

# 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 European Technology Platform for Global Animal Health (ETPGAH) based on the recommendations of a High Level Group. In August 2005 the Group finalised a joint Vision Paper in which it laid 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 Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) was published in May 2006, setting out the necessary mid-to long-term objectives of the ETPGAH. Finally, an Action Plan (AP) was published in July 2007 to provide guidance and methods to implement the recommendations contained in the SRA.

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

The ETPGAH is a joint initiative of stakeholders 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, regulators, etc. It also includes stakeholders from international organisations, such as the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), as well as from non-European countries.

This document is intended to update the previous versions and to describe the objectives and structure of the ETPGAH. It also provides an overview for stakeholders involved in the ETPGAH.

### 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 contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

The strategic objectives of the ETPGAH are:

1. Sustain and strengthen the research environment and infrastructure needed to support visionary research into animal health and in particular the infectious 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 diagnostics, vaccines and pharmaceuticals used for diagnosing and controlling animal diseases.
5. Ensure a supportive and harmonised regulatory environment that balances risks and benefits for diagnostics, vaccines and pharmaceuticals and is mindful 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. Promote 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.

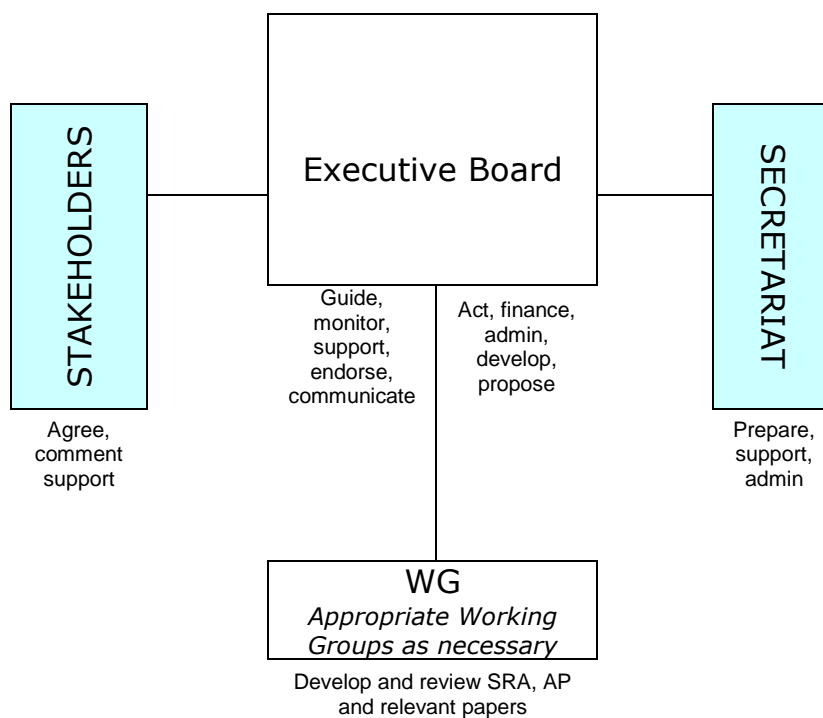
In order to achieve this, the ETPGAH has developed a Strategic Research Agenda and an Action Plan identifying the strategically important issues with high societal value. The expected outcome should be:

- 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

Various FP7 Projects were launched following recommendations from the Strategic Research Agenda and the Action Plan such as DISCONTTOOLS, EMIDA ERA-Net, ICONZ, etc. The SRA and Action Plan will be reviewed periodically to ensure that they remain up-to-date.

**3. Structure**

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



**4. Terms of reference (ToR) for the Executive Board, Working Groups, Stakeholders, Member States, Secretariat and Mirror Groups**

### **Executive Board**

The Executive Board (EB) comprises approximately 10 members selected from industry, users, and public bodies. The chair will be held by IFAH-Europe. There will also be observers from the Commission and relevant projects as necessary. The EB is at the core of the ETPGAH and assures that the platform is connected to the major stakeholders and research initiatives. The EB will act to move the ETPGAH forward and be responsible for ensuring that the process is directed in an efficient and transparent way.

The specific tasks will be:

- Adopt its mandate and confirm the members of the EB
- Give directions to the ETPGAH Secretariat
- Determine the priority items and guide the development, implementation and review of the SRA, AP and ToR
- Create Working Groups (WG) when needed
- Develop and endorse the mandate of WG(s), their Terms of Reference, working rules and procedures
- Monitor progress of the WG(s) and give advice to the WG(s), if necessary.
- Ensure information sharing and coordination between the stakeholders and the working group(s), e.g. provide regular progress statements of the WG(s) activities
- Endorse any relevant paper produced from the ETPGAH
- Run workshop(s), chair external meetings and identify the participants at the workshop(s)
- Ensure information sharing between the ETPGAH , stakeholders and relevant research initiatives related to animal health with a primary focus on Europe
- Ensure active involvement of Member States, European institutions and other organisations
- Issue occasional progress statements after EB meetings or conference calls
- Monitor discussions in other relevant TPs and build synergies as appropriate
- Identify appropriate funding from public or private sources
- Manage the budget

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

### **Working Groups**

Three Working Groups (WGs) of not more than 20 people were established in order to produce the recommendations for the SRA, which was finalized by the end of 2005. Similarly, four co-ordination groups were established to prepare the AP published in 2007. WGs will be established as appropriate to deal with new issues.

A WG will be established to review the SRA, AP and any paper relevant to the ETPGAH:

The WG will be responsible to:

- Develop and review SRA, AP and relevant documents
- Provide regular updates to the EB on the progress and challenges
- Identify milestones and 'go' and 'no go' steps

Experts or observers may be invited to participate in the work, where appropriate or necessary. Other working group(s) may be established and meet as necessary. A chairperson shall be appointed at the first meeting and should, preferentially, be a member of the EB. To become a member of the WG, senior expertise in the field and commitment is required.

## **Stakeholders**

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

### Organisations:

- ETPGAH national mirror groups who support the ETPGAH
- European associations relevant to Animal Health and Welfare and Food Safety representing industry (IFAH-Europe, EuropaBio, diagnostics), farming industry (COPA-COGECA) and veterinarians (FVE)
- Intergovernmental organizations / institutions relevant to Animal Health, including Zoonoses, and Food Safety such as OIE, FAO, WHO, Codex Alimentarius
- Non Governmental international organisations (e.g. ILRI, GALVmed, VICH etc.)
- Relevant European Authorities and Agencies (Heads of Medicines Agencies, ECDC, EDQM, EMEA, EFSA, etc.)
- Representatives from the European Research community (Institutes, Universities, Network of Reference Labs)
- Member State representatives (CVOs).

The representatives of European associations and organisations would be responsible for the dissemination of information on activities of the ETPGAH through their relevant channels to their member associations and organisations.

### 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 stakeholders for their endorsement.

### European Technology Platforms:

- When appropriate other platforms will be invited to participate where there are areas of mutual interest.

## **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 of the EB meetings and conference calls, Stakeholder meetings and WG meetings

- Prepare the minutes of the EB meetings and conference calls, Stakeholder meetings and WG meetings
- Ensure circulation of relevant documents and information pertaining to the specific groups
- Keep the contacts of all stakeholders updated
- Manage the logistics and website of the ETPGAH
- Administer financial matters and prepare financial documents and returns

## **Member States**

The Member States will be involved through representation on the EB by a representative of the Chief Veterinary Officers, responsible for the Animal Health Policy in the Member States. 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 via membership of the EB. The Member State representatives would be responsible for the dissemination of information through their relevant channels across the Member States authorities.

## **Mirror Groups**

The establishment of Mirror Groups was encouraged in each EU Member State following the publication of the Strategic Research Agenda in 2006. Their initial function was to discuss the Action Plan being prepared by the ETPGAH and agree on ways in which each country could contribute to the initiative. Since then the Mirror Groups have taken on a much wider role and have developed to meet the needs of their own country.

The membership of the Mirror Groups is determined by the individual country but includes a wide representation of stakeholder groups similar to those European bodies represented on the ETPGAH. A meeting of chairs of the individual country Mirror Groups is held as appropriate, usually annually, for the exchange of information and ideas.

The Terms of Reference are determined by each individual Mirror Group reflecting the objectives of the ETPGAH whilst addressing specific needs within their country. The ETPGAH will act as a coordination body to advocate the common priorities agreed by the Mirror Groups. Guidance on possible Terms of Reference for Mirror Groups are shown at annex 3.

## 5. Stages

The work of the ETPGAH has been as follows:

### **• Stage 1:**

- Set-up technology platform and get stakeholders together
- Develop a vision document endorsed by all stakeholders – published on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2005

### **• Stage 2:**

- Develop a Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) – published in May 2006
- Prepare a deployment strategy (Action plan) – published in August 2007
- Mobilise private and public investments (EU, national, regional)

The work of the ETPGAH will be as follows:

• **Stage 3:**

- Implementation of the Action plan
- Revision of AP and ToR

In order to implement the SRA and AP or revised documents, the Working Group(s) (WGs) should develop recommendations in line with the mandate given by the EB. The recommendations of the WG(s) will be reviewed by the EB 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 WG(s) in order to incorporate them in the final recommendations. The EB should discuss and endorse the final document.

## 6. 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 is done through a specific website where agendas, minutes and relevant documents, including the list of members, are posted. In addition, when needed, workshops can be held to which all stakeholders will be invited.

## 7. Link to other platforms

One or several Executive Board members will participate in meetings organized by the European Commission to bring together relevant technology Platforms to build synergy between the platforms dealing with items related to research in animal health.

## 8. Financing

The start-up activities of the ETPGAH were financed by the Commission through a Specific Support Action (SSA) amounting for 300 000 Euros which covered the period 1 July 2005 to 31 December 2007. This helped finance some of the meetings, including travel of the different groups and the secretarial activities. In kind support has been provided by many stakeholders and a number of stakeholders are providing funding to keep the ETPGAH running.

**Annex 1: ETPGAH Membership of the Executive Board**

**Chair:**

- Declan O'Brien, *IFAH-Europe*

**Members:**

- Jan Vaarten, *FVE*
- Steve Dean, *Heads of Medicines Agencies*
- Johanna Koolen, *EMVD*
- Gerhard Greif, *EAEVE*
- Bernard Vallat, *OIE*

*Alternate:* Dr. Elisabeth Erlacher-Vindel

- Klaas Johan Osinga, *COPA-COGECA*

*Alternate:* Mr. Pasquale Di Rubbo

- Christiane Bruschke, *CVO*

*Alternate:* Dr. Jan Bloemendal

- Alex Morrow, *EMIDA ERA-Net*
- Wim van Der Poel, *EPIZONE*
- John Threlfall, *MedVetNet*

**Secretariat support:**

- Hervé Marion

**Consultant to the Executive Board:**

- Jim Scudamore

**Commission contact point:**

- Isabel Minguez-Tudela, *Commission DG Research*

**DISCONTTOOLS:**

- Morgane Delavergne

**Annex 2 : Relevant Sources and Documents**

## **European Technology Platform for Global Animal Health**

- ETPGAH website:  
<http://www.ifaheurope.org/CommonTP.aspx?SubMenuId=47&MenuId=17>

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- Vision Document:  
[http://www.ifaheurope.org/upl/4/default/doc/ETPGAH\\_ActionPlanAug07.pdf](http://www.ifaheurope.org/upl/4/default/doc/ETPGAH_ActionPlanAug07.pdf)
- Strategic Research Agenda :  
[http://www.ifaheurope.org/upl/4/default/doc/SRA\\_May06.pdf](http://www.ifaheurope.org/upl/4/default/doc/SRA_May06.pdf)
- Action Plan :  
[http://www.ifaheurope.org/upl/4/default/doc/ETPGAH\\_ActionPlanAug07.pdf](http://www.ifaheurope.org/upl/4/default/doc/ETPGAH_ActionPlanAug07.pdf)
- Reference to strengthen scientific and technology basis in Europe: EC Treaty:  
Art. 163 EC  
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:12002E163:EN:HTML>
- Technology Platforms: [http://cordis.europa.eu/technology-platforms/individual\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/technology-platforms/individual_en.html)

**Annex 3 : Guidance on Terms of Reference for Mirror Groups**

These Terms of Reference are provided for guidance. They are determined by each individual Mirror Group reflecting the objectives of the ETPGAH whilst addressing specific needs within their country. The ETPGAH will act as a coordination body to advocate the common priorities agreed by the Mirror Groups.

1. to communicate and promote the content of the ETPGAH action plan at the national level
2. to build collaboration with the national stakeholders and bring them together for the first time
3. to ensure that the importance of using national funding to support relevant parts of the ETPGAH action plan is raised and stressed in the appropriate fora.
4. to develop a procedure to identify issues (funded either at national or EU level) of importance to their country and of possible common issues. The objective is to improve the research efficiency by focussing the resources on the most important animal health needs and facilitating a faster availability of products that will address these needs
5. to ensure that special national needs and focus areas are included in the European prioritisations
6. to ensure that the European prioritisations and recommendations of focus areas are included in the National Strategy