

Unit on Biological hazards and contaminants

Parma, 17 March 2014
EFSA/CONTAM/2118

Scientific Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain

Minutes of the 63rd plenary meeting

Held on 25-27 February 2014, Parma

(Agreed on 24.03.2014)

Participants

• **Panel Members:**

Diane Benford, Sandra Ceccatelli, Bruce Cottrill, Michael Dinovi¹, Eugenia Dogliotti, Lutz Edler, Peter Farmer, Peter Fürst, Ron Hoogenboom, Helle Knutsen², Anne-Katrine Lundebye³, Manfred Metzler, Carlo Nebbia, Michael O'Keeffe, Ivonne Rietjens⁴, Vittorio Silano, Hendrik van Loveren, Christiane Vleminckx and Pieter Wester.

• **Hearing Expert:**

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• **European Commission and/or Member States representatives:**

- Frans Verstraete (European Commission, DG Health and Consumers, unit E3)
- Leonidas Palilis⁵ (Hellenic Food Authority) (for item 6.1)

• **EFSA:**

• **BIOCONTAM Unit:**

Katleen Baert, Marco Binaglia, Gina Cioacata, Athanasios Gkrillas, Karen Mackay, Ernesto Liebana Criado (for item 8.3.4) and Luisa Ramos Bordajandi

• **DATA Unit:**

Davide Arcella (for item 9.3), José Ángel Gómez Ruiz (for item 6.1) and Fanny Héraud (for item 6.2)

¹ Participated via teleconference.

² Participated via teleconference on 26-27 February 2014.

³ Participated on 25-26 February 2014 only.

⁴ Participated via teleconference on 26 February 2014 (afternoon only) and on 27 February 2014.

⁵ Participated via teleconference on 25 February 2014 afternoon only.

- **PESTICIDES Unit:**

Hermine Reich (for item 9.3)

Johann Steinkellner (for item 8.3.4)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Dieter Schrenk (CONTAM Panel), Marina Marini (European Commission, DG Health and Consumers, unit 03), Frank Swartenbroux (European Commission, DG Health and Consumers, unit E3), Mari Eskola (BIOCONTAM Unit, EFSA) and Natalie Thatcher (BIOCONTAM Unit, EFSA).

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes⁶ and the Decision of the Executive Director implementing this Policy regarding Declarations of Interests⁷, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest and the Specific Declaration of interest filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 62nd Plenary meeting held on 26-28 November 2013

The minutes were agreed by written procedure on 7 February 2014 and published on the EFSA website⁸.

5. Written procedures since 62nd Plenary meeting

By written procedure the CONTAM Panel agreed to the change of the WG Chairs for the WG on Fusarium toxins and for the WG on Acrylamide in food. Ivonne Rietjens and Peter Fürst were nominated chairs of the WG on Fusarium toxins and the WG on Acrylamide in food, respectively.

6. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion and possible adoption

6.1. Discussion and possible adoption of the draft opinion on chromium in foodstuff (EFSA-Q-2012-00379)

The chair of the CONTAM WG on Chromium and nickel presented the draft opinion on chromium in food and drinking water (EFSA-Q-2012-00379), in which the Hellenic Food Safety Authority had asked EFSA to assess the risks for public health related to the presence

⁶ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

⁷ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules.pdf>

⁸ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/contam/contammeetings.htm>

of chromium in food and hexavalent chromium in drinking water. The CONTAM Panel discussed the draft opinion and adopted it subject to incorporation of minor changes as suggested during the meeting. The chair of the CONTAM Panel expressed her appreciation to the members of the WG and the EFSA staff.

6.2. Discussion on the draft opinion on acrylamide in food (EFSA-Q-2013-00007) - selected chapters

The chair of the CONTAM WG on Acrylamide in food presented the current status of the draft opinion (EFSA-Q-2013-00007) in which the European Commission had asked EFSA to assess the risk for public health related to the presence of acrylamide in food, and in particular the sections on occurrence, exposure assessment, hazard characterisation and risk characterisation. The members of the CONTAM Panel discussed the draft sections and provided their suggestions. The chair of the WG will bring the comments back to the WG which will take them into account and continue with the development of the draft opinion. The draft opinion on acrylamide in food is progressing well.

7. New mandates

7.1. Request from EC for a scientific opinion on the risks for human health related to the presence of nitrofurans and their metabolites in food (EFSA-Q-2014-00066)

The CONTAM Panel discussed the request and agreed that the request will be developed in the SWG on Non-allowed pharmacologically active substances in food and feed and their reference points for action.

No other official mandates have been allocated to the CONTAM Panel by EFSA.

8. Feedback from the Scientific Committee/the Scientific Panels, Working Groups, EFSA, the European Commission

8.1. Scientific Committee and other Scientific Panels

The chair of the CONTAM Panel highlighted the main items discussed in the 66th plenary meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC), held on 18-19 February 2014. These were: the adoption of the opinion on Qualified Presumption of safety approach for botanicals, the discussion on the draft opinions on Carvone and on the draft guidance for statistical reporting, and the discussion on new mandates of interest for the CONTAM Panel, such as the possibility to update the guidance document on benchmark dose approach and the mandate on biological relevance in toxicology. More information is available on the EFSA website⁹.

The respective CONTAM Panel members who are members of the SC WGs and other Scientific Panel WGs relevant for the CONTAM Panel informed about the current status of these WGs, namely the SWG on Emerging Risks (SC), the SWG on Guidance review (SC), and the WG on Uncertainty in Risk Assessment (SC).

⁹ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/panels/scer.htm?wtrl=01>

8.2. CONTAM working groups

8.2.1. Working group on Acrylamide in food

See item 6.2.

8.2.2. Working group on Chromium and nickel

See item 6.1. The chair of the WG on chromium and nickel informed the members of the CONTAM Panel that the WG started to work on the draft opinion on nickel in foodstuffs (EFSA-Q-2012-00378).

8.2.3. Working group on *Fusarium* toxins

The vice-chair of the WG on *Fusarium* toxins informed the members of the CONTAM Panel that the draft opinion on beauvericin and enniatins in food and feed (EFSA-Q-2010-00999) is progressing well, and that the work on the draft opinion on the risks to human and animal health related to the presence of deoxynivalenol, metabolites of deoxynivalenol and masked deoxynivalenol in food and feed (EFSA-Q-2013-00721) has started.

8.2.4. Standing working group Non-allowed pharmacologically active substances in food and feed and their reference points for action

The chair of the SWG on Non-allowed pharmacologically active substances in food and feed and their reference points for action informed the members of the CONTAM Panel that the SWG started to work on the draft opinion on chloramphenicol in food and feed (EFSA-Q-2013-00925).

8.3. EFSA

8.3.1. Advisory Forum

The Advisory Forum meeting took place on 5 December 2013 in Parma. Among the agenda items a progress report on the status of the opinion on acrylamide was given by the chair of the CONTAM Panel. The Advisory Forum was informed that the WG on acrylamide and the CONTAM Panel aim to finalise the opinion in the shortest time possible. The current objective is to deliver the draft opinion endorsed by the CONTAM Panel for public consultation two months earlier than originally planned, following concerns expressed by some AF members. The minutes of the Advisory Forum meeting are available on the EFSA website¹⁰.

8.3.2. Management Board

The Management Board meeting took place on 19 December 2013 in Parma. The Management Board adopted the Annual Management Plan for 2014 and the Multiannual Management Plan for 2014-2016. Information on the Management Board meeting is available on the EFSA website¹¹.

¹⁰ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/af/afmeetings.htm>

¹¹ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/mb/mbmeetings.htm>

8.3.3. CONTAM Panel meeting dates for 2014

The dates for the additional CONTAM Panel meeting (64th meeting) were confirmed. The meeting dates for 2014 are available on the EFSA website¹².

8.3.4. Other

Recently appointed as the Acting Head of Unit on Biological hazards and contaminants (BIOCONTAM), Ernesto Liebana Criado visited the CONTAM Panel meeting. Ernesto Liebana Criado was the deputy head of former EFSA BIOHAZ Unit and he was appointed in his new position following the appointment of the Head of EFSA BIOHAZ Unit Marta Hugas as Acting Head of EFSA Risk Assessment and Scientific Assistance (RASA) Department.

The acting team leader of the CONTAM team of the BIOCONTAM Unit informed the members of the CONTAM Panel on the following matters:

Johann Steinkellner will assist the CONTAM Team as a senior scientific officer in the coordination of the CONTAM WGs on Masked mycotoxins and on Nickel in feed.

8.4. European Commission

The European Commission representative gave feedback on the activities of the European Commission in relation to the adopted scientific opinions of the CONTAM Panel. Several amendments of current legislation are under discussion with the Member States as an outcome of the CONTAM Panel scientific opinions. In addition, several recommendations to the Member States have been made by the European Commission based on CONTAM opinions. The European Commission indicated other requests for scientific opinions in the remit of the CONTAM Panel that will be submitted to EFSA in the near future.

9. Other scientific topics for information and/or discussion

9.1. Discussion on the letter from Bundesinstitut für Risikobewertung (BfR) Germany for the request for scientific opinion on plastic microparticles in marine animals

The CONTAM Panel discussed the letter from Bundesinstitut für Risikobewertung (BfR) Germany for the request for scientific opinion on plastic microparticles in marine animals and decided that more information is needed for further discussions. The CONTAM Team will collect literature and other information for the CONTAM Panel meeting on 14-15 May 2013.

9.2. Update on the draft statement on perchlorate in food, in particular fruits and vegetables (EFSA-Q-2013-00675)

The acting team leader of the CONTAM Team of the BIOCONTAM Unit gave an update on the draft opinion (EFSA-Q-2013-00675), in which the European Commission had asked EFSA to assess the risk for public health related to the presence of perchlorate in food, in particular fruits and vegetables. The divergences identified with national risk assessments carried out by two European Member States were discussed in a dedicated meeting. During this process it was noted that additional scientific information and considerations can be

¹² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/contam/contammeetings.htm>

beneficial to substantiate the aforementioned scientific opinion. The CONTAM Panel agreed to initiate a WG on Perchlorate in food. Ivonne Rietjens agreed to be the chair of this WG.

9.3. EFSA PRIMO model and variability factors for acute dietary exposure assessment and its influence on the opinions of the CONTAM Panel on acute exposure

Based on the presentation on EFSA PRIMO model and variability factors, the CONTAM Panel discussed its impact on the scientific opinions of the CONTAM Panel on acute exposure. This discussion was supported by the information paper on the acute reference dose and other approaches used in the previous scientific opinions of the CONTAM Panel for the risk assessments on contaminants causing acute effects. The CONTAM Panel concluded that further scientific evidence should be collected to underpin the use of a variability factor for the perchlorate risk assessment.

9.4. Present status of current outsourcing activities of the CONTAM Team (BIOCONTAM Unit)

For the procurement on a combined toxicokinetic and *in vivo* genotoxicity study on *Alternaria* toxins (awarded to the Fraunhofer Institute, Germany, in August 2012 for a two year contract), the first interim report was delivered in September 2013 and the second interim report is due by the beginning of April 2014.

For the procurement on an extensive literature search and provision of summaries of the studies on oral toxicity of perfluoroalkylated substances, their precursors and potential replacements in experimental animals and humans (follow-up contract awarded to RICARDO-AEA Ltd.), the approval of the final report and other deliverables is on-going.

For the Article 36 grant on the combined bioaccumulation/toxicity study on a broad mixture of mineral oil saturated hydrocarbons relevant to the human dietary exposure (signed with INRA (France) and NIPH (Norway) in September 2013), the first interim report is due in July 2014.

For the Article 36 grant to collect occurrence data on sterigmatocystin in food (signed with RIKILT (the Netherlands), Unicatt (Italy), Fera (United Kingdom), BPI (Greece) and NVWA (the Netherlands) in September 2013), the first interim report is due in April 2014.

For the Article 36 grant on occurrence data of pyrrolizidine alkaloids in food (signed with RIKILT (the Netherlands), BfR (Germany) and IRTA (Spain) in September 2013), the first interim report is due in April 2014.

For the Article 36 Grant on *in vivo* genotoxicity studies on nivalenol and deoxynivalenol, (signed with ANSES (France) and IPL (France) in December 2013), the kick-off meeting took place in January 2014 and the interim report is due in June 2014.

For the Article 36 grant on deoxynivalenol biomarkers in urine (signed with ISS (Italy), Unicatt (Italy), NVI (Norway), NIPH (Norway) and UoH (UK) in December 2013), the kick-off meeting took place in February 2014 and the first interim report is due in August 2014.

10. Any other business

No other business was raised.