

Summary of meeting

Disease Categorisation Expert Group on Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)

Friday 19th April 2013 10:00 – 13:00

DG SANCO Rue Belliard 232 2-17A

Attendees:

- Chair: Alf Fuessel, European Commission
- Disease experts designated by the following Member States:
 - Bulgaria
 - Hungary
 - Ireland
 - Latvia
 - UK
- European Commission representatives:
 - Helen Fasham
 - Barbara Logar
 - Francesco Berlingieri
 - Ewa Camera

Apologies:

- Experts from Cyprus and Luxembourg

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 Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD). 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 FMD

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 requests for clarification on how to take existing control measures into account, including their effects.

Specific questions or issues were raised on particular fields including:

- Which species to include in 'pets';
- How to score the methods of transmission, particularly through infected feed;
- How to score mortality;
- Differences in spatio-temporal profile in different cases and the effects on the scoring;
- Issues on the laboratory surveillance questions;
- Clarification on how to score the control of disease movement;

- Whether DIVA strategies can be included in the scoring;
- Whether to complete the fields for the incidence and prevalence of the disease, and if so, what data to use;
- Whether all species or commodities relevant were covered in the trade impacts;
- How to take the potentially large economic impact of control measures into account;
- Whether certain automatically filled values accurately reflected the questions that were being asked.

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.