

European Technology Platform for Global Animal Health

- Terms of Reference -

1. Background

On 16 December 2004, the Animal Health Industry and the Commissioners for Research, Development and Health and Consumer Protection launched the start of the European Technology Platform for Global Animal Health (ETPGAH) based on the recommendations of a High Level Group. The Group developed a joint Vision Paper in which it lays out the aims of the platform namely to develop and deliver the most effective tools for controlling animal diseases that are of major importance to Europe and the rest of the world.

The scope and the extent of the ETPGAH should be focussed on the development of a joint long-term strategy for research to improve animal health.

The Technology Platform is a joint initiative of industry and the research community and is actively encouraged by the European Commission services. The Platform is led by IFAH-Europe (International Federation for Animal Health, Europe) and integrates all relevant stakeholders at EU and national levels, from academia, research, farmers, veterinarians, industry, consumers, regulators, etc. It will also include stakeholders from international organisations, such as the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and the Office International des Epizooties (OIE), as well as from non-European countries.

The intent of this document is to describe the objectives and structure of the ETPGAH and to provide an overview of the involved stakeholders.

2. Objectives

The ETPGAH aims to facilitate and accelerate the development and distribution of the most effective tools to control animal diseases of major importance to Europe and the rest of the world. It should thereby improve animal health and welfare, food safety, human health, market access and contributing to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

The strategic objectives of the Technology Platform should be:

1. Sustain and strengthen the research environment and infrastructure needed to support visionary research into animal health and in particular the epidemic animal diseases and zoonoses.
2. Ensure Europe has a multi-disciplinary strategic research capacity with the core expertise and facilities to anticipate and respond rapidly to new and emerging animal diseases, including zoonoses.
3. Maintain a highly competitive industry working in partnership with the research community, production stakeholders, public sectors and regulators.
4. Facilitate the efficient and rapid transfer of discoveries into practical applications such as tests and vaccines for diagnosing and controlling animal diseases.

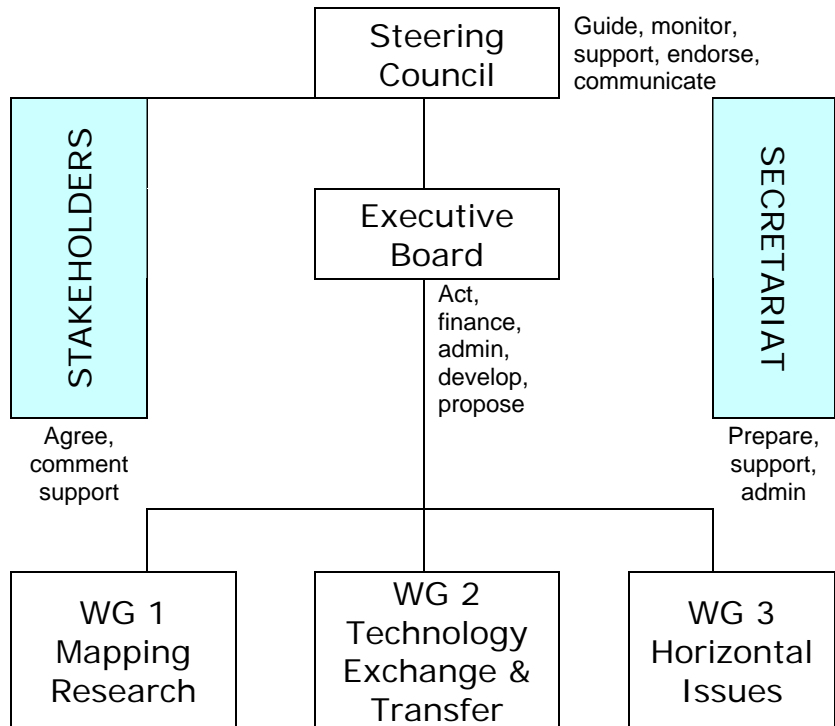
5. Ensure a supportive and harmonised regulatory environment that balances risk and needs, not only for the authorisation of vaccines and tests but also in terms of sanitary standards required for international trade.
6. Develop alliances with international organisations and non-European countries, including developing and developed countries, to enhance research, development and new product delivery.
7. Improve education, training and understanding throughout the whole supply chain from initial research through to the delivery of new products.
8. Mobilise the public and private sectors in Europe to commit funds to effective Research and Development activities through public-private partnership.

In order to achieve this the ETPGAH will develop a Strategic Research Agenda identifying the strategically important issues with high societal value. The expected outcome should be:

- to increase the competitiveness of the European industry on the world market in the field of veterinary medicines.
- to enable authorities in charge of disease control to react swift and efficiently to new disease outbreaks
- to streamline research, development and regulatory efforts in order to ensure consumer safety without compromising efficient product development

3. Structure

The European Technology Platform for Global Animal Health should include representation from all relevant stakeholders involved in animal health. The Platform is driven by the industry and structured as following:



4. Terms of reference for the Executive Board, the Steering Council, Working Groups, Stakeholders, Member States and Secretariat

Executive Board

The Executive Board (EB) comprises 7 members selected from industry, users, and public bodies. The chair will be held by IFAH-Europe. There will also be observers from the Commission as necessary. The EB will be responsible for ensuring that the process is directed in an efficient and transparent way.

The specific tasks will be:

- Implement the recommendations from the Steering Council (SC)
- Give directions to the ETPGAH Secretariat
- Run the workshops, chairing external meetings and identifying, on the advice of the SC, the participants at the workshops
- Develop the implementation plan, including a deployment strategy and supervising advancement of the plan
- Prepare the SC and Working Groups (WG) meetings (agenda, meeting documents, etc)
- Develop terms of reference, working rules and procedures for endorsement of the SC
- Develop the mandates of the SC and the WGs for endorsement of the SC
- Define the criteria for stakeholders for endorsement of the SC and consider new applications for endorsement by the SC
- Issue a progress statement after each EB meeting or conference call.
- Monitor discussions in other relevant TPs to build synergies
- Monitor progress of the WGs and give advice to the WGs, if necessary.
- Manage the budget
- Finalize the SRA by the end of 2005

The EB shall convene as frequent as required to supervise the progress of the ETPGAH, either by meetings or regular conference calls.

Steering Council

The Steering Council (SC) is at the core of the ETPGAH. It is a network connecting the platform to the major stakeholders and the pool of ideas. The membership of the SC shall not exceed 30 members. The Commission will attend as observers. The Steering Council will oversee the technology platform and will act to move the ETPGAH forward. For that purpose, the SC will appoint some of its members to attend the WGs meetings and to become chair of the WGs. It will be the main point of contact for all other stakeholders.

The role of the Steering Council is to:

- Confirm the members of the EB and adopt its mandate
- Finalise and endorse the vision paper
- Identify appropriate funding from public or private sources
- Endorse the mandate of the WGs, SC, Terms of Reference, working rules and procedures
- Determine the priority items and guide the development of the Strategic Research Agenda (SRA)

- Endorse the SRA and implementation plan and deployment strategy
- Ensure information sharing and coordination between the stakeholders and the working groups, e.g. provide regular progress statements of the WGs activities
- Ensure information sharing within the membership of the representing organization
- Ensure active involvement of Member States, European institutions and other organisations
- Endorse the agendas of the first meetings of the working groups

The SC shall in principle meet twice a year in Brussels.

Working Groups

In order to set up the recommendations for the SRA, which must be finalized for end of 2005, 3 Working Groups (WGs) will be set up of not more than 20 people, in line with the topics identified under point 6. Experts or observers may be invited to participate in the work, where appropriate or necessary. The working group shall meet in principle twice a year in accordance with the timetable set by the SC. A chairperson shall be appointed at the first meeting and should be preferentially be a member of the SC. To become a member of the WG, senior expertise in the field and commitment is required.

The WGs will be responsible to:

- Develop the SRA recommendations for their topics in line with the tasks set out by the SC
- Provide regular update to the EB on the progress and challenges
- To identify milestones and 'go' and 'no go' steps
- The minutes of the working groups must be taken by one member of the group identified at the starting of the meeting.

Stakeholders

All those organisations and individuals interested in the aim and objectives of Platform

Organisations:

- European associations relevant to Animal Health and Welfare and Food Safety representing industry (IFAH-Europe, EuropaBio, diagnostics), farming industry (COPA-COGECA), veterinarians (FVE) and consumers (BEUC)
- International organizations relevant to Animal Health and Food Safety (e.g. FAO, OIE, ILRI, WHO etc.)
- European Regulatory Authorities (Heads of Medicines Agencies, EDQM, EMEA)
- Representatives from the European Research community (Institutes, Universities, Network of Reference Labs)
- Member States representation
- EFSA

Individuals:

- Invited experts from International Organisations or NGOs and from regional organizations (Asia, Africa, Latin America)
- New applications shall be sent to the EB for consideration and recommendation to the SC for their endorsement.

European Technology Platforms:**When appropriate other platforms will be invited to participate where there are area of mutual interest. E.g**

- Animal Breeding
- Innovative medicines

Secretariat

The daily work of the ETPGAH shall be co-ordinated via a secretariat, which is lead by IFAH-Europe, located in Brussels (IFAH Europe, 1 rue Defacqz, 1000 Brussels. animaltp@ifahsec.org). The secretariat works in close collaboration with the EB.

The secretariat will be responsible to:

- Prepare the agenda for EB meetings and conference calls
- Prepare the minutes of the EB meetings and conference calls
- Prepare the agenda for the SC meetings
- Prepare the minutes for the SC meetings
- Ensure circulation of relevant documents and information pertaining to the specific groups
- Keep the contacts of all stakeholders updated
- Prepare the agenda for the stakeholders meetings
- Prepare the minutes for the stakeholders meetings
- Edit the SRA final document
- Manage the website of the ETPGAH
- Manage the logistics of the technology platform
- Administer financial matters funded by the SSA and other possible funding and prepare financial documents and returns
- Prepare the appropriate information for the FP VII
- Support the working groups

Member States

The Member States will be involved through representation at the SC by 4 Chief Veterinary Officers, responsible for the Animal Health Policy in each Member State. A representative of the Heads of Medicines Agencies of the EU, responsible for the licensing of veterinary medicinal products will also represent the Member States by membership of the SC and the EB. The Member State representatives would be responsible for the dissemination of information through their relevant channels across the Member States authorities.

5. Stages

The work of the ETPGAH will be as follows:

• Stage 1:

- Set-up technology platform and get stakeholders together
- Develop a vision document endorsed by all stakeholders

- **Stage 2:**

- Develop a Strategic Research Agenda (SRA)
- Prepare a deployment strategy (implementation plan)
- Mobilise private and public investments (EU, national, regional)
- Develop an education, training, communication plan and tools

- **Stage 3:** Implementation (FPVII or ...)

In order to develop the SRA the Working Groups (WGs) should develop recommendations in line with the mandate given by the SC. The recommendations of the WGs will be reviewed by the SC and then circulated as a draft to all stakeholders for comments. A workshop will be organized allowing all stakeholders to express their views. These comments will be given to the WGs in order to incorporate them in the final recommendations. The EB should collate the recommendations from the WGs and consolidate them into one single text to become the SRA for endorsement by the SC.

6. Strategic Research Agenda (SRA)

The strategic research agenda will address the following issues (as identified by the stakeholder on 24 February 2005) dealt with by 3 WGs:

1. Mapping Research

- Disciplines: Immunology, Epidemiology, Risk analysis,
- Animals
- Diseases (EU networks e.g. FMD, CSF)
- Research Infrastructures

2. Technology Exchange and Transfer

- IPR
- User requirements

3. Horizontal issues

- Pan Europe
- Regulatory issues
- Ethical issues
- Education and training

The following criteria should be considered by each WG when developing their recommendations for the SRA.

- High societal relevance related to the implications of the disease in terms of risk, magnitude of consequences, animal welfare, trade, food safety, zoonotic aspects, social and economical consequences
- Absence of alternative solutions
- Feasibility in relation to technological success, regulatory acceptance, time scale, cost/benefit, and environmental impact
- Avoid unnecessary duplication of efforts

In addition to the criteria above, the recommendations from each of the WGs must contribute to:

EU competitiveness

- Sustainable development
- Security
- Public health and food safety
- International cooperation

7. Transparency and Communication

The Commission gives clear guidance that the work and activities of the technology platforms should be conducted openly in order to increase public awareness, understanding and acceptance of the technologies concerned. Therefore priority should be given to dissemination and communication of their objectives, activities and progress. This will be done through a specific website where agenda, minutes and relevant documents, including the list of members, will be posted. In addition, a workshop will be held to which all stakeholders will be invited. Any interested party can make comments on the SRA agenda when it is published. Furthermore, the work of the ETPGAH will address specifically the issue of education and training and develop recommendations on this.

8. Link to other platforms

One or several Steering Council members will monitor and participate in other relevant Technology Platforms to build synergy.

9. Financing

The start-up activities of the ETPGAH will be financed by the Commission through a Specific Support Action (SSA) amounting for 300 000 Euros. This will finance some of the meetings, incl. travel of the different groups and the secretarial activities. In kind support will be provided by industry.

In principal the meetings will be held in Brussels. For 2005 the following meetings are planned: at least 1 physical and 2 electronic Executive Board meetings, 1 physical and 1 electronic Steering Council meetings and 2 working groups meetings per working group. The stakeholders will be consulted electronically and, if finance permits, a meeting will be organized meeting.

Annex 1: ETPGAH Membership of the Executive Board

Chair:

- Dr Declan O'Brien, *Managing Director, IFAH-Europe*

Co-Chair:

- Dr Jan Vaarten, *Executive Director, FVE*

Members:

- Dr Steve Dean, *Representative of the Heads of Medicines Agencies*
- Prof. Paul-Pierre Pastoret, *BBSRC*
- Prof. Dr J.M. Sánchez-Vizcaíno, *Dpto. Sanidad Animal Facultad de Veterinaria Universidad Complutense, Madrid*
- Dr Bernard Vallat, *Director General, OIE*
- Dr Paul De Winter, *COPA-COGECA*

Secretariat support:

- Dr Mireille Chaton-Schaffner, *CEVA*
- Dr Hervé Marion, *IFAH-Europe*

Consultant to the Executive Board:

- Prof. Jim Scudamore

Commission contact point:

- Isabel Minguez-Tudela, *Commission DG Research*

Annex 2: ETPGAH Membership of the Steering Council

	Category	Organisation	Representative	Alternate	Boards
1	Agricultural Industry	<i>COPA- COGECA</i>	Dr Paul de Winter	Dr Roxane Feller	S, EB
2	Animal Health Industry	<i>CEVA santé animale</i>	Dr Thierry Bardon		S
3	Animal Health Industry	<i>Vakzine Management</i>	Dr Albrecht Läufer		S
4	Animal Health Industry	<i>Merial</i>	Dr Carolin L. Schumacher		S
5	Animal Health Industry	<i>IABs</i>	???		S
6	Animal Health Industry	<i>Intervet</i>	Dr Paul van Aarle		S
7	Animal Health Industry	<i>IFAH-Europe</i>	Dr Declan O'Brien		Chair S, EB
8	Bio Tech Industry	<i>European Association of Bio Industry</i>	Dr Johan Vanhemelrijck		S
9	Coordinators networks of excellence	<i>CIRAD, EDEN</i>	Dr Stéphane Delarocque		S
10	Coordinated Action and Reference Laboratories	<i>IAH, CA FMD/CSF</i>	Dr David McKay		S
11	Coordinators networks of excellence	<i>CIDC-Lelystad, EPIZONE</i>	Dr Piet van Rijn		S
12	Coordinators networks of excellence	<i>MED-VET-NET</i>	Dr André Jestin		S
13	CVOs	<i>CVO Slovakia</i>	Dr Prof Jozef Bires		S
14	CVOs	<i>CVO Netherlands</i>	Dr Peter De Leeuw	Dr M. Weijtens	S
15	CVOs	<i>CVO France</i>	Dr Jean-Jacques Soula		S

16	CVOs	<i>CVO Denmark</i>	Dr Preben Willeberg		S
17	International	<i>FAO</i>	Dr Joseph Domenech		S
18	International	<i>GALV</i>	Prof Ian Maudlin		S
19	International	<i>OIE</i>	Dr Bernard Vallat	Dr Alejandro Schudel	S, EB
20	International Research	<i>ILRI</i>	Dr Uwe Werblow	Dr John McDermott	S
21	Other academic and research organisation	<i>ESVV</i>	Prof Jan van Oirschot		S
22	Other Industries	<i>AEFRV (diagnostic)</i>	Dr Nadia Plantier		S
23	Regulator	<i>EDQM</i>	Dr Peter Castle		S
24	Regulator	<i>Head of the Medicine Agencies</i>	Dr Steve Dean		S, EB
25	Regulator	<i>EMEA</i>	Dr Peter Jones		S
26	Research	<i>BBSRC</i>	Prof Paul-Pierre Pastoret		S, EB
27	University	<i>Facultad de veterinaria Universidad, Madrid</i>	Prof Dr J.M. Sánchez-Vizcaíno		S, EB
28	University	<i>EAEVE University of Zürich</i>	Prof Marcel Wanner		S
29	Veterinarians	<i>FVE</i>	Dr Jan Vaarten		S, EB

Professor J Scudamore: Consultant to the Steering Council

Annex 3: Action plan and timetable of the ETPGAH activities

Group	Date	Action	Comments
Stakeholders	24 February 2005	1 st Stakeholders meeting	Discussion of interim vision paper, structure of platform and themes
Interim Board	17 May 2005	1 st Interim Board meeting	Endorse Vision Paper, Terms of Reference, prepare composition of WGs, Working Rules and procedures
Steering Council	27 June 2005	1 st Steering Council meeting	Confirm the EB, and set tasks of WGs, prepare framework document for the commission's FP7
Executive Board	5 August 2005	1 st Executive Board meeting	Teleconference Review progress of the SC and prepare action plan for WGs
Steering Council	August 2005	Steering Council consultation	Endorse SRA Concept Paper
Working groups	August 2005	Start of the Working Groups	Via e-mail
Executive Board	23 September 2005	2 nd Executive Board meeting	Teleconference 14.00hrs (Brussels time)
Working groups	11-12-13 October 2005	1 st Working Groups meetings	Draft recommendations for SRA review
Working Groups	14 November 2005	WGs Chairmen + ETPGAH Secretariat meeting	Meeting at SIMV, Paris 10.00am to 1.00pm (Brussels time)
Executive Board	25 November 2005	3 rd Executive Board meeting	Teleconference 2.00 pm (Brussels time) WGs recommendations

Working groups	28 November/ 1 & 2 December	2 nd Working Groups meetings	Progress and finalise SRA
Stakeholders	January 2006	Stakeholder consultation	Discussion of draft SRA for final round of comments
Executive Board Steering Council	February 2006	4 th Executive Board meeting 2 nd Steering Council meeting	Endorsement SRA
	Autumn 2006	FP projects	Publication of FP7 projects 2 calls for submission

Annex 4 : Relevant Sources and Documents

European Technology Platform for Global Animal Health

- ETPGAH website:
<http://www.ifah.be/Europe/EUPlatform/Platform.htm>

- Interim Vision Document:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/agriculture/pdf/etpgah_vision2015_paper-final_en.pdf
- Reference to strengthen scientific and technology basis in Europe: European Constitution : Chap. III; Section 9, Art. 248
http://europa.int/constitution/eu/ptoc50_en.htm#a308
- Technology Platforms
<http://www.cordis.lu/technology-platforms>
- Minutes from the first stakeholder meeting of 24 February 2005
<http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/agriculture/events/conferences.html#vision2015>