



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND ANIMAL WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 2nd MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON WELFARE OF BROILERS

Held by TELE-conference on 15th December 2020

(Agreed on 21 December 2020)

Participants

■ Working Group Members:

Virginie Michel
Antonio Velarde
Linda Keeling
Anja Brinch Riber
Ingrid de Jong

■ Hearing Experts¹:

Inga Tiemann

■ EFSA:

ALPHA Unit: Raquel Garcia Matas, Denise Candiani, Michele Ardizzone
AMU Unit: Olaf Mosbach-Schulz

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received by Sabine Gebhardt-Henrich.

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

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. 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 1st Working Group meeting held on 11th November 2020, TELE-conference.

The minutes of the 1st Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 23 November 2020⁴.

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion⁵

The first part of the meeting was held jointly with the members of the EFSA laying hens WG; i) the list of welfare consequences, revised by the EFSA AHAW Task Force, was presented and some amendments were proposed e.g. to incorporate predation stress, ii) the methodology to rank and identify the most relevant welfare consequences per husbandry system was explained and iii) and a full example to apply this methodology was conducted for one husbandry system. During the second part of the meeting, for all the remaining broilers husbandry systems, the EFSA Broilers WG performed the first part of the ranking exercise. This consisted in excluding the non-applicable welfare consequences for these systems and preparing the basis for ranking the relevant ones. Relevance is to be assessed by expert's opinion following judgement on duration, severity and occurrence of welfare consequences in those husbandry systems.

6. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on the 5th February 2021.

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

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

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

⁵ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2020-00479>



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Held by TELE-conference on 11th November 2020

(Agreed on 23 November 2020)¹

Participants

■ Working Group Members:²

Virginie Michel (Chair)

Linda Keeling

Anja Brinch Riber

Sabine Gebhardt- Henrich

Ingrid de Jong

■ Hearing Experts³:

Inga Tiemann

■ EFSA:

ALPHA Unit: Raquel Garcia Matas, Denise Candiani, Michele Ardizzone

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

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

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4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion⁶

The first part of the meeting was held jointly with the members of the EFSA WG Laying Hens where the mandate on broiler and laying hens welfare on farm was presented in the context of the Farm To Fork Strategy. During the second part, the common terms of reference and specific scenarios were discussed. The list of welfare consequences with the definitions suggested by the Task Force was reviewed and suggestions will be considered at the next Task Force meeting. It was agreed that the relevant animal categories are day-old chick, chickens for meat production and broiler breeders. The husbandry systems were defined for the animal categories. The experts will list 5 relevant welfare consequences per each husbandry system by 27th November and when these are approved by the Task Force, they will start drafting the descriptions of the husbandry systems and the welfare consequences for the common terms of reference.

5. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on the 15th December 2020

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

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

⁶ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2020-00479>