



*Ministero della Salute*



International Conference on

# Prevention and control of *Campylobacter* in the poultry production system

**MILAN**  
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CIVIL SOCIETY PAVILION  
CASCINA TRIULZA



## CONCEPT

The last report of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) on trends and sources of zoonoses, zoonotic agents and food-borne outbreaks in the European Union (EU) confirms human campylobacteriosis as the most frequent food-borne zoonosis notified by EU Member States (214.779 cases in 2013). The consumption of contaminated food, poultry meat in particular, is considered one of the main sources of human infection, as reported by several published papers and scientific studies. Contaminated poultry meat, in fact, plays a crucial role in human exposure, causing the 20%-30% of all human cases of campylobacteriosis in EU and representing the primary source of infection in 50%-80% of cases.

Member States, as active part of the EU integrated approach to food safety from the farm to the fork, are strongly committed to take action and to adopt appropriate methods to fight against *Campylobacter* in animals, in animal-by products, and in humans, to reduce the disease spreading, improve the quality of meat production, and to protect public health. According to an EFSA's opinion published in 2011, an effective control strategy for *Campylobacter* contamination in poultry meat should consider the whole production chain; the last identified strategy aims strongly to the first phase of the chain production, in particular to the biosecurity measures and the actions taken. Scientists and policy-makers are currently debating on the most effective and feasible control measures to be applied along the poultry meat production chain, while great efforts and several studies are being carried out to identify the main risk factors for *Campylobacter* colonisation and contamination. The conference will debate the risk factors, drawing up particular attention to the active measures in the farm.

Comprehensive official data on human infections caused by *Campylobacter* are not yet available in Italy. Nevertheless, EFSA calculated an expected incidence of 0.586% in this country (586 cases for 100.000 residents). In Italy, moreover, official data on the levels of *Campylobacter* prevalence and contamination in poultry meat are very few. The most representative information on the situation of *Campylobacter* contamination at national level is reported in the EU community baseline study performed in 2008 in all the EU countries: 63.3% of broiler batches slaughtered and 49.6% of carcasses produced in Italy resulted contaminated by *Campylobacter* spp.

In this context and in line with the EFSA scientific indications, the Italian Ministry of Health, in collaboration with the National Union of the Meat and Egg Agri-food Sectors (U.N.A. ITALIA), recently launched the "National monitoring plan on *Campylobacter* contamination along the production chain of poultry meat", with the aim of producing and collecting epidemiological data useful for the definition of appropriate and feasible national control strategies.

The National Food Safety Authorities of the EU member States recently agreed on the need to share knowledge and expertise on the new methods and approaches to control *Campylobacter* in the

farming sector and consequently in the production chain as well as to discuss the most appropriate risk communication strategies to increase consumer awareness on the role of the competent authorities to protect human health and on the risks associated to the consumption of contaminated meat products. Taking into account the impact of the disease on the poultry production and on human health, the Italian Ministry of Health promoted this International Conference, with the collaboration of Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise, as National Reference Laboratory for *Campylobacter*, and Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie.

The Conference is open to National Competent Authorities of EU member States, candidate, and third Countries and to all the stakeholders interested to the improvement of the quality and safety of poultry meats as well as to the protection of human and animal health.

## CONFERENCE GOALS

The Conference aims to achieve the following goals:

- To update the scientific community, policy and decision makers and stakeholders on *Campylobacter* contamination levels in poultry farms, poultry products and biosecurity measures in Europe.
- To examine the main risk factors and critical points influencing the colonisation and maintenance of *Campylobacter* contamination along the poultry meat production chain, particularly focused on the farming systems.
- To discuss the efficacy and feasibility of possible control strategies and prevention, through acting measures on farm, for *Campylobacter* contamination along the poultry meat production chain.
- To examine effective risk communication approaches to increase the consumer awareness and information.

# AGENDA

TIME	SETTING THE CONTEXT	CHAIRMAN: SILVIO BORRELLO
10,30	Introduction	Silvio Borrello DGAH, MoH, IT
10,35	Welcome address (videomessage)	Beatrice Lorenzin Minister of Health, IT
10,45	Opening remarks	Stef Bronzwaer EFSA
10,50	Conference scope and concept	Silvio Borrello DGAH, MoH, IT
11,00	EU strategies on poultry: animal health and meat safety	Klaus Kostenzer EC
11,15	Campylobacteriosis in humans in the EU/EEA: health aspects and estimated burden	Alessandro Cassini ECDC
11,30	<i>Campylobacter</i> contamination levels in poultry meat in the EU and recommended reduction measures	Winy Messens EFSA
11,45	<i>Campylobacter</i> control strategies in poultry farms, biosecurity and innovative rapid diagnostic tests	Eva Olsson Engvall EURL for <i>Campylobacter</i> , SE
12,00	Fact and figures of poultry industry in EU	Paul Lopez AVEC
12,15	The UK experience in controlling <i>Campylobacter</i> along the poultry chain and communication campaign	Francisco Javier Dominguez Orive FSA, UK
12,30	Need for reliable disease burden estimates to support food safety decision making: the example of human campylobacteriosis in the EU	Ákos Józwiak NÉBIH, HU
12,45	Discussion	All Speakers involved
13,00	Lunch at the terrace of the EU Pavilion Visit to the EU Pavilion	
TIME	CAMPYLOBACTER PREVENTION, SURVEILLANCE AND CONTROL POLICIES	CHAIRMAN: GIUSEPPE RUOCCO
14,30	Introduction	Giuseppe Ruocco DGFS, MoH, IT
14,35	Zoonotic <i>Campylobacter</i> : main microbiological and pathogenic features of a very successful bug	Antonia Ricci NRL for Salmonellosis; IT
14,50	Feed interventions – blocking the colonisation of birds	Gilles Salvat NRL for <i>Campylobacter</i> , FR
15,05	<i>Campylobacter</i> contamination in poultry meat production chain in Italy and the National monitoring system	Paolo Calistri NRL for <i>Campylobacter</i> , IT
15,20	Risk-based control strategies for <i>Campylobacter</i> in poultry meat	Louise Boysen DTU, DK
15,35	Discussion	All Speakers involved
15,50	Conclusions	Giuseppe Ruocco DGFS, MoH, IT
16,05	Visit to EXPO	

## **PARTNERSHIP**

Ministry of Health, Italy

Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise, Italy

Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie, Italy

*with the scientific contribution of*

European Commission

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

European Food Safety Authority

European Union Reference Laboratory for *Campylobacter*, National  
Veterinary Institute, Sweden

National Reference Laboratory for *Campylobacter*, ANSES, France

Technical University of Denmark

National Food Chain Safety Office (NÉBIH), Hungary

Food Standard Agency, United Kingdom

*and the participation of*

AVEC – Association of Poultry Processors and Poultry Trade in the EU  
countries

## **CONFERENCE CHAIR**

Silvio Borrello, DGAH, Ministry of Health, Italy

## **SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**

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