

Summary of meeting

Disease Categorisation Expert Group on African Swine Fever (ASF)

Thursday 11th April 2013 10:00-13:00

DG SANCO Rue Belliard 232 2-17A

Attendees:

- Chair: Silvia Bellini, European Commission
- Disease experts designated by the following Member States:
 - Austria
 - Bulgaria
 - France
 - Germany
 - Slovakia
 - Spain
- European Commission representatives:
 - Helen Fasham
 - Barbara Logar
 - Francesco Berlingieri

Apologies:

- Expert from Latvia

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 African Swine Fever (ASF). 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 ASF

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 the graphs used for visualisation; and questions about how answers given in the 'global' assessment part of the tool affected scores later in the 'local' assessment.

Specific questions or issues were raised on particular fields including:

- How to score the persistence of the virus;
- Whether all the methods of transmission were sufficiently covered;
- Clarification on how to class the spatio-temporal profile;
- Differences in the disease profile between domestic and wild animals;
- How to score the field on abortions, stillbirths and infertility;
- The degree of impact on the food industry;

- How to score fields on societal acceptance of control measures.

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.