

# Scientific Panel on Animal Health and Welfare

## Minutes of the 118<sup>th</sup> Plenary meeting

**Held on 26-27 June 2019**

**EFSA, Parma (Italy)**

**(Agreed on 8 July 2019)<sup>1</sup>**

### Participants

#### ■ Panel Members:

ALVAREZ Julio, BICOUT Dominique, CALISTRI Paolo, DEPNER Klaus, GARIN-BASTUJI Bruno, GONZALES ROJAS Jose Luis (via Skype for business), GORTAZAR SCHMIDT Christian, MICHEL Virginie, MIRANDA Miguel Angel, NIELSEN Søren Saxmose (Chair), ROBERTS Helen, SIHVONEN Liisa, STAHL Karl, VILTROP Arvo, WINCKLER Christoph (only 26 June 2019)

#### ■ European Commission: FORCELLA Simona & BERLINGIERI Francesco (via skype for business and for point 5.1 of the agenda)

#### ■ EFSA:

ALPHA UNIT: Sotiria-Eleni Antoniou, Inma Aznar, Francesca Baldinelli, Alessandro Broglia, Denise Candiani, Sofie Dhollander, Andrey Gogin, Chiara Fabris, Nikolaus Kriz, Marie Louise Schneider, Andras Szoradi, Laura Gonzalez Villeta, Yves Van der Stede, Gabriele Zancanaro.

AMU UNIT: Jose Cortinas Abrahantes, Alexandra Papanikolaou.

#### ■ Hearing experts<sup>2</sup>: not applicable.

#### ■ Observers: not applicable.

### 1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The chair welcomed the meeting participants. Apologies were received from DREWE Julian Ashley.

### 2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

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

<sup>2</sup> As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:  
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.



### 3. Declarations of Interest Scientific Panel Members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence<sup>3</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management<sup>4</sup>, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

### 4. Agreement of the minutes of the 117<sup>th</sup> Plenary meeting held on 7-8 May 2019, Parma, (Italy)

The minutes of the 117<sup>th</sup> Plenary meeting were agreed by written procedure on 21 May 2019.

### 5. Scientific outputs submitted for possible adoption or endorsement

#### 5.1. **Art 29 – African Swine Fever Risk assessment in south eastern Europe & risk ranking matrices (EFSA-Q-2019-00049)**

The last meeting of the ASF standing working group was held on 11-12 June 2019 in Parma, where the results of the risk assessment for TOR 1 and TOR 2 of the mandate were discussed and the conclusions and recommendations were agreed upon. The final version of the SO, with updated assessment, abstract, summary, conclusions and recommendations were presented at the plenary meeting, and comments of the Panel were addressed. The summary, conclusions and recommendations were thoroughly discussed during the first day and finalised on the second day of the Plenary meeting. The uncertainty around the conclusions was discussed and expressed in a clear and understandable way. The Opinion was adopted on 27 June by the AHAW Panel. It was agreed that the EC could still check the legal references and request clarification on the communication of the conclusions of the SO.

### 6. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion

#### 6.1. **Art 29 - Slaughter of animals for human consumption (domestic birds) (EFSA-Q-2018-00715)**

The text of the draft opinion as well as the phrasing and style of the conclusions and recommendations were thoroughly discussed with Panel members. It was agreed that redundancy should be deleted where possible, mainly related to preventive and corrective measures. In order to improve readability, the formatting of the 'outcome tables' (where for each process, the identified hazards, related welfare consequences and ABMs, hazards' origin, origin category, and corrective and preventive measures are reported) was discussed and agreed: in the final version of the opinion the first column will refer to the hazards and will be followed by the column of the welfare consequences.

<sup>3</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>4</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)



It was agreed that the draft scientific Opinion will be presented for possible adoption in the Panel meeting of September 2019.

### **6.2. Art 29 - Killing for other purposes than slaughter (domestic birds): (EFSA-Q-2018-00716)**

The opinion will follow the same approach as the draft SO on Slaughter of animals for human consumption (domestic birds; EFSA-Q-2018-00715). It was agreed that the final draft of this opinion will be prepared for deep review by mid of July, after the working group of 3-5 July 2019. It was agreed that the comments from the Panel members will be submitted by the 24<sup>th</sup> of August 2019, in order to be addressed as much as possible during the following WG meeting (beginning of September). This Opinion will be presented for possible adoption in the Panel meeting of September 2019.

### **6.3. Art 29 – Slaughter of rabbits for human consumption and the killing of rabbits for other purposes (EFSA-Q-2018-00909)**

The Panel was informed about outcomes from EKE activities (survey + technical hearing meeting) to select the best indicators of unconsciousness. For this purpose, a survey was carried out about sensitivity, specificity and easiness of use of several indicators of unconsciousness. Stunning methods for which these indicators were evaluated are mechanical stunning (penetrative and non-penetrative captive bolt) and electrical stunning. Similarly, in case of slaughter without stunning, sensitivity, specificity and easiness of indicators of death were evaluated through the survey. Estimates for these parameters were obtained from 25 experts in total. The WG selected the indicators to be included in a flowchart (one for each method) for monitoring of the slaughter process. This Opinion will be presented for thorough discussion during the September plenary meeting to be submitted for adoption in November 2019.

### **6.4. Art 29 - Health and welfare of rabbits farmed in different production systems (EFSA-Q-2018-00593) – EKE and survey**

While the outcomes of the EKE on severity had already been presented during the last Plenary (May 2019), at this meeting the results of the survey on prevalence and duration were presented for information to the Panel. Firstly, the Panel was informed of adjustments done to the dataset obtained from the survey. This includes duplication of responses when applying to several animal categories and handling of responses to questions related to occurrence/significance of welfare consequences for the different animal categories. Secondly, the Panel was informed that the WG plans to present the overall results at three levels: i) comparison of cumulative welfare impact score amongst systems within one animal category, ii) comparison of welfare scores for the single welfare consequences and iii) identification of top five welfare consequences for each system and each category.

## **7. New Mandates**

### **7.1. Art. 29- Scientific opinion on Rift Valley Fever**



The EFSA Secretariat presented to the Panel the background and Terms of Reference (ToRs) of a new request from the EC in relation to Rift Valley Fever (RVF), as received by EFSA on 11 June 2019. The approach to tackle the TORs was presented and discussed by the Panel. The approach for estimating the overall risk of RVF (TOR1) using the MINTRISK model (as done in SO for VBDs) was agreed, while for ToR 1.3 the risk of entry into specific MSs a different approach should be studied. The model approach to study the impact and effectiveness of surveillance, prevention and control measures of RVF in Mayotte and possibly in the EU was thoroughly discussed. It was agreed by the Panel that an ad hoc working group on RVF will be set up, composed of 2 to 3 Panel members and 3 to 4 external experts. The expertise needed for this ad hoc working group was discussed. In agreement with the Panel, the Panel Chair appointed Paolo Calistri (subject to ADoI clearance for Chairmanship) as Chair of this new ad hoc working group on RVF.

## 8. Updates on ongoing mandates

### 8.1. Art. 31- African Swine Fever gap analysis (EFSA-Q-2019-00050)

The results of the gap analysis were shown. The report will be finalised by first week of July and will be send to standing WG on ASF for review. Three members of the Panel volunteered for a deep reading prior to publication. The research priorities that were obvious from the gap analysis were biosecurity, wild boar management and survival of ASFV in different matrices (e.g. feed) and how this can be monitored, in line with the ranked matrices of the SO.

### 8.2. Art. 31 - Scientific and technical assistance on African swine fever - epidemiological analyses (EFSA-Q-2018-00053)

The Panel members were informed on the status of the case-control (CC) study ongoing in Romania and the approach to be taken for the final report (deadline December 2019). A weekly follow up is done for checking the completeness of the questionnaires by the Romanian Veterinary Services.

### 8.3. Art. 31 - Scientific and technical assistance on avian influenza monitoring

An overview and summary were given of the AI outbreaks in the EU and Europe (period February-June 2019). The Panel was informed about the postponement of the upcoming AI monitoring report XIII from end of June to end of September 2019.

### 8.4. Data collection on animal diseases and surveillance (SIGMA) (EFSA-Q-2018-00080)

An update of the SIGMA project was presented to the Panel. Separate procurements in order to support MSs were launched.

### 8.5. Art 29 - Request for a scientific opinion on the evaluation of public and animal health risks in case of a delayed post-mortem inspection in ungulates



An update of the first meeting of the WG that took place on 11 June was provided. The BIOHAZ Panel is the leading panel for this mandate and specific sections will be endorsed by AHAW. The work of AHAW in that specific WG was highlighted by the vice Chair Bruno Garin-Bastuji. A table with specific pathogens will be filled in and the relative change of the sensitivity for each will be listed with relation to delayed meat inspection (after 48h and 72h). Next WG meeting is on 24 September.

#### **8.6. Art 29 - Scientific opinion as regards specific maximum levels of cross-contamination for 24 antimicrobial active substances in non-target feed**

An update of the first meeting of the WG that took place on 12 June was provided. The BIOHAZ Panel is the leading panel for this mandate and specific sections will be endorsed by AHAW and FEEDAP Panel. The assessment will be done in collaboration with EMA, which has nominated an expert as member of the WG. The whole WG will be divided in two subgroups (Sub-AMR and Sub-GP) to initially address each ToR. The work of AHAW in that specific WG was highlighted by Paolo Calistri (WG member). The AHAW panel should validate a list of specific animal pathogens that might be at stake for inducing antibiotic resistance due to consumption of feed cross-contaminated with 25 antimicrobial substances listed in the TORs. A distinction between the different production systems and animal species/age categories should be foreseen in the assessment. Next WG meeting is scheduled on 26 September pm until 27 September a.m.

### **9. Feedback from the Scientific Committee/Scientific Panels, EFSA, the European Commission-Activities from other Panels**

The last meeting of the Plenary meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC) took place on 25 June 2019. The AHAW Panel Chair Søren Saxmose Nielsen reported to the Panel about the SC meeting, he attended. No specific comments on the work of AHAW panel were received. Attention should be paid to the implementation of the guidance on uncertainty according to the checklist in the last mandates received (e.g. reviewing in detail the formulation of the terms of reference and assessment questions, discussing the need to quantify uncertainties, presenting the structure of draft conclusions at early stages etc.). This agenda item will be kept for further discussion in future plenaries.

### **10. Any other business & wrap up**

#### **10.1. New Way of Working**

It was pointed out again that the way forward to update the panel members on the update of the working documents (reports, Scientific opinions, etc) will be on SharePoint (office 365). It was stressed that the access to the links provided should be checked before shared and that experts always should use 'track changes' status.

A different approach presented was to inform the Panel members ('get rid of briefing notes'). A simple table with the links as well as clear instructions for panel members will be provided as well as clear deadlines for the comments to be made in the documents.



## **10.2. Next meeting**

Next Plenary meeting is 25 (9h-18h) & 26 September (9h-16h).