on 5th August 2020)¹

Participants

■ Working Group Members:²

Arjan Stegeman

Arvo Viltrop

Eyal Klement

Helen Roberts

Julio Alvarez Sanchez

Karl Ståhl

Kris De Clercq

Simon Gubbins

■ Hearing Experts³:

Not Applicable

■ European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

Not Applicable

■ EFSA:

ALPHA Unit: Elisabeth Dorbek-Kolin, Gabriele Zancanaro, Inma Aznar, Sotiria-Eleni Antoniou

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³ As defined in Article 17 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/en/keydocs/docs/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 Independence⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management,⁵ EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process.

Certain interests were declared orally by the members before the beginning of the meeting. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Oral Declaration of Interest made at the beginning of the meeting, please refer to the Annex I.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

4.1. Discussion on mathematical model script vs. RiBESS+

The first draft of possible mathematical models to be used to estimate some of the parameters needed to calculate sample size (ppt-file was presented) or to estimate the probability of detection giving a specific sample size, were presented. This was followed by a discussion on whether scripts added to the existing models or the RiBESS+ tool should be used to estimate sample size or the probabilities of detection giving a sample size. The working group agreed in allowing certain flexibility in terms of using one or the other option. To better decide on which option is the most appropriate for each disease/scenario, individual meetings between disease experts and the expert in mathematical models will be arranged at the next WG meeting. This decision will be made within sub-working groups for each disease and for each scenario separately.

4.2. ToR 4 and the extension of the deadline

The proposal made to the European Commission to extend the deadline of ToR 4 was discussed at the meeting. The reasoning behind the request was explained. The WG will be informed when EFSA receives the feed-back from the EC.

4.3. Methodological report

Methodological report could not be finalized for the parts of ToR 2 and ToR 3 due to lack of time, but WG members that did not look at the report previously will send comments to EFSA as soon as

possible. A discussion on how to tackle ToR 3 prior to the next WG meeting was held. Specific tasks were distributed among the WG experts. An email with task details will be circulated by the WG chair.

5. Task distribution

5.1. ToR 1

The parameters used for each of the models will be shared with the experts. WG members should look at the model and the model parameters and report back if they consider that some changes should be made. Experts will look at each of the scenarios of ToR 1 prior to the next meeting. At the meeting experts should be clear in which scenarios need to be fitted in RiBESS or addressed by scripts added to the existing models. Specific guidelines should be given then to the model expert and/or the EFSA staff running the scenarios in RiBESS+.

5.2. ToR 2

Working group agreed not to proceed further with ToR 2 before they have access to the extensive literature review that will be requested by EFSA within the Frame Work Contract (FWC).

5.3. ToR 3

Working group members agreed to work on the assessment for ToR 3 prior to the next meeting. The assessment will be done in a semi-quantitative manner. The writing up of the assessment will be done by the sub-group members and based on available knowledge and literature. The tasks related to uncertainty and the design of a questionnaire to collect information for diseases for which there are no available kernels was also allocated to one of the experts.

A template for the opinions will be made available to experts via TEAMS for experts to work on it directly.

6. Next meeting

A proposal for the next meeting has been made by EFSA; next meeting will be held on 28th of August 2020.

Annex I

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

NO CONFLICT: With regard to this meeting, Prof. Eyal Klement declared the following interest: 'on the day prior to the meeting some funding was received by a pharmaceutical company to support the development of a vaccine for Foot and Mouth Disease'. 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, the interest above was not deemed to represent a Conflict of Interest for the expert concerned.

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



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 3rd MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON CONTROL MEASURES CATEGORY A DISEASES-AHL

TELE-conference, 28 May 2020

(Agreed on 08 June 2020)

Participants

■ Working Group Members:

Arjan Stegeman has participated via teleconference,
Arvo Viltrop has participated via teleconference,
Eyal Klement has participated via teleconference,
Helen Roberts has participated via teleconference,
Julio Alvarez Sanchez has participated via teleconference,
Karl Ståhl has participated via teleconference,
Kris De Clercq has participated via teleconference.

■ Hearing Experts¹:

Not Applicable

■ European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

Not Applicable

■ EFSA:

ALPHA Unit: Elisabeth Dorbek-Kolin, Gabriele Zancanaro, Inma Aznar, Sotiria-Eleni Antoniou.

¹ As defined in Article 17 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/en/keydocs/docs/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. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

4.1. Discussion on methodology to be applied to address ToR 2

During the first half of the working group meeting, WG experts discussed the methodology to address TOR 2. WG members agreed that the methodology to answer ToR 2 would encompass a literature review, and plausible metanalysis of the relevant manuscripts. The focus of the literature review would be to provide an estimation of the length of time from infection to suspicion of each of the diseases of the Category A list. This time will be compared to current monitoring periods for each disease. Although the different scenarios may differ slightly in terms of the required monitoring period, the working group considered that a period of time equal to the time from infection to the reporting of a suspicion would be sufficient to ensure the effectiveness of the monitoring period in all scenarios. The literature review will be procured by EFSA. EFSA will be in charge of writing up the order form to request this service within the Frame Work Contract (FWC) on AHL. A draft of the order form will be shared with WG members for their input before is shared with the contractor. The contractor will work closely with the WG to ensure that we obtain the right information.

The only scenario for which the above would not work was the scenario covered by Article 57 (1) (b) of the Delegated Act. In this scenario the monitoring period is calculated forward from the date on which the final cleaning and disinfection of a confirmed establishment, prior to allow the repopulation of this affected establishment. EFSA agrees to seek clarification from the European Commission in relation to the purpose of this monitoring period.

4.2. Discussion on methodology to be applied to address ToR 3

The second half of the meeting was used to discuss the methodology to be used for answering ToR 3. In this ToR, EFSA has been asked to assess the effectiveness of the current radius and length of time the protection and surveillance zones for all Category A diseases must remain in place. Several options were discussed at the meetings. Some of the options proposed included, availing of current disease models to assess the effectiveness of both radius and length of time, and also using ADNS data to calculate these parameters from disease data as reported by Member States (MSs). Experts decided against the use of the ADNS data due to some concerns in terms of the accuracy of the data reported.

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

WG member agreed that a better option to assess this ToR would be to search in the literature for infection kernel curves for each of the diseases. From these kernels, the WG could plot and estimate the minimum radius that would encompass an agreed percentage of the secondary cases.

For the diseases for which no infection kernels are available, a consultation process within the experts will be set up. Extrapolation from other similar diseases could be also considered when discussing the effectiveness of the radius. The use of existing animal disease models was also ruled out as the method described above would ensure a more standardised result.

Some thoughts were also shared in terms of the length of time the protection and surveillance zone must be set in place. It was noted that the length of time of the protection zone was the same as the current monitoring period for all diseases except for African Horse Sickness (AHS) and Food and Mouth disease. The WG in principle considered that it was not clear why the difference between both periods, especially when referring to AHS. EFSA proposed to discuss this further with the Commission and revert to the WG members.

4.3. Task distribution and deadlines

Working group members agreed to finish the collection of information on disease-specific sampling procedures and on the parameters considered necessary for assessing sampling procedures in relation to ToR 1. It is important that MSs highlight the information needed to reply to ToR 1 that needs to be collected via the FWC. Experts will look at the kernels available in the literature and will report back to EFSA with the Kernels found. The WG together with EFSA will commence to build a questionnaire that could be used for the consultation in relation to diseases for which kernels are not found. The consultation will be done in a standardised manner and ensuring that uncertainty is taken into account. EFSA and the WG will also decide on the experts to which the questionnaire must be sent. EFSA will communicate with the EC and provide the necessary clarifications to the WG members in terms of the unclear ToR scenarios.

5. Next meeting(s)

A proposal for the next WG meeting will be made by EFSA



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 2nd MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON CONTROL MEASURES CATEGORY A DISEASES-AHL

TELE-conference, 30 April 2020

(Agreed on 11 May 2020)

Participants

■ Working Group Members:

Arjan Stegeman has participated via teleconference,
Arvo Viltrop has participated via teleconference,
Eyal Klement has participated via teleconference,
Helen Roberts has participated via teleconference,
Julio Alvarez Sanchez has participated via teleconference,
Karl Ståhl has participated via teleconference,
Kris De Clercq has participated via teleconference.

■ Hearing Experts¹:

Not Applicable

■ European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

Not Applicable

■ EFSA:

ALPHA Unit: Gabriele Zancanaro, Inma Aznar, Sotiria-Eleni Antoniou

¹ As defined in Article 17 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/en/keydocs/docs/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. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

4.1. Findings from the quantitative exploratory analysis of tools to be used to assess sampling strategies in ToR 1

A presentation was made by one of the WG experts describing the results of the exploratory analysis on plausible tools to be used when addressing ToR 1. One of the tools discussed at the previous WG meeting was RiBESS+. This tool allows quantitative assessment of sampling strategies applying a 'Freedom from disease' concept. At the 1st WG meeting it was agreed that RiBESS+ could be useful to assess some scenarios covered in ToR 1, nonetheless, it was felt that it may not be the right tool to be used in some other scenarios within this ToR. In order to facilitate the discussion, a quantitative assessment of the effectiveness of the current sampling strategies used in the case of a suspicion of a HPAI outbreak, was carried out by one of the WG experts. The parameters used for the assessment were estimates based on expert knowledge. Three epidemiological backgrounds for the suspicion were presented: i) a suspicion of HPAI in a Galliformes flock where clinical signs are observed, ii) in an Anseriformes flock with some clinical signs, and iii) in an Anseriformes flock where no apparent clinical signs were observed.

Consensus was reached by the working group that for scenarios (i) and (ii) where the presence of clinical signs subsequent to a clinical inspection are observed, the methodology to be used when assessing (in the case that disease specific sampling procedures exist in the legislation) or estimating (in the case that disease specific sampling procedures do not exist in the legislation) the samples to be taken for further laboratory inspection should target sick or dead animals. When clinical signs are present, the assessment of the effectiveness of sampling strategies should be done by using basic compartmental models, estimating the probability of encountering at least one infected animal by laboratory tests of a number of samples taken from animals with the clinical signs/dead animals. If few animals die due to the infection, examining only dead animals may be insufficient to reach a high probability of detection, and testing animals exhibiting clinical signs may be needed in addition. In the event of no clinical signs (iii) being observed in species where

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

it would be expected, a repeat clinical inspection at the end of the incubation period should be undertaken and sampling undertaken if necessary.

If no clinical signs are observed (see (iii) above), samples for laboratory tests should be taken. The number of samples to be taken may be estimated using a freedom from disease tool (RiBESS+). Several sampling strategies, with or without weighting factors can be assessed using this tool (including sampling strategies in existing disease-specific diagnostic manuals).

To assess the effectiveness of sampling strategies in this way, a freedom of disease confidence level must be predefined; sampling strategies should be assessed in their ability to demonstrate freedom with the predefined confidence level.

4.2. Discussion on methodology to be used on other scenarios covered by ToR1, and in diseases other than HPAI

Working group members discussed other scenarios included in ToR 1. These scenarios had been shared with the WG before the meeting. For some of the scenarios, it was concluded that some clarifications were still needed from the EC. EFSA agreed to contact the EC to request clarification on those. The WG considered that for most of these scenarios the methodological approach described in 4.1 was still valid. WG members also discussed whether the methodology described above was applicable to other diseases, and the initial agreement was reached. WG members agreed to approaching EURLs for the different diseases with a questionnaire for support with addressing ToR 1. Also, the possibility of approaching other experts within MSs that have had experience with the control and eradication of each of the diseases.

4.3. Task distribution and deadlines

Working group members agreed to finish the collection of information on disease-specific sampling procedures and on the parameters considered necessary for assessing sampling procedures. WG members will also communicate on an individual basis with EFSA, putting forward proposals for addressing ToRs 2 and 3. These proposals will be collated in EFSA and discussed at the next WG meeting. EFSA working in collaboration with the WG Chair, will finalise the template to be used for the opinions produced for each of the diseases. EFSA will communicate with the EC and provide the necessary clarifications to the WG members in terms of the unclear ToR 1 scenarios.

5. Next meeting(s)

A proposal for the next WG meeting will be made by EFSA.



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 1ST MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON CONTROL MEASURES CATEGORY A DISEASES-AHL

TELE-conference, 16 April 2020

(Agreed on 24 April 2020)¹

Participants

■ Working Group Members:²

Arjan Stegeman has participated via teleconference,
Arvo Viltrop has participated via teleconference,
Eyal Klement has participated via teleconference,
Helen Roberts has participated via teleconference,
Julio Alvarez Sanchez has participated via teleconference,
Karl Ståhl has participated via teleconference,
Kris De Clercq has participated via teleconference.

■ Hearing Experts³:

Not Applicable

■ European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

Not Applicable

■ EFSA:

ALPHA Unit: Gabriele Zancanaro, Inma Aznar, Sotiria-Eleni Antoniou, Yves van der Stede

¹ Minutes should be published within 15 working days of the final day of the relevant meeting.

² Indicate first full name and then surname (John Smith) all throughout the document.

³ As defined in Article 17 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/en/keydocs/docs/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 Independence⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁵, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

4.1. Information on the indemnities/reimbursement and the role of WG members

Working group members were informed about the new indemnities and reimbursement policies applied by EFSA. The main differences in relation to the previous system were highlighted, clarifying how the total paid is now an amalgamation of the compensation for meeting attendance, and the compensation for the preparatory work carried out by WG members prior to the meeting.

4.2. Discussion on the TORs of the Mandate, questions and scenarios to be assessed, methodology, and parameters and information needed

A presentation was prepared by EFSA showing the different scenarios that would need to be assessed in order to better deliver on the first three TORs of the mandate. The scenarios covered in the presentation were those described by the different articles mentioned in the mandate and shown in the Delegated Regulation and its Annexes. Some preparatory work carried out by EFSA in collaboration with some of the WG members in terms of suggested methodology to be followed was also presented. A third short presentation was made by EFSA in terms of the parameters and information needed to be collected in order to answer the three first TORs.

To open discussion around methodology to answer TOR 1, the first scenario based on the conditions described by Article 6(2) of the Delegated Regulation was selected. In this scenario, assessing the ability of current sampling procedures in confirming/ruling out disease in the case of a suspicion of any of the 14 diseases included in the Category A list of disease, both by clinical and laboratory examination, is requested. A proposal to use the RiBESS+ software to assess the different plausible sampling procedures (including current sampling procedures) was made. Within the first scenario, several strategies for arriving at a diagnosis were foreseen depending on the epidemiological background against which the suspicion is made. A discussion followed on the parameters and information needed to better describe the different epidemiological backgrounds. A list of parameters

⁴ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

and information needed for the assessment was agreed. The WG members highlighted the importance of building 'disease cards' for each of the diseases via an extensive literature review.

4.3. Task distribution and deadlines

To better understand the suitability of using RiBESS+ to assess the effectiveness of sampling procedures, a sub-group of the working group members in collaboration with EFSA, will fit data on existing sampling procedures for the detection of HPAI considering a number of epidemiological backgrounds surrounding any hypothetical suspicion case. The different epidemiological backgrounds will be described. The experience gained by this trial will be shared with other WG members prior to the next meeting.

Working group members were assigned to collect information on disease-specific sampling procedures (if specific procedures exist) presenting that information in a table provided by EFSA. Also, working separately on small groups per disease, WG members were distributed to collect crude data on the parameters agreed, to assess the different scenarios described for TOR 1, for 5 of the 14 diseases in the Category A list. The diseases selected were: Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), African Swine Fever (ASF), Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD), Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) and African Horse Sickness (AHS). The aim of the exercise was to trial the methodology, ensuring that information on all parameters needed are available. Once the final list of parameters needed is agreed, precise information based on peer reviewed literature will be collected. The provision of 'disease cards' summarising this information for each of the diseases, could be then outsourced via a tender.

EFSA, working in collaboration with the WG Chair, will make a proposal for the template to be used for the opinions produced for each of the diseases. An opinion per disease covering the three first TORs will be published.

5. Next meeting(s)

WG members aimed to have a second meeting of the WG sometime in the next two weeks if possible. A proposal will be subsequently made by EFSA.