Summary of meeting
Disease Categorisation Expert Group on Brucellosis
Monday 25th February 2013 10:00-13:00
DG SANCO Rue Belliard 232 2-17A

Attendees:
- Chair: Paco Reviriego Gordejo, European Commission
- Disease experts designated by the following Member States:
  - Belgium
  - Denmark
  - Greece
  - Spain
- European Commission representatives:
  - Helen Fasham
  - Barbara Logar
  - Laszlo Kuster
  - Valentina Piazza
- Observers:
  - Expert from EFSA
  - Expert from Switzerland

Apologies:
- Experts from:
  - Lithuania
  - Luxembourg
  - Malta

1. Introduction from the Commission

Commission representatives explained the context of disease categorisation and prioritisation within the EU Animal Health Strategy, and outlined the study that had been commissioned in conjunction with the OIE. The result of that study had been a disease categorisation and prioritisation tool which is designed to capture key information about diseases of terrestrial animals and, where possible, to quantify that information to aid in the categorisation and prioritisation process.

The Commission then gave a short guide to the tool and its structure. The aim of the meeting was to complete the tool's fields for Brucellosis. The Commission had pre-filled many values, but the group could both challenge any of these values; and were asked to complete the values left blank.

2. Values in the tool filled in by experts with respect to Brucellosis

The group progressed through the tool from start to finish, discussing pre-filled values where at least one group member wished to open the discussion, and completing blank values. The tool was filled in as far as possible through discussion and consensus.

General points included clarification of the source of production data (FAOSTAT); whether electronic versions of the tool could be provided; and requests for clarification about the radar graphs used for visualisation of results.

Specific questions or issues were raised on particular fields including:
- Clarification on how to class the spatio-temporal profile;
- Lack of information on availability of human vaccine;

- How to incorporate varying production systems and the effectiveness of prevention and control measures;
- Requests that the human health data was completed and verified by human health experts;
- Whether all disposal methods for dead animals were sufficiently covered;
- Whether diagnostic accuracy and surveillance accuracy had been confused in the questions;

3. Conclusions

The Commission thanked the experts for their contribution and explained that all of their work, including the tool that they had filled in and the questions and comments they had raised on the tool itself, would be used, together with the work of the seven other disease-specific expert groups, in a full assessment of the tool by the Commission.