



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND ANIMAL WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 13TH MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON WELFARE OF RABBIT ON-FARM

Held on 7 21 22 October 2019, Parma

(Agreed on 29 October 2019)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
 - Christoph Winckler (7, 21 October 19)
 - Sandra Edwards (7, 21 October 19)
 - Stephanie Buijs (7, 21, 22 October 19)

- Hearing Experts¹:
 - Zsolt Matics (7, 21 October 19)
 - Angela Trocino (7, 21, 22 October 19)
 - Joan Rosell (7, 21 October 19)
 - Thierry Gidenne (7 October 19)

- EFSA:
 - Denise Candiani
 - Marie Louise Schneider
 - Olaf Mosbach-Schulz

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.



2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 12th Working Group meeting (Web conference) held on 10th-11th September 2019, Parma.

The minutes of the 12th Working Group meeting held on 10th-11th September 2019 were agreed by written procedure on 20th September.⁴

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

5.1. Draft scientific opinion on rabbit welfare on-farm⁵

The section in which the housing systems and the associated risk factors are discussed, as a summary of findings per each housing system, was revised. Draft conclusions and recommendations were derived. The methodological approach for the assessment of the uncertainty related to the conclusions in which the housing systems are compared was revised. The outcomes of such assessment were incorporated in the specific conclusions as qualitative and also quantitative expression of the uncertainty.

6. Next meeting(s)

5 th November - webconference

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁴ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/wgs/animal-health-and-welfare/wgAhaw-Rabbits-on-farm.pdf>

⁵ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2018-00593>



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Document history

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Prepared by	Denise Candiani
Reviewed by	
Last date modified	18 09 2019



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND ANIMAL WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 12TH MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON WELFARE OF RABBIT ON-FARM

Held on 10-11 September 2019, Parma

(Agreed on 20 September 2019)

Participants

■ Working Group Members:

Christoph Winckler
Sandra Edwards
Stephanie Buijs

■ Hearing Experts¹:

Zsolt Matics
Angela Trocino
Joan Rosell
Thierry Gidenne

■ EFSA:

Denise Candiani
Marie Louise Schneider
Olaf Mosbach-Schulz

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.



2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 11th Working Group meeting (Web conference) held on 11th and 12th of July 2019, Parma.

The minutes of the 11th Working Group meeting held on 11th and 12th of July 2019 were agreed by written procedure on 24th July.⁴

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

5.1. Draft scientific opinion on rabbit welfare on-farm⁵

The structure of the opinion was reviewed and the sections on the definitions of the welfare consequences and on the Animal Based Measures were placed before the descriptive text of the relevant welfare consequences. The results from the survey and the EKE were incorporated in the opinion and conclusions were derived. Furthermore, it was decided to add a section in which the housing systems and the associated risk factors are discussed, as a summary of findings per each housing system. The uncertainty was assessed and incorporated in the opinion.

6. Next meeting(s)

7th – 21st October - webconference

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁴ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/wgs/animal-health-and-welfare/wgAhaw-Rabbits-on-farm.pdf>

⁵ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2018-00593>



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Document history

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Prepared by	Denise Candiani
Reviewed by	
Last date modified	18 09 2019



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND ANIMAL WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 11TH MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP (WEB CONFERENCE) ON WELFARE OF RABBIT ON-FARM

Held on 11th July 2019 and 12th July 2019, webconference

(Agreed on 24 July 2019)

- Working Group Members:
 - Christoph Winckler (11th July 2019)
 - Sandra Edwards (11th and 12th July 2019)
 - Stephanie Buijs (11th July 2019)

- Hearing Experts¹:
 - Zsolt Matics (11th and 12th July 2019)
 - Angela Trocino (11th July 2019)
 - Joan Rosell (11th July 2019)
 - Thierry Gidenne (11th and 12th July 2019)

- EFSA:
 - Denise Candiani
 - Marie Louise Schneider
 - Olaf Mosbach-Schulz

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.



2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 9th Working Group meeting held on 3rd and 4th of June 2019, Parma.

The minutes of the 10th Working Group meeting held on 3rd and 4th of June 2019 were agreed by written procedure on 11th June 2019.⁴

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

5.1. Draft scientific opinion on rabbit welfare on-farm⁵

Three ways of representing the results of the survey on welfare consequence prevalence and duration were presented to the working group: i) the cumulative welfare score per each housing system within one animal category, ii) a graph representing each welfare consequence within all housing systems within one category and iii) tables showing the top five welfare consequences. The working group agreed to define a threshold, in the answer dataset, that a welfare consequence is considered not relevant only if more than 80% of the respondents considered it as not relevant. This avoids a biased result on welfare consequences where only few answers are given. Further it was agreed that the figures of the cumulative score should be reduced to 2 decimals and that a standard method is needed to get the top five welfare consequences for each animal category, but irrespective of the system. This ranking will give the possibility to define major risk factors per animal category. The uncertainty analysis for the data retrieved was discussed and will be integrated in the conclusions.

6. Next meeting(s)

10-11 September

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁴ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/wgs/animal-health-and-welfare/wgAhaw-Rabbits-on-farm.pdf>

⁵ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2018-00593>



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND ANIMAL WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 10TH MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON WELFARE OF RABBIT ON-FARM

Held on 3-4 June 2019, Parma

(Agreed on 10 June 2019)

Participants

■ Working Group Members:

Christoph Winckler
Sandra Edwards
Stephanie Buijs

■ Hearing Experts¹:

Zsolt Matics
Angela Trocino
Joan Rosell
Thierry Gidenne

■ EFSA:

Denise Candiani
Marie Louise Schneider
Olaf Mosbach-Schulz

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.



2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 9th Working Group meeting held on 13 14 May 2019, Parma.

The minutes of the 9th Working Group meeting held on 13 14 May 2019 were agreed by written procedure on 20 May 2019.⁴

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

5.1. Draft scientific opinion on rabbit welfare on-farm⁵

The draft results from the survey on prevalence and duration of welfare consequences were discussed after adjustment of prevalence data was done taking "no relevance rating" respondents as 0% prevalence into account. Following the EFSA guidance for risk assessment in animal welfare, the overall impact of different housing systems on animal welfare can be calculated as the sum of the impact scores of all welfare consequences within a system. The impact score can be calculated by the multiplication of severity, prevalence and duration of a certain welfare consequence. The Working group also discussed about the possibility of calculating the impact scores by multiplying the relevance rating and the severity of a certain welfare consequence. Proposals will be done by next meeting in order to select the most appropriate way to present results from the survey and compare welfare in the different rabbit housing systems.

6. Next meeting(s)

11 July 19 - webconference

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁴ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/wgs/animal-health-and-welfare/wgAhaw-Rabbits-on-farm.pdf>

⁵ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2018-00593>



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND ANIMAL WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 9TH MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON WELFARE OF RABBIT ON-FARM

Held on 13-14 May 2019, Parma

(Agreed on 20 May 2019)

Participants

■ Working Group Members:

Christoph Winckler
Sandra Edwards
Stephanie Buijs

■ Hearing Experts¹:

Zsolt Matics
Angela Trocino
Joan Rosell
Thierry Gidenne

■ EFSA:

Denise Candiani
Marie Louise Schneider
Olaf Mosbach-Schulz

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.



2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 8th Working Group meeting held on 1-2 April 2019, Parma.

The minutes of the 8th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 16th April 19.⁴

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

5.1. Draft scientific opinion on rabbit welfare on-farm⁵

Firstly, the draft opinion was discussed with special emphasis on the revision of the text about the methodological approach and all welfare consequences and associated risk factors.

Secondly, the first draft results from the survey on prevalence and duration of welfare consequences were presented to the Working Group. It was agreed that adjustments to the presentation of results are needed, in particular: i) for prevalence: results need to show the variability of best estimate - including confidence interval of means and proportions; ii) for duration: results could be weighted by the number of respondents.

Thirdly, the outcomes of the Expert Knowledge Elicitation workshop on the severity of welfare consequences were discussed. It was agreed that severity scores should be given based on the median and not on the mean so to better represent the variability among individual answers from the workshop participants.

6. Next meeting(s)

3-4 June 2019

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁴ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/wgs/animal-health-and-welfare/wgAhaw-Rabbits-on-farm.pdf>

⁵ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2018-00593>



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND ANIMAL WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 8TH MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON WELFARE OF RABBIT ON-FARM

Held on 1-2 April 2019, Parma

(Agreed on 16 April 2019)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
Christoph Winckler
Sandra Edwards

- Hearing Experts¹:
Zsolt Matics
Angela Trocino
Joan Rosell
Thierry Gidenne

- EFSA:
Denise Candiani
Marie Louise Schneider
Olaf Mosbach-Schulz (facilitator of EKE exercise)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were presented for Stephanie Buijs.

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.



2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. 4. Agreement of the minutes of the 7th Working Group meeting held on 21-22 March 2019, Parma.

The minutes of the 7th Working Group meeting were agreed during the 8th meeting.⁴

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

5.1. 5.1. Elicitation exercise in support of the opinion ⁵

The meeting focused on an Expert Knowledge Elicitation (EKE) exercise about the severity of welfare consequences for rabbits. The exercise involved 8 external experts and the working group members as observers. The facilitator presented preliminary results of the conducted survey on duration and prevalence of the 19 welfare consequences. The participants and the Working Group members discussed the definitions of the welfare consequences presented in the briefing document.

A first exercise was performed and the experts were asked to rank the welfare consequences within two groups (behaviour and health related), relatively to each other according to the severity that would be experienced by the rabbit doe. In a second exercise the experts were asked to score the severity of all welfare consequences for a rabbit doe on a scale from 0-10. Score 0 corresponds to no distress and suffering at all. Score 10 indicates the maximum level of suffering of a rabbit that can be imagined by the experts.

The severity of the welfare consequences was then scored for other animal categories of kits and fattening rabbits. The individual scorings were documented and the ranges were discussed.

6. Next meeting(s)

13-14 May 2019

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁴ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/wgs/animal-health-and-welfare/wgAhaw-Rabbits-on-farm.pdf>

⁵ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2018-00593>



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND ANIMAL WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 7TH MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON WELFARE OF RABBIT ON-FARM

Held on 21-22 March 2019, Parma

(Agreed on 1 April 2019)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
 - Christoph Winckler
 - Sandra Edwards
 - Stephanie Buijs

- Hearing Experts¹:
 - Zsolt Matics
 - Angela Trocino
 - Joan Rosell
 - Thierry Gidenne

- EFSA:
 - Denise Candiani
 - Marie Louise Schneider
 - Olaf Mosbach-Schulz (via phone on 22 March 19)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.



2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. 4. Agreement of the minutes of the 6th Working Group meeting held on 13-14 February 2019, Parma.

The minutes of the 6th Working Group meeting were agreed on 21 February 2019 by written procedure.⁴

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

5.1. Drafts of description of welfare consequences for the EKE in support to the opinion⁵

The briefing document for the upcoming Expert Knowledge Elicitation (EKE) to be held on 1-2 April 2019 was prepared by the Working Group. Background information from bibliography about all welfare consequences was revised and further was added in order to support the description and update the invited experts.

5.2. Plan of EKE exercise

The Working Group agreed that the severity scale to be adopted in the elicitation exercise should range from 0-10. A discussion was held on possible criteria for the definition of values for severity and it was agreed that it is not possible to define specific values or ranges. It was therefore agreed that part of the exercise would be dedicated to the establishment of a common understanding for the severity scale.

6. Next meeting(s)

1-2 April 2019 (Parma)

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁴ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/wgs/animal-health-and-welfare/wgAhaw-Rabbits-on-farm.pdf>

⁵ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2018-00593>

Scientific Panel on Animal Health and Animal Welfare

Minutes of the 6th meeting of the Working Group on welfare of rabbit on-farm

Held on 13 14 February 2019, Parma (Italy)

(Agreed on 21 February 2019)

Participants

- **Working Group Members:**

Christoph Winckler

Stephanie Buijs

Sandra Edwards

- **Hearing Experts:**

Angela Trocino

Zsolt Matics

Joan Rosell

Thierry Gidenne

- **EFSA:**

Denise Candiani

Marie Louise Schneider

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 of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 5th Working Group meeting held on 14-15 January 2019, Parma.

The minutes of the 5th Working Group meeting were agreed on 21 January 2019 by written procedure.

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

5.1. Draft approach and contents for the opinion [M-2018-0124](#)

The draft scientific opinion was discussed. The new structure of the chapter describing the common housing systems for farmed rabbits was discussed and agreed. Background information from bibliography about all welfare consequences was revised. It was decided to create a table, at the end of each welfare consequence chapter, presenting risk factors leading to that consequence divided by category (housing, ambient conditions, genetics, nutrition, management of reproduction, management of biosecurity). It was also agreed to make an attempt to create "housing cards" presenting summarised information about each housing system - e.g. including the category of animals usually kept in that system, most common management strategies found in that system – together with the results of the survey, i.e. prevalence, duration and severity of the (most important) welfare consequences and possibly also associated risk factors.

6. Next meeting

21-22 March 2019 (Parma)

¹ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

Scientific Panel on Animal Health and Animal Welfare

Minutes of the 5th meeting of the Working Group on welfare of rabbit on-farm

Held on 14 15 January 2019, Parma (Italy)

(Agreed on 21 January 2019)

Participants

- **Working Group Members:**

Christoph Winckler

Stephanie Buijs

Sandra Edwards

- **Hearing Experts:**

Angela Trocino

Zsolt Matics

Joan Rosell

Thierry Gidenne

- **EFSA:**

Denise Candiani

Marie Louise Schneider

Olaf Mosbach-Schulz

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 of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 4th Working Group meeting held on 20 December 2018, Parma.

The minutes of the 4th Working Group meeting were agreed in oral on 20th December.

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

5.1. Draft approach and contents for the opinion [M-2018-0124](#)

The definitions of housing systems and welfare consequences to be given in the survey - focused on welfare consequences for rabbits in different housing systems (conventional cages, structurally enriched cages, elevated pens, floor pens, outdoor/partially outdoor systems and organic systems) – were agreed. The survey will be launched in the end of January and will be open to respondents for about a month. It was decided that other aspects linked to the production will be described in the scientific opinion in terms of management procedures applied to each housing system. For the scientific opinion, it was decided that welfare consequences will be described in terms of information about the welfare consequences as such plus information about the risk factors leading to those welfare consequences. For the latter, main conclusions from the opinion of 2005 will be reported as well as newly retrieved information from literature searches framed 2005-2018.

6. Next meeting

13-14 February 2019 (Parma)

¹ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

Scientific Panel on Animal Health and Animal Welfare

Minutes of the 4th meeting of the Working Group on welfare of rabbit on-farm

Held on 20 December 2018, Parma (Italy)

(Agreed on 20 December 2018)

Participants

- **Working Group Members:**

Sandra Edwards

- **Hearing Experts:**

Zsolt Matics

Thierry Gidenne

- **EFSA:**

Denise Candiani

Marie Louise Schneider

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received for Christoph Winckler, Angela Trocino, Joan Rosell, Stephanie Buijs.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 3rd Working Group meeting held on 19 December 2018 via web.

The minutes of the 3rd Working Group meeting were agreed on 20 December by written procedure.

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

5.1. Draft approach and contents for the opinion [M-2018-0124](#)

The working group discussed about the list of welfare consequences and particularly about the consequence of "pain". Pain will not be considered as a welfare consequence per se but it may result from each welfare consequence. A specific paragraph in the introduction will be produced. The WG agreed on these minutes which were screened during the webconference.

6. Next meeting

14-15 January 2019, 13-14 February, 21-22 March 2019 (Parma)

¹ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

Scientific Panel on Animal Health and Animal Welfare

Minutes of the 3rd meeting of the Working Group on welfare of rabbit on-farm

Held by WEBconference 19 December 2018, Parma (Italy)

(Agreed on 20 December 2018)

Participants

- **Working Group Members:**

Christoph Winckler

Stephanie Buijs

Sandra Edwards

- **Hearing Experts:**

Angela Trocino

Zsolt Matics

Joan Rosell

Thierry Gidenne

- **EFSA:**

Denise Candiani

Marie Louise Schneider

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 of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 2nd Working Group meeting held on 03-04 December 2018, Parma.

The minutes of the 2nd Working Group meeting were agreed on 11th December by written procedure.

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

5.1. Draft approach and contents for the opinion [M-2018-0124](#)

The working group discussed about the list of welfare consequences. Some of these were grouped together and some were eliminated to achieve a shorter and clearer list of welfare consequences with view to the survey that will soon be launched.

6. Next meeting

14-15 January 2019, 13-14 February, 21-22 March 2019 (Parma)

¹ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

Scientific Panel on Animal Health and Animal Welfare

Minutes of the 2nd meeting of the Working Group on welfare of rabbit on-farm

Held on 03 04 December 2018, Parma (Italy)

(Agreed on 11 December 2018)

Participants

- **Working Group Members:**

Christoph Winckler

Stephanie Buijs

Sandra Edwards

- **Hearing Experts:**

Angela Trocino

Zsolt Matics

Joan Rosell

Thierry Gidenne

- **EFSA:**

Denise Candiani

Marie Louise Schneider

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 of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 1st Working Group meeting held on 16-17 October 2018, Parma.

The minutes of the 1st Working Group meeting were agreed on 5th November by written procedure.

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

5.1. Draft approach and contents for the opinion [M-2018-0124](#)

The working group agreed to launch a survey focused on welfare consequences for rabbits in different housing systems (conventional cages, structurally enriched cages, elevated pens, floor pens, outdoor/partially outdoor systems and organic systems). It was decided that other aspects linked to the production will be described in the scientific opinion in terms of management procedures applied to each housing system. The survey will be addressed to experts from several backgrounds (e.g. farmers, researchers, industry, official veterinarian). Definitions for the housing systems were agreed and the list of welfare consequences was revised.

6. Next meeting

14-15 January 2019 (Parma), 21-22 March 2019 (Parma)

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Scientific Panel on Animal Health and Animal Welfare

Minutes of the 1st meeting of the Working Group on welfare of rabbit on-farm

Held on 16 17 October 2018, Parma (Italy)

(Agreed on 05 November 2018)

Participants

- **Working Group Members:**

Christoph Winckler

Stephanie Buijs

Sandra Edwards

- **Hearing Experts:**

Angela Trocino

Zsolt Matics

- **EFSA:**

Denise Candiani

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

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3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

4.1. Draft approach and contents for the opinion [M-2018-0124](#)

The approach to develop the scientific opinion was drafted and agreed during this first working group meeting. The draft structure and table of contents were agreed. Based on working group expert discussion, it was possible to define i) the list of rabbit categories that will be considered as target populations for the risk assessment, ii) the list of production systems and iii) the list of welfare consequences.

5. Next meeting

3-4 December 2018 (Parma)

¹ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf