



European Food Safety Authority

ADOPTED MINUTES OF THE 6TH PLENARY MEETING OF THE PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

(15-16/06/2004)

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PARTICIPANTS

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EFSA: B. Arbelot, J. Ferrés and J. Serratos, (Scientific co-ordination AHAW panel).

European Commission: S. Osaer and R. Horgan (SANCO).

1. WELCOME FROM HANOVER UNIVERSITY AUTHORITIES AND PRESENTATION ON THE VETERINARY SCHOOL (STIFTUNG TIERÄRZTLICHE HOCHSCHULE HANNOVER)

The President of the Veterinary School of Hanover, Dr. Gerhard Greif, welcomed the participants and Prof. Joerg Hartung presented the structure and research activities of the University.

2. WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The Chairman welcomed the participants and no member declared a conflict of interest in any of the items on the agenda of this specific meeting.

Apologies were announced for Ilaria Capua, Xavier Manteca Vilanova, José M. Sánchez-Vizcaino, Michael Sharp and Alejandro Schudel.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted after introducing a new subject (animal welfare education) in the miscellaneous.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PLENARY MEETING

The minutes of the 5th Plenary Meeting were approved following the written procedure as agreed at the last Plenary Meeting. The minutes were unanimously accepted on the 28th April 2004 and published at the following web site:

http://www.efsa.eu.int/science/ahaw/ahaw_meetings/460/minutes_ahaw_05_en1.pdf

5. STATE OF PLAY OF THE MANDATES

5.1. Adoption of the Stunning Opinion based on the scientific Report

The Chairman of the working group presented the Scientific Opinion on Stunning. The AHAW Panel approved the Scientific Report. The Scientific Opinion was adopted by the Panel after some editorial changes.

5.2. Microclimate Transport.

The Chairman of the Working Group presented the Scientific Report carried out by the Working Group on Microclimate and Transport. The report was discussed and several amendments were proposed. Some data should be revised and verified.

In addition to the comments made during the Plenary Meeting, Panel members were invited to send written comments on the Scientific Report on Microclimate before the 28th of June to the chairman of this Working Group and AHAW Secretariat. The revised version will be sent the latest the 6th of July for discussion at the next plenary meeting 12-13th July.

5.3. Piglet castration.

The chairman reported the task carried out in the 5 meetings organised with Working Group, and the last meeting held in Brussels with members of the panel together with some members of the Working Group. The final Scientific Report was finalised and approved by the Working Group. The final draft Opinion was presented. It was agreed that written comments should be sent to the chairman of the Working group by 23rd June. On the 29th June EFSA secretariat will send to the Panel members the final version for possible adoption at the next Plenary Meeting 12-13th July.

5.4. Risk of transmission of MAP via bovine semen.

The chairman explained the current state of the report and the opinion, after the last 4 meetings carried out by members of the working Group in London. The Scientific Report is almost finished and would be submitted for possible approval at the next plenary.

The Panel decided to organize a meeting before next plenary in order to finalize the scientific opinion. The meeting was scheduled at 30th June in London. Members of the Panel were requested to send their comments and amendments to the chairman of the working group and EFSA secretariat, before the 23rd June. On the 1st July EFSA secretariat will send to the Panel members the final version for possible adoption at the next Plenary Meeting 12-13th July.

5.5. Laying Hens.

The Chairman of the Working Group explained the current situation of the draft Scientific Report done by the Working Group on Laying Hens. The Panel agreed to organize a meeting on 27th August, in Lelystad (NL) with a few members of the panel and of the working group in order to finalize the opinion. The opinion is expected to be ready for possible adoption on September.

5.6. Avian Influenza

EFSA scientific coordinator explained the current situation of this report. First meeting took place 14 May in Padova (Italy) and two meetings have been already scheduled for 18 June and 1st July. The Commission sent a mandate on Avian Influenza the last 14th May. The Panel agreed that the mandate from the Commission overlaps in certain aspects with the terms of reference written in the self-mandate, therefore is their opinion that the same working group could lead both terms of reference in the same report and opinion.

The Panel would like to consider under this mandate the welfare implications on the control strategies for Avian Influenza.

5.7. Impact of the current housing and husbandry systems on the health and welfare of farmed domestic rabbits.

The chairman of the Working group announced that the first meeting of the working group will take place on 14th July in Parma.

5.8. Rift Valley Fever

The Chairman of the Working group explained that the first meeting will take place in London the 16th August.

6. MISCELLANEOUS

6.1. Confirmation of two members of the AHAW Panel for Zoonosis Working Groups:

At the last Plenary it was decided that two panel members, were representing the Panel in the EFSA Zoonosis Working Groups. Two working groups on Zoonosis will start their activities in the next future, and therefore the Panel agreed on the experts to represent the Panel on each working group. The first WG on the “Zoonosis report”, to consider the needs to revise the presentation of the Community Summary Report and the National Reports of Zoonosis referred to the Dir 2003/99/EC and to discuss necessary improvements. The second WG on the review of the reporting tables and manual” should consider the needs for the harmonisation of data collection approaches for defined Zoonosis and the revision of the tables and the manual for the reporting of data on Zoonosis in accordance with Dir 2003/99/EC.

6.2. VIIth Plenary Meeting on 12th and 13th July in Parma (Italy).

Details on the next plenary will be sent by EFSA secretariat to all Panel members. The timetable of the next Plenary Meeting was agreed. Members were kindly invited to arrive on 11th July.

6.3. Confirmation dates for the next Plenary Meetings.

The 8th Plenary Meeting will take place in Brussels at 14th (starting at 9.00 am), and 15th September. Members were kindly invited to arrive on 13th September.

The 9th plenary is planned in Brussels on 10th November, Wednesday (starting at 9.00 am) and Thursday 11th. The 10th Plenary meeting was confirmed on 13 and 14th December.

6.4. Letter on the Opinions and Reports from G. Podger to R. Madelin (DG SANCO)

The Panel agreed to discuss on the case by case approach. It was underlined that possible discrepancies between Reports and Opinions, if identified, should be clarified and justified in the opinion by the Panel.

6.5. New mandate on Animal health and welfare of the weaning and rearing pigs.

The new mandate was presented by the Commission representatives. As soon as the mandate is accepted by EFSA the Panel will set up a Working group. The chairman for this mandate was proposed.

The panel agreed that those mandates in welfare aspects of farm animals should consider when necessary and justified a global approach, in order to consider food safety aspects. EFSA secretariat will ask to the Commission services, reports based on recent research from Member States.

6.6. Proposal on Animal Welfare Education

A Panel member proposed Animal Welfare Education and its harmonization over all EU countries as a possible new self mandate. EFSA secretariat reminded the procedure of the self-mandates requiring a background and the precise terms of reference. It was requested by EFSA secretariat that most of the previous self-mandates proposed was still required the terms of reference.

6.7. Report of the European Workshop on the interface between Risk Assessment (RA) and Risk Management (RM).

A standard questionnaire will be sent to the panel by EFSA for comments. All the replies should be sent before Parma meeting in order to decide a common position from the panel for the scientific committee at the end of July.

Hanover, 16th June 2004