



Role of EFSA in regard to H1N1: perspectives

Philippe Vannier
Chair, AHAW Scientific Panel

- AHAW Panel deals with all aspects of animal health and animal welfare, primarily relating to food producing animals including fish
- Generic opinions and risk assessments
 - Collaboration with member States (art. 36)
 - Advisory Forum representatives on animal health
- Provide scientific support to Risk managers/ decision makers

- Mandate/question
 - usually from European Commission
 - European Parliament, Member States
- Information gathering
 - Published scientific literature
 - Disease information (MS, CRL, ADNS, OIE)
- Scientific interpretation
 - May include risk assessment
- Conclusions and recommendations

Live animals and/or products including zoonoses

- Epidemiology and transmission
- Surveillance and eradication programs
- Import risk assessments
- Diagnostics
- Vaccination

- Avian influenza
 - Migratory and other wild birds, biosecurity, vaccination
- Bluetongue and EHD
 - Pathogenesis, viraemia, vaccination, vectors, insecticides
- Classical swine fever
 - Wild boar, meat
- Travel with pets
 - Rabies, ticks, tapeworm
- Diagnostics / disease freedom
 - Tuberculosis, Brucellosis, IBR
 - Fish, crustaceans and molluscs
- Import risk assessments
 - Foot and mouth disease, PRRS, Rift Valley Fever

- Specialists in particular fields, e.g. microbiology, pathology, molecular biology, ornithology needed for the RA
- Epidemiologists to collate, assess, analyse and interpret epidemiological data
- Mathematicians and statisticians to model the data
- Other specialists and experts as required by the particular RA

Multidisciplinary = Collaboration

1. “Food as a possible source of infection with highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses for humans and other mammals”
BIOHAZ (Mar. 2006)
2. “Animal health and welfare aspects of avian influenza and the risk of its introduction into the EU poultry holdings” AHAW (Jun. 2008)
3. “Vaccination against avian influenza of H5 and H7 subtypes in domestic poultry and captive birds“ AHAW (Jun. 2007)
4. “Vaccination against avian influenza of H5 and H7 subtypes as a preventive measure carried out in MS in birds kept in zoos under Community approved programmes “AHAW (Feb. 2007)
5. “Migratory Birds and their Possible Role in the Spread of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza “AHAW (May 2006)
6. “Animal health and welfare aspects of Avian Influenza“
AHAW(Sep.2005)

1. *EFSA opinion on avian influenza vaccines in domestic poultry (Jun. 2007)*
2. *EFSA animal health and welfare recommendations on the import of wild birds (Nov. 2006)*
3. *EFSA publishes a scientific statement on the role of migratory birds in the spread of avian influenza amongst bird populations in the European Union (Apr. 2006)*
4. *EFSA publishes scientific report on avian influenza and food safety (Mar. 2006)*
5. *EFSA provides update on avian influenza and food safety (Oct. 2005)*

1. Food as a possible source of infection with HPAI viruses for humans and other mammals”

 **etsa**
European Food Safety Authority

BIOHAZ (Mar. 2006)

Mandate:

Preparation of a comprehensive background document on the state-of-science of the fate of highly pathogenic AI viruses (mainly H5N1) in avian species and the possible transfer of the virus to other species including humans via the food chain

Conclusion:

There is no epidemiological evidence to date that AI can be transmitted to humans through consumption of food, notably poultry and eggs.

1. What about H1N1 ?

Several opinions have been published by MS on H1N1:

- 4 by AFSSA
 - 2009-SA-0229
 - 2009-SA-0230
 - 2009-SA-0231
 - 2009-SA-0254
- 1 by AFSCA Avis 24- 2009

Important work which is a starting point for the future opinion from EFSA

Outputs of these previous MS's opinions:

Outputs of these previous MS's opinions:

- Reassortments and risk of pandemic
- Routes of transmission humans-pigs, humans-poultry and vice versa
- Risk of spreading of new virus in animal population
- Pathogenicity for pigs and poultry
- Potential zoonotic risk of meat and animal origin products

Outputs of these previous MS's opinions:

Recommendations:

- Monitoring of pigs and poultry
- Measures to be taken in infected herds
- Biosafety measures and protection of professional in contact with pigs and poultry, including vaccination
- For research: cross protection for pig vaccines, interest of homologous vaccines, characterisation of the virus,

Role of EFSA in regard to H1N1: perspectives

- EFSA planned a self mandate in May 2009 but decided to wait as it was considered a public health concern (even if experts knew pigs and potential poultry cases would increase with human cases)
- As DG SANCO announced a mandate several weeks ago...
- EFSA decided to wait for this mandate before starting to work to provide the best scientific support to the Commission

Role of EFSA in regard to H1N1: perspectives

- As soon as the mandate will be received, EFSA will put in place a working group allowing to reply as fast as possible to the mandate taking into board the previous MS's opinions
- Composition of the WG will be dependent on the ToR

- Goal of monitoring and limitations in regard to humane cases? How to implement such a representative survey? How to involve stakeholders?
- Risk of spreading of the virus in herds in regard to the increase of incidence of human cases?
- Interest on the use of vaccines in pigs under the perspective of public health?
- Limits of biosafety measures; how to improve that in pig and poultry herds?