

ALPHA Unit

Scientific Panel on Animal Health and Welfare
Minutes of the 9th meeting of the Working Group on enzootic bovine leukosis
Parma, 14-15 01 2015
(Agreed on 22 01 2015)

Participants

- **Working Group Experts:**
 - Klaus Depner (chair)
 - Jacek Kuzmak
 - Thomas Vahlenkamp
 - Arvo Viltrop
 - Luc Willems
 - Aline de Koeijer

- **EFSA:**
 - AHAW Unit: Per Have
 - AMU Unit: Fulvio Barizzone, Marios Georgiadis

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director implementing this Policy regarding Declarations of Interests², EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest and the Specific Declaration of interest) filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No

¹ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

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

conflicts of interests 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.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. Enzootic bovine leukosis ([EFSA-M-2013-0180](#))

The draft opinion was reviewed with particular focus on disease impact, control options and spread of infection over time. The results of the systematic review was presented and discussed in detail. The outcomes of the review concerned milk yield, culling, reproductive performance and mastitis.

A simple model to describe the spread over time was presented. This model will be included in the final version of the opinion.

The working group reviewed conclusions and recommendations.

5. Next meeting(s)

No further meetings planned.

ALPHA Unit

Scientific Panel on Animal Health and Welfare
Minutes of the 8th meeting of the Working Group on enzootic bovine leukosis
Parma, 18 11 2014
(Agreed on 14 01 2015)

Participants

- **Working Group Experts:**
 - Klaus Depner (chair)
 - Jacek Kuzmak
 - Thomas Vahlenkamp
 - Arvo Viltrop
 - Luc Willems
 - Aline de Koeijer

- **EFSA:**
 - AHAW Unit: Per Have
 - AMU Unit: Fulvio Barizzone, Marios Georgiadis, Luca Pasinato,

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director implementing this Policy regarding Declarations of Interests², EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest and the Specific Declaration of interest) filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No

¹ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

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

conflicts of interests 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.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. Enzootic bovine leukosis ([EFSA-M-2013-0180](#))

An update on the systematic review was presented and discussed in detail. It was explained to the WG members how to participate in the appraisal of papers.

The draft opinion was discussed in detail with particular focus on control and prevention measures.

For the overall assessment of the impact of EBL it is considered important to describe how BLV will develop over time if reintroduced in currently free areas. It will be attempted to develop a simple spread model to assist in forecasting this.

Control options will be further evaluated in the context of Annex D of Dir. 64/432.

5. Next meeting(s)

A final working group meeting is planned for January 14-15, 2015.

Scientific Panel on Animal Health and Welfare
Minutes of the 7th meeting of the Working Group on enzootic bovine leukosis
Parma, 25 09 2014
(Agreed on 06 10 2014)

Participants

- **Working Group Experts:**
 - Klaus Depner (chair)
 - Jacek Kuzmak
 - Thomas Vahlenkamp
 - Arvo Viltrop
 - Luc Willems

- **EFSA:**
 - AHAW Unit: Per Have
 - AMU Unit: Fulvio Barizzone, Marios Georgiadis, Luca Pasinato,

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director implementing this Policy regarding Declarations of Interests², EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest and the Specific Declaration of interest) filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified

¹ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

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

during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. Enzootic bovine leukosis ([EFSA-M-2013-0180](#))

The draft systematic review protocol was presented and discussed in detail. The purpose of the systematic review will be to identify, appraise, and synthesise publicly available scientific information on the impact of Enzootic Bovine Leucosis (EBL) in dairy herds considering the loss of production due to the infection and the presence of lymphomas.

It was agreed that the review will be limited to scientific information published in English or German language. Since the first serological test for EBL became available in 1972 it was agreed to limit the search to papers published from that year onwards.

Preliminary attempts to develop a statistical model to describe the association of presence of tumours with age of the animal were presented and discussed. This preliminary model would need to be extended in order to take into consideration some crucially important parameters that may influence this association. It was indicated that no complete datasets have been identified which would allow for the development of such a model.

For the overall assessment of the impact of EBL it is considered important to describe how BLV will develop over time if reintroduced in currently free areas. It will be attempted to develop a simple spread model to assist in forecasting this.

Control options will be further evaluated in the context of Annex D of Dir. 64/432.

5. Next meeting(s)

The next working group meetings are planned for November 18, 2014 and a final meeting in January 2015.

ALPHA Unit

Scientific Panel on Animal Health and Welfare
Minutes of the 6th meeting of the Working Group on enzootic bovine leukosis
WEB/TELE-conference, 18 06 2014
(Agreed on 24 06 2014)

Participants

- **Working Group Experts:**

- Klaus Depner (chair) has participated via teleconference,
- Thomas Vahlenkamp has participated via teleconference,
- Arvo Viltrop has participated via teleconference,
- Jacek Kuzmak has participated via teleconference

- **EFSA:**

- AHAW Unit: Per Have
- AMU Unit: Elisa Aiassa

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Luc Willems.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director implementing this Policy regarding Declarations of Interests², EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest and the Specific Declaration of interest) filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests 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 <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

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

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. Enzootic bovine leukosis (EFSA-M-2013-0180)

The impact of EBL in EU was discussed in detail. Further data on BLV prevalence in Member States where EBL is still present is needed. A request for data on current age structure of dairy cows in Member States has been sent to the AHAW scientific network.

For risk of introduction and spread of BLV into free areas of the EU a simple spread model will be developed. Estimates on age-specific within-herd incidence will be needed for the model.

A proposal for the presentation of scientific literature on production impact and tumour incidence will be prepared by the secretariat in collaboration with the AMU Unit.

Control options will be further evaluated in the context of Annex D of Dir. 64/432.

5. Next meeting(s)

The next working group meetings are planned for September and November 2014.

ALPHA Unit

Scientific Panel on Animal Health and Welfare
Minutes of the 5th meeting of the Working Group on enzootic bovine leukosis
Technical hearing on Enzootic bovine leukosis
Parma, 11-12 March 2014
(Agreed on 19 March 2014)

Participants

- **Working Group Experts:**
 - Klaus Depner (chair)
 - Luc Willems
 - Thomas Vahlenkamp
 - Arvo Viltrop

- **Hearing experts**
 - Paul Bartlett
 - Mariano Domingo
 - Francesco Feliziani
 - Armando Giovannini
 - Kenji Murakami
 - Alex Thiermann
 - Karina Trono

- **DG SANCO**
 - Francesco Berlingieri

- **EFSA:**
 - Per Have

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Per Have welcomed the working group and the invited hearing experts to this meeting and briefly explained the background and purpose of having this technical hearing. Apologies were received from Jacek Kuzmak.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The agenda (see Appendix 1) was adopted without changes.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director implementing this Policy regarding Declarations of Interests², EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest and the Specific Declaration of interest) filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests 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.

4. SCIENTIFIC TOPIC(S) FOR DISCUSSION

a. ENZOOTIC BOVINE LEUKOSIS ([EFSA-M-2013-0180](#))

The working group experts presented the major scientific points drafted in response to the terms of reference.

Klaus Depner introduced the mandate with the 5 terms of reference and explained the approach used to respond to them. The working group members presented the status of the draft chapters of the opinion corresponding to the ToR.

Luc Willems gave an overview of the disease profile and pathogenesis, ultimately leading to tumours. He also described the effects on the immune system giving examples of perturbation of the cellular functions.

Arvo Viltrop presented an overview of the history and epidemiology of EBL, its capacity to spread subclinically and persist in the population and finally described the interpretation of the ToR on risk of introduction into free Member States.

Thomas Vahlenkamp presented the various diagnostic methods available and their application during different stages of infection. The methods included post-mortem examination, haematology, antibody detection and detection of provirus by PCR. He also described the measures applied to control and eradicate BLV, including management options.

Per Have gave an overview of the approach taken to assess the impact of EBL. The intention has been to present the scientific descriptions in a way that would cover the concepts of the Phylum tool. The disease impact is described in biological terms and one limitation is that hardly any studies on tumour frequency have been published over the last 30-40 years and that official, contemporary figures on tumour incidence are not available from most of the

¹ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

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

regions where EBL is still endemic. The impact on milk production, culling and welfare was also presented.

Following the presentation of the draft opinion the invited hearing experts provided detailed information on their recent research results of EBL and also provided additional information on the epidemiological situation in their respective countries/regions.

Karina Trono gave a detailed presentation on the epidemiology of BLV in Argentina and the use of a new control approach. She first gave a short overview of the BLV situation in South America, followed by a detailed description of the structure of the dairy industry (outdoor grazing all year) and a history of EBL in Argentina. She also described the dynamic pattern of within-herd spread of BLV and the use of proviral load as a parameter in attempts to reduce transmission. Bulk milk used as feed for calves up to 20 months is considered a significant factor for spread of BLV. The significant economic impact of BLV was briefly described, resulting mainly from tumours and reduced milk yield. The various available control methods have not been applied and therefore have been unable to reduce the prevalence of BLV which is now close to 100% in dairy farms and approximately 20% in beef herds. A newly developed attenuated BLV vaccine strain is currently being tested as an additional control option to limit the spread of BLV.

Kenji Murakami presented the latest evidence on the epidemiology and prevalence of BLV in Japan and studies of risk factors for transmission. EBL is currently the most frequently notified infectious disease of cattle in Japan and the tumour incidence has shown a sharp rise over the past 10 years in both dairy and beef cattle. Nevertheless, there is no official control program supported or applied by the government. During the period 1980-2010 the prevalence of BLV has increased 10-fold for dairy cows and 4-fold for beef cattle (overall animal prevalence today 35%). Transmission risk factors have been studied in both dairy and beef herds based on with-herd prevalence. Significant factors identified were, movement of animals, loose housing, common pasture, feeding pooled colostrum and presence of blood-sucking insects. The increase in within-herd prevalence might depend on the change from tie-stalls to free barns within the last two decades.

Paul Bartlett summarised recent research results and future research plans on the epidemiology of BLV. BLV is currently present in 39% of beef operations and 83% of dairy farms with about 50% of dairy cows being infected. This is an increase from about 10% in 1975. Evidence of immunosuppression was found in controlled trials of E. Coli vaccines where BLV-infected animals showed lower response than BLV-free animals. He also presented data that clearly showed different levels of lymphocyte and neutrophils in BLV-infected vs. free animals. They have established a herd BLV profile based on simplified sampling and determination of prevalence in each lactation group; this scheme is being used to determine within-herd prevalence in dairy herd studies. Milk yield shows a significant negative correlation with the BLV herd index. The herd index has also been used to study management practices to identify risk factors for transmission. Cow longevity (survival rates) has also been studied and BLV-infected cows had 23% higher risk of being culled during a 600 days period. Future research plans has the goal of to establish a model- BLV control program that can reduce the prevalence to where test-and-cull is feasible. Paul Bartlett finally emphasized the notion of consumer perception that food should be of non-cancer origin and also the need to consider the welfare consequences of EBL.

Francesco Feliziani gave an overview of the Italian eradication plan, which was initiated as a voluntary plan from 1985 and made compulsory in 1996. Initially dairy farms in most regions

were affected but gradually BLV was eliminated, leaving only 3 critical areas in the Southern part of the country with a limited number of BLV-infected herds, mainly free-ranging herds which are difficult to check.

Armando Giovannini described the structural properties and implications for spread of infectious diseases of livestock trade networks on the basis of the EU registration of cattle movements. An outline of network concepts was given and several examples of application to the Italian data presented. Livestock networks exhibit temporal instability of edges and nodes, therefore temporal dynamics should also be considered when using traversal based centrality measures (betweenness, closeness) and other traversal based properties (average path length, components, clustering). A number of issues still remain to be solved when adapting dynamic network models to livestock epidemics.

Francesco Berlingieri from DG SANCO gave an overview of EBL in the EU context and the need to ensure that the EU legislation on EBL is in line with the major principles of the animal health law (AHL). Diseases of EU relevance are listed according to impact on public health, agricultural production, society and environment. Furthermore, the risk mitigation measures should be proportional to the risk posed by the disease. The detailed criteria are specified in Article 6 of the AHL and the categories of control measures described in Article 8. He also described the tool developed jointly with OIE for categorisation and prioritisation and reminded that the tool is not a stand-alone decision tool, the output being used in conjunction with many other aspects before decision-making.

Alex Thiermann presented the main concepts and principles behind OIE listed diseases and the requirement for immediate notification of listed diseases. He also stressed the importance of applying the control and eradication measures for EBL recommended in the OIE Code and Manual, as well as risk-based surveillance wherever applicable, and he invited the experts to identify any need to reevaluate the EBL OIE Chapter or Manual.

During the round-table discussions several topics were addressed, covering epidemiology, diagnostics, impact and control. Based on the data presented the following observations can be made:

EPIDEMIOLOGY:

The incidence and prevalence of BLV-infection has continued to rise significantly over the last two decades in regions where no control measures are implemented. This increase reflects the slowly developing epidemic characteristic for EBL but may also be augmented by global, structural changes in livestock production.

TRANSMISSION

Transmission is entirely by transfer of infected lymphocytes from an infected animal to a susceptible animal. The modes, by which this happens are many but the relative importance of each is difficult to quantify. Biting flies have been suggested as a risk factor but the significance probably varies according to local management, environmental and climatic conditions. Both natural mating and artificial insemination carries a risk of transmission if the prevention measures in the OIE Code are not followed.

IMPACT

The disease impact of EBL has not been fully elucidated. The frequency of lymphoma development depends mainly on prevalence and age profile of infected animals; however,

almost all detailed studies on tumour development were made before the serological diagnosis became available, hence it is not possible to calculate precise estimates of tumour frequency in relation to prevalence and age. There is a consensus that BLV and the disease has not changed significantly, whereas herd size, age profile and management practices have changed over the last decades. The early scientific studies are still considered valid as a qualitative description of the disease profile. Contemporary figures on tumour incidence from high-prevalence regions are not readily available.

BLV impacts on the health and immunological competence of animals and also on production parameters, such as milk yield and premature culling. The ability of studies to quantify these effects depends inter alia on design, size of study population and ability to discriminate confounding effects.

CONTROL

EBL is still a developing epidemic in regions and continents where no control programs are implemented and BLV has reached a prevalence where control measures are increasingly difficult to implement. Decisions not to implement control measures for EBL were made several decades ago at a time where both prevalence and impact were much lower than today, and therefore should be reviewed at national levels.

5. NEXT MEETINGS

During the discussions it became clear that a number of topics addressed in the opinion would benefit from a more thorough analysis. These included a review the scientific basis for the current provisions for diagnostics, surveillance and control currently laid down in Annex D of 64/432, risk of introduction/spread into free areas and further elaboration on impact with respect to tumour incidence and production losses. The Commission representative proposed EFSA to apply for an extension of the deadline in order to address these points.

The draft opinion and the outcome of the technical hearing will be presented to the AHAW Panel for discussion on March 24-25, 2014.

APPENDIX 1. AGENDA FOR THE TECHNICAL HEARING

Time	Topic	Who
March 11		
9.00-9.15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome – introductory remarks 	Per Have , ALPHA Unit, EFSA
9.15-9.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation of mandate and draft opinion 	Klaus Depner , FLI Riems. AHAW Panel member and chairman of EBL working Group
9.30-10.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disease profile 	Luc willems
10.00-10.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Epidemiology 	Arvo Viltrop
10.30-11.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diagnosis and control measures 	Thomas Vahlenkamp
11.00-11.15	Coffee break	
11.15-11.45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact 	Per Have
11.45-12.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Epidemiology of BLV in Argentina and the use of a new control approach 	Karina Trono , Centro Nacional de Investigaciones Agropecuarias, Argentina
12.30- 13.30	Lunch	
13.30-14.15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevalence of BLV infection and transmission factors in Japan 	Kenji Murakami , Iwate University, Japan
14.15-15.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact and Transmission of Enzootic Bovine Leukosis in Dairy Cattle - Michigan, USA 	Paul Bartlett , Michigan State University, USA
15.00-15.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EBL situation in Italy 	Francesco Feliziani , CEREP - CEREL

		IZS Umbria e Marche
15.30-16.00	Coffee break	
16.00-16.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Livestock trade networks: structural properties and implications for spread of infectious diseases 	Armando Giovannini, Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise "G. Caporale"
16.30-17.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EBL in the EU context 	Francesco Berlingieri, DG SANCO – Unit G2 European Commission
17.00-17.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OIE' international standards: disease listing criteria and notification obligations 	Alejandro Thiermann President, Terrestrial Animal Health Code Commission, OIE
20.00-23.00	Dinner	Corale Verdi
March 12		
09.00-11.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roundtable discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Terms of reference Criteria for determining impact Research needs 	
11.00-11.30	Coffee break	
11.30-12.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> summary statement (to be included in WG minutes) Final remarks from EFSA 	P. Have
12.00-13.00	Lunch	
	END OF MEETING	

ALPHA Unit

Scientific Panel on Animal Health and Welfare
Minutes of the 4th meeting of the Working Group on enzootic bovine leukosis
Berlin, 28 01 2014
(Agreed on 28 01 2014)

Participants

- **Working Group Experts:**
 - Klaus Depner (chair)
 - Jacek Kuzmak
 - Luc Willems
 - Thomas Vahlenkamp
 - Arvo Viltrop

- **EFSA:**
 - AHAW Unit: Per Have

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director implementing this Policy regarding Declarations of Interests², EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest and the Specific Declaration of interest) filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in

¹ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

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

this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. SCIENTIFIC TOPIC(S) FOR DISCUSSION

a. ENZOOTIC BOVINE LEUKOSIS ([EFSA-M-2013-0180](#))

Agreed writings had been completed. The draft document was discussed in detail and conclusions and recommendations were drafted on the basis of the text.

5. NEXT MEETINGS

The draft opinion will be presented to the AHAW Panle for discussion on February 4. An additional working group meeting will be held on March 11-12 as a technical workshop with extended participation of experts from countries outside EU and some Member States.

Scientific Panel on Animal Health and Welfare
Minutes of the 3rd meeting of the Working Group on enzootic bovine leukosis
Parma, 28 11 2013
(Agreed on 28 11 2013)

Participants

- **Working Group Experts:**
 - Klaus Depner (chair)
 - Jacek Kuzmak
 - Luc Willems
 - Thomas Vahlenkamp
 - Arvo Viltrop

- **EFSA:**
 - AHAW Unit: Per Have

- **EC:**
 - Francesco Berlingieri (tele)

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director implementing this Policy regarding Declarations of Interests², EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest and the Specific Declaration of interest) filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests 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.

4. SCIENTIFIC TOPIC(S) FOR DISCUSSION

a. ENZOOTIC BOVINE LEUKOSIS ([EFSA-M-2013-0180](#))

The draft document was discussed in detail and the text was analysed and aligned with the terms of reference. Suggestions for restructuring and further writing put forward and agreed.

A detailed list of action points and allocation of tasks was agreed.

5. NEXT MEETINGS

The next working group meeting has been tentatively scheduled for January 23 or 28, 2014.

¹ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

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

AHAW Unit

Scientific Panel on Animal Health and Welfare

Minutes of the 2nd meeting of the Working Group on enzootic bovine leukosis

Parma, 24 10 2013

(Agreed on 24 10 2013)

Participants

- **Working Group Experts:**
 - Klaus Depner (chair)
 - Jacek Kuzmak
 - Luc Willems
 - Thomas Vahlenkamp
 - Arvo Viltrop

- **EFSA:**
 - AHAW Unit: Per Have

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director implementing this Policy regarding Declarations of Interests², EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest and the Specific Declaration of interest) filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests 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 <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

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

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. Enzootic bovine leukosis ([EFSA-M-2013-0180](#))

The draft documents was discussed in detail and suggestions for further writing put forward.

A detailed list of action points and allocation of tasks was agreed. The deadline for contributions was set to November 22.

5. Next meetings

The next working group meeting has been scheduled for November 28 in Parma. A tele-meeting is tentatively scheduled in December (week 50) and a working group meeting is planned for January 23 or 28, 2014.

ACTION POINTS:

1. New section 2.1 on agent (TV)
 - a. General features of retroviruses and BLV specifics (pathogenesis), Coinfections (BIV, BSFV, BHV1); genotypes
 - b. Human infection? Should we mention HTLV-1 maybe short section by LW?
2. LW to review 2.2, in particular 2.2.3, if possible with more examples of secondary infections.
3. Short introduction to 2.3 Diagnosis (JK)
4. Include Clinical post-mortem morphological, slaughter inspection in Control tools (TV)
5. Epidemiology
 - a. Short historical account for Europe (I can try to draft PH)
 - b. Table or map for world-wide occurrence
 - c. Include example, use Estonia (AV)
6. Persistence, section on wildlife/susceptible species (who can do this?)
7. Risk of introduction/spread if control measures are lifted
 - a. Is model (quant/qual) an option – PH to check
8. Impact – PH to complete
9. Control options
 - a. I think we still need a short summary of the various schemes in 5.1 – 5.3
10. PH to upload papers and reports to extranet

Please submit contributions by November 22.

AHAW Unit

Scientific Panel on Animal Health and Welfare
Minutes of the 1st meeting of the Working Group on enzootic bovine leukosis
WEB/TELE-conference, 02 10 2013
(Agreed on 02 10 2013)

Participants

- **Working Group Experts:**
 - Klaus Depner (chair) has participated via teleconference,
 - Luc Willems has participated via teleconference,
 - Thomas Vahlenkamp has participated via teleconference,
 - Arvo Viltrop has participated via teleconference,
 - Jacek Kuzmak has participated via teleconference

- **EFSA:**
 - AHAW Unit: Per Have

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director implementing this Policy regarding Declarations of Interests², EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest and the Specific Declaration of interest) filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests 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 <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

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

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

5.1 Enzootic bovine leukosis ([EFSA-M-2013-0180](#))

The mandate was presented and the terms of reference discussed in detail.

A report structure was proposed and initial drafting tasks assigned.

The systematic literature review (procurement) was presented to the working group and it was agreed to focus on the impact parameters (outcome) proposed by the contractor.

7. Next meeting(s)

The next working group meetings have been scheduled for October 23-24 and November 27-28 in Parma.