



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 LAYING HENS

Held by TELE-conference on 15th December 2020

(Agreed on 18 December 2020)

Participants

■ Working Group Members:

Virginie Michel

Inmaculada Estevez

Bas Rodenburg

Thea Van Niekerk

Maryse Guinebretiere

■ Hearing Experts¹:

Stephanie Buijs

Christine Nicol

■ European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

Not Applicable

■ EFSA:

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

AMU Unit: Olaf Mosbach-Schulz

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

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

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

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 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 25 November 2020⁴.

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion⁵

The first part of the meeting was held jointly with the members of the EFSA Broiler WG; *i*) the list of welfare consequence, 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*) a full example to apply this methodology was conducted for one husbandry system. During the second part of the meeting, for all the remaining laying hen husbandry systems, the EFSA Laying Hens 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 19th January 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-laying-hens.pdf>

⁵ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2020-00483>

Annex

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

In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Prof. Inmaculada Estevez the following interests have been declared: she is involved as a member in the Humane Farm Animal Care (HFAC) scientific committee and provides scientific advice to the American Humane Association, which constitute a Conflict of Interest (CoI) with the mandate of the EFSA Working Group in hand. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁶ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁷, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted in accordance with Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management.

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

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

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SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND ANIMAL WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 1st MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON WELFARE OF LAYING HENS

Held by TELE-conference on 11th November 2020

(Agreed on 25 November 2020)

Participants

■ Working Group Members:

Virginie Michel
Inmaculada Estevez
Bas Rodenburg
Lars Schrader
Thea Van Niekerk

■ Hearing Experts¹:

Stephanie Buijs
Christine Nicol

■ European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

Not Applicable

■ EFSA:

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

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4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion⁴

The first part of the meeting was held jointly with the members of the EFSA WG Broiler where the mandate on laying hens and broiler 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 *i)* laying hen breeders, *ii)* pullets before they become laying hens and *iii)* hens during the production of eggs. 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

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

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