Introduction to the process of EFSA's risk assessment for 'acrylamide in food'

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Follow-up meeting of the public consultation
10 December 2014, Brussels

BACKGROUND

Acrylamide is an organic compound produced for a wide variety of industrial applications (e.g. the production of polyacrylamides).

Concerns about exposure to AA arose in 2002 when it was discovered that it forms when certain foods are prepared at temperatures above 120 ° C and low moisture.

It forms, at least in part, due to the Maillard reaction between certain amino acids, such as asparagine, and reducing sugars. Several other formation pathways and precursors have also been identified.

AA forms in numerous baked or fried carbohydrate-rich foods, including French fries, potato crisps, breads, biscuits and coffee.

AA is also known to be present in cigarette smoke.

CURRENT EFSA EVALUATION

- **September 2012** - EFSA received a letter from 4 Member States (DE, DK, FR and SE) suggesting to consider new scientific findings on the possible carcinogenicity of AA.

- **December 2012** - EFSA received a request from the EC for a scientific opinion on the risk to public health related to the presence of AA in Food (deadline September 2013).

- Due to the complexity of the topic and the decision of EFSA to publicly consult on the draft opinion, an extension of the deadline was negotiated to **June 2015**

PREVIOUS ASSESSMENTS

- Since 2002, a number of national and international bodies have carried out risk assessments related to the presence of AA in food

- In 2005, the EFSA CONTAM Panel published a Statement endorsing the main conclusions and recommendations of the summary report of the JECFA 2005 assessment on AA in food

- EFSA's activities since then,

- **Four scientific reports on the occurrence of AA in food** (2009, 2010, 2011, 2012)
- **Colloquium on AA carcinogenicity** (2008)

This is the first full risk asessment of EFSA on AA in food

OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY

In line with EFSA's policy on openness and transparency

- **Consultation with the EFSA Stakeholder Consultative Platform (SHP)**

  To obtain information on on-going/completed research projects or risk assessments which could be of interest for EFSA's risk assessment on AA in food. *Period: April - May 2013*.

- ***Ad-hoc* call for occurrence data collected outside official controls**

  Food business operators and other stakeholders were invited to submit analytical data on AA occurrence levels in foods and beverages intended for human consumption

OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY

In line with EFSA's policy on openness and transparency

- **Public consultation** of the endorsed draft opinion

  1 July – 15 September 2014 (on-line consultation via EFSA website)

- **Stakeholder meeting** after the public consultation

10 December 2014
Brussels

DEVELOPMENT OF THE RISK ASSESSMENT

✓ Establishment of the CONTAM WG on AA in food

- 5 members with particular expertise in various fields related to **toxicological effects, and toxicokinetics of AA**
- 2 members with particular expertise in **epidemiological studies**
- 2 members with particular expertise in the field of **chemistry, occurrence, and exposure assessment**

The WG members have experience in national and international risk assessment or in providing scientific advice (e.g. members or former members of EFSA Panels).

- 1 hearing expert on formation of AA in food

Supported by 2 EFSA staff members from the DATA and BIOCONTAM Units (exposure assessor and co-ordinator of the WG)

DEVELOPMENT OF THE RISK ASSESSMENT

✓ Establishment of the CONTAM WG on AA in food

The WG prepared the draft opinion on the risk assessment of AA in food

The CONTAM Panel was informed regularly on the development of the draft opinion during Plenary meetings

The CONTAM Panel thoroughly discussed the draft opinion and provided feedback to the WG

✓ Endorsement of the draft opinion by the CONTAM Panel

The draft opinion was endorsed for public consultation by the CONTAM Panel on **15 May 2014**

TODAY'S MEETING: OBJECTIVES

To provide a forum to discuss all comments received during the public consultation between contributing parties, scientific experts and EFSA staff.

To facilitate that all scientific views, and information received during the public consultation are well understood by the EFSA experts involved in the risk assessment.

NEXT STEPS: FINALISATION OF THE DRAFT OPINION

The AA WG and the CONTAM Panel have had preliminary discussions on the comments submitted.

The comments received, and the outcome of today's discussion will be carefully considered by the AA WG and the CONTAM Panel, and reflected as appropriate into the final version of the risk assessment and in the full report of the consultation.

The **draft opinion will be adopted and published during the first half of 2015**

A **report on the outcome of the public consultation** will be published at the same time the adopted opinion is published.