Summary of meeting
Disease Categorisation Expert Group on Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI)
Friday 22nd March 2013 10:00-13:00
DG SANCO Rue Belliard 232 2-17A

Attendees:
- Chair: Maliz Pittman, European Commission
- Disease experts designated by the following Member States (or accessing MSs):
  - Croatia
  - Czech Republic
  - Denmark
  - Estonia
  - Finland
  - Netherlands
  - Portugal
- European Commission representatives:
  - Helen Fasham
  - Barbara Logar

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 Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI). 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 LPAI

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 that the human health assessment was carried out and verified by human health experts.

Specific questions or issues were raised on particular fields including:
- Whether exotic birds should be considered as pets;
- Some asserted that there was a lack of evidence on human forms of LPAI;
- How to take healthy carriers into account;
- Whether all the methods of transmission were sufficiently covered;
- The problem of the lack of data on LPAI in pigs;
- Clarification on how to class the spatio-temporal profile;
- Some changes needed to the wording on diagnosis;
- How to score the questions on vaccines;
- Clarification on questions about isolating animals;
- How to take the wildlife reservoir into account;

- Whether the criteria on mortality were correctly described;
- How to take into account the severity of the impact on animal welfare;
- Clarification on what sufficient supply of vaccines means;
- How differing biosecurity across different types of flocks could be considered.

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.