



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

## ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

### MINUTES OF THE 35<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE STANDING WORKING GROUP ON AVIAN INFLUENZA

(MONITORING)

**WEB-conference, 1 December 2020**

**(Agreed on 18 December 2020)**

#### Participants

■ Standing Working Group Members:

Alice FUSARO, Josè L GONZALES, Thijs KUIKEN, Stefano MARANGON, Eric NIQUEUX, Christoph STAUBACH, Calogero TERREGINO

■ ECDC:

Cornelia ADLHOCH

■ EFSA:

ALPHA Unit: Francesca BALDINELLI

#### 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 Independence<sup>1</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management<sup>2</sup>, 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

The WG experts reviewed the draft of the AI report XIV. I section 4.1, the WG agreed to present geographical data separately in different maps for i) the epidemic seasons 2016-2017, 2017-2018, 2018-2019, 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 and ii) for October and November 2016 and 2020 to allow comparison of the geographical evolution of the two epidemics. Also, epicurves in this section will report data from October 2019 onward only. In section 4.2, individual map for HPAI detections in domesticated animals and wild birds will be provided. In section 4.5, different elements will be taken into account when further analysing the current situation, e.g. detection of HPAI virus in apparently healthy wild birds via active surveillance, detection of HPAI outbreaks in high biosecurity poultry farms, the relevance of enhancing high level of biosecurity measures, similarities and difference with the 2016-2017 epidemic. The different sections of the document will be aligned to report data from the same reporting period. As the avian influenza situation is rapidly evolving in Europe, the WG agreed to update the report with data up to 7 December 2020. The WG will finalise drafting the sections on conclusion, suggestion and on the scientific analysis of avian influenza spread from non-EU/EEA countries and within the EU/EEA by end of the week (4 December), and will then review the text by 8 December. Publication is foreseen by 11 December 2020.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/policy\\_independence.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/competing\\_interest\\_management\\_17.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf)



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

## ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

### MINUTES OF THE 34<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE STANDING WORKING GROUP ON AVIAN INFLUENZA

(MONITORING: assisting MS carrying out the collection and the analysis  
of the epidemiological data on AI)

**Held on 27 November 2020, web meeting**

**(Agreed on 6 December 2020)**

#### Participants

- Standing Working Group Members:  
Nicola FERRE'; Matteo MAZZUCATO; Stefano MARANGON; Paolo MULATTI
- EFSA:  
ALPHA Unit: Francesca BALDINELLI
- Hearing Experts<sup>1</sup>:  
BFSA: Aleksandra MITEVA; Anna Zdravkova; Daniel PAVLOV

#### 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

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<sup>1</sup> 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>.



In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence<sup>2</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management<sup>3</sup>, 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

The meeting was dedicated to the second part of the GIS training, whose first part was administered in the previous meeting on 29 October 2020. The training was dedicated on the usage of QGIS to support the outbreak data management. The subjects presented and discussed included:

- management of the outbreak layer
- spatial analysis: buffer (for defining restriction areas, such as protection and surveillance areas)
- selection of farms in the restriction areas
- data presentation (map layouts)

Practical exercises were proposed to the EFSA participants, to assess the level of understanding of the activities and operations presented.

#### Next meeting

A follow-up meeting has been proposed for 2021, focussing on the adopted changes in the Bulgarian Livestock Registry (Vet-IS) and related GIS aspects.

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<sup>2</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/policy\\_independence.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/competing\\_interest\\_management\\_17.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf)



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

## ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

### MINUTES OF THE 33<sup>rd</sup> MEETING OF THE STANDING WORKING GROUP ON AVIAN INFLUENZA

(MONITORING)

**WEB-conference, 18 November 2020**

**(Agreed on 1 December 2020)**

#### Participants

■ Standing Working Group Members:

Alice FUSARO, Josè GONZALES, Thijs KUIKEN, Stefano MARANGON, Eric NIQUEUX, Krzysztof SMIETANKA, Christoph STAUBACH, Calogero TERREGINO

■ ECDC:

Cornelia ADLHOCH

■ EFSA:

ALPHA Unit: Inmaculada AZNAR, Francesca BALDINELLI, Yves VAN DER STEDE

#### 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 Independence<sup>1</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management<sup>2</sup>, 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

The WG experts reviewed the draft of the AI report XIII. The structure of the document was adapted to better address the risk of HPAI virus introduction and of further spread within the EU/EEA and UK. Information available on the most affected wild birds species reported to the ADNS in relation to the migratory flyways, boundaries of the populations as well as on real time observations in Europe were shared among the experts. Information available on the genetic characterisation of H5N8, H5N5 and H5N1 detected in Europe were also presented and discussed. The experts drafted the section on conclusions and options for response and each expert had assigned specific text and sections to finalise according to their expertise. Timeline for finalising the document and getting the approval by ECDC, EURL and EFSA were agreed. Publication was confirmed on Friday 20 November.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/policy\\_independence.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/competing\\_interest\\_management\\_17.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf)



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

## ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

### MINUTES OF THE 32<sup>nd</sup> MEETING OF THE STANDING WORKING GROUP ON AVIAN INFLUENZA

(MONITORING: assisting MS carrying out the collection and the analysis  
of the epidemiological data on AI)

**Held on 29 October 2020, web meeting**

**(Agreed on 24 November 2020)**

#### Participants

- Standing Working Group Members:  
Nicola FERRE'; Matteo MAZZUCATO; Stefano MARANGON; Paolo MULATTI
- EFSA:  
ALPHA Unit: Francesca BALDINELLI
- Hearing Experts<sup>1</sup>:BFSA  
Aleksandra MITEVA; Anna Zdravkova; Toncho VACHEV; Milena GYONOVA, Samuil PAUNOV,  
Daniel DENEV, Daniel PAVLOV;

#### 1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

#### 2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

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<sup>1</sup> 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>.



### 3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence<sup>2</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management<sup>3</sup>, 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

The first part of the meeting was dedicated to the analysis of poultry holding data quality. In order to prepare the work, an updated list of poultry holdings in Bulgaria extracted from VetIS was provided by colleagues at BFSA. EURL analysed the quality of geographical data on poultry holding locations as a first step to identify suitable methodologies to improve their precision. During the meeting, the completeness and spatial accuracy of geo-data were presented and discussed. Excel and GIS functionalities to perform the data quality analysis, were briefly presented.

The second part of the meeting was dedicated to a GIS tutorial to map the poultry holdings. To prepare the meeting, the Bulgarian colleagues were invited to install the QGIS software and guidelines shared. During the session the following topics were presented:

- types of GIS software features and characteristics;
- QGIS overview and graphical user interface;
- shape file structure and usage;
- how to use geographical data and importing excel data with coordinates;
- how to use the plugins and the 'QGIS Map Services'.

Some practical exercises with QGIS were also performed by the Bulgarian colleagues.

### 5. Next meeting

Next meeting to continue the GIS training was planned and agreed on 27 November 2020.

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<sup>2</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/policy\\_independence.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/competing\\_interest\\_management\\_17.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf)





ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

# Minutes of the 31<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Standing Working Group on AVIAN INFLUENZA

## (AI workshop)

**TELE-conference, 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

**(Agreed on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2020)<sup>1</sup>**

### Participants

Bedriova	Marta	NIQUEUX	Éric
BESSI	OLIVIA	PERDIKARIS	SOKRATIS
Brouwer	Adam	Piret	Marjorie
Brugger	Brigitte	Prelipcean	Flavius
Bruhn	Silke	Prommik	Helen
Carvalho	Renata	Rosado Martín	Pedro
Cohen	Iulia	RUOCCO	LUIGI
Dahl Nielsen	Pernille	Savić	Vladimir
Gagliazzo	Laura	Scanlan	Hana
García Villacieros	Elena	Sjurseth	Siri
Garza Cuartero	Laura	Śmietanka	Krzysztof
Gonzales	Jose	Spierenburg	Marcel
Grant	Malin	Stahl	Karl
GRIGALIUNIENE	VILIJ	Staubach	Christoph
Harder	Timm	Stegeman	Arjan
Hari	Aleksandra	Tammiranta	Niina
Helyes	Georgina	Tuupanen	Tiia
Hjulsager	Charlotte	Užule	Māra
Huneau	Adeline	Wallo	Richard
Jaarma	Kärt	White	Eithne
Kozak	Edyta	Wodak	Eveline
KRASIAS	GEORGIOS	Zecchin	Bianca
Lozano	Jose Maria	Gargallo	Gabriel
Miškić	Tihana	Paunov	Samuil

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



## ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

### ■ EFSA:

- ALPHA: Inma Aznar (Co-chair), Yves van der Stede (Chair), Elisabeth Dorbek-Kolin, Francesca Baldinelli, Gabriele Zancanaro
- DATA: Anca Stoicescu, Alexandra Papanikolau

## 1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants and went through the technical and practical aspects of the meeting.

## 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 Independence<sup>2</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management<sup>3</sup>, 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. Avian Influenza: approach under the AHL

Pedro Rosado Martín from European Commission presented to the participants the regulatory aspects of Avian Influenza under Animal Health Law. The topics touched during the presentation were general legal framework and AI surveillance.

### 4.2. HPAI A(H5Nx) viruses in Europe in 2019-2020: genetic perspective

Bianca Zecchin from EURL presented the genetic perspective of highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses. HPAI A(H5) outbreaks and their viral characteristics during season 2019-2020 were discussed in more detail.

### 4.3. First results for 2019 AI surveillance report

Inma Aznar from EFSA (ALPHA) presented the first results for the AI surveillance report for 2019. The overview of the 2019 serological results and sampling carried out by reporting country for poultry

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/policy\\_independence.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/competing\\_interest\\_management\\_17.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf)

were presented. Sampling overview for wild birds was presented based on the surveillance stream and reporting country.

#### **4.4. Avian influenza outbreaks in the EU (EFSA scientific reports)**

Francesca Baldinelli (ALPHA) from EFSA presented the EFSA, ECDC and IZSVe joint scientific reports of monitoring of Avian influenza outbreaks in the EU (published quarterly). The HPAI situation in European birds during the last three seasons was presented.

#### **4.5. HPAI H5N8 in Poland in 2019/20**

Krzysztof Śmietanka from National Reference Laboratory for AI/ND, NVRI Pulawy, Poland presented the epidemiological situation of avian influenza in his country during the ongoing season of 2019-2020.

#### **4.6. Highly pathogenic avian influenza epidemic in Hungary in 2020**

Georgina Helyes from National Disease Control Centre of Hungary presented the epidemiological situation of avian influenza in her country during the ongoing season of 2019-2020.

#### **4.7. HPAI in Bulgaria, national experience**

Aleksandra Miteva from Bulgarian Food Safety Agency presented the epidemiological situation of avian influenza in her country during the ongoing season of 2019-2020. First, she gave an overview of the poultry sector in Bulgaria in general and then moved on to the HPAI H5 outbreaks in 2020.

#### **4.8. Feedback on the 2019 AI data collection**

Anca Stoicescu from EFSA (DATA) presented the feedback on data collection of 2019.

#### **4.9. SIGMA update: the ASF data collection**

Gabriele Zancanaro from EFSA (ALPHA) provided an update on the SIGMA project with ASF data collection as an example.

#### **4.10. Supporting avian influenza surveillance through the generation and visualization of data on the migratory routes of wild bird**

Gabriel Gargallo from Catalan Ornithological Institute/EBCC spoke about the role of EBP (EuroBirdPortal) and EURING (The European Union for Bird Ringing) datasets as part of avian influenza surveillance.

#### **4.11. Wrap-up**

Elisabeth Dorbek-Kolin from EFSA (ALPHA) presented the results of the online questionnaire introduced by Inma Aznar during her presentation. Inma Aznar from EFSA (ALPHA) thanked the presenters and participants of the meeting and gave concluding remarks of the workshop.



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

## ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

### MINUTES OF THE 30<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE STANDING WORKING GROUP ON AVIAN INFLUENZA

(MONITORING)

**WEB-conference, 7 September 2020**

**(Agreed on 27 September 2020)**

#### Participants

- Standing Working Group Members:  
Alice FUSARO, Thijs KUIKEN, Eric NIQUEUX, Christoph STAUBACH, Calogero TERREGINO
- ECDC:  
Cornelia ADLHOCH
- EFSA:  
ALPHA Unit: Francesca BALDINELLI

#### 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 Independence<sup>1</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management<sup>2</sup>, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/policy\\_independence.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/competing\\_interest\\_management\\_17.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf)



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**

The WG experts reviewed the draft of the AI report XII. Given the evolution of the situation outside the EU and the detection of HPAI A(H5) cases in poultry and in a wild bird of unknown species in Russia, the WG decided to describe in the report also those findings and any other that would have occurred in Russia and in geographically close areas outside the reporting period. This was deemed necessary due to the increased risk of HPAI introduction via infected wild birds migrating from those areas in the EU. Also, the EURL will contact colleagues in Russia to collect more information on the virus type, the species of the affected wild birds and any others available information to better characterise the risk of HPAI introduction in the EU. The WG experts reviewed the drafted sections on conclusions (main observations and conclusions), and suggestions. Publication is foreseen by end of September 2020.

#### **5. Next meeting(s)**

Next WG meeting planned for the AI report XIII (reporting period 16 August – 15 November 2020) on 1 December (9.00-13.00).



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

## ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

### MINUTES OF THE 29<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE STANDING WORKING GROUP ON AVIAN INFLUENZA

(MONITORING: assisting MS carrying out the collection and the analysis  
of the epidemiological data on AI)

**Held on 01 July 2020, web meeting**

**(Agreed on 10 July 2020)**

#### Participants

■ Standing Working Group Members:

Nicola FERRE'

Matteo MAZZUCATO

Stefano MARANGON

Paolo MULATTI

■ Hearing Experts<sup>1</sup>:

Aleksandra MITEVA

Toncho VACHEV

■ EFSA:

ALPHA Unit: Francesca BALDINELLI

#### 1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

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<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/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 Independence<sup>2</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management<sup>3</sup>, 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

The WG continued the discussion on the different sections and the related data fields of the Bulgarian registry of animals (Vet-IS), with a view to enhance the data collection on poultry holdings in the context of avian influenza outbreaks and epidemics. The data fields related to the collection of information on repopulation, animal health status, movements, links with other holdings were reviewed and possible enhancements were proposed and discussed. A first analysis of the quality of a sample of GIS data extracted from VetIS, assessed with data downloaded from EUROSTAT, was presented and discussed.

## 5. Next meeting

October 2020, date to be confirmed

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<sup>2</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/policy\\_independence.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/competing\\_interest\\_management\\_17.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf)



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

## ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

### MINUTES OF THE 28<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE STANDING WORKING GROUP ON AVIAN INFLUENZA

(MONITORING: assisting MS carrying out the collection and the analysis  
of the epidemiological data on AI)

**Held on 12 June 2020, web meeting**

**(Agreed on 2 July 2020)**

#### Participants

■ Standing Working Group Members:

Nicola FERRE'

Matteo MAZZUCATO

Stefano MARANGON

Paolo MULATTI

■ Hearing Experts<sup>1</sup>:

Aleksandra MITEVA

Toncho VACHEV

■ EFSA:

ALPHA Unit: Francesca BALDINELLI

#### 1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

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<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/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 Independence<sup>2</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management<sup>3</sup>, 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

The WG continued the discussion on the different sections and the related data fields of the Bulgarian registry of animals (Vet-IS), with a view to enhance the data collection on poultry in the context of avian influenza outbreaks and epidemics. The data fields related to the collection of information on the holdings, holding owner, type of holdings and poultry production data were reviewed and possible enhancements were proposed. Data on repopulation, health status, movement, link with other holdings will be discussed in the next meeting.

## 5. Next meeting

July 2020, date to be confirmed

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<sup>2</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/policy\\_independence.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf)

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## ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

### MINUTES OF THE 27<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE STANDING WORKING GROUP ON AVIAN INFLUENZA

(MONITORING)

**WEB-conference, 28 May 2019**

**(Agreed on 16 June 2020)**

#### Participants

- Standing Working Group Members:  
Alice FUSARO, Thijs KUIKEN, Eric NIQUEUX, Christoph STAUBACH, Calogero TERREGINO
- EFSA:  
ALPHA Unit: Francesca BALDINELLI

#### 1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Cornelia Adlhoch.

#### 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 Independence<sup>1</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management<sup>2</sup>, 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.

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<sup>2</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/competing\\_interest\\_management\\_17.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf)



#### 4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

The WG experts reviewed the draft of the AI report XI. Given the number of outbreaks that in the reporting period for this report were observed in goose in the EU, it was decided to amend figure 5 (on distribution of HPAI outbreaks in Europe by week of suspicion and by affected poultry species) adding domestic goose as a separate poultry species category to the figure. The WG extensively discussed possible explanations to reason why in this reporting period and in the previous one only few wild bird HPAI cases (n=3) were reported compared to the number of outbreaks in poultry (n=290); data from surveillance activities on wild birds carried out by Member States in 2020, as well as data on susceptibility and pathogenesis from experimental studies, once available, may help to understand the low mortality reported this year in wild birds. The WG hypothesised that the decreased number of HPAI outbreaks reported from Asia and Africa compared to the previous three-months reporting period may be explained, among other reasons, also by the COVID-19 pandemic and will look for official analysis done by OIE or FAO on animal diseases underreporting in COVID-19 time. The WG experts reviewed the drafted sections on conclusions (main observations and conclusions), and suggestions. Publication is foreseen by end of June 2020.

#### 5. Next meeting(s)

Next WG meeting planned for the AI report XII (reporting period 16 May – 15 August 2020) on 7 September (14.00-18.00).



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

## ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

### MINUTES OF THE 26<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE STANDING WORKING GROUP ON AVIAN INFLUENZA

(MONITORING: assisting MS carrying out the collection and the analysis  
of the epidemiological data on AI)

**Held on 30 April 2020, web meeting**

**(Agreed on 11 May 2020)**

#### Participants

■ Standing Working Group Members:

Nicola FERRE'

Matteo MAZZUCATO

Stefano MARANGON

Paolo MULATTI

■ Hearing Experts<sup>1</sup>:

Aleksandra MITEVA

Milena GIONOVA

Toncho VACHEV

■ EFSA:

ALPHA Unit: Francesca BALDINELLI

GPS Unit: Mimi KALCHEVA

#### 1. Welcome and apologies for absence

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<sup>1</sup> 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>.



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 Independence<sup>2</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management<sup>3</sup>, 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

The informative needs of the poultry population register data, with a view of using that information in the context of avian influenza outbreaks and epidemics, were further discussed. The specific fields related to the poultry production data (e.g. type of holding, species, type of farming, production phase, breeding mode, line of breeding, types of breeders), in relation to the context of Bulgarian poultry production system, were extensively examined.

## 5. Next meeting

June 2020, date to be confirmed

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<sup>2</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/policy\\_independence.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/competing\\_interest\\_management\\_17.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf)



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

## ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

### MINUTES OF THE 25<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE STANDING WORKING GROUP ON AVIAN INFLUENZA

(MONITORING)

**WEB-conference, 2 March 2019**

**(Agreed on 23 March 2020)**

#### Participants

- Standing Working Group Members:  
Alice FUSARO, Thijs KUIKEN, Eric NIQUEUX, Christoph STAUBACH, Calogero TERREGINO
- ECDC:  
Cornelia ADLHOCH
- EFSA:  
ALPHA Unit: Francesca BALDINELLI

#### 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 Independence<sup>1</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management<sup>2</sup>, 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

The WG experts were informed on the EFSA new rules for expert compensation related to WG meeting attendance and preparatory work. Also, the experts were informed on new way of working on scientific output via digital collaboration; all experts will be supported to access the digital collaboration space, and this will apply for the next AI report (June). The WG discussed and reviewed the draft of the AI report X. Particular attention was given to the sections on conclusions (main observations and conclusions), and suggestions, where the experts contributed to add points for conclusions and suggestions and to further develop the ones already drafted. In section 4.1 it was decided to report both the proposed figures presenting the distribution of total number of HPAI outbreaks detected in Europe in seasons 2016–2017, 2017–2018, 2018–2019, 2018–2019 and in the last three seasons, respectively; in the map on the geographical distribution of HPAI outbreaks in Europe the outbreak will be stratified by epidemic season. For section 4.2, EFSA will check that the data reported to characterise the HPAI affected establishments in the tabular form are coherent with those mentioned elsewhere (text and figures) in the section. Publication is foreseen by the end of March 2020.

#### 5. Next meeting(s)

The following dates for WG web-meetings on AI monitoring in 2020 were agreed: 28 May (14.00-18.00); 7 September (14.00-18.00); 1 December (9.00-13.00).

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/policy\\_independence.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/competing\\_interest\\_management\\_17.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf)



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

## ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

### MINUTES OF THE 24<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE STANDING WORKING GROUP ON AVIAN INFLUENZA

(MONITORING: assisting MS carrying out the collection and the analysis  
of the epidemiological data on AI)

**Held on 10-11 February 2020, Sofia and Plovdiv**

**(Agreed on 03 March 2020)**

#### Participants

■ Standing Working Group Members:

Nicola FERRE'

Matteo MAZZUCATO

Stefano MARANGON

Paolo MULATTI

■ Hearing Experts<sup>1</sup>:

Aleksandra MITEVA

■ EFSA:

ALPHA Unit: Francesca BALDINELLI

GPS Unit: Mimi KALCHEVA

#### 1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Calogero Terregino.

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<sup>1</sup> 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>.





## 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 Independence<sup>2</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management<sup>3</sup>, 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

EFSA, EURL and BFSA assessed together the informative system on poultry population register data in use in Bulgaria, this included a day visit to the Regional Office in Plovdiv. The aim of this assessment was to identify elements of this informative system to be enhanced for a fit for purpose poultry register dataset for HPAI surveillance and eradication activities; for a rapid extraction/production of datasets for GIS and data analysis; for an automatic extraction of datasets suitable for web publication of data on poultry holdings as provided for in the EU law.

## 5. Next meeting

March 2020, to be confirmed

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<sup>2</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/policy\\_independence.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/competing\\_interest\\_management\\_17.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf)



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

## ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

### MINUTES OF THE 23<sup>rd</sup> MEETING OF THE STANDING WORKING GROUP ON AVIAN INFLUENZA

(SURVEILLANCE)

**Held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2019, Parma**

**(Agreed on 16<sup>th</sup> of December 2019)**

#### Participants

- Standing Working Group Members:  
Jose Gonzales Rojas has participated via teleconference
- EFSA:  
ALPHA Unit: Inma Aznar
- Apologies:  
N/A

#### 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 Independence<sup>1</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management<sup>2</sup>, 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. **Revision of the final draft of the 2018 annual surveillance report prior to its publication in the EFSA website<sup>3</sup>**

Final changes needed were discussed prior to the final publication of the annual surveillance report.

## 5. Next meeting

TBD with SWG members

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/policy\\_independence.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/competing\\_interest\\_management\\_17.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2019-00039>



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

## ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

### MINUTES OF THE 22<sup>ND</sup> MEETING OF THE STANDING WORKING GROUP ON AVIAN INFLUENZA

(MONITORING)

**WEB-conference, 6 December 2019**

**(Agreed on 18 December 2019)**

#### Participants

- Standing Working Group Members:  
Alice FUSARO, Thijs KUIKEN, Krzysztof SMETANKA, Christoph STAUBACH
- ECDC:  
Cornelia ADLHOCH
- EFSA:  
ALPHA Unit: Francesca BALDINELLI

#### 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 Independence<sup>1</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management<sup>2</sup>, 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

The WG experts discussed and reviewed the draft of the AI report IX. Particular attention was given to the sections on conclusions (main observations and conclusions), and suggestions. The review questions and the relevant criteria for the literature searches foreseen in section 4.2.2 and 4.4 were discussed and clarified. In the section on the detection of H7N9, an overview of the results of the vaccination campaign reported on the EMPRES-i website of the Food and Agriculture Organization will be reported in this report. From the next report, only a reference to that website will be added. The WG expressed the view of allowing some flexibility in the reporting period foreseen for each of the AI scientific report that will be published in 2020; depending on the situation of AI, it might be that the AI report would cover longer or shorter reporting period, compared to the usually three months reporting period.

#### 5. Next meeting(s)

Possible dates for WG meetings in 2020 were proposed and will be confirmed asap; for 2020 one meeting will be physical and all the others will be organised as web-meetings. Next WG meeting is scheduled in March 2019.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/policy\\_independence.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/competing\\_interest\\_management\\_17.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf)



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

## ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

### MINUTES OF THE 21<sup>ST</sup> MEETING OF THE STANDING WORKING GROUP ON AVIAN INFLUENZA

(MONITORING: assisting MS carrying out the collection and the analysis  
of the epidemiological data on AI)

**WEB-conference, 29 November 2019**

**(Agreed on 4 December 2019)**

#### Participants

■ Standing Working Group Members:

Nicola FERRE'

Matteo MAZZUCATO

Stefano MARANGON

Calogero TERREGINO

■ Hearing Experts<sup>1</sup>:

Aleksandra MITEVA

Samuil PAUNOV

■ EFSA:

ALPHA Unit: Francesca BALDINELLI

#### 1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

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<sup>1</sup> 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>.



## 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 Independence<sup>2</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management<sup>3</sup>, 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

EFSA, in the framework of the mandate M-2017-0062<sup>4</sup>, has been requested to assist Member States carrying out the collection and the analysis of the epidemiological data on Avian influenza (AI). EU legislation on Avian influenza requires MS to carry out compulsory surveillance programmes in poultry and wild birds. Surveillance in poultry and wild birds is crucial in order to early detect the occurrence of new AI viruses in the EU that pose a risk to animal and potentially to human health. The epidemiological situation on AI in Bulgaria in 2016-2018 has been proven how important continuous surveillance and monitoring of domestic and wild bird populations is. Collection of data on AI and their timely analysis are essential to contribute to awareness and preparedness to face AI epidemics. A prerequisite for a good epidemiological analysis (temporal and spatial) is an appropriate data collection including all required stages (metadata at farm/herd level, laboratory data, metadata on population, etc). In order to harmonise and streamline data collection and analysis of results of monitoring and surveillance in poultry, wild and captive birds, during the meeting the national databases on poultry population and the AI monitoring and surveillance system were presented and discussed.

## 5. Next meeting(s)

February 2020, Sofia, to be confirmed

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<sup>2</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/policy\\_independence.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/competing\\_interest\\_management\\_17.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/wicket/page?2>



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

## ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

### MINUTES OF THE 20<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE STANDING WORKING GROUP ON AVIAN INFLUENZA

(SURVEILLANCE)

**Held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2019, Parma**

**(Agreed on 17<sup>th</sup> of June 2019)**

#### Participants

- Standing Working Group Members:
  - Adam Brouwer has participated via teleconference
  - Adeline Huneau has participated via teleconference
  - Arjan Stegeman has participated via teleconference
  - Jose Gonzales Rojas has participated via teleconference
  - Thijs Kuiken has participated via teleconference
  - Christoph Staubach has participated via teleconference
- EFSA:
  - ALPHA Unit: Inma Aznar
- Apologies:
  - Paolo Mulatti

#### 1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.





Apologies were received from Paolo Mulatti as he could not participate on the meeting.

## 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 Independence<sup>1</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management<sup>2</sup>, 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 the final draft of the 2018 annual surveillance report<sup>3</sup>

The final draft of the 2018 annual surveillance report for avian influenza had been, prior to the meeting, shared with SWG members. Comments made by SWG members were scrutinized and amendments to the draft were made in preparation for the meeting; comments that needed to be clarified were brought up at the meeting for further discussion. During the meeting comments submitted by Member States representatives were also discussed. Among other changes, specific changes to be made in the maps and other figures of the document were suggested. SWG members agreed on the need to add further appendixes including: an itemization of wild birds included in the list of 'target species' and a table with English common names of the wild bird species included in Figures 8 and 11 of the report. A proposal to include a new figure with the species of wild birds sampled and those testing negative to HPAI, was made by the SWG. A revision of the logistic regression analysis presented in the draft was also suggested. A table summarising the risk factors considered by MSs when designing their surveillance programme was also shared with the SWG. No amendments to the table were needed. EFSA agreed to deal with changes suggested at the SWG meeting and shared the final draft once more with SWG members for their approval on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> of November prior to its publication.

## 5. Next meeting

TBD with SWG members

Note: In view of the grant on technical and scientific assistance to Bulgaria on avian influenza, additional hearing experts may be invited to future WG meetings (the required administrative steps will be dealt with by EFSA).

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/policy\\_independence.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/competing\\_interest\\_management\\_17.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2019-00039>



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

## ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

### MINUTES OF THE 19<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE STANDING WORKING GROUP ON AVIAN INFLUENZA

(MONITORING)

**WEB-conference, 04 September 2019**

**(Agreed on 13 September 2019)**

#### Participants

■ Standing Working Group Members:

Dominique BICOUT, Alice FUSARO, Thijs KUIKEN, Isabella MONNE, Krzysztof SMIETANKA, Christoph STAUBACH, Jan Arend STEGEMAN, Preben WILLEBERG

■ ECDC:

Cornelia ADLHOCH

■ EFSA:

ALPHA Unit: Francesca BALDINELLI, Yves VAN DER STADE

#### 1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Paolo MULATTI.

#### 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 Independence<sup>1</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management<sup>2</sup>, 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

The SWG discussed the draft of the AI report VIII. In section 4.2 on AI outbreaks in Europe, it was agreed to report the non-notifiable LPAI A(H1N1) and A(H3N1) viruses detected in the relevant period for the report in Italy and Belgium, respectively, as those viruses were characterised by an unusual animal and public health impact. In section 4.4 on the overview of the HPAI outbreaks reported from other countries not reporting via ADNS, it was agreed to include the description of the information on the HPAI A(H7N3) detected in a poultry meat product in Japan in the sub-section on A(H7N9), as the Japan virus was a reassortant of the zoonotic A(H7N9) and since there are no evidence indicating a sustained circulation of the virus. The WG experts reviewed the drafted sections on conclusions (main observations and conclusions), and suggestions. WG experts will review the document with attention to the sections on conclusions and suggestions and on the scientific analysis of AI spread from non-EU countries to poultry in the EU. Publication is foreseen by the end of September 2019.

#### 5. Next meeting(s)

Next WG meeting is scheduled for 2 December 2019.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/policy\\_independence.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/competing\\_interest\\_management\\_17.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf)



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

## ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

### MINUTES OF THE 18<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE STANDING WORKING GROUP ON AVIAN INFLUENZA

(SURVEILLANCE)

**Held on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2019, Parma**

**(Agreed on 22<sup>nd</sup> of February 2019)**

#### Participants

- Standing Working Group Members:
  - Adam Brouwer has participated via teleconference
  - Adeline Huneau has participated via teleconference
  - Arjan Stegeman has participated via teleconference
  - Jose Gonzales Rojas has participated via teleconference
  - Thijs Kuiken has participated via teleconference
- EFSA:
  - ALPHA Unit: Inma Aznar
- Apologies:
  - Christoph Staubach
  - Paolo Mulatti

#### 1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.



Apologies were received from Christoph Staubach and Paolo Mulatti as they could not participate on the meeting.

## 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 Independence<sup>1</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management<sup>2</sup>, 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 the first draft of the 2018 annual surveillance report<sup>3</sup>

An initial draft of the 2018 annual surveillance report for avian influenza was presented by Jose Gonzales Rojas. The initial draft contained a short introduction followed by a results section. In the results section, the tables and graphs that had been discussed at the previous SWG meeting on avian influenza surveillance, plus several other proposed graphs, were shown. An appendix with further graphs on poultry was also present. The main results were presented separately for poultry and wild birds. The tables and graphs presented were created using a non-fully validated dataset provided by EFSA. This dataset did not contain any geographical information. The discussion focused on the assessment and optimization of the tables and graphs produced by WBVR. Minor changes were suggested to improve the clarity of some of the graphs. In order for WBVR to create maps with the geographical location of the sampled wild birds and flocks, as well as to include an interpretation of these data, EFSA will provide the necessary shapefiles and data to WBVR. Once the 2018 annual surveillance data are fully validated, the new dataset will be supplied to Wageningen Bioveterinary Research (WBVR) by the 5<sup>th</sup> of July (including geo-location data), and the written scripts will be run with the final dataset. It was agreed that once the final dataset is supplied to WBVR, a new draft will be produced and shared with the rest of the SWG members on the last week of August 2019. This draft should have a revised text and should include all sections that will appear in the final report (including the discussion). SWG members will then have a chance to work on the report, prior to the next SWG meeting, with the aim to have a close-to-be final draft for the next meeting. EFSA suggested to share the document using Sharepoint so all members could work on the same document. EFSA will provide access to SWG members to this document.

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/policy\\_independence.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/competing\\_interest\\_management\\_17.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2019-00039>



#### **4.2. Validation tables in MicroStrategy (2019 annual surveillance report)**

The tables to be used for validation of data submitted to EFSA from 2019 onwards were made available to SWG members prior to the meeting. As there was no time to discuss them at the meeting, SWG members agreed to review them prior to the beginning of the data collection in July 2019.

### **5. Next meeting**

12<sup>th</sup> of September



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

## ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

### MINUTES OF THE 17<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE STANDING WORKING GROUP ON AVIAN INFLUENZA

(MONITORING: assisting MS carrying out the collection and the analysis  
of the epidemiological data on AI)

**Held on 10-11 April 2019, Sofia**

**(Agreed on 8 May 2019)**

#### Participants

■ Standing Working Group Members:

Nicola FERRE'

Matteo MAZZUCATO

Paolo MULATTI

■ Hearing Experts<sup>1</sup>:

Stefano MARANGON

Aleksandra MITEVA

■ EFSA:

ALPHA Unit: Francesca BALDINELLI

#### 1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

#### 2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

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<sup>1</sup> 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>.



### 3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence<sup>2</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management<sup>3</sup>, 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. Agreement of the minutes of the 14th Working Group meeting held on 21-22 February 2019, Parma.

The minutes of the 16<sup>th</sup> Standing Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 7 May 2019.

### 5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

EFSA organised the meeting in close collaboration with the EURL on AI with the aim to assist Bulgaria in enhancing the collection and the analysis of the data collected in the framework of the monitoring of AI. The context (mandate M-2017-0062<sup>4</sup>) of the meeting was explained and discussed. Bulgaria presented the data and the information that are routinely collected in case of suspicion and of confirmation of AI outbreak in Bulgaria. The discussion focussed on how the data collection is structured at regional level, on the data flow up to the central level, and on the IT supports available. The EURL reported the experience of Italy in case of suspicion/confirmation of AI outbreaks. The questionnaire used to collect information, the flow of these data and how these data are used to generate information needed to go ahead with the investigation (e.g. tracing, zoning) in Italy were discussed and taken into consideration when analysing and assessing the different scientific and technical components of the system in place in Bulgaria. Also, the demographic data on the poultry population available in Bulgaria were presented and discussed. Possible GIS training of Bulgarian staff to support spatial analysis of outbreak data was proposed. A further assessment of the IT infrastructure in place in Bulgaria (supporting the collection and the analysis of AI outbreak data) would help to identify the way forward to enhance the collection and the analysis of the AI data.

### 6. Next meeting(s)

June, to be confirmed.

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<sup>2</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/policy\\_independence.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/competing\\_interest\\_management\\_17.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/wicket/page?2>





ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

## ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

### MINUTES OF THE 16<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE STANDING WORKING GROUP ON AVIAN INFLUENZA

(MONITORING: assisting MS carrying out the collection and the analysis  
of the epidemiological data on AI)

**WEB-conference, 04 April 2019**

**(Agreed on 7 May 2019)**

#### Participants

- Standing Working Group Members:  
Nicola FERRE'  
Matteo MAZZUCATO
- EFSA:  
ALPHA Unit: Francesca BALDINELLI

#### 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 Independence<sup>1</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management<sup>2</sup>, 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. Agreement of the minutes of the 14th Working Group meeting held on 21-22 February 2019, Parma.**

The minutes of the 15<sup>th</sup> Standing Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 25 March 2019.

#### **5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion**

EFSA, in the framework of the mandate M-2017-0062<sup>3</sup>, has been requested to assist Member States carrying out the collection and the analysis of the epidemiological data on AI. EFSA should strive to collect data from all Member States affected by AI but limit the required data to those that are necessary and meaningful. EFSA can offer technical and scientific assistance on data collection to enhance analysis of data working in close collaboration with the EURL on AI, in order to generate useful information to effectively improve the surveillance and monitoring of AI. In the meeting, the technical aspects of the data collection (e.g. structure, IT systems) and their analysis (GIS) were discussed.

#### **6. Next meeting(s)**

10-11 April 2019, Sofia.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/policy\\_independence.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/competing\\_interest\\_management\\_17.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/wicket/page?2>

## ANIMAL AND PLANT UNIT

### MINUTES OF THE 15<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE STANDING WORKING GROUP ON AVIAN INFLUENZA

#### (MONITORING)

**Held on 04-05 March 2019, Brussels**

**(Agreed on 25 March 2019)**

#### Participants

■ Standing Working Group Members:

Thijs KUIKEN  
Isabella MONNE  
Paolo MULATTI  
Krzysztof SMIETANKA  
Christoph STAUBACH  
Calogero TERREGINO

■ European Commission:

Maria PITTMAN (DG SANCO) has participated in the agenda points 1, 2, 3, 5.1

■ EFSA:

ALPHA Unit: Francesca BALDINELLI

■ ECDC:

Cornelia ADLHOCH

#### 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 Independence<sup>1</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management<sup>2</sup>, 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. Agreement of the minutes of the 14th Working Group meeting held on 21-22 February 2019, Parma.

The minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> Standing Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 11 of March 2019.

## 5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

### 5.1. Structure and contents of the scientific reports on avian influenza overview<sup>3</sup>:

#### 5.1.1. ToR 1 – 2

The description of the LPAI findings in Europe in the scientific report was discussed, considering that, according to the Regulation (EU) 2016/479<sup>4</sup>, from 2021 it will not be mandatory for Member States to immediately notify LPAI in the EU via ADNS but report LPAI in the framework of AI surveillance. The WG agreed to continue to report and describe LPAI findings in Europe and to re-discuss this decision in the future when the new legislation will be effective.

The Commission informed the WG that it might be decided to postpone the publication of the next report to September 2019 if in the next three months the epidemiological situation of AI in the EU would not change (low virus circulation and only a few outbreaks). For this purpose, the WG will review the data on AI outbreaks coming from the ADNS and EMPRES-i for the period 16 February – 30 April 2019 to rapidly assess whether the epidemiological situation has changed or not from previous reporting period (16 November 2018 – 15 February 2019). The tables and figures for the section 'Overview of HPAI outbreaks in Europe during the current and previous seasons' were reviewed; it was decided to present in this section: an epicurve showing the weekly distribution of the outbreaks for the last three AI seasons; for the last two AI seasons a map showing the geographical distribution of the outbreaks; three epicurves for the weekly distribution of the outbreaks by virus subtype, affected poultry and wild birds

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/policy\\_independence.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/competing\\_interest\\_management\\_17.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2018-01043>

<sup>4</sup> Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on transmissible animal diseases and amending and repealing certain acts in the area of animal health ('Animal Health Law'). OJ L 84, 31.3.2016, p. 1–208.



species; pie charts showing the distribution of the outbreaks in poultry by bird species and sampling programme leading to the outbreak detection.

For the literature review on phenotypic characterisation of HPAI viruses circulating in Europe and in other continents, only the HPAI infections with viruses circulating within the last two years will be described in the AI reports; whereas for the search on the genetic characterisation of HPAI viruses circulating in other continents, the information retrieved will be reported only if new.

### 5.1.2. ToR 3 – 4

For the applied prevention and control measures, in case only few countries in Europe would be affected by HPAI outbreaks in poultry or wild birds during a specific reporting period, it was discussed and agreed to include in the scientific report only the case-reports as they are provided by the affected countries.

Maps in TOR 4 showing the geographical distribution of outbreaks by virus subtype will report historical data limited to one year before the starting of the reporting period (e.g. for reporting period 16 November 2018 – 15 February 2019, historical data showed on the map will cover 15 November 2017 – 15 November 2018). In case of findings of HPAI outbreaks different from H5N1, H5N6, H5N8, H7N9, it was agreed to report them all in a dedicated section with the description of the detections in birds and without a dedicated literature search to retrieve information on phenotypic and genetic characterisation of the virus. As good working practise, it was suggested to dedicate the WG meetings to discuss any controversial points of the scientific reports and to exchange drafted text, proposals for changes, or comments via mail before the meeting.

## 5.2. Scientific report 'Avian influenza overview November 2018 – February 2019' (AI report VII)

The WG experts reviewed and updated the text in the sections on conclusions (main observations and conclusions) and suggestions during the meeting. The whole draft of the report was reviewed, and the main comments and proposed changes discussed and fixed.

As a consequence of the HPAI A(H5N6) virus isolated from a common gull in Russia in October 2018, it was agreed to actively search for any information available related to this finding via ECDC and EURL network with the aim of reporting it, and to include in the document a description of the migratory pathway for this species. Methods other than passive surveillance were discussed with a view to early detect HPAI virus in wild birds and to complement passive systems that may not be sensitive enough if the prevalence or case fatality in wild birds is very low. It was agreed to mention in the report the AI outbreaks occurred in Europe and notified to the ADNS outside the reporting period for this report (after 15 February 2018). For the HPAI outbreak in Bulgaria in the establishment rearing mixed species, it was suggested to specify which species showed signs of HPAI infection. Figures and tables in TOR 4 will be updated reporting the historical data as decided in the previous day (point 5.1. of the minutes of the meeting).

Also, the timeline for finalisation, approval and publication of the document was agreed as in the table below:

Date (from-to)	Activity
8–13 Mar	WG to finalise draft 3 and review phase



14–21 Mar	Approval of the report by ECDC
21 Mar–25 Mar	Approval of the report by EURL to approve
25 Mar–26 Mar	Approval of the report by EFSA to approve
26 Mar	EFSA send the report VII to Wiley for publication
29 Mar	Wiley publish report VII

## 6. Next meeting(s)

EFSA scientific report on AI monitoring	Dates for the WG web-meetings
Report VIII	June (TBD)
Report IX	4 September (14.00-18.00)
Report X	2 December (14.00-18.00)

## ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

### MINUTES OF THE 14<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE STANDING WORKING GROUP ON AVIAN INFLUENZA

(SURVEILLANCE)

**Held on 21-22<sup>nd</sup> February 2019, Parma**

**(Agreed on 11 March 2019)**

#### Participants

■ Standing Working Group Members:

Adam Brouwer

Adeline Huneau

Arjan Stegeman

Christoph Staubach has participated via teleconference

Jose Gonzales Rojas has participated via teleconference

Paolo Mulatti

Thijs Kuiken has participated via teleconference, in the second day of the meeting

■ EFSA:

ALPHA Unit: Inma Aznar

#### 1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Thijs Kuiken as he could not participate on the first day of the meeting.

#### 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 Independence<sup>1</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management<sup>2</sup>, 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. Agreement of the minutes of the 13th Working Group meeting held on 19 December 2019, Legnaro.

The minutes of the 13th Standing Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 09<sup>th</sup> of January 2019.

### 5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

#### 5.1. Structure of the 2018 annual surveillance report<sup>3</sup>

The SWG agreed on the structure of the 2018 annual surveillance report. At the meeting, it was agreed that this report will, in general, mirror the structure of the 2017 annual report produced by APHA (Weybridge, UK). The main changes proposed for the 2018 report will be associated with a reduction in the length of the report by restricting the text to scientifically highlighted data events (main results, unexpected results, or any other important information relevant for the reporting year).

#### 5.2. Poultry tables and figures (2018 annual surveillance report)

The tables and figures for poultry data shown in the APHA 2017 annual report were reviewed in terms of the scientific information provided, as well as ease of interpretation. The reviewing was carried out on a one-to-one basis. Each visual was assessed and an agreement was made on whether the item should be kept in the 2018 report. When the item was considered to be scientifically relevant to be kept, possible improvements were also discussed. An overview of the full content of information provided in the 2017 report was also carried out. Some suggestions were made on how to merge information currently provided via several tables/figures, into a unique table/figure.

#### 5.3. Poultry tables and figures (2019 annual surveillance report)

The tables and figures for poultry data to be shown in the 2019 annual report were reviewed as a separate exercise from the reviewing of the 2018 tables/figures. EFSA is expecting MSs to submit data aggregated at NUTS 3 and monthly level, starting with the surveillance data submission taking place in 2019. If data are submitted aggregated at monthly level (rather than at 6 month level as previously), showing the timeline aspect of the sampling carry out by MSs would be a scientifically important output to include in the 2019 report. The main change with respect to the 2018 annual report was therefore foreseen as the introduction of timeline graphs/figures describing the sampling carry out by MSs over a calendar year. Most of the other figures and tables would remain the same as per 5.2.

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/policy\\_independence.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/competing\\_interest\\_management\\_17.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2019-00039>





#### **5.4. Zenodo/dashboards**

During the meeting, a discussion took place in relation to the size of some of the tables shown in the 2017 annual report. As showing data for all MSs in an A4 format can become cumbersome and not always easy, the SWG agreed on exploring the possibility of using Zenodo as a repository for excel sheets containing these data in the 2018 annual report. The link to access these data would then be provided in the annual report. The use of dashboards to display data in an interactive manner was also discussed. Although not possible for the 2018 report, a dashboard for poultry was designed for the 2019 annual report.

#### **5.5. Wild birds tables and figures (2018/2019 annual surveillance reports)**

The tables and figures shown in the 2017 annual surveillance report for wild bird data were reviewed in a similar way to the poultry tables and figures. In this case, as very little changes are expected in the type of data that MSs will report to EFSA from 2019 onwards (with respect to that submitted to the EC), all changes discussed will apply to both the 2018 and 2019 annual reports.

#### **5.6. Zenodo/dashboards**

As in 5.4., the use of Zenodo for the 2018 annual report, and the use of dashboards for the 2019 report were discussed. Two potential dashboards showing wild bird data were designed. A third dashboard showing data from poultry and wild birds together was also discussed.

## **6. Next meeting**

TBD

## Minutes of the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Working Group on AVIAN INFLUENZA

(AI monitoring and surveillance)

19 December 2018, IZS<sup>Ve</sup> (Legnaro)

(Agreed on 9 January 2019)

### Participants:

- **Working Group Members:** Calogero TERREGINO, Paolo MULATTI, Isabella MONNE
- **Hearing Experts:** Francesca SCHOLAMACCIA, Stefano MARANGON
- **EFSA:** Inma AZNAR, Francesca BALDINELLI

### 1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The chair welcomed the participants.

### 2. Adoption of agenda

The points raised by email were adopted as agenda points without changes.

### 3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes<sup>1</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest<sup>2</sup>, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest and the Specific Declarations of Interest (SDoI) filled in by the working group members invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

#### 4. Scientific topics for discussion

Ahead of the appointment for IZSve to become the new EURL for Avian Influenza from 2019 onwards, EFSA wanted to welcome its new working partner and expressed its appreciation for the beginning of a close productive working relationship. Several points to be discussed were distributed among the participants by email prior to the meeting, and they were considered the agenda items. The main topics discussed are summarized below.

- Avian influenza monitoring activities

- EFSA expressed its interest in collaborating closely with IZSve in the production and publication of the quarterly scientific reports on AI monitoring. These reports have been produced to date in collaboration with the current EURL and ECDC. EFSA envisages the role of IZSve in this report as not only providing a specific contribution on certain scientific topics (e.g. genetic characterisation of the AI viruses circulating in Europe, pathogenicity mapping, evaluation of human adaptation and transmissibility of relevant avian flu viruses for the report), but also getting involved in the approval process of each of these reports. IZSve indicated that they were aware of these scientific reports and that they would be happy to contribute towards them. IZSve stressed the need of a working agreement to be put in place to clearly itemize the work that it would be expected from them. EFSA will circulate this agreement to IZSve for them to review.

- Support activities in case of a special situation with regard of AI outbreaks in Europe

- IZSve highlighted the changing nature of the AI situation in Europe and reflected on the need for a detailed look up of the epidemiological picture at times when an unexpectedly large number of outbreaks occur in specific countries, or when facing any other unpredicted situations. EFSA agreed and specifically referred to the current situation in Bulgaria. EFSA announced that it has committed support to Bulgaria and that a meeting is expected to take place early in January to discuss the specifics of their needs. EFSA invited IZSve to be part of this initiative by nominating a person that could follow up on these activities. For this, IZSve would like to first see a description of the activities and the specific work that they will be required to carry out. EFSA will revert back to IZSve once a clear pathway in relation to actions to be taken to support Bulgaria has been designed. The Bulgaria example could then be used to put in place a specific long term agreement between EFSA and IZSve describing the expected support from IZSve when dealing with these special situations.

- Avian influenza surveillance activities

- EFSA will be in charge of collecting, collating and analysing the AI surveillance data gathered by MSs in poultry and wild birds with an annual report being

produced from 2019 onwards. The data submitted by MSs to the EC for the surveillance activities carried out in 2018 will also be analysed by EFSA, with the annual report being produced by EFSA at the end of next year. EFSA invited IZSve to nominate a representative who could be part of the SWG on AI for the surveillance activities. The initial activities planned for the SWG would encompass the shaping and the design of the annual surveillance report. For that, EFSA will organize a number of SWG meetings (approximately 3) where SWG members will provide support in the design of the lay-out of the report and subsequently will help to analyse, produce and edit such report. Most of the workload will be carried out during the SWG meetings but members will be required to support EFSA outside the meetings to prepare for these meetings. IZSve will consider this offer; EFSA suggested putting together a draft detailing the specific work to be required from IZSve in this regard.

- Other topics

- EFSA informed IZSve on other initiatives such as the two procurements forms signed lately with the ENETWILD consortium to gather data on wild bird species in Europe. EFSA agreed to share the details with IZSve.
- EFSA signalled its intention to design a pilot project looking at surveillance strategies in some of the MSs that voluntarily want to share this information. IZSve was keen on the initiative and offered to be part of this pilot project. Further information will be shared with IZSve in the short future.
- IZSve informed EFSA that the next Annual Meeting of the National Laboratories for Avian Influenza and Newcastle Disease of the European Union Member States will take place in Padua, probably in late June 2019. IZSve will be in charge of organizing the event. EFSA expressed its wish to collaborate with IZSve in drafting the agenda of the meeting. IZSve will provide EFSA further information in the near future.

# Minutes of the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Working Group on AVIAN INFLUENZA

## (AI monitoring report)

**4 December 2018, web-meeting**

**(Agreed on 2 January 2019)**

**Meeting date: 4/12/2018 (14:30-18:30)**

### **Participants:**

- **Working Group Members as hearing expert:**

Aleksandra MITEVA

- **EFSA:**

Francesca BALDINELLI, Andrey GOGIN (ALPHA)

### **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 Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes<sup>1</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director implementing this Policy regarding Declarations of Interests<sup>2</sup>, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest and the Specific Declaration of interest filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of interest at the beginning of this meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules.pdf>

#### **4. Scientific topics for discussion**

The situation in Bulgaria with regard of HPAI H5N8 outbreaks occurring since April 2018 was discussed in details.

Bulgaria expressed the interest in collaborating with EFSA for describing in the AI monitoring report VI the outbreaks occurred in the relevant period for the report. In particular EFSA and Bulgaria will work together to give in the document a description of the poultry establishments in Bulgaria by Regions and species, and of the enhanced surveillance activities carried out in the last months.

EFSA will check the proportion of affected establishments in Bulgaria where poultry showed signs (clinical and non-clinical) of HPAI infection looking at the data collected via the EFSA data model since 2016. This will help in reviewing the current conclusions of the AI report VI and to have an indication of the sensitivity of the passive surveillance particularly in duck establishments.

The possibility of having a WG meeting beginning 2019 in Bulgaria in order to give scientific support to Bulgarian authorities in further investigate the current situation in relation of AI was discussed and agreed. Possible actions and specifics of the support that EFSA would be pleased to offer as well as specific needs from Bulgaria will be discussed early January 2019.

# Minutes of the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Working Group on AVIAN INFLUENZA

## (AI monitoring report)

**4 December 2018, web-meeting**

**(Agreed on 2 January 2019)**

**Meeting date: 4/12/2018 (10:00-14:00)**

### **Participants:**

- **Working Group Members:**

Adam BROUWER, Thijs KUIKEN, Krzysztof SMIETANKA, Christoph STAUBACH

- **Other:**

Cornelia ADLHOCH (ECDC)

- **EFSA:**

Francesca BALDINELLI (ALPHA)

### **1. Welcome and apologies for absence**

The chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Paolo MULATTI.

### **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 Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes<sup>1</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director implementing this Policy regarding Declarations of Interests<sup>2</sup>, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest and the Specific Declaration of

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules.pdf>

interest filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of interest at the beginning of this meeting.

#### **4. Scientific topics for discussion**

The SWG experts reviewed the drafted sections on conclusions (main observations and conclusions), and suggestions.

The experts were informed that EFSA was working with representative from Bulgaria to finalise section 4.1.2.1 on the characterisation of the HPAI affected poultry establishments in Bulgaria. The SWG was also informed on the on-going genetic analysis being performed by EURL on characterisation of the HPAI viruses isolated from Bulgaria. Section 4.3 on genetic characterisation of AI viruses circulating in Europe will be drafted by EURL as soon as the results will be available. Also, EURL will draft conclusions and suggestions accordingly to these results.

A HPAI A(H5Nx) outbreak, detected in the relevant period for this report in western Russia, was reported to OIE. No information on the N type is available from official sources (i.e. OIE or FAO); EURL will inform the WG in case any information on the N type would become available. This outbreak was reported from an European area of Russia; it was discussed whether to describe it or not in section 4.1 (HPAI and LPAI outbreaks in Europe), since the outbreak was not reported via ADNS as all the ones described in this section. It was left to EFSA to report the outbreak in section 4.1 or 4.4 and to structure the two sections accordingly.

In section 4.4 on the overview of the HPAI outbreaks reported from other countries not reporting via ADNS, it was agreed to report in Table 4 and Figure 8 only outbreaks occurring in birds.

The SWG agreed to keep the Figures on distribution of outbreaks/human cases over time even if no new detections were reported in the period of interest; this will help to give a clear and complete view of the situation to the reader and avoiding to go back to the previous published reports to retrieve these information. Also, for the sake of completeness it was discussed and agreed to keep the second section of the paragraph 4.5 on scientific analysis of AI spread from non-EU/EEA countries to poultry in the EU/EEA, even if there are no changes from previous published report,.

For the section on LPAI and HPAI A(H7N9) in birds, as no new cases have been reported in the reporting period, the map will not be showed.

The way of retrieving information on phenotypic and genetic characterisation of HPAI viruses circulating in Europe and in other countries via literature search was discussed. As recently published papers usually do not report information on the most recently detected



viruses, some criticisms were highlighted on the relevance of reporting information on non-recently detected viruses (e.g. viruses from 2012). It was decided to continue with this approach for the current report but to further discuss this point for the next report.

SWG experts will review the document with particular attention to the sections on conclusions and suggestions and on the scientific analysis of AI spread from non-EU countries to poultry in the EU.

Publication is foreseen by the end of 2018.

## **5. Next meeting**

Next WG meeting is scheduled for 4-5 March in Brussels.

## Minutes of the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Working Group on AVIAN INFLUENZA

(AI surveillance report)

**09 October 2018, Parma**

**(Agreed on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2018)**

### **Participants:**

- **Working Group Members:** Adeline HUNEAU SALAUN (via web), Arjan STEGEMAN (via web), Thijs KUIKEN (via web), Christoph STAUBACH (via web), Adam BROUWER (via web).
- **EFSA:** Inma AZNAR

### **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 Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes<sup>1</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest<sup>2</sup>, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest and the Specific Declarations of Interest (SDoI) filled in by the working group members invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

## **4. Scientific topics for discussion**

### **4.1. Scientific report 'Reporting avian influenza surveillance'**

A brief summary of the main topics discussed at the latest Avian Influenza (AI) Workshop held in Parma on the 20-21<sup>st</sup> of September was presented. The aim was to inform SWG members of the feedback received from Member States (MSs) representatives during the workshop. A number of changes in the AI surveillance scientific draft report were made to detail the gradual implementation of the collection framework. Also, a subsection was added to all the sections in the document with a description of the expected framework for the 2019 data collection. The new subsections added were discussed and it was agreed that SWG members will read the document once more and make remaining changes prior to circulating it to MSs representatives.

## **5. Next meeting**

Teleconference TBD

## Minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Working Group on AVIAN INFLUENZA

(AI workshop)

**20-21 September 2018, Parma**

**(Agreed on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2018)**

**Meeting date: 20-21/09/2018 (9.00-13.00)**

### **Participants:**

- **Working Group Members:**

Paolo MULATTI, Christoph STAUBACH, Jan Arend STEGEMAN,  
Calogero TERREGINO

- **Hearing experts:**

HOEFLECHNER Andrea (AT), KRASIAS Giorgios (CY), Richard  
WALLO (CZ), Timm HARDER (DE), Pernille NIELSEN (DK),  
Charlotte HJULSAGER (DK), Kärt JAARMA (EE), Elena GARCIA  
VILLACIEROS (ES), Niina TAMMIRANTA (FI), Marie  
GRANDCOLLOT-CHABOT (FR), Eric NIQUEUX (FR), PERDIKARIS  
Sokratis (GR), Tihana MISKIC (HR), Mark HOVARI (HU), Laura  
GARZA CUARTERO (IR), Francesca SCOLAMACCHIA (IT), Vilija  
GRIGALIUNIENE (LT), Mara UZULE (LV), Marcel SPIERENBURG  
(NL), Siri Kulberg SJURSETH (NO), Edyta SWIETON (PL), Renata  
CARVALHO (PT), Theodora CHESNOIU VASILE (RO), Linda  
ERNHOLM (SE), Vilem KOPRIVA (SK), Aleksandra HARI (SI),  
Helen ROBERTS (UK)

- **Other:**

Cornelia ADLHOCH (ECDC)

- **EFSA:**

Laura AMATO, Inma AZNAR, Francesca BALDINELLI, Andrey  
GOGIN, Frank VERDONCK, Nik KRIZ (ALPHA), Jane RICHARDSON,  
Anca STOICESCU (DATA), Irene MUNOZ GUAJARDO, José  
CORTINAS ABRAHANTES (AMU)

### **1. Welcome and apologies for absence**

The chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Adam BROUWER, Ian BROWN, Philip HOUDART, Adeline HUNEAU, Thijs KUIKEN, Aleksandra MITEVA and Krzysztof SMIETANKA.

## **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 Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes<sup>1</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director implementing this Policy regarding Declarations of Interests<sup>2</sup>, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest and the Specific Declaration of interest filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of interest at the beginning of this meeting.

## **4. Scientific topics for discussion**

### **4.1. Scientific reports on 'Avian influenza overview'**

- 4.1.1. Francesca Baldinelli and Christoph Staubach presented to the participants the EFSA scientific reports on 'avian influenza overview'. The background of the mandate, the terms of reference as received from the Commission, and the aim of the document, were presented. The structure and the contents of the animal health sections within Europe and worldwide were illustrated and discussed with the MS representatives.
- 4.1.2. Cornelia Adlhoch presented some statistics on page views and pdf downloads from the ECDC website for the four reports published so far. An overview of the human cases worldwide was presented according to the AI virus subtype.
- 4.1.3. The feedbacks received from MSs on the scientific report on 'avian influenza overview' were presented. MSs that commented the document gave more background and explained the reasons behind the different proposals. All the proposals received from the MS representatives will be further discussed within the AI SWG and when feasible, they will be

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules.pdf>

implemented to improve the quality of report and to make it more informative for the MSs.

#### **4.2. Scientific report on Avian influenza surveillance**

- 4.2.1. A review of the challenges encountered and lessons learnt during the compilation and analysis of the AI surveillance data was presented by Helen Roberts from slides prepared by Adam Brouwer. The most common errors occurring during the data submission were described and some recommendations were given in terms of data validation.

A presentation with a summary of the results of the latest Avian Influenza surveillance report was also prepared by Adam Brower and presented by Helen Roberts.

- 4.2.2. Jane Richardson presented the basic concepts of the Standard Sample Description (SSD2) for reporting data to EFSA. The different data collections for which SSD2 have been already implemented were briefly described. The presentation followed with a description of the SSD2 elements that will be used for submitting AI surveillance data to EFSA and the equivalent fields in the current submission to the European Commission. A description of the submission and validation process was presented.
- 4.2.3. The SSD2 model designed to collect AI surveillance data in EFSA was tested using real data from Ireland through a pilot project. Prior to this presentation, and as part of the pilot project, the details on how to submit data to EFSA and the different elements of the SSD2 model were shown to Laura Garza. Laura had the opportunity to fit the Irish AI surveillance data on poultry and wild birds onto the model. During the presentation Laura Garza provided feedback on her experience when trying to submit AI surveillance data using the newly designed EFSA model.
- 4.2.4. An open discussion commenced where MS representatives were able to make some queries in relation to the SSD2 model and express their concerns in relation to data availability. A questionnaire was distributed through the MS representatives with specific questions on data availability and ease of access of these data. The questionnaire was distributed electronically via EUSurvey. The results were discussed the following day.
- 4.2.5. Calogero Terregino introduced the new European Reference Laboratory for Avian Influenza (starting from the 1st of January 2019): Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie (IZSVe). In this presentation, the current activities of the laboratory were described.

- 4.2.6. A spatial tool currently used by EFSA to visualise ASF surveillance and disease data was presented by Andrey Gogin and José Cortinas. The type of outputs produced as well as a quick tutorial on how to use the application were presented.
- 4.2.7. A spatial tool to visualize ASF developed by FLI was introduced by Christoph Staubach. 15 MSs use this tool in order to visualize their own data and avail from standardized reports. The record viewer, map explorer and analytical options within the tool were briefly presented.
- 4.2.8. An open discussion was held between EFSA and the participants on the usefulness of a similar tool to the tools used for ASF, to visualise AI surveillance and disease data. As MSs did not consider it useful it was agreed that it would not be a priority for EFSA.
- 4.2.9. The Delta Flu project and the different partners of the Delta Flu consortium were introduced by Francesca Scolamacchia. The work done within the work package 2 (task 2.1) to determine the environmental factors associated with an increased risk of AI virus incursion in poultry was presented. To validate the model, the same data analysis on historical AI outbreaks in poultry would be needed. For this purpose, EFSA might receive an external request for sharing data on AI outbreaks published in the 'Avian Influenza' scientific opinion in 2017 and those collected for the reports on 'Avian influenza overview'. In that case, all the involved Member States will be contacted by EFSA.
- 4.2.10. A summary of the responses to the EUSurvey questionnaire on data availability and ease of access of these data, provided the day before to participants, was presented.
- 4.2.11. A presentation on the added value of carrying out virological follow up of H5/H7 seropositive holdings was done by Arjan Stegeman. After consideration of the limitations of this type of follow up, some recommendations in terms of how to interpret and carry out epidemiological follow up were given.
- 4.2.12. The comments made by MS representatives on the AI scientific draft report circulated early this summer were discussed in light of the discussions held during the workshop. Amendments currently made to the initial draft were presented and further amendments were discussed and will be implemented before the report is finalised.
- 4.2.13. A summary of the topics discussed during the workshop was presented. Further, action points to be carried out by EFSA in the short term were announced. Aside, MSs were reassured

that ongoing help will be provided by EFSA to facilitate the initial data submission. It was agreed that an initial package will be circulated to Mss shortly, for them to practice the data collation and submission. EFSA announced that help in terms of technical support will be provided to MSs that wish to submit non-aggregated data to EFSA.



## Minutes of the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Working Group on AVIAN INFLUENZA

(AI surveillance report)

**04 September 2018, Parma**

**(Agreed on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2018)**

### **Participants:**

- **Working Group Members:** Adeline HUNEAU SALAUN (via web), Arjan STEGEMAN (via web), Thijs KUIKEN (via web), Christoph STAUBACH (via web).
- **EFSA:** Inma AZNAR

### **1. Welcome and apologies for absence**

The chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Adam Brouwer.

### **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 Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes<sup>1</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest<sup>2</sup>, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest and the Specific Declarations of Interest (SDoI) filled in by the working group members invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

## **4. Scientific topics for discussion**

### **4.1. Scientific report 'Reporting avian influenza surveillance'**

The phases of the implementation of the Data Collection Framework (DCF) for Avian Influenza (AI), the submission process and the interface for submitting data were discussed at the meeting. At the meeting it was agreed that a step-by-step process for data collection will be proposed to MSs at the forthcoming workshop on AI. A draft summarising the list of variables to be submitted to EFSA in the first phase of the DCF (including the corresponding codes/elements in SSD2) was shared with SWG members prior to the meeting and discussed at the meeting. At the meeting it was agreed that, in the first phase of the DCF, the type of data requested by EFSA would, in essence, be similar to the type of data requested and submitted currently to the Commission. The small number of differences in the data requested, with respect to that submitted to the Commission, were also discussed and agreed with SWG members. In order to help with the design of the second phase of the DCF it was agreed that EFSA, at this workshop, will discuss the possibility for some MSs to submit non-aggregated, spatially explicit data to EFSA as part of a pilot study. These spatially explicit data would help EFSA to assess the risk factors for AI introduction, and also to better define the data needs and changes to be proposed to MSs for the second phase of the DCF. The feed-back from MSs in terms of the pilot study will then be discussed at the next SWG meeting. During the meeting, comments received from MSs representatives on the scientific draft report on 'Reporting Avian Influenza surveillance' were discussed. EFSA will make changes to the scientific report in agreement with the topics discussed at the meeting and the report will be circulated again to SWG members.

## **5. Next meeting**

Teleconference 9<sup>th</sup> October

# Minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Working Group on AVIAN INFLUENZA

## (AI monitoring report)

**3 September 2018, web-meeting**

**(Agreed on 10 September 2018)**

**Meeting date: 3/09/2018 (14:00-18:00)**

### **Participants:**

- **Working Group Members:**

Thijs KUIKEN, Krzysztof SMIETANKA, Christoph STAUBACH

- **Other:**

Cornelia ADLHOCH (ECDC)

- **EFSA:**

Francesca BALDINELLI, Laura AMATO (ALPHA)

### **1. Welcome and apologies for absence**

The chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Adam BROUWER and Paolo MULATTI.

### **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 Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes<sup>1</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director implementing this Policy regarding Declarations of Interests<sup>2</sup>, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest and the Specific Declaration of interest filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules.pdf>

conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of interest at the beginning of this meeting.

#### 4. Scientific topics for discussion

The SWG experts drafted the sections on conclusions, including the main observations, and suggestions. A few outbreaks were observed in the reporting period in the EU. Since the assignment of a virus to a clade is based on the H5 sequence only, it was clarified that all European AI outbreaks in domestic and wild birds cluster with their 2.3.4.4b clade but the overall gene composition is different to the human case detected in China, and no human infection related to A(H5) viruses detected in birds in Europe has been reported so far. It was agreed to report the HPAI A(H5N2) outbreak that occurred in poultry in Russia and to look into the OIE reports and in other possible sources to find out information about the clade. For this reporting period a decreasing number of outbreaks have been observed outside Europe compared to the previous reporting period. However, the situation in Russia (connected with fall migration route of wild birds), the fall migration of wild birds that will start next weeks and, the reduced temperature expected in the next weeks are of concern for the possible introduction of AI viruses into the EU. It was agreed to start the ECDC approval one day before the planned timetable below.

<b>Date (from-to)</b>	<b>Activity</b>
<b>3 Sep</b>	WG meeting
<b>7–13 Sep</b>	WG to finalise report V and start the review phase
<b>7–17 Sep</b>	ECDC to approve report V
<b>18–20 Sep</b>	EURL to approve report V
<b>21–24 Sep</b>	EFSA to approve report V
<b>25 Sep</b>	EFSA to send Report IV to Wiley for publication
<b>28 Sep</b>	Wiley to publish report IV

## Minutes of the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Working Group on AVIAN INFLUENZA

7<sup>th</sup> August 2018, web meeting

(Agreed on 21<sup>th</sup> August 2018)

### Participants:

- **Working Group Members:** Dominique Bicout, Helen Roberts, Krzysztof Smietanka
- **Working Group hearing experts:** Farouk El Allaki, Ingrid Kotowski
- **EFSA:** Frank VERDONCK (ALPHA unit), Angel ORTIZ PELAEZ (BIOCONTAM unit)

### 1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The chair welcomed the participants. Dominique Bicout was only involved in reviewing of the draft document whereas the hearing experts were only involved in the expert hearing session. Apologies were received from Jose Luis Gonzales Rojas.

### 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 Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes<sup>1</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest<sup>2</sup>, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled in by the working group members invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

#### 4. Scientific topics for discussion

The meeting consisted of three main parts:

- **Review of the draft document**

A detailed review of the document took place and suggestions to improve the methodology section were made.

- **Detailed discussion on the table egg part**

A simplified version of the risk pathway was discussed and it was agreed to describe the rules used to combine two or more probabilities. The different steps of the assessment on LPAI transmission via table eggs were discussed in detail and consensus was obtained on the corresponding probabilities.

- **Expert hearing session**

The role of hearing expert was again explained and the scope of the mandate was clarified. A detailed discussion took place on a study that was not yet considered by the working group. Also additional studies on the comparison of different inoculation routes were brought to the attention of the working group. The methodology used to determine the probabilities was clarified and the EFSA Guidance Document on uncertainty was mentioned as basis for the uncertainty assessment. A better separation of the origin of raw poultry meat/table eggs (i.e. from commercial or non-commercial flocks) was taken on board.

#### 5. Next meeting

Teleconference 3-4 September 2018

# Minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Working Group on AVIAN INFLUENZA

**30 July 2018, web meeting**

**(Agreed on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2018)**

## **Participants:**

- **Working Group Members:** Helen Roberts, Krzysztof Smietanka
- **EFSA:** Frank VERDONCK (ALPHA unit), Angel ORTIZ PELAEZ (BIOCONTAM unit)

## **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 Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes<sup>1</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest<sup>2</sup>, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled in by the working group members invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

#### **4. Scientific topics for discussion**

The risk pathway and the probabilities of each step were discussed in detail and consensus was achieved. The argumentations underpinning the probability of infection and the probability of establishment and spread were clarified and elaborated in the draft document. It was agreed to make it clear in the document that exposure, infection and establishment are interlinked. Commercial and non-commercial holdings were differentiated in the consequence assessment. An initial discussion took place on the assessment of LPAIV exposure, infection, establishment and spread via table eggs. The assessment will consider only LPAIV present inside table eggs.

#### **5. Next meeting**

Teleconference 7 August 2018



## Minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Working Group on AVIAN INFLUENZA

18 July 2018, Parma

(Agreed on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2018)

### Participants:

- **Working Group Members:** Jose Gonzales (via web), Helen Roberts, Krzysztof Smietanka (via web)
- **EFSA:** Frank VERDONCK (ALPHA unit), Angel ORTIZ PELAEZ (BIOCONTAM unit)

### 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 Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes<sup>1</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest<sup>2</sup>, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled in by the working group members invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

#### **4. Scientific topics for discussion**

The background of the mandate and the Terms of Reference were presented and debated. A detailed discussion took place on the approach that would be taken. It was agreed to perform a qualitative risk assessment based on the available scientific evidence and expert opinion. The literature collected for the latest avian influenza opinion will be used and updated from 2016 till mid-2018. Terms like raw meat, table eggs and poultry were clarified. The borders of the assessment were discussed and defined.

#### **5. Next meeting**

Teleconference 30 July 2018

## Minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Standing Working Group on AVIAN INFLUENZA

05 July 2018, Parma

(Agreed on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2018)

### Participants:

- **Working Group Members:** Adam BROUWER (via web), Adeline HUNEAU SALAUN (via web), Arjan STEGEMAN (via web), Thijs KUIKEN (via web), Christoph STAUBACH (via web).
- **EFSA:** Inma AZNAR, Frank VERDONCK (ALPHA unit)

### 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 Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes<sup>1</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest<sup>2</sup>, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest and the Specific Declarations of Interest (SDoI) filled in by the working group members invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

## **4. Scientific topics for discussion**

### **4.1. Scientific report 'Reporting avian influenza surveillance'**

The scientific report was discussed in details with Standing Working Group (SWG) members focusing on comments previously made by them. The 'active' 'passive' terms to describe the surveillance activities carried out by Member States (MSs) were discussed at the meeting in the context of replacing them by terms used by OIE and FAO such as "general" and "targeted" surveillance. The SWG agreed that EFSA will read a recent document submitted to MSs in terms of Animal Health Law (AHL) where these terms were discussed. EFSA will follow up on creating a glossary of terms aligned with AHL. The incorporation of outbreak data to the surveillance data was also discussed. SWG members agreed that these data should be included as 'desirable data' in the scientific report. EFSA will review the document to incorporate this data need in the most appropriate place(s). An initial draft of a questionnaire to collect information from MSs on the criteria used to design their respective Risk Based Surveillance programmes for Avian Influenza in poultry had been previously circulated to SWG members. This questionnaire was discussed with the intention to collect suggestions on how it could be improved. Due to the uncertainty on whether or not the questionnaire would be applicable to all MSs, EFSA and SWG members agreed on EFSA collecting all readily available information on the criteria used by a selected number of MSs. This information would then be used as a trial to examine the validity of the questionnaire.

## **5. Next meeting**

Teleconference 3-4<sup>th</sup> September

## Minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Standing Working Group on AVIAN INFLUENZA

**04-05 June 2018, Parma**

**(Agreed on 15 June 2018)**

### **Participants:**

- **Working Group Members:** Adam BROUWER (via web), Adeline HUNEAU SALAUN, Thijs KUIKEN (via web), Christoph STAUBACH, Arjan STEGEMAN
- **EFSA:** Laura AMATO, Inma AZNAR, Francesca BALDINELLI, Frank VERDONCK (ALPHA unit)
- **ECDC:** Cornelia ADLHOCH

### **1. Welcome and apologies for absence**

The chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Paolo MULATTI, Krzysztof SMIETANKA and Ian BROWN. Cornelia ADLHOCH only participated in the discussion of the scientific report 'AI overview Feb-May 2018 (AI report IV)', whereas Adeline HUNEAU SALAUN and Arjan STEGEMAN only participated in the discussion of the scientific report 'reporting AI surveillance'.

### **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 Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes<sup>1</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest<sup>2</sup>, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest and the Specific Declarations of Interest (SDoI) filled in by the working group members invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

## **4. Scientific topics for discussion**

### **4.1. Scientific report 'Avian influenza overview February – May 2018' (AI report IV)**

The current version of the draft document was discussed in detail. A few questions were listed which required clarification by the Member States with affected poultry holdings and/or wild bird cases within the reporting period. The main observations, conclusions and suggestions were reviewed and edited where required. The number of HPAI-positive raptors was high in the reporting period. It was agreed to check the evolution of sampling raptors over the last decade. The number of HPAI outbreaks in poultry holdings was low in comparison to the number of wild bird events and possible explanations were discussed. The detection of HPAI A(H5N8) infected wild birds in Southern Africa was noted, followed by a discussion on their possible inclusion in targeted active surveillance schemes at a few priority locations in Europe in order to detect HPAI A(H5) antibodies. The number of suggestions was reduced.

### **4.2. Scientific report 'Reporting avian influenza surveillance'**

The purpose of the future annual reports on AI surveillance was discussed in detail. For each identified outcome, it was clarified whether it was applicable to poultry, wild birds or both and the possible methodological approach was discussed. It was agreed to describe the add-on value to risk managers in case the outcome would be achieved. The WG went systematically through the document to describe which outcomes would be achieved in case mandatory and/or desirable data would be submitted by the Member States. The practical aspects of data collection, reporting and analysis were discussed in detail. It was clear that the future data collection system should be able to receive individual data as well as aggregated information. It would be a major step forward if data would be aggregated maximally by month (time dimension) and at NUTS3 level (geographical dimension). On the other hand, reporting follow up of seropositive establishments should be done at individual level. Questionnaires could be used, for instance to collect information on how Member States determine risk factors and their weighting (in case of risk-based surveillance) or information on the sampling strategy (in case of representative surveillance). This could be done once and updated only when the implemented approach would be changed.

## **5. Next meeting**

Teleconference July

# Minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Standing Working Group on AVIAN INFLUENZA

**23-24 April 2018, Parma**

**(Agreed on 02 May 2018)**

## **Participants:**

- **Working Group Members:**

Adam BROUWER, Adeline HUNEAU SALAUN, Thijs KUIKEN, Christoph STAUBACH, Arjan STEGEMAN

- **Other:**

none

- **EFSA:**

Francesca BALDINELLI, Frank VERDONCK (ALPHA)

## **1. Welcome and apologies for absence**

The chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Paolo MULATTI.

## **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 Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes<sup>1</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest<sup>2</sup>, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest and the Specific Declarations of Interest (SDoI) filled in by the working group members invited for the present meeting.

For further details on the outcome of the screening of the ADoI or the SDoI, please refer to Annex. Oral Declaration of Interest was asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

#### **4. Scientific topics for discussion**

The current version of the draft document was discussed in detail. The continuous dimension of the AI surveillance, the relation to preparedness and the reporting of wild bird findings will be clarified in the interpretation of the Terms of Reference. Reference will be made to the latest EFSA scientific opinion on avian influenza to iterate the suggestion to consider targeted active (and enhanced passive) wild bird surveillance at a few key sites within the EU. The objectives of the report were discussed and a preliminary list was made. The mandatory and desired data will be described, explaining how these are linked to the listed objectives. The report will stipulate how all types of surveillance (active, passive, risk-based, representative) could be reported. It will be requested to report the species names of wild birds, to differentiate the three main domestic duck species, whereas group names could be reported for other domestic species (e.g. chicken, turkey). It would be scientifically very useful to report the date and location of the sampling at NUTS4/5 level to allow epidemiological analysis and to compare wild bird and poultry data. Having access to the location of poultry holdings within the EU will facilitate the analysis of the surveillance results in relation to poultry densities. The experts will assess the possibility of Member States transferring results at holding and sample levels to EFSA. It will be discussed with Member States whether it would be feasible or not to collect a proxy for the size/capacity of the holdings. It will be requested to describe how sampling and follow-up epidemiological investigations have been implemented. It will be explored whether this information can be prefilled by EFSA for the subsequent reporting years, asking the Member States only to update this information if changes were done. Automation of data transfer would be relevant for laboratory results and will be discussed under the SIGMA project.

#### **5. Next meeting**

4-5 June 2018



## Annex

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

In the ADoI or in the SDoI filled for the present meeting, Dr Adam Brouwer, declared the following interest: he has involvement in risk assessment activities at national level; Dr. Adeline Huneau Salaun declared the following interest: she has involvement in risk assessment activities at national level; Dr. Paolo Mulatti declared the following interest: he has involvement in risk assessment activities at national level; Dr. Christoph Staubach declared the following interest: he has involvement in risk assessment activities at national level. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes<sup>3</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest<sup>4</sup>, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted.

Therefore the concerned experts shall be allowed to take part in the discussions and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific report on Avian influenza surveillance.

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014>