

Animal and Plant Health (ALPHA) UNIT

Scientific Panel on Animal Health and Welfare

Minutes of the 24th meeting of the Working Group on Avian Influenza

**Held on 24 August 2017, teleconference
(Agreed on 12 September 2017)**

Participants

- **Working Group Members:**
 - Adam Brouwer, Helen Roberts, Arjan Stegeman
- **Hearing Experts¹:**
 - Yali Si
- **European Commission and/or Member States representatives:**
 - Not applicable
- **EFSA:**
 - ALPHA Unit: Frank Verdonck
- **Others:**
 - Not applicable

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Andrew Breed and Yali Si.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without any changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes⁵ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest², EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of Interest and the Specific Declaration of Interest filled in by the working group members invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director on the selection of external experts: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 23th Working Group meeting

The minutes of the 23th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 24 July 2017.

5. Hearing Expert

Yali Si has provided input on a predictive risk map of AIV occurrences

6. Scientific topics for discussion

An updated version of the surveillance and early detection sections was discussed in detail. The list of wild bird target species will be updated by the AI monitoring WG and described in the scientific report. A reference will be included in the opinion. The recommendation on targeted wild bird surveillance was further specified. Risk-based surveillance for poultry is clearly a good approach but the WG is not able to provide guidance on the weighting of risk factors due to lack of data. This could be done only after a period of more detailed reporting by MSs on the risk factors used and the evidence underpinning their selection and weighting. It has been clarified that testing to exclude avian influenza could only be used when there is no suspicion. Furthermore, some terms and available evidence regarding non-wild bird pathways of virus introduction were reviewed. The conclusions and recommendations were checked and edited where required.

7. Next meeting

Not foreseen