



European Food Safety Authority

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

(14-15/09/2004)

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PARTICIPANTS

Bo Algers, Donald M. Broom, Harry Blokhuis, Stefano Cinotti, Michael Gunn, Joerg Hartung, Per Have, Xavier Manteca, David B. Morton, Michel Pépin, Dirk U. Pfeiffer, Ronald J. Roberts, , Alejandro Schudel, Georgios Theodoropoulos, Philippe Vannier, Martin Wierup, Marion Wooldridge.

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

European Commission: S. Osaer (14th) , W. Maier (14th), R. Horgan (15th) (DG SANCO), J. Claxton and I. Minguez (14th) (DG RTD), B. Rey (14th) (DG AIDCO).

1. 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 James Michael Sharp, Ilaria Capua, José M. Sánchez-Vizcaino, and Marina Verga,

Two new members of the AHAW Panel, Dr Marion Wooldridge and Prof. Bo Algers, were welcomed. A round table of presentations took place for all members participating at that plenary meeting.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE VII PLENARY MEETING

The minutes of the 7th Plenary Meeting held in Parma on 12-13th July, were unanimously adopted and published on 27 July at the following web site: <http://www.efsa.eu.int>

4. DG RTD PRESENTATION ON THE 5TH AND 6TH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMMES

Dr Isabel Minguez and Dr John Claxton, officials of DG RTD presented the relevant points affecting Animal Health and Animal Welfare of the 5th and 6th Framework programmes. EFSA secretariat pointed out that the support given by DG Research has been very useful for the panel tasks. It was also stated out that the Panel is very thankful for any feedback from DG Research on the current recommendations for future research expressed in the scientific opinions. DG Research officials stated that recommendations adopted by AHAW Panel are taken on board when drafting the work programmes. The chairman, on behalf of the panel members, welcomes the DG RTD participation and encouraged to keep a very proactive approach in mutual benefit.

5. SCIENTIFIC OPINIONS FOR POSSIBLE ADOPTION

5.1. Risk of transmission of MAP via bovine semen.

The Chairman of the working group justified the need to adopt a single document instead of presenting a separate report. The nature of the mandate, the little available data and the risk assessment methodology followed to reply this mandate makes a single document more comprehensive than a scientific opinion and an additional separate report. This discussion took into account the approach stated by G. Podger letter from 3rd June concerning the tailor made approach for specific questions on a case by case basis.

The chairman presented the opinion and through the discussion, amendments were proposed and accepted. The AHAW Panel adopted unanimously the scientific opinion. The opinion will be published on the Internet as soon as all editorial changes and appropriate format and translations of the summary of the opinion has been finalised by the EFSA secretariat.

5.2. Microclimate inside Transport vehicles.

The chairman of the Working Group presented the main outcomes of the scientific opinion on Microclimate. Due to the few new available data since the last scientific opinion and the nature of the question the Panel agreed that for this mandate it was also more appropriated to present a single opinion. The document was discussed and some minor contributions were still pending. Therefore it was decided to submit the document for possible adoption through the written procedure. In case of non agreement on the final opinion, it should be considered for discussion and possible adoption at the next plenary meeting.

6. PENDING MANDATES

6.1. Vaccines for the control of Salmonella in poultry

M. Pépin as an expert and also representative of AHAW Panel in that working group, explained that the last plenary of BIOHAZ panel the opinion was accepted but it will be finally adopted on the next plenary in November. The BIOHAZ panel is waiting for EMEA contributions, comments or amendments.

6.2. Laying Hens.

The Chairman explained the current situation of the draft scientific report and opinion. Comments by the Panel members have been received, accepted and introduced in the last version of the report. Therefore the report could be considered accepted by the Panel and for the next plenary the Panel could concentrate the discussions on the opinion. The chairman explained that a meeting of WG and panel members will take place on the 15th September afternoon and 16th September to finalise the opinion. Comments to the final opinion (to be distributed) should be sent to EFSA secretariat before the 4th October.

6.3. Avian Influenza

Prof. D. Broom explained the state of play of this opinion. The working group on Avian Influenza will meet on the 29th September in Weybridge.

6.4. Welfare of Rabbits

The Chairman of the working group explained that the working group has already started to draft a report and the second meeting will take place in Barcelona next 27-28th of September.

6.5. Rift Valley fever

The chairman of the working group informed that the first meeting took place on the 16th August and the second meeting has been arranged on 11 October in London.

6.6. Animal welfare and health aspects of different space allowances and floor types for weaners and rearing pigs

The chairman explained that the working group members have been selected and the first meeting will take in Brussels the 27th September.

7. NEW MANDATES

7.1. Porcine Respiratory and Reproductive Syndrome (PRRS)

The Commission official W. Maier (DG SANCO) presented the background and the terms of reference of the mandate. After a discussion it was decided that the deadline for this opinion should be postponed. The scope of the mandate was to consider the possible transmission through meat and meat products (mainly fresh). The Biohazard panel will be consulted on the possible expertise for meat technology and meat inspection. The chairman was proposed and accepted by the Panel.

7.2. Foot and Mouth Disease

The background and the terms of reference were presented by B. Rey (DG AIDCO). The mandate was accepted. The Panel agreed that EFSA could propose to the Commission to include the terms of reference of the self-mandate on Foot and Mouth disease in the present mandate. According to the discussion the third bullet point of the terms of reference should be reworded by DG AIDCO. A first intermediate report should be available for June 2005 and the final opinion on September 2005. The chairman was elected for this working group and also two members of the Panel will also support this task. It was also encouraged that experts from developing countries, OIE and FAO should also join this Working group.

7.3. Laboratory Animals

In absence of the official of DG ENV, EFSA secretariat presented the mandate on the scientific opinion concerning scientific aspects of the revision of Directive 86/609/EEC on the protection of animals used for experimental and other scientific purposes. This mandate needed further clarifications. Therefore according with EFSA hierarchy, a meeting will be organized to better define the scope and deadlines of the opinion. This meeting should include all affected DGs services from the Commission, a representative of AHAW Panel, SC and EFSA staff.

8. MISCELLANEOUS

8.1. Self-mandates.

EFSA secretariat will forward to all members a draft document containing all the background for the currently proposed self-mandates. The panel members were requested to draft the precise terms of reference. The final document will be discussed at the next plenary and the priorities should be confirmed. We need to confirm the priority and the terms of reference. A document has been sent by EFSA secretariat to all members

8.2. Plenary meetings for 2004 and 2005

The Panel members accepted to start the IX plenary meeting in Brussels on 10th November at 9.00 am and ending the 11th November on 14.00 pm. Members were kindly invited to arrive on 9th November.

Plenary meetings for 2005

9th - 10th February - Uppsala (Sweden) starting first day at 14.00 ending the second day at 17.00 pm

15th - 16th of March in London, starting first day at 14.00 ending the second day at 17.00 pm

25th - 26th May in Brussels, starting first day at 10:00am, ending the second day at 14.00 pm

14th - 15th June in Brussels, starting first day at 10:00am, ending the second day at 14.00 pm

11th - 12th July in Parma, starting first day at 9:00 am, ending the second day at 14:00 pm

13th - 14th September in Bologna, starting first day at 10:00am, ending the second day at 14.00 pm.

12th - 13th October in Parma starting first day at 9:00 am, ending the second day at 14:00 pm

14th - 15th December in Parma/Bologna starting first day at 9:00 am, ending the second day at 14:00 pm.

Brussels, 15th September 2004