

From: Pierre-Louis GASTINEL
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Dear Brian,

During the last Executive Board meeting, I proposed to add a point in the agenda of our next Board Meeting (in Rome, at the end of February), with the point n° 7 (« Group reports ») under your management. It would be the pt n° 7-4 : » Updating of Animal Welfare Recording WG ». I could present this updating, following the new elements of these last weeks, which you know at least in part.

1. Here are these new elements. We received the agreement of new people to participate in this WG, and to day the AWR WG is constituted by :

Elisabeth BERRY (DairyCo – UK)

Maria Devant Guille (IRTA – Spain)

Pierre-Louis GASTINEL (France Génétique Elevage –France), chairman of the WG and correspondant of the Board.

Luc MIRABITO (Institut de l'Elevage – France)

Kathrina F. STOCK (VIT – Germany)

This WG could be usefully completed by some experts from countries out of Europe.

2. In accordance with its ToR, the first work of the AWR WG will be a crossed analysis between the general principles of OIE, and its criteria, on the one side, and the practices of the recording organisations based on ICAR guidelines, on the other. We will identify : convergence points using data already collected in the herds, sent in the recording and genetic databases, potentially usable to evaluate the trend of animal welfare; complementary points, where ICAR guidelines give a description, with a harmonization of the data allowing exchange and building-up of central databases with related infrastructures; and gaps, where the ICAR Guidelines may be complemented by new indicators more appropriate to monitor animal welfare that can be generated by recording organisations.

The main output of this work will be a communication at the next «International Conference on the Assessment of Animal Welfare at Farm and Group Level », in september, at Clermont-Ferrand – France, (WAFL 2014). Furthermore, a more detailed report will be established, for the use by the other WG concerned by some traits in link with animal welfare. This work will be done in collaboration with Christa Egger-Donner, chairperson of Functional Traits WG.

At this stage, there is not a direct contribution of IDF in this WG, unlike a first proposal; IDF is waiting the first results of the ICAR WG, but wishes to be informed of this work.

3. For the next months, the AWR WG plans, at least, a web conference in march, a physical meeting in Berlin during ICAR annual meeting, and some exchanges by email.

PS : Thank to Cesare to take in account this new composition of the WG

Best regards

Pierre-Louis