

Unit on Contaminants

Parma, 4 March 2013
EFSA/CONTAM/1917

Scientific Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain
Minutes of the 57th plenary meeting
Held on 22-24 January 2013, Parma

(Agreed on 15 3 2013)

Participants

- **Panel Members:**
- Diane Benford, Sandra Ceccatelli¹ Bruce Cottrill, Michael Dinovi, Eugenia Dogliotti, Lutz Edler, Peter Farmer, Peter Fürst, Ron Hoogenboom, Helle Knutsen², Manfred Metzler, Carlo Nebbia, Michael O'Keeffe, Ivonne Rietjens, Dieter Schrenk, Vittorio Silano, Hendrik van Loveren, Christiane Vleminckx and Pieter Wester
- **Hearing Expert:**
- Johanna Fink-Gremmels (for items 6.1 and 6.3)¹.
- **European Commission and/or Member States representatives:**
- Frank Swartenbroux (DG Health and Consumers, unit E3) and Frans Verstraete (DG Health and Consumers, unit E3) (for item 6.1)³.
- **EFSA:**
 - **CONTAM Unit:**
Kathleen Baert, Marco Binaglia, Bistra Benkova, Gina Cioacata, Carolina Di Bona, Mari Eskola, Valentina Mota, Silvia Inés Nicolau Solano, Luisa Ramos Bordajandi, Doina Stoica and Natalie Thatcher
 - **DCM Unit:**
- Valeriu Curtui (for item 6.3 and 6.4) and Fanny Heraud (for item 7.2)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The chair welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Anne-Katrine Lundebye-Haldorsen (CONTAM Panel), Marina Marini (European Commission, DG Health and Consumers, unit 03) and Almut Bitterhof (European Commission, DG Health and Consumers, unit 03).

¹ Present on 22-23 January 2013 only.

² Present on 23-24 January 2013 only.

³ Participated via tele-conference on 22 January 2013 only.

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 Processes regarding Declarations of Interests (Dols)⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director implementing this Policy⁵, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest (ADol) and the Specific Declaration of interest (SDol) 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 in the Oral Declaration of interest (ODol) at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 56th Plenary meeting held on 20-22 November 2012 in Parma

The minutes were agreed by written procedure on 8 1 2013 and published on the EFSA website.⁶

5. Written procedures since 56th Plenary meeting

No written procedures.

6. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion and possible adoption

6.1. Discussion and possible adoption of the draft opinion on sterigmatocystin in food and feed (EFSA-Q-2010-01005)

The chair of the CONTAM WG on Aspergillus toxins presented the draft opinion on sterigmatocystin in food and feed (EFSA-Q-2010-01005), in which the European Commission had asked EFSA to assess the risk for public and animal health related to the presence of sterigmatocystin in food and feed. The CONTAM Panel discussed the draft opinion and requested further clarifications for certain chapters and conclusions. Therefore the draft opinion was not adopted in the plenary meeting, and it will be presented for discussion at the 58th CONTAM Panel meeting (20-22 March 2013) and for possible adoption in the CONTAM Panel meeting in May 2013.

6.2. Discussion and adoption of the draft guidance on methodological principles and scientific methods to be taken into account when establishing reference points for action (EFSA-Q-2011-00149)

The chair of the CONTAM WG on RPA presented the approach for the guidance on establishing reference points for action (EFSA-Q-2011-00149) following the consultation with

⁴ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

⁵ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules.pdf>

⁶ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/121120-m.pdf>

the EFSA Scientific Committee in the meeting held 26-27 November 2012⁷. The CONTAM Panel discussed the principles of the approach and proposed further aspects to be taken into consideration. The revised draft guidance document will be presented for discussion at the 58th CONTAM Panel meeting (20-22 March 2013).

6.3. Discussion and endorsement of the draft chapters related to public health hazards to be covered by meat inspection of Bovine (EFSA-Q-2011-00111) and Sheep and goats (EFSA-Q-2011-00960)

The chair of the CONTAM WG Meat inspection – contaminants presented the draft chapters of the opinions on contaminants in relation to meat inspection of bovines (EFSA-Q-2011-00111) and of domestic sheep and goats (EFSA-Q-2011-00960). The CONTAM Panel endorsed both chapters subject to incorporation of minor changes as suggested during the meeting. The three chapters from the three different Panels will be integrated into a single Scientific Opinion by the SCICO WG. This Scientific Opinion will be then submitted for adoption by the BIOHAZ Panel. The chair of the CONTAM Panel expressed her appreciation to the members of the WG Meat inspection contaminants for the preparatory work of these draft chapters.

6.4. Discussion of the draft chapters related to public health hazards to be covered by meat inspection of Domestic solipeds (EFSA-Q-2011-00962) and of Farmed game (EFSA-Q-2011-00961)

The chair of the CONTAM WG Meat inspection contaminants presented for discussion the approach to take for the other two remaining chapters of the draft opinions on meat inspection of domestic solipeds (EFSA-Q-2011-00962) and of farmed game (EFSA-Q-2011-00961). Both chapters will be presented for possible endorsement at the 58th CONTAM Panel meeting (20-22 March 2013).

7. New mandates

7.1. Request from the European Commission for a scientific opinion on the risks and benefits of fish/seafood consumption as regards methylmercury (EFSA-Q-2013-00006)

The European Commission has requested EFSA to assess risks and benefits of fish/seafood consumption as regards methylmercury (EFSA-Q-2013-00006) with a deadline of December 2013. The CONTAM Panel discussed this mandate and concluded that since the Panel has assessed the risks related to methylmercury in the last year (opinion published December 2012) there is currently no need to carry out a new risk assessment. Thus the CONTAM Panel proposed that it would not be the leading Panel for this mandate and the mandate should be re-allocated.

7.2. Discussion on acrylamide in food (EFSA-Q-2013-00007)

The European Commission has requested EFSA to carry out a risk assessment on acrylamide in food (EFSA-Q-2013-00007) with a deadline of September 2013. The CONTAM

⁷ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/121126-a-m.pdf>

Panel noted that the deadline is very tight. This will be further discussed between EFSA and EC.

This request was sent to EFSA since the last CONTAM Panel meeting when a joint letter from Technical University of Denmark, National Food Institute (DTU Food), French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety (ANSES), National Food Safety Agency, Sweden (NFA Sweden) and Federal Institute for Risk Assessment, Germany (BfR) on acrylamide was discussed⁸. Due to the common interest of the abovementioned organisations and the European Commission, EFSA will organise a teleconference between the interested parties to discuss common matters in relation to the request on acrylamide in food.

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

8.1. Scientific Committee and other Scientific Panels

The chair of the CONTAM Panel highlighted the main items discussed in the 58th plenary meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC) on 26-27 November 2012. These were: the content of the draft opinion on endocrine disruptors, EFSA's response to the publication by Séralini et al. (2012), and the draft guidance of the CONTAM Panel on methodological principles and scientific methods to be taken into account when establishing reference points for action (see also agenda item 6.2). In addition updates of the SC WGs were given at the SC meeting. The minutes of the 58th SC meeting are available on the EFSA website⁹. The Chair of the CONTAM Panel informed the CONTAM Panel members that the 59th plenary meeting of the SC will be held on 5-6 February 2013. In this meeting the draft opinion on endocrine disruptors will be discussed.

The respective CONTAM Panel members who are the members of the SC WGs relevant for the CONTAM Panel informed about current status of these WGs, namely WG on Qualified presumption of safety for botanicals, standing WG on Emerging risks and standing WG on Guidance review. More information is available in the minutes of the 58th SC meeting⁹.

8.2. CONTAM working groups

8.2.1. Working group on Alkaloids

The chair of the WG on Alkaloids informed the members of the CONTAM Panel that the draft opinion on tropane alkaloids in food and feed (EFSA-Q-2010-01038) is progressing well and that it will be presented for possible adoption in the first half of 2013.

8.2.2. Working group on Aspergillus toxins

See agenda item 5.1.

⁸ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/121120-m.pdf>

⁹ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/121126-a-m.pdf>.

8.2.3. Working group on Chromium and nickel

The chair of the WG on Chromium and nickel informed the members of the CONTAM Panel that the draft opinion on chromium in food (EFSA-Q-2012-00379) is progressing well.

8.2.4. Working group on Fusarium toxins

The chair of the WG on Fusarium toxins informed the members of the CONTAM Panel that the draft opinion on nivalenol in food and feed (EFSA-Q-2010-01003) is progressing well and that it will be presented for possible adoption in the first half of 2013. The WG has started working on the draft opinion on beauvericin and enniatins in food and feed (EFSA-Q-2010-00999).

8.2.5. Working group on Meat inspection – contaminants and the EFSA SCICO working group

The remaining two draft opinions on domestic solipeds meat inspection (EFSA-Q-2011-00962) and on farmed game meat inspection (EFSA-Q-2011-00961) will be presented for possible endorsement at the 58th CONTAM Panel meeting in March 2013. The chair of the WG informed that the 2nd SCICO WG meeting is scheduled for early March 2013.

8.3. EFSA

8.3.1. Advisory Forum

The Advisory Forum meeting took place on 5-6 December 2012 in Paphos, Cyprus. Among the agenda items the following items were discussed: EFSA's multi-annual plan for 2014-2016, SC activity on endocrine disruptors, SC activity on guidance review, SC activity on uncertainty in risk assessment and SC activity on environmental risk assessment, current EFSA activities on chemical mixtures, systematic literature review activities of EFSA and the future aspects of the EFSA grants. 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 13 December 2012 in Parma. The Management Board adopted the recommendations following the external evaluation of EFSA carried out by Ernst & Young, the management plan for 2013 and the budget for 2013. In addition two new members were appointed to the ANS and CEF Panels and a report on EFSA's potential contribution to the Horizon 2020 programme was noted. The minutes of the Management Board are available on the EFSA website¹¹.

8.3.3. Other

The acting head of the CONTAM unit informed the members of the CONTAM Panel on the following matters:

EFSA is organising in collaboration with Karolinska Institutet (KI) specialised courses on advanced aspects of risk assessment for EFSA panel members and staff in 2013-2015. The

¹⁰ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/121205.htm>

¹¹ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/121213.htm>

courses are the following: course on evidence base for risk assessment, course on variability and uncertainty and course on exposure assessment. The registration for these courses is through KI web site¹². The CONTAM Panel members are asked to notify the CONTAM Unit of their application.

In addition, the EFSA Scientific Assessment Support (SAS) Unit is organising six training sessions on scientific literature search techniques in relation to systematic reviews (SR) in food and feed safety risk assessment for EFSA panel members, WG members and staff in the spring 2013. The registration for these courses is through CONTAM Unit.

8.4. European Commission

The European Commission informed that in the 58th CONTAM Panel meeting (20-22 March 2013) a comprehensive feedback on EC activities in relation to CONTAM opinions will be given.

9. Other scientific topics for information

9.1. Present status of current outsourcing activities of the CONTAM Unit

The Article 36 grant for a study on the influence of food processing on nitrate levels in vegetables was signed with the University of Maribor, Slovenia in August 2012 for one year. The kick-off meeting was held in September 2012. A first interim report was delivered by the beneficiary in January 2013.

The procurement on a combined toxicokinetic and *in vivo* genotoxicity study on *Alternaria* toxins was signed with the Fraunhofer Institute, Germany, in August 2012 for two years. The first interim report on chromium will be delivered by the beneficiary by the end of March 2013.

For the procurement to collate the literature on oral toxicity data on chromium and nickel the first interim report on chromium will be delivered by the beneficiary ChemService Srl, Italy in February 2013. The final report on nickel will be delivered by June 2013.

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, the evaluation of the received offers is in progress.

10. Any Other Business

No other business was raised.

¹² <http://ki.se/ki/jsp/polopoly.jsp?d=43955&l=en>
