

## MINUTES OF THE XXX PLENARY MEETING OF THE PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

**10 AND 11 OCTOBER 2007**

<b>1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2. INTERVENTION OF THE EFSA'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>4. PREVIOUS MINUTES ADOPTED BY WRITTEN PROCEDURE .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>5. COMMISSION SERVICES (CS) NEW MANDATES.....</b>	<b>2</b>
5.1. STATE OF PLAY OF THE NEW MANDATES .....	2
<b>6. OPINIONS AND REPORTS SUBMITTED FOR POSSIBLE ADOPTION/ ACCEPTANCE... 2</b>	
6.1. WELFARE AND HEALTH OF SOWS AND BOARS .....	3
6.2. VECTOR SPECIES AND LIVE STAGES OF SUSCEPTIBLE SPECIES AS REGARDS CERTAIN AQUATIC ANIMAL DISEASES - A) FISH: .....	3
6.3. WELFARE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH PIG TAIL BITING: .....	3
6.4. FISH WELFARE - ATLANTIC SALMON: .....	3
6.5. ZOONOSES.....	3
<b>7. WRITTEN COMMENTS ON THE STATE OF PLAY OF THE SCIENTIFIC OPINIONS AND REPORTS .....</b>	<b>4</b>
7.1. FISH WELFARE-TROUT: .....	4
7.2. FISH WELFARE-CARP: .....	4
7.3. FISH WELFARE-SEA BASS AND GILTHEAD SEA BREAM: .....	4
7.4. FISH WELFARE-EUROPEAN EEL: .....	4
7.5. VECTOR SPECIES AND LIVE STAGES OF SUSCEPTIBLE SPECIES AS REGARDS CERTAIN AQUATIC ANIMAL DISEASES - B) MOLLUSCS AND C) CRUSTACEA: .....	4
7.6. WELFARE OF DAIRY COWS .....	4
7.7. TUBERCULOSIS IN DEER.....	4
7.8. ANIMAL WELFARE ASPECTS OF THE KILLING AND SKINNING OF SEALS.....	4
7.9. AVIAN INFLUENZA - FOLLOW UP: .....	5
<b>8. MISCELLANEOUS .....</b>	<b>5</b>
8.1. DG RTD FP7 ON AHAW ISSUES .....	5
8.2. PROCEDURE FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN EFSA - EMEA/CVMP CONSULTATION IN RELATION TO THE MANDATES OF THE AHAW PANEL .....	5
8.3. ADOPTED OPINIONS.....	5
8.4. ACCEPTED A SELF-MANDATE ON GUIDELINES FOR ANIMAL WELFARE RISK ASSESSMENT: .....	5
8.5. NEXT PLENARY MEETING .....	5

## **PARTICIPANTS**

Bo Algers, Harry Blokhuis, Donald Broom, Patrizia Costa, Mariano Domingo, Matthias Greiner, Joerg Hartung, Frank Koenen, Christine Müller-Graf, Albert Osterhaus, Dirk Pfeiffer, Ronald Roberts, Mo Salman (10<sup>th</sup> October), Moez Sanaa, Philippe Vannier, Martin Wierup, David Morton and Daniel Guemene.

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION:** S. Osaer, M. Ferrara, P. Rosado Martin (DG SANCO) I. Minguez-Tudela (DG RESEARCH).

**INVITED OBSERVERS:** Tomoko Ishibashi (OIE), Stéphane De la Roque (FAO).

**EFSA:** E. Franchi and H. Figoluszka (administrative staff AHAW Unit); S. Correia, O. Ribó, A. Afonso, F. Berthe, F. De Massis, D. Candiani, E. Aiassa, T. Grudnik, S. Dhollander, S. Barbieri, P. Have, J. Serratos (Scientific Coordination AHAW Unit), Riitta Maijala (Head of the Risk Assessment Department), Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle (Executive Director).

### **1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Chairman welcomed the participants and no member declared any conflict of interest on the items on the agenda. Apologies were received from M. Wooldridge and M. Sharp. Welcome was given to Mrs Isabel Minguez (DG Research) for her attendance and willingness to share with the AHAW Panel the current DG RTD's activities on AHAW related issues.

### **2. INTERVENTION OF THE EFSA'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

The intervention of the executive Director pointed out the new administrative measures adopted by the Management Board relating the experts, the new policy on the DoI, to be re-evaluated in the following months as well as the new policy lines under discussion of the Management Board.

### **3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

The agenda was adopted.

### **4. PREVIOUS MINUTES ADOPTED BY WRITTEN PROCEDURE**

The minutes of the previous 29<sup>th</sup> Plenary meeting held in Parma on the 5-6 September 2007 were unanimously adopted by written procedure by the Panel members on the 28 September 2007 and published on the web (<http://www.efsa.europa.eu>).

### **5. COMMISSION SERVICES (CS) NEW MANDATES**

#### **5.1. State of play of the new mandates**

The Commission presented a new mandate on avian influenza to the Panel, requesting an update and consolidation of the previous scientific opinions on AI. This mandate covers key areas already considered by EFSA in a draft proposal for updates on avian influenza (see point 7.9 below). A working group will be launched following an initial meeting with COM to clarify the precise scope of the mandate.

### **6. OPINIONS AND REPORTS SUBMITTED FOR POSSIBLE ADOPTION/ACCEPTANCE**

### **6.1. Welfare and health of Sows and Boars**

The chapter on the risk assessment approach was circulated to the WG members and was considered accepted. The Chapter will be included in the three Scientific Opinions on Pig Welfare as agreed at the previous plenary meeting.

As agreed, a Minority Opinion was circulated to the Panel, and in view of the remarks it was decided that EFSA-AHAW had to review the scientific opinion and the last available scientific data. A document with Conclusions and Recommendations, including comments by EFSA-AHAW staff was drafted and circulated, before the meeting. The document was discussed and an agreement on the Conclusions and Recommendations was reached. Therefore the Scientific Opinion was adopted by unanimity.

### **6.2. Vector species and live stages of susceptible species as regards certain aquatic animal diseases - a) Fish:**

The Fish Diseases scientific opinion was submitted for adoption and after several discussions the document was adopted unanimously. The panel accepted to present and discuss at the next plenary meeting a statement about the differences in the definitions applied on aquatic animals in OIE aquatic health code, EU legislation and the scientific terminology.

### **6.3. Welfare risks associated with pig tail biting:**

As agreed during the last Plenary, a written procedure adoption was launched, with a deadline on 26 September. Comments were received by EFSA, which were considered fundamental for the adoption. A document has been prepared including all received comments and sent to the Panel. Only these comments were discussed during the Plenary, as the rest of the opinion was considered agreed by the Panel. All comments about the Scientific Report were discussed and agreed. However a few items were not discussed due to the lack of time and it was decided to submit the opinion for written procedure.

#### **6.4. Fish Welfare - Atlantic Salmon:**

The last meeting for finalization of the report was held on the 3/9/07. Overall, it was agreed that the 5 scientific reports, excluding the common chapters (fish welfare concepts, assessment of welfare, pain, sentience, brain structure) will be separately submitted to Panel members for acceptance; the five final Scientific Opinions, including the common chapters and the 5 reports, will instead be submitted for adoption at the end of the mandate (July 2008).

Another meeting, for exchanging of views on the common chapters' issues, was held on the 27/9/07 with the experts of the Council of Europe and future collaboration between EFSA and CoE was agreed. A meeting was also held on the 1/10/07 with EMEA officers to discuss collaboration. Ms Melanie Leivers will be the contact point for the fish opinions.

### **6.5. Zoonoses**

The second and final meeting was held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October in Brussels. The working group with members from BIOHAZ and AHAW Panels discussed thoroughly the second draft of the opinion. The final draft opinion will be distributed to the members of the WG and will be presented to both Panels for possible adoption in December. BIOHAZ will adopt the issues related with public health and food safety and AHAW the ones related with Animal Health. Exchange of comments between the two Panels will be maintained. Comments concerning the issues under AHAW's remit should be sent before 30<sup>th</sup> October. The final version will be sent to BIOHAZ secretariat until the 5<sup>th</sup> November.

## **7. WRITTEN COMMENTS ON THE STATE OF PLAY OF THE SCIENTIFIC OPINIONS AND REPORTS**

### **7.1. Fish Welfare-Trout:**

The last meeting was held on October 8-9 and the next one is scheduled for 17-18/12/07.

### **7.2. Fish welfare-Carp:**

Experts for the carp were contacted in July and the WG was set up. The first WG meeting was held on October, 10th. The draft plan of content was agreed. Tasks were assigned to WG members according to their expertise. Next WG meeting is scheduled for 11-12/12/07

### **7.3. Fish welfare-Sea bass and gilthead sea bream:**

Experts will start being contacted in October to start in December.

### **7.4. Fish welfare-European eel:**

Experts will start being contacted in November to start in January.

### **7.5. Vector species and live stages of susceptible species as regards certain aquatic animal diseases - b) Molluscs and c) Crustacea:**

The reports are concluded by the WG. The last meeting for completion of RA of molluscs and crustaceans was held on 2-3 October. This meeting will be followed by web conferencing with the Risk Assessors on the 7/11/07. The mollusc and crustacean reports will be submitted for possible adoption in December plenary Meeting. A letter was sent to the Commission confirming the agreed new deadline for the two opinions.

### **7.6. Welfare of Dairy Cows**

The last WG meeting was held on 12<sup>th</sup> October. A list of hazards was drafted for starting the Risk assessment process during next meeting. Next WG meeting is planned for December, the 3<sup>rd</sup>. As previously announced the meeting with members of EFSA's Advisory Forum and WG members is being organized and will be held on next 4<sup>th</sup> December in Parma

### **7.7. Tuberculosis in Deer**

A first transversal meeting has been held on the 6/ 7<sup>th</sup> September. Another meeting was held on the 26/ 27<sup>th</sup> September mainly to discuss the methodology to be followed for the analysis of the two sets of data related with the different diagnostic tests for Tb in Deer – expert opinion and systematic literature review. The preliminary results from the meta-analysis were presented in the meeting. A meeting to finalise this issue is planned for the 9/ 12<sup>th</sup> October. The final transversal meeting is planned for the 23/ 24<sup>th</sup> October. The opinion is expected to be submitted for possible adoption at the next plenary meeting in December.

### **7.8. Animal welfare aspects of the killing and skinning of seals**

#### **7.8.1. Scientific Report**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> WG meeting was held last 20-21 September, when the Scientific Draft and the RA were revised and amendments were agreed. The Scientific Report on the “Animal welfare aspects of the killing and skinning of seals” prepared by an ad-hoc WG from the Norwegian Scientific Committee for Food Safety-Animal Health and Welfare was delivered to EFSA on 12<sup>th</sup>

September and distributed to the WG Members. The Report was presented by the Chairman of the AHAW Panel of the Norwegian Scientific Committee. A meeting on RA took place in Parma on October 2<sup>nd</sup> and a meeting with the WG members who attended the stakeholders' consultation was held on October 5<sup>th</sup>.

WG meetings have been planned for the next 18-20 October and 8-9 November.

### **7.8.2. Stakeholder Consultation Meeting**

The Draft Report was delivered to all stakeholders with a questionnaire about the contents of the Report to be submitted before the meeting. A total of 11 filled questionnaires were received and distributed to all meeting participants. Around 50 people attended the meeting and all issues of the report were discussed. It was agreed that there will be the possibility to submit additional comments about the report as well as additional information before next November 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **7.9. Avian Influenza - follow up:**

A proposal for an update of the 5 previous opinions on avian influenza was presented for discussion. This proposal was also sent to SANCO who during the meeting presented a new mandate on avian influenza. The new mandate was considered by the Panel as acceptable for the follow up.

## **8. MISCELLANEOUS**

### **8.1. DG RTD FP7 on AHAW issues**

Isabel Minguez (DG RTD) explained the activities related to AHAW issues in the framework of FP7 and also presented the activities and scope of the technological platform on animal health.

### **8.2. Procedure for Cooperation between EFSA - EMEA/CVMP consultation in relation to the mandates of the AHAW Panel**

This point was postponed for next plenary meeting due to time constraints.

### **8.3. Adopted opinions**

#### **8.3.1. Welfare and health of fattening pigs**

The Summary of the S. Opinion has been accepted by the Panel with minor changes. The Scientific Report and Scientific Opinion have been sent to the Web for publication

#### **8.3.2. Framework for EFSA AHAW Risk Assessments**

The Opinion, after some editorial amendments, was sent for publication in the EFSA website on the 8<sup>th</sup> of October.

### **8.4. Accepted a Self-mandate on Guidelines for animal welfare risk assessment:**

EFSA informed that the self-mandate has been accepted and signed by the hierarchy and a road map of actions will be presented at the plenary meeting in December.

### **8.5. Next Plenary Meeting**

The next plenary meeting will take place in Parma. The Panel agreed to extend the plenary meeting to Friday 7<sup>th</sup> because 5 opinions should be discussed for possible adoption. However due to the fact that some members can not attend on that day, it was decided that no adoption will be taken and that any finalised document will be submitted for adoption by written procedure. The meeting will be held on the 5<sup>th</sup> (from 09.00 to 18.00h), 6<sup>th</sup> (from 08.30 to 15.30h) and 7<sup>th</sup> of December (from 08.30 to 15.30h).