



**SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON  
ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE**

**16<sup>th</sup> Working Group meeting on the PROTECTION OF  
DUCKS, GEESE, QUAIL**



10<sup>th</sup> March 2023

09:30-17:30

MINUTES - Agreed on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023

**Location:** Web conference

**Attendees:**

○ Working Group Members:

Lotta Berg

Sandra Edwards

Virginie Michel

Anja Riber

Attila Salamon

Inga Tiemann

Antonio Velarde

○ Hearing Experts<sup>1</sup>:

Joanna Litt

○ European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

Kirsten Vornhagen (DG SANTE)

○ EFSA:

BIOHAW Unit: Marika Vitali, Chiara Fabris, Aikaterini Manakidou, Gizella Aboagye and Yves Van der Stede

○ Others:

Not Applicable

## **I. 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>



Apologize were received by Daniel Guémené and Ute Knierim for not attending the meeting.

## II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

## III. 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. 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.

## IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 15<sup>th</sup> Working Group meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023, via web-conference

The [minutes of the 15<sup>th</sup> Working Group meeting](#) were agreed by written procedure on 8<sup>th</sup> of March 2023.

## V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

### a. Draft opinion on the welfare of ducks, geese and quail (EFSA-Q-2021-00395)

The WG discussed the new contributions to the text of the draft Scientific opinion; *ad-hoc* inputs from WG experts were required along the text to finalize the draft SO before the submission of the document to the EFSA AHAW Panel for possible adoption at the next plenary meeting.

On ToR-2, outcome tables linking hazards, husbandry systems and welfare consequences, and the tables on the relevance of the welfare consequences in the different husbandry systems and production purposes were finalised and agreed. On the results of the assessment visualised in these tables WG experts revised the conclusions for ToR-2 and estimated the level of certainty) during an *ad hoc* exercise.

The WG discussed the factors in the ToR-3. For space allowance, discussions were made on the draft on the methodology, results, conclusions, and recommendations. Experts also discussed the new structure on the text of "Environmental enrichments" "Nesting facilities" and "Group size", conclusion and recommendations. Information on nest acceptance for quail have been provided by Inga Tiemann. Information on dimension of nest in experimental conditions were provided by Virginie Michel. These information have been added to the draft SO.

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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)



## VI. Any Other Business

### Project Management, task and assignments

Tasks were assigned and agreed as well as timelines before submission to the AHAW panel.

## VII. Next meeting

Not foreseen.

### Annex

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

In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Prof. Sandra Edwards the following interest has been declared: she is member of the Technical Advisory Committee for pigs of the Red Tractor (UK), which constitutes a Conflict of Interest (CoI) with the mandate of the EFSA's Farm to Fork Working Groups. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence<sup>4</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management<sup>5</sup> and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted in accordance with Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management. Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on the protection of ducks, geese and quail, and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice-chairman or rapporteur of the Working Group.

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<sup>4</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>5</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)

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**SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON  
ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE**

**15<sup>th</sup> Working Group meeting on the PROTECTION OF  
DUCKS, GEESE, QUAIL**



1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023

09:30-17:30

MINUTES - Agreed on 08 March 2023

**Location:** EFSA - Parma (Meeting Room MTG SEAT 00/M10A)

**Attendees:**

- Working Group Members:

Julio Alvarez (Day 2)

Lotta Berg

Sandra Edwards

Ute Knierim

Virginie Michel

Anja Riber

Attila Salamon

Inga Tiemann

Antonio Velarde

- Hearing Experts<sup>1</sup>:

Joanna Litt

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

Kirsten Vornhagen (DG SANTE)

- EFSA:

BIOHAW Unit: Marika Vitali, Chiara Fabris, Aikaterini Manakidou and Gizella Aboagye

MESE Unit: Olaf Mosbach-Schulz

- Others:

Not Applicable

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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>



## I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

## II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

## III. 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. 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.

## IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> Working Group meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> of February 2023, via web-conference

The [minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> Working Group meeting](#) were agreed by written procedure on 23<sup>rd</sup> of February 2023.

## V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

### a. Draft opinion on the welfare of ducks, geese and quail (EFSA-Q-2021-00395)

The WG discussed and addressed several comments in the whole text of the draft Scientific opinion (SO).

On the text addressing ToR-3, the WG discussed the outcome of the model on space allowance. The WG discussed behavioural data, the space that should be allocated for open water facilities to enable waterfowls to perform bathing behaviours (e.g., head dip, swim, dive, and bath), and facilities to allow dustbathing in quail. The WG agreed to present the results in a way which allows to show the different degree of animal welfare to the birds. The experts also discussed and addressed several comments on the draft methodology on space model.

In relation to ToR-2, in depth discussions were made on the outcome of the exercise estimating the prevalence of certain hazards in the different husbandry systems and production purposes. The relevance of each welfare consequence was assessed on the basis of the highly prevalent hazards. It was agreed to make tables, one for each animal species,

<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)



to visualize for each welfare consequence the proportion on the total number of hazards scored as highly prevalent in the different husbandry systems.

Successively, the text on the conclusions addressing ToR-2 and conclusions and recommendations addressing ToR-3 was discussed and revised based on new contributions by the WG experts. An *ad-hoc* exercise was also carried out to estimate the level of certainty (e.g., >50-100% - more likely than not -, 66-100% - from likely to almost certain-, 90-100% - from very likely to almost certain) of the main conclusions to ToR-3.

## VI. Any Other Business

### o Project Management, task and assignments

Specific tasks were assigned and agreed as well as timelines until the end of the mandate.

## VII. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023, via web conference.

## Annex

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

In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Prof. Sandra Edwards the following interest has been declared: she is member of the Technical Advisory Committee for pigs of the Red Tractor (UK), which constitutes a Conflict of Interest (CoI) with the mandate of the EFSA's Farm to Fork Working Groups. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence<sup>4</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management<sup>5</sup> and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted in accordance with Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management. Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on the protection of ducks, geese and quail, and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice-chairman or rapporteur of the Working Group.

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<sup>4</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>5</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)

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**SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON  
ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE**

**14<sup>th</sup> Working Group meeting on the PROTECTION OF  
DUCKS, GEESE, QUAIL**



10<sup>th</sup> February 2023

09:30-17:30

MINUTES - Agreed on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2023

**Location:** Web conference

**Attendees:**

- Working Group Members:

Lotta Berg

Sandra Edwards

Ute Knierim

Virginie Michel

Anja Riber

Attila Salamon

Inga Tiemann

Antonio Velarde

- Hearing Experts<sup>1</sup>:

Joanna Litt

Daniel Guémené

- EFSA:

BIOHAW Unit: Marika Vitali, Chiara Fabris, Gizella Aboagye

- Others:

Not Applicable

## **I. 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>



## II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

## III. 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. 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.

## IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 13<sup>th</sup> Working Group meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> of January and 2<sup>nd</sup> of February 2023, via web-conference

The [minutes of the 13<sup>th</sup> Working Group meeting](#) were agreed by written procedure on 9<sup>th</sup> of February 2023.

## V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

### a. Draft opinion on the welfare of ducks, geese and quail (EFSA-Q-2021-00395)

The WG discussed the new contributions to the text addressing ToR-2. Experts also discussed the outcome of an exercise carried out to assess the likelihood that a certain hazard is present in a husbandry system in relation to the production purpose. The results of the exercise were presented in a table and discussed by the WG experts. The conclusions to answer to ToR-2 on the description of the welfare consequences related to the diverse husbandry systems, were discussed and drafted based on the results of the exercise.

For the sections of the SO addressing ToR-3, the new contributions to the text were discussed and reviewed based on *ad hoc* suggestions from the WG experts. The WG discussed Conclusions and Recommendation related to each factor listed in the mandate (except for the factor space allowance). For the assessment, the experts agreed to consider the factor "Maximum size of the group" as "Size of the group" as this concerns both minimal and maximal group sizes.

## VI. Any Other Business

### o Project Management, task and assignments

Specific tasks were assigned and agreed as well as timelines. In particular, it was identified which contributions from the experts are needed to finalise the draft SO before the submission to the EFSA AHAW Panel for the in-depth discussion during the next plenary meeting.

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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)





## VII. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held in Parma on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023, in a hybrid format.

### Annex

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

In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Prof. Sandra Edwards the following interest has been declared: she is member of the Technical Advisory Committee for pigs of the Red Tractor (UK), which constitutes a Conflict of Interest (CoI) with the mandate of the EFSA's Farm to Fork Working Groups. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence<sup>4</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management<sup>5</sup> and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted in accordance with Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management. Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on the protection of ducks, geese and quail, and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice-chairman or rapporteur of the Working Group.

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<sup>4</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>5</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)

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**SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON  
ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE**

**13<sup>th</sup> Working Group meeting on the PROTECTION OF  
DUCKS, GEESE, QUAIL**



31<sup>st</sup> January and 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023

09:30-17:30

MINUTES - Agreed on 9 February 2023

**Location:** Web conference

**Attendees:**

- Working Group Members:

Lotta Berg  
Sandra Edwards  
Ute Knierim  
Virginie Michel  
Anja Riber  
Attila Salamon  
Inga Tiemann  
Antonio Velarde

- Hearing Experts<sup>1</sup>:

Daniel Guémené

- EFSA:

BIOHAW Unit: Marika Vitali, Chiara Fabris, Aikaterini Manakidou and Gizella Aboagye

MESE Unit: Olaf Mosbach-Schulz

- Others:

Not Applicable

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

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Joanna Litt for not attending the meeting.

## **II. Adoption of agenda**

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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 agenda was adopted without changes.

### III. 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. 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.

### IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 12<sup>th</sup> Working Group meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> of January 2023, via web-conference

The [minutes of the 12<sup>th</sup> Working Group meeting](#) were agreed by written procedure on 27<sup>th</sup> of January 2023.

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

#### a. Draft opinion on the welfare of ducks, geese and quail (EFSA-Q-2021-00395)

The WG discussed and addressed the comments proposed by the AHAW Panel for the text addressing ToR-1 in the draft Scientific opinion (SO). Based on the suggestions received by the Panel, WG experts amended the draft to keep the description on the biology, physiology, genetics, and husbandry systems short and focused on the main concepts in the text. In addition, the WG agreed to transpose extensive details on the husbandry systems of breeders in a summary table.

Experts also agreed to include a brief description on the similarity and variation that exist between Domestic, Muscovy and Mule ducks.

The text of the draft SO on ToR-2 on the relevant welfare consequences and related ABMs was reviewed on the basis of the new contributions provided by the WG experts; the WG checked it thoroughly. Several comments were discussed and addressed. The list of hazards leading to the welfare consequences was discussed and agreed. *Ad-hoc* inputs from WG experts were identified along the text to finalize it. The relationship between the hazards and the husbandry systems was also discussed. Finally, the experts focused the discussion on ABMs and agreed for which of the described welfare consequences 'fear response', 'growth rate', 'physiological stress' and 'mortality rate' are mainly relevant. Species specific ABMs were also discussed.

The WG discussed the factors listed in the ToR-3; Space allowance, maximum size of the group, floor quality, availability, design and size of nesting facilities and enrichment provided (including access to water to fulfil biological needs). For space allowance, the WG discussed main aspect to consider when determining the height required by birds when performing natural behaviors e.g., standing and flying. Experts also discussed the data extracted from the literature on the interindividual distance between the animals for the space allowance model, and the best solution

<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)



for each species. Furthermore, experts discussed and addressed comments on the other factors listed in ToR3.

## VI. Any Other Business

### o Project Management, task and assignments

Specific tasks were assigned and agreed as well as timelines. In particular, the WG experts were invited to address the last pending comments in the draft SO addressing ToR-2 and to assess for the different animal species what is the likelihood that each hazard (leading to the relevant welfare consequences) is present in a given husbandry system. The WG experts were also asked to complete the drafting of the section addressing ToR3.

## VII. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2023, via web conference.

### Annex

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

In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Prof. Sandra Edwards the following interest has been declared: she is member of the Technical Advisory Committee for pigs of the Red Tractor (UK), which constitutes a Conflict of Interest (CoI) with the mandate of the EFSA's Farm to Fork Working Groups. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence<sup>4</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management<sup>5</sup> and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted in accordance with Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management. Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on the protection of ducks, geese and quail, and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice-chairman or rapporteur of the Working Group.

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<sup>4</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>5</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)

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# SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

## 12<sup>th</sup> Working Group meeting on the PROTECTION OF DUCKS, GEESE, QUAIL



12<sup>th</sup> January 2023

12:30-16:30

MINUTES – Agreed on 27<sup>th</sup> of January 2023

**Location:** Web conference

**Attendees:**

○ Working Group Members:

Lotta Berg  
Sandra Edwards  
Ute Knierim  
Virginie Michel  
Anja Riber  
Attila Salamon  
Inga Tiemann  
Antonio Velarde

○ Hearing Experts<sup>1</sup>:

Daniel Guémené  
Joanna Litt

○ EFSA:

BIOHAW Unit: Marika Vitali, Chiara Fabris, Aikaterini Manakidou and Gizella Aboagye  
MESE Unit: Olaf Mosbach-Schulz

○ Others:

Not Applicable

## I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

## II. 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>



### III. 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. 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.

### IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 11<sup>th</sup> Working Group meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of January 2023, via web-conference

The [minutes of the 11<sup>th</sup> Working Group meeting](#) were agreed by written procedure on 11<sup>th</sup> of January 2023.

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

#### a. Draft opinion on the welfare of ducks, geese and quail (EFSA-Q-2021-00395)

The WG discussed the welfare consequences relevant for ducks, geese, and quail. Although not listed in ToR-2 of the mandate it was agreed to include in the assessment also two additional welfare consequences: 'inability to perform foraging and exploratory behavior' and 'inability to express maternal behavior' (limiting the assessment to 'nesting behavior'); these welfare consequences are in fact relevant when assessing the factors listed in ToR-3 (in relation e.g., to 'enrichment' and 'nesting facilities'). Experts also discussed how to report the relationship between welfare consequences and potential hazards in the different husbandry systems. Further discussions were made to uniform the terminology of the hazards that are considered.

In relation to ToR-3, the WG discussed the model to quantify 'space allowance', and particularly the distance required by the animals while performing specific behaviors. Applicability of the model to extrapolate the distance needed for allometric and proportional scaling was also considered. Experts agreed to extract data from the literature on the distance required for each species where applicable. In addition, the WG discussed and agreed on a general structure of the sections addressing ToR-2 and ToR-3.

### VI. Any Other Business

#### o Project Management, task and assignments

Specific tasks were assigned and agreed as well as deadlines. In particular, WG experts were invited to finalise the sections of the draft scientific opinion addressing ToR-2 and to provide a first draft of ToR-3 sections.

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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)



## VII. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 31<sup>st</sup> January and 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023, via web conference.

### Annex

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

In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Prof. Sandra Edwards the following interest has been declared: she is member of the Technical Advisory Committee for pigs of the Red Tractor (UK), which constitutes a Conflict of Interest (CoI) with the mandate of the EFSA's Farm to Fork Working Groups. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence<sup>4</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management<sup>5</sup> and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted in accordance with Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management. Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on the protection of ducks, geese and quail, and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice-chairman or rapporteur of the Working Group.

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<sup>5</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)

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# SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

## 11<sup>th</sup> Working Group meeting on the PROTECTION OF DUCKS, GEESE, QUAIL



4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> January 2023

09:30-17:30 / 09:00-13:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 11 January 2023

**Location:** Web conference

**Attendees:**

○ Working Group Members:

Sandra Edwards

Ute Knierim

Anja Riber

Attila Salamon

Inga Tiemann

Antonio Velarde

○ Hearing Experts<sup>1</sup>:

Daniel Guémené

Joanna Litt

○ EFSA:

BIOHAW Unit: Marika Vitali, Chiara Fabris, Aikaterini Manakidou and Gizella Aboagye

MESE Unit: Olaf Mosbach-Schulz

○ Others:

Not Applicable

## I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Charlotte Berg for not attending the meeting.

## II. 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>





### III. 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. 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.

### IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 10<sup>th</sup> Working Group meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of December 2022, via web-conference

The [minutes of the 10<sup>th</sup> Working Group meeting](#) were agreed by written procedure on 3<sup>rd</sup> of January 2023.

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

#### a. Draft opinion on the welfare of ducks, geese and quail (EFSA-Q-2021-00395)

The text of the draft scientific opinion (SO) on ToR 1 was reviewed on the basis of the new contributions provided by the WG experts; the WG checked it thoroughly. Several comments in the sections on the production cycle, behavior and husbandry systems were discussed and addressed. The section on genetics was also discussed and specific information on the heritability traits from practical experience of WG experts was added. *Ad-hoc* inputs from WG experts were required along the text to finalise it before the submission of the document to the EFSA AHAW Panel for discussion at the January Plenary meeting.

To address ToR-3 of the mandate, and in particular to assess the factor 'space allowance' for all species under consideration, an expert knowledge elicitation (EKE) exercise was carried out following a model on space allowance to ascertain the space that physiologically these animals need for performing different behaviors. WG experts agreed to base the EKE on a standard body weight for each species and discussed the shape of the area occupied by individuals of each species (e.g., rectangular or oval shape), as well as body dimension and posture. Applicability of the model to extrapolate the space needed for other weight was also considered and will be discussed in the further meeting. Estimations were provided for geese and quail, while for ducks the exercise will be performed in subsequent meetings.

### VI. Any Other Business

#### o Project Management, task and assignments

Specific tasks were assigned and agreed as well as deadlines. In particular, WG experts were invited to finalise the sections addressing ToRs 1 and 2 and to comment on the text.

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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)



## VII. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 12<sup>th</sup> of January 2023, via web conference.

### Annex

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

In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Prof. Sandra Edwards the following interest has been declared: she is member of the Technical Advisory Committee for pigs of the Red Tractor (UK), which constitutes a Conflict of Interest (CoI) with the mandate of the EFSA's Farm to Fork Working Groups. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence<sup>4</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management<sup>5</sup> and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted in accordance with Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management. Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on the protection of ducks, geese and quail, and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice-chairman or rapporteur of the Working Group.

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<sup>4</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>5</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)

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BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS, ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE UNIT

## SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

### MINUTES OF THE 10<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE PROTECTION OF DUCKS, GEESE, QUAIL

**Held by WEB-conference, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

**(Agreed on the 3rd January 2023)**

#### Participants

- Working Group Members:
  - Charlotte Berg
  - Sandra Edwards
  - Ute Knierim
  - Anja Riber
  - Attila Salamon
  - Inga Tiemann
  - Antonio Velarde
  
- Hearing Experts<sup>1</sup>:
  - Daniel Guémene
  - Joanna Litt
  - Magali Blanchet (19/12 am, item 6.1)
  - Ana Chapatte Granados (19/12 am, item 6.1)
  - Gaelle Pauthier (19/12 am, item 6.1)
  
- EFSA:
  - BIOHAW Unit: Marika Vitali, Chiara Fabris, Gizella Aboagye and Aikaterini Manakidou
  - MESE Unit: Olaf Mosbach-Schulz
  
- Others:
  - Not Applicable

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<sup>1</sup> 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](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. 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. 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.

## 3. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

## 4. Agreement of the minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> WEB-Working Group meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2022

The minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> WEB-Working Group (WG) meeting were agreed by written procedure 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022<sup>4</sup>.

## 5. Hearing Experts

Ms Magali Blanchet, Ms Ana Chapatte Granados and Ms Gaelle Pauthier were invited to present their views for item 6.1 of the present meeting and to discuss the feedback from EFFAB (European Forum of Farm Animal Breeders) on the husbandry systems for keeping breeders of ducks, geese and quail.

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence<sup>5</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management<sup>6</sup>, EFSA invited Megali Blanchet, Ms Ana Chapatte Granados and Ms Gaelle Pauthier to submit an Annual Declaration of Interest. Their participation in the present meeting was limited to providing testimony, without the possibility to take on any role undertaken by members of the Working Group (i.e., not possible to draft or be involved in the discussion or the adoption of a scientific output), in accordance with the applicable legal framework<sup>7</sup>.

## 6. Scientific topics for discussion<sup>8</sup>

### 6.1. Term of reference-1 (ToR) of the draft Scientific Opinion (SO)

The WG reviewed the text of the draft in the SO addressing ToR-1 and describing the main husbandry systems currently used in the EU for keeping ducks, geese and quail for the production

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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> [https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2022-02/wg-welfare-F2F-protection-ducks\\_geese\\_quail.pdf](https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2022-02/wg-welfare-F2F-protection-ducks_geese_quail.pdf)

<sup>5</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>6</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>7</sup> Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management, Article 9:

[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>8</sup> <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2021-00395>

of meat, including *foie gras*, and eggs for human consumption. Main comments were discussed and addressed.

On ducks, geese and quail breeders, several aspects related to the rearing practices, with detailed information on cages and floor systems, were presented by the EFFAB hearing experts and further discussed with the WG members. Most of the queries were addressed and it was agreed that additional clarifications will be provided in written after the meeting.

## **6.2. ToR-2**

In relation to ToR-2 on the description of the main welfare consequences, the WG discussed in detail the structure and content of a draft text describing 'group stress' and the related ABMs and hazards. Several comments were addressed. The WG agreed on the structure of this section and to follow the same structure when describing the other welfare consequences listed in ToR-2.

## **6.3. ToR-3**

A draft on floor type for domestic ducks was presented and discussed in the WG. Based on this example, the structure of the texts that will assess narratively the factors listed in ToR-3 of the mandate was discussed and agreed.

The data available on 'space allowance' and extracted from the scientific literature were discussed in detail and it was agreed to assess this factor using the 'allometric approach' model during an EKE exercise that will be carried out at the next WG meeting.

## **7. Any Other Business**

### **7.1. Project management, tasks and assignments**

Tasks, timelines of the project, and next WG meeting dates were discussed and agreed. In particular, it was identified which contributions are needed to finalise ToR-1 of the draft SO for further submission to the AHAW Panel for the January plenary meeting.

## **8. Next meeting**

The 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the WG is scheduled for January 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> 2023 – web meeting.

## Annex

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

In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Prof. Sandra Edwards the following interest has been declared: she is member of the Technical Advisory Committee for pigs of the Red Tractor (UK), which constitutes a Conflict of Interest (CoI) with the mandate of the EFSA's Farm to Fork Working Groups. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence<sup>9</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management<sup>10</sup> and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted in accordance with Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management. Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on the protection of ducks, geese and quail, and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice-chairman or rapporteur of the Working Group.

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<sup>9</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>10</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)



BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS, ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE UNIT

**SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE**  
**MINUTES OF THE 9<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE**  
**PROTECTION OF DUCKS, GEESE, QUAIL**

**Held by WEB-conference, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

**(Agreed on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022)**

**Participants**

- Working Group Members:  
Charlotte Berg (day 1)  
Sandra Edwards  
Ute Knierim  
Anja Riber  
Attila Salamon  
Inga Tiemann  
Antonio Velarde
- Hearing Experts<sup>1</sup>:  
Daniel Guémene  
Joanna Litt
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:  
Kirsten Vornhagen (DG SANTE)
- EFSA:
- BIOHAW Unit: Marika Vitali, Chiara Fabris, Gizella Aboagye and Yves Van der Stede  
MESE Unit: Olaf Mosbach-Schulz
- Others:  
Not Applicable

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<sup>1</sup> 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](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/expertselection.pdf).

## 1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Charlotte Berg for not attending the second day of the meeting.

## 2. 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. 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.

## 3. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

## 4. Agreement of the minutes of the 8<sup>th</sup> WEB-Working Group meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> of October 2022

The minutes of the 8<sup>th</sup> WEB-Working Group (WG) meeting were agreed by written procedure on 15<sup>th</sup> of November 2022.

## 5. Scientific topics for discussion<sup>4</sup>

### 5.1. Discussion on the Terms of references (ToRs) of the draft Scientific Opinion (SO)

The WG discussed ToR-1 (main husbandry systems) and revised the relevant text of the draft SO. It was agreed to include information about the factors listed in ToR-3 (space allowance, group size, floor quality, nesting facilities, enrichment provided) in the description of each husbandry system. As the available information on these factors in the literature is scarce, the WG considered the data obtained in 2021 from the survey to the Member States (MSs) and include the relevant ones in the draft SO. Moreover, the WG discussed the terminology used for referring to the different husbandry systems and agreed to include a general explanation of non-caged systems in the Interpretation of ToRs section of the draft SO.

With regards to the production cycle, the WG discussed that eggs for human consumption from ducks and geese represent niche production in some MSs; furthermore, WG experts indicated the scarcity of information on the current husbandry systems used for table egg production for these species. It was agreed to add this information to the Interpretation of ToRs and to explain that the production of eggs for human consumption from ducks and geese will not be considered further in the draft SO.

To address ToR-2 of the mandate (welfare consequences), the WG finalised the identification of the animal-based measures pertinent to assess the welfare consequences under consideration and

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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> <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2021-00395>



agreed on a standard definition among species based on the available scientific literature and /or on expert opinion.

For ToR-3 of the mandate, the WG discussed how to better assess the hazard space allowance using the 'allometric approach' model. In the case of ducks, geese and quail the experts indicated the scarcity of information and variations in the behaviour and size of the species. The WG committed to finalize the data extraction on the relevant parameters and further discussion will take place in the next WG meeting.

## 6. Any Other Business

### 6.1. Project management, tasks and assignments

Tasks and timelines of the project were discussed and agreed for the three ToRs.

## 7. Next meeting

The 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the WG is scheduled for December 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> 2022 – web meeting.

## Annex

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

In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Prof. Sandra Edwards the following interest has been declared: she is member of the Technical Advisory Committee for pigs of the Red Tractor (UK), which constitutes a Conflict of Interest (CoI) with the mandate of the EFSA's Farm to Fork Working Groups. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence<sup>5</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management<sup>6</sup> and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted in accordance with Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management. Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on the protection of ducks, geese and quail, and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice-chairman or rapporteur of the Working Group.

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<sup>5</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>6</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)



BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS, ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE UNIT

## SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

### MINUTES OF THE 8<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE PROTECTION OF DUCKS, GEESE, QUAIL

**Held by WEB-conference, 28 October 2022**

**(Agreed on 15 November 2022)**

#### Participants

- Working Group Members:
  - Charlotte Berg
  - Sandra Edwards
  - Ute Knierim
  - Attila Salamon
  - Inga Tiemann
  - Antonio Velarde
  
- Hearing Experts<sup>1</sup>:
  - Daniel Guémene
  
- EFSA:
  - BIOHAW Unit: Chiara Fabris, Marika Vitali, and Gizella Aboagye
  
- Others:
  - Not Applicable

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<sup>1</sup> 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](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/expertselection.pdf).

## 1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Joanna Litt and Anja Riber for not attending the meeting.

## 2. 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. 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.

## 3. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

## 4. Agreement of the minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> WEB-Working Group meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> of October 2022

The minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> WEB-Working Group (WG) meeting were agreed by written procedure on 19<sup>th</sup> of October 2022.

## 5. Scientific topics for discussion<sup>4</sup>

### 5.1. Discussion on the Terms of references (ToRs) of the draft Scientific Opinion (SO)

On ToR-1, as parts of a questionnaire to retrieve more information on breeders and the related husbandry systems, the WG discussed and agreed on the definitions for the different animal categories, i.e.: immature, pedigree, great grandparents, grandparents, and parental breeders.

To address ToR-2 of the mandate, the WG discussed the animal-based measures (ABMs) of relevance to each species to assess the welfare consequences under consideration. The ABMs for Muscovy and Mule ducks were discussed, and the lists of ABMs for Domestic geese and Japanese quail were revised. The ABM 'bathing' in relation to the welfare consequence 'inability to perform comfort behaviour' was further discussed. For quail, it was agreed that this refers to 'dust bathing' while for waterfowl it was referred to as 'water bathing'. For the latter, it was agreed that, in addition to 'water bathing', other ABMs, e.g., 'incomplete bathing' and 'head dipping into the water' could be defined. Furthermore, ABMs that were related to several welfare consequences were considered by the WG to be "Iceberg indicators" (e.g., 'mortality').

For ToR-3 of the mandate, the WG discussed in detail the data extracted from the available scientific literature on geese in relation to the hazard 'space allowance'. It was observed that there is a scarcity of literature and that the retrieved data were not homogeneous and had many confounding factors. The WG discussed the possibility of applying another approach based on allometric data (including e.g., body weight, size of geese and behavioural data). It was agreed to investigate further this approach.

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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> <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2021-00395>

## 6. Any Other Business

### 6.1. Project management, tasks and assignments

Tasks and timelines of the project were discussed and agreed. The WG agreed to search for literature on 'time budget' and 'social spacing' as part of the preparatory work to assess 'space allowance' for geese.

## 7. Next meeting

The 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the WG is scheduled for November 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> 2022 – web meeting.

## Annex

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

In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Prof. Sandra Edwards the following interest has been declared: she is member of the Technical Advisory Committee for pigs of the Red Tractor (UK), which constitutes a Conflict of Interest (CoI) with the mandate of the EFSA's Farm to Fork Working Groups. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence<sup>5</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management<sup>6</sup> and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted in accordance with Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management. Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on the protection of ducks, geese and quail, and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice-chairman or rapporteur of the Working Group.

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<sup>5</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>6</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)



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BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS, ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE UNIT

## SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

### MINUTES OF THE 7<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE PROTECTION OF DUCKS, GEESE, QUAIL

**Held by WEB-conference, 04 October 2022**

**(Agreed on 19 October 2022)**

#### Participants

- Working Group Members:  
Charlotte Berg  
Sandra Edwards  
Ute Knierim  
Anja Riber  
Attila Salamon  
Inga Tiemann  
Antonio Velarde
- Hearing Experts<sup>1</sup>:  
Joanna Litt
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:  
Kirsten Vornhagen (DG SANTE)
- EFSA:  
BIOHAW Unit: Marika Vitali, Chiara Fabris and Gizella Aboagye
- Others:  
Not Applicable

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<sup>1</sup> 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](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/expertselection.pdf).

## 1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Daniel Guémene for not attending the meeting.

## 2. 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. 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.

## 3. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

## 4. Agreement of the minutes of the 6<sup>th</sup> WEB-Working Group meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> of September 2022

The minutes of the 6<sup>th</sup> WEB-Working Group (WG) meeting were agreed by written procedure on 29<sup>th</sup> of September 2022.

## 5. Scientific topics for discussion<sup>4</sup>

### 5.1. Discussion on the draft Scientific Opinion (SO)

The list of husbandry systems that was proposed for description and assessment in this mandate for each of the four species (Domestic duck, Muscovy duck, Domestic geese and Japanese quail) was revised.

In the meeting, the WG highlighted the need for more information on breeders since there is little knowledge and breeders could be the ones kept in cages and suffering from the welfare consequences listed in the mandate. It was then agreed to retrieve this information with a specific questionnaire.

To address ToR-2 of the mandate, the WG discussed the welfare consequences and animal-based measures (ABMs) of relevance to each species: restriction of movement, inability to perform comfort behaviour, group stress, bone lesions (including fractures and dislocations), soft tissue lesions and integument damage, locomotory disorders (including lameness) and eye disorders. The experts discussed the identified ABMs making references to existing publications or by expert opinion starting from the definitions used for layers and broilers. The ABMs for geese and quail were defined and agreed. For quail, the welfare consequence 'eye disorders' was discussed and it was agreed to delete it since eye disorders are associated with the lack of water bathing in waterfowl, and hence not applicable to quail.

The WG discussed the best approach to address ToR-3 of the mandate with a proposition to extract data from scientific literature on space allowance using geese as a pilot specie.

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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> <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2021-00395>

## 6. Any Other Business

### 6.1. Project management, tasks and assignments

Tasks and timelines of the project were discussed and agreed. The WG agreed to access the results on the data extraction on geese before deciding on the methodology to address ToR-3 (i.e., linking the hazards to the welfare consequence) and applying it to the other species.

## 7. Next meeting

The 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the WG is scheduled for October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – web meeting.



## Annex

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

In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Prof. Sandra Edwards the following interest has been declared: she is member of the Technical Advisory Committee for pigs of the Red Tractor (UK), which constitutes a Conflict of Interest (CoI) with the mandate of the EFSA's Farm to Fork Working Groups. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence<sup>5</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management<sup>6</sup> and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted in accordance with Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management. Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on the protection of ducks, geese and quail, and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice-chairman or rapporteur of the Working Group

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<sup>5</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>6</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)



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BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS, ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE UNIT

**SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE**  
**MINUTES OF THE 6<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE**  
**PROTECTION OF DUCKS, GEESE, QUAIL**

**Held by WEB-conference, 09 September 2022**

**(Agreed on 29 September 2022)**

**Participants**

- Working Group Members:  
Charlotte Berg  
Sandra Edwards  
Ute Knierim  
Anja Riber  
Attila Salamon  
Antonio Velarde
  
- Hearing Experts<sup>1</sup>:  
Daniel Guémene  
Inga Tiemann
  
- EFSA:  
BIOHAW Unit: Marika Vitali, Chiara Fabris, Gizella Aboagye, Aikaterini Manakidou, Yves Van der Stede
  
- Others:  
Not Applicable

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<sup>1</sup> 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](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/expertselection.pdf)

## 1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Joanna Litt.

## 2. 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. 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.

## 3. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

## 4. Agreement of the minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> WEB-Working Group meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> of July 2022

The minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> WEB-Working Group (WG) meeting were agreed by written procedure on 05<sup>th</sup> of August 2022<sup>4</sup>.

## 5. Scientific topics for discussion<sup>4</sup>

### 5.1. Discussion on the draft Scientific Opinion (SO)

The WG discussed the updates to the draft SO and in particular to ToR-1 on the husbandry systems. The list of husbandry systems that was proposed for description and assessment in this mandate for each of the four species (Domestic duck, Muscovy duck, Geese and Quail); experts highlighted that 'floor systems plus veranda' and 'individual cages' are not (or not anymore) used for geese. Therefore these systems won't be assessed for geese.

The experts agreed the elements that should be included in the description of each husbandry system e.g. the equipment that is used. In particular, drinkers and their characteristics need to be described because they allow different level of expression of comfort behaviour (e.g. presence of drinkers only or also water sources that allow swimming or water bathing).

To address ToR-2 of the mandate, the WG experts discussed which welfare consequences should be considered. The mandate lists the following four: restriction of movement, inability to perform comfort behaviour, group stress and injuries. The first three and their definitions are included in the list of welfare consequences of the EFSA 'Methodological guidance for the development of animal welfare mandates in the context of the Farm to Fork Strategy' (2022). Relevant definitions were checked and 'adjusted' by the WG to the species under consideration.

The welfare consequence 'injuries' is not included in the list of EFSA, 2022. The WG discussed and agreed that, in the case of ducks, geese and quail, 'injuries' includes four of the welfare consequences listed in EFSA, 2022: 'bone lesions (including fractures and dislocations)', 'soft tissue

<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> <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2021-00395>

lesions and integument damage', 'locomotory disorders (including lameness)' and 'eye disorders'. Therefore, it was agreed that to address ToR-2 of the mandate the above reported seven welfare consequences will be considered.

## 6. Any Other Business

### 6.1. Project management, tasks and assignments

Tasks and timelines of the project were discussed and agreed. In preparation for the next WG meeting, WG experts will reflect on the definitions of the seven welfare consequences identified for addressing ToR-2, identify which ABMs could be used to assess these welfare consequences and which of the hazards listed in ToR-3 of the mandate could have an impact on them.

## 7. Next meeting

The 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the WG is scheduled for October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – web meeting.

## Annex

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

In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Prof. Sandra Edwards the following interest has been declared: she is member of the Technical Advisory Committee for pigs of the Red Tractor (UK), which constitutes a Conflict of Interest (CoI) with the mandate of the EFSA's Farm to Fork Working Groups. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence<sup>5</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management<sup>6</sup> and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted in accordance with Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management. Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on the protection of ducks, geese and quail, and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice-chairman or rapporteur of the Working Group.

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<sup>5</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>6</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)



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BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS, ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE UNIT

## SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

### MINUTES OF THE 5<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE PROTECTION OF DUCKS, GEESE, QUAIL

**Held by WEB-conference, 19 July 2022**

**(Agreed on 05 August 2022)**

#### Participants

- Working Group Members:
  - Charlotte Berg
  - Sandra Edwards
  - Ute Knierim
  - Anja Riber
  - Antonio Velarde
  
- Hearing Experts<sup>1</sup>:
  - Joanna Litt
  - Inga Tiemann
  
- EFSA:
  - BIOHAW Unit: Marika Vitali, Chiara Fabris, Yves Van der Stede
  
- Others:
  - Not Applicable

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<sup>1</sup> 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](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/expertselection.pdf)

## 1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Daniel Guemené.

## 2. 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. 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.

## 3. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

## 4. Agreement of the minutes of the 4<sup>rd</sup> WEB-Working Group meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> of May 2022

The minutes of the 4<sup>rd</sup> WEB-Working Group (WG) meeting were agreed by written procedure on 03<sup>rd</sup> of June 2022<sup>4</sup>.

## 5. Scientific topics for discussion<sup>4</sup>

### 5.1. Discussion on the draft Scientific Opinion (SO)

The WG experts went through the draft SO to discuss and address pending issues and comments; the consistency among the Chapters of the four species was checked.

It was discussed the need for a definition of cage. It was agreed that the definition provided as background of the ToRs is wide and might be differently interpreted; thus further explanations would be beneficial. Although EFSA is not asked to provide the definition of a cage system, the WG agreed to discuss at the next WG meeting a proposal of what it should be intended in the context of this SO.

About the structure of the SO, it was agreed to separate the section on the genetic selection from the one on the production cycle; the former should concisely provide some info on the process and outcome of the genetic selection, the latter will describe the highlights of the diverse production cycles (for breeders, meat or eggs).

All the information on description of the various husbandry systems will be reported in the relevant section(s). It was agreed that this description should follow a similar template containing the elements that would be needed to assess the welfare consequences listed in ToR 2 (*on the description of the relevant welfare consequences concerning restriction of movement, injuries, group stress and inability to perform comfort behaviour related to the husbandry systems described in ToR 1*).

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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> <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2021-00395>

This structure will be the same for the Chapter of each of the four species under consideration.

## **6. Any Other Business**

### **6.1. Project management, tasks and assignments**

Tasks and timelines of the project were discussed. It was agreed that in preparation for the next WG meeting, the experts will finalise the sections on the description of the husbandry systems following the inputs collected during the meeting. It was also agreed to move the date of the 7<sup>th</sup> WG meeting to the 28<sup>th</sup> of October 2022.

## **7. Next meeting**

The 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the WG is scheduled for September 9, 2022 – web meeting.



## Annex

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

In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Prof. Sandra Edwards the following interest has been declared: she is member of the Technical Advisory Committee for pigs of the Red Tractor (UK), which constitutes a Conflict of Interest (CoI) with the mandate of the EFSA's Farm to Fork Working Groups. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence<sup>5</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management<sup>6</sup> and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted in accordance with Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management. Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on the protection of ducks, geese and quail, and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice-chairman or rapporteur of the Working Group.

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<sup>5</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>6</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)



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BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS, ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE UNIT

## SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

### MINUTES OF THE 4<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE PROTECTION OF DUCKS, GEESE, QUAIL

**Held by WEB-conference, 12 May 2022**

**(Agreed on 03 June 2022)**

#### Participants

- Working Group Members:  
Sandra Edwards  
Anja Riber  
Attila Salamon  
Ute Knierim  
Antonio Velarde
  
- Hearing Experts<sup>1</sup>:  
Joanna Litt  
Daniel Guémené
  
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:  
Not applicable
  
- EFSA:  
BIOHAW Unit: Marika Vitali, Chiara Fabris, Lukas Pantenburg
  
- Others:  
Not Applicable

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<sup>1</sup> 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](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/expertselection.pdf)

## 1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologize were reported by Lotta Berg for not attending the meeting.

## 2. 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. 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.

## 3. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

## 4. Agreement of the minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> WEB-Working Group meeting held on 21<sup>th</sup> of April 2022

The minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> WEB-Working Group (WG) meeting were agreed by written procedure on 06<sup>th</sup> of May 2022<sup>4</sup>.

## 5. Scientific topics for discussion<sup>4</sup>

The WG revised the sections of the draft Scientific opinion (SO) on General behaviour, physiology, and biology of the wild and domestic species. It was agreed to adapt the text to the terminology used for risk assessment in animal welfare by EFSA (see EFSA, 2012a, b and 2022).

Then the WG revised the section on the genetic selection and production cycle of the species.

With regard to genetic selection, the WG agreed to describe in general the process, common to all the species, and report species-specific information on the outcomes of this selection (e.g. Geese have been selected for different 'sizes', quails for different 'production attitudes'). These differences will be considered when conducting the welfare assessment in ToR2.

About the production cycle, the WG revised the text and discussed on the need to include further specification on the weight, age, common practices.

Subsequently, the WG discussed on how to address ToR1 on the description of the husbandry systems and the approach to follow when drafting it. There was some discussion on 'alternative systems' to cages. The WG highlighted the need of gathering more information on those systems. It was agreed to use the term "free-range system" for housing systems where the birds are kept outdoor, with or without the presence of a shelter. The WG agreed to use the preliminary results of a joint EC-EFSA survey on the type of housing systems used in the EU and of a broad literature review on the characteristics of housing systems in the three species in hand. The experts will revise this evidence and evaluate the relevant information to be included in ToR1.

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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> <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2021-00395>

## **6. Any Other Business**

### **6.1. Project management**

Deadline and task were defined.

### **6.2. Tasks and assignments**

The WG will continue working on the section related to the genetic selection and production cycle of the animal species, and start drafting the description of housing systems (ToR1).

## **7. Next meeting**

The 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the WG is scheduled for July 19, 2022 – web meeting

## Annex

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

In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Prof. Sandra Edwards the following interest has been declared: she is member of the Technical Advisory Committee for pigs of the Red Tractor (UK), which constitutes a Conflict of Interest (CoI) with the mandate of the EFSA's Farm to Fork Working Groups. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence<sup>5</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management<sup>6</sup> and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted in accordance with Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management. Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on the protection of ducks, geese and quail, and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice-chairman or rapporteur of the Working Group.

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<sup>5</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>6</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)



BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS, ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE UNIT

## SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

### MINUTES OF THE 3<sup>rd</sup> MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE PROTECTION OF DUCKS, GEESE, QUAIL

**Held by WEB-conference, 21 April 2022**

**(Agreed on 06<sup>th</sup> May 2022)**

#### Participants

- Working Group Members:  
Charlotte Berg  
Sandra Edwards  
Anja Riber  
Attila Salamon  
Antonio Velarde
  
- Hearing Experts<sup>1</sup>:  
Joanna Litt  
Daniel Guémené
  
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:  
Kirsten Vornhagen (DG SANTE)
  
- EFSA:  
BIOHAW Unit: Marika Vitali, Chiara Fabris, Lukas Pantenburg
  
- Others:  
Not Applicable

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<sup>1</sup> 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](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/expertselection.pdf)

## 1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were reported by Ute Knierim for not attending the meeting.

## 2. 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. 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.

## 3. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

## 4. Agreement of the minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> WEB-Working Group meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> of March 2022

The minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> WEB-Working Group (WG) meeting were agreed by written procedure on 06<sup>th</sup> of April 2022<sup>4</sup>.

## 5. Scientific topics for discussion<sup>5</sup>

### 5.1. Discussion on muled, mulard and mallard ducks

The experts stated that the terms 'mule' and 'mulard' ducks are synonyms to indicate hybrids between Domestic duck (Female) and Muscovy duck (Male). It was agreed that "mule ducks" will be used in the draft scientific opinion (SO). It was reported that term 'Mallard ducks' refers to the wild animals and it will not be assessed in the scientific opinion because out of the scope of the mandate.

### 5.2. Discussion on the biology of the animal species

The contributions provided by WG experts to the draft SO were commented. The WG agreed on the content and title of the sections on the general behaviour, physiology, and biology of the wild and domestic species. However, it was decided to include, in the chapter of each species, a section containing the description of genetic selection and production cycle.

### 5.3. Welfare consequences

The WG agreed that the welfare consequence "injuries", listed in ToR-2 of the mandate, may refer to several of the welfare consequences identified by the EFSA Farm to Fork WG, such as: "soft tissues lesions and integument damage", "bone lesions (including fractures and dislocations)", "locomotory disorders (including lameness)" and "eye disorder". Other welfare consequences that the WG considers relevant for the species in subject and that could be assessed when addressing ToR3 are: "Inability to perform exploratory or foraging behaviour", "Inability to express maternal behaviour", "Skin disorders (other than soft tissue lesions and integument damage)", "Respiratory

<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> [https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2022-02/wg-welfare-F2F-protection-ducks\\_geese\\_quail.pdf](https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2022-02/wg-welfare-F2F-protection-ducks_geese_quail.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2021-00395>

disorders". It was discussed if "gastrointestinal disorders" is a relevant welfare consequence for these animals, however, there is scarce information on it.

#### **5.4. Discussion on ToR1 - husbandry systems**

For each species, the husbandry systems currently used in the EU were listed by the WG. It was agreed to address ToR 1 by describing these ones, however search for any niche or minor husbandry system will be carried out. Publication else than in English will be also taken into consideration to retrieve any relevant information. It would be important to identify alternatives (niche) systems and, if any, assess their suitability from the animal welfare perspective to be commercially upgraded as alternatives to cages. The need for more information on non-caged systems was highlighted and it was suggested to contact umbrella organisations in this regard.

## **6. Any Other Business**

### **6.1. Project management**

Timelines of the project were discussed; the dates of the next WG meetings were agreed (up to March 2023).

### **6.2. Tasks and assignments**

WG experts were invited to produce a first draft narrative text, describing the genetic selection, production cycle and husbandry systems of the animal species and categories that were identified and agreed during the meeting.

## **7. Next meeting**

The 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the WG is scheduled for May 12, 2022 – web meeting



## Annex

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

In the Annual Declaration of Interest filled by Prof. Sandra Edwards the following interest has been declared: she is member of the Technical Advisory Committee for pigs of the Red Tractor (UK), which constitutes a Conflict of Interest (CoI) with the mandate of the EFSA's Farm to Fork Working Groups. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence<sup>6</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management<sup>7</sup> and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, a waiver was granted in accordance with Article 21 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management. Pursuant to Article 21(6) of the above-mentioned Decision, the concerned expert was allowed to take part in the discussion and in the drafting phase of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on the protection of ducks, geese and quail, and has not been allowed to be, or act as, a chairman, a vice-chairman or rapporteur of the Working Group.

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<sup>6</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>7</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)



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BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS, ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE UNIT

**SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE**  
**MINUTES OF THE 2<sup>nd</sup> MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE PROTECTION OF DUCKS, GEESE, QUAIL**

**Held by WEB-conference, 18 March 2022**

**(Agreed on 06<sup>th</sup> April 2022, amended on 06<sup>th</sup> May 2022)**

**Participants**

- Working Group Members:
  - Charlotte Berg
  - Sandra Edwards
  - Virginie Michel (PM)
  - Ute Knierim
  - Anja Riber
  - Attila Salamon
  - Hans Spooler (PM)
  - Antonio Velarde
  
- Hearing Experts<sup>1</sup>:
  - Joanna Litt
  - Daniel Guéméne
  
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
  - Kirsten Vornhagen (DG SANTE)
  
- EFSA:
  - BIOHAW Unit: Marika Vitali, Chiara Fabris, Lukas Pantenburg, Yves Van der Stede.
  
- Others:
  - Not Applicable

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<sup>1</sup> 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](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. 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. 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.

## 3. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

## 4. Agreement of the minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> WEB-Working Group meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> of February 2022

The minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> WEB-Working Group (WG) meeting were agreed by written procedure on 22<sup>nd</sup> of February 2022<sup>4</sup>.

## 5. Scientific topics for discussion<sup>4</sup>

After a short introduction on the EC mandates that EFSA received under the framework of the Farm-to-Fork (F2F) strategy, and on role and composition of the Welfare F2F working group (WG), the mandate on the protection of ducks, geese and quail (DGQ) was presented. Common Terms of Reference (ToRs) and methodologies to address them were discussed in detail. The list of welfare consequences with the definitions proposed by the Welfare F2F WG was discussed in relation to those welfare consequences listed in ToR-2 of the DGQ mandate. In particular the WG agreed that 'injuries' may refer to the welfare consequences 'soft tissues lesions and integument damage', 'bone lesions (including fractures and dislocations)', 'locomotory disorders (including lameness)'. Other welfare consequences that the WG considers relevant for the species in subject could be considered when addressing ToR3. The animal species to assess were discussed in detail and a final list was agreed. The species to consider are: *Anas platyrhynchos domesticus* (Domestic duck), *Cairina moschata domesticus* (Muscovy ducks) and hybrids, in the case of ducks; *Anser anser f. domesticus* (Domestic geese); *Coturnix japonica* (Japanese quail). As the mandate refers to only animals kept for the production of meat (including foie gras), eggs, and for breeding, the WG discussed and agreed which of the species under consideration is relevant for the production of meat (including foie gras), eggs, and/or for breeding. In addition, it was agreed that *Anser cygmooides domesticus*, *Geese hybrids*, *Coturnix coturnix*, family *Odontophoridae* and quail hybrids will not be included in the current assessment because are not farmed for any significant meat or egg production in the EU, and are not likely to be raised in the future. However, the reasons for their exclusion will be explained in the draft Scientific opinion. It was also agreed that animals farmed for gaming or hunting purposes are out of the scope of the mandate. The WG discussed and agreed also on the first structure of the draft SO.

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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> <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2021-00395>

## **6. Any Other Business**

### **6.1. Project management**

Timelines and deadlines of the project were discussed; the dates of the next WG meetings were agreed (up to May 2022).

### **6.2. Tasks and assignments**

WG experts were invited to produce a first draft of text in the SO, describing the biology of the animals, and to produce a list of husbandry systems used in the species and animal categories identified during the meeting.

## **7. Next meeting**

21<sup>th</sup> April 2022 – web meeting

## Annex

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

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<sup>5</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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BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS, ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE UNIT

## SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

### MINUTES OF THE 1<sup>st</sup> MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE PROTECTION OF DUCKS, GEESE, QUAIL

**Held by WEB-conference, 10 February 2022**

**(Agreed on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2022, amended on 06<sup>th</sup> May 2022)**

#### Participants

- Working Group Members:  
Sandra Edwards  
Virginie Michel  
Hans Spoolder  
Antonio Velarde
- Hearing Experts<sup>1</sup>:  
Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:  
Kirsten Vornhagen (DG SANTE) item 4.1.1 and during discussion of deliverable D4 in 4.2.
- EFSA:  
BIOHAW Unit: Maria V. Veggeland, Chiara Fabris, Marika Vitali, Lukas Pantenburg
- Others:  
Not Applicable

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<sup>1</sup> 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](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 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. 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. Scientific topics for discussion<sup>4</sup>

### 4.1. Presentation and discussion of the mandate

#### 4.1.1. Mandate & Terms of References

The mandate of the working group was presented and the experts discussed and agreed on interpretation of the Terms of References (ToRs). Compared to the other ongoing mandates under the Farm to Fork remit, this mandate is focused on four specific welfare consequences (WCs); Restriction of movement, Injuries, Group stress and Inability to perform comfort behaviour, and on risk factors (outlined in ToR3) that the EC considers will lead to these WCs. It was highlighted that this mandate should be intended in view of a possible legislative proposal. The main objective for the EC is to use the Opinion to decide whether the main husbandry systems in the EU fulfil the welfare needs of ducks, geese and quail and if not, how they can be improved. It was discussed that the pre-selected risk factors might apply/inflict upon additional WCs to the ones already selected for the mandate. Considering the timeframe, the scope of this mandate should not be broadened to cover all relevant WCs related to housing of ducks, geese and quail. However, identification of additional WCs could lead to e.g. recommendations on further investigation in future mandates.

#### 4.1.2. Approach to the mandate

The working group agreed that an assessment of each of the main husbandry systems as regards the impact of this system on the four selected WCs for the species concerned is the main task.

Animals categories were identified together with the list of housing systems already defined in the MSs survey, will be the starting point for the assessment, to be discussed and agreed in the full WG at next meeting. Division of the mandate into more than one opinion was discussed.

The structure of the scientific opinion was also discussed. It was agreed to divide in species-specific chapters; ducks, geese and quail. The animal categories and main systems will be described for each species. The WCs and ABMs might be described in a common section.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2021-00395>

An update was given about the WG composition. Two experts were still in the process of recruitment. Finally, the agenda for the 2nd WG meeting was discussed and agreed.

#### **4.2. Discussion on the preliminary outcomes of the preparatory work (outsourced)**

The preliminary deliverables requested to external contractor as preparatory work for the draft SO development were presented and discussed at the meeting. Summary reports (D4) of the survey to the Member States (MSS) on the keeping of ducks, geese and quail were presented and discussed. An overview table (D5) showing the structure and content of extraction of data.

### **5. from literature was presented and discussed.Any Other Business**

#### **5.1. Tasks and assignments**

WG experts were invited to provide any additional feedback to the preliminary deliverables produced by the contractor within 17th February. The draft structure of the scientific opinion will be shared before next meeting to the participants.

### **6. Next meeting**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in the WG is scheduled for March 18, 2022 – web meeting.



## Annex

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