

Unit on Contaminants

Parma, 18 June 2013
EFSA/CONTAM/1984

Scientific Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain

Minutes of the 59th plenary meeting

Held on 15-17 May 2013, Parma

(Agreed on 4 July 2013)

Participants

• Panel Members:

Diane Benford, Bruce Cottrill, Michael Dinovi¹, Eugenia Dogliotti, Lutz Edler, Peter Farmer, Peter Fürst, Helle Knutsen², Anne-Katrine Lundebye-Haldorsen³, Carlo Nebbia, Manfred Metzler, Michael O'Keeffe, Ivonne Rietjens, Vittorio Silano, Hendrik van Loveren, Christiane Vleminckx⁴ and Pieter Wester

• European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

Frans Verstraete (DG Health and Consumers, unit E3)

• EFSA:

• CONTAM Unit:

Katleen Baert, Marco Binaglia, Bistra Benkova, Gina Cioacata, Mari Eskola, Valentina Mota, Silvia Inés Nicolau Solano, Luisa Ramos Bordajandi, Doina Stoica, Marina Sutunkova and Natalie Thatcher

• DCM Unit:

Petra Gergelova (for item 7.2), Jose Gomez Ruiz (for item 7.3) and Nadezhda Kriulina

• Scientific Committee:

Miriam Jacobs (for item 10.2)

• Legal and Regulatory Affairs Unit:

Citlali Pintado (for item 5)

• Science Strategy and Coordination, Planning and Monitoring Team:

Raquel Garcia Matas (for item 5)

¹ Participated via teleweb-conference 15-17 May 2013.

² Participated via teleweb-conference on 15-16 May 2013.

³ Present on 15-16 May 2013

⁴ Present on 15 and 17 May 2013.

- **Observers:**

Carel Boone (Mead Johnson Nutrition, the Netherlands)⁵ and Antonella Mascali (Heinz Italia S.p.A., Italy)⁶

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Sandra Ceccatelli (CONTAM Panel), Ron Hoogenboom (CONTAM Panel), Dieter Schrenk (CONTAM Panel), Marina Marini (European Commission, DG Health and Consumers, unit 03) and Frank Swartenbroux (European Commission, DG Health and Consumers, unit 03). The observers were invited to introduce themselves.

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)⁷ and the Decision of the Executive Director implementing this Policy⁸, 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 58th Plenary meeting held on 20-22 March 2013 in Parma

The minutes were agreed by written procedure on 25 2013 and published on the EFSA website.⁹

5. Information on the open Panel meeting: presentation of the Guidelines for observers

The code of conduct for Observers to be followed before, during and after attendance to the open Panel meetings was presented. Observers were given the possibility to ask questions in relation to EFSA's work by writing them beforehand in the registration form for the open Panel meeting. However, no questions were indicated by the observers. In case of the submitted questions, they would have been answered in the dedicated session at the end of the CONTAM Panel meeting.

⁵ Present on 16-17 May 2013

⁶ Present on 16 May 2013.

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

⁸ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules.pdf>

⁹ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/130320b.htm>

6. Written procedures since 58th Plenary meeting

No written procedures.

7. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion and possible adoption

7.1. 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 (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 adopted the opinion 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 on Aspergillus toxins and EFSA staff for the preparatory work of this draft opinion.

7.2. Discussion and possible adoption of the draft opinion on nivalenol in food and feed (EFSA-Q-2010-01003)

The chair of the CONTAM WG on Fusarium toxins presented the draft opinion (EFSA-Q-2010-01003), in which the European Commission had asked EFSA to assess the risk for public and animal health related to the presence of nivalenol in food and feed. The CONTAM Panel discussed the draft opinion and adopted the opinion 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 on Fusarium toxins and EFSA staff for the preparatory work of this draft opinion.

7.3. Discussion of the draft opinion on tropane alkaloids in food and feed (EFSA-Q-2010-01038)

The chair of the CONTAM WG on Alkaloids presented the draft opinion (EFSA-Q-2010-01038), in which the European Commission had asked EFSA to assess the risk for public and animal health related to the presence of tropane alkaloids in food and feed. The CONTAM Panel discussed the draft opinion and proposed further revisions for some chapters. The draft opinion will be presented for discussion and possible adoption at the 60th CONTAM Panel meeting (11 July 2013).

8. New mandates

No new official mandates falling within the mandate of the CONTAM Panel have been received by EFSA.

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

9.1. Scientific Committee and other Scientific Panels

The chair of the CONTAM Panel highlighted the main items discussed in the 61st plenary meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC) on 11-12 April 2013. These were: the draft opinion on Cumulative assessment groups of pesticides (Panel on Plant Protection Products and their Residues (PPR Panel)), discussion on the work of the WG on Relevance of dissimilar mode of action for cumulative risk assessment (PPR Panel), draft EFSA multi-annual work plan and preliminary EFSA management plan for 2014. More information is available on the EFSA website¹⁰.

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 on the EFSA website¹⁰.

9.2. CONTAM working groups

9.2.1. Working group on Acrylamide in food

The chair of the WG on Acrylamide in food informed the members of the CONTAM Panel that the draft opinion is progressing well. The consultation with the EFSA Stakeholder Platform was launched (deadline 24 May 2013) and the call for industry data (deadline 30 June 2013). Due to the aforementioned two aspects, the complexity of the risk assessment and the draft scientific opinion being subject to a public consultation prior to its adoption, an extension of the deadline will be further discussed between EC and EFSA.

9.2.2. Working group on Alkaloids

See agenda item 6.3.

9.2.3. Working group on Aspergillus toxins

See agenda item 6.1.

9.2.4. Working group on Chromium and nickel

The vice-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 and that it will be presented for possible adoption in the end of 2013 or in the beginning of 2014.

9.2.5. 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 beauvericin and enniatins in food and feed (EFSA-Q-2010-00999) is progressing well and that it will be presented for possible adoption in the end of 2013 or in the beginning of 2014.

¹⁰ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scer/scmeetings.htm>

9.3. EFSA

9.3.1. Advisory Forum

The Advisory Forum meeting took place on 6-7 March 2013 in Dublin, Ireland. Among the agenda items the following items were discussed: EFSA's multi-annual plan for 2014-2016, projects suitable for the new grant scheme and prioritisation under Horizon 2020 framework programme (Advisory Forum discussion group), update on the SC activity on endocrine disruptors, and lessons learnt from the meat products authenticity study presented by Ireland. The minutes of the Advisory Forum meeting are available on the EFSA website¹¹.

9.3.2. Management Board

The Management Board meeting took place on 14 March 2013 in Parma. Among the agenda items the following items were discussed: the EFSA draft multiannual plan for 2014-16 for which three key priority areas were identified (fitness for purpose, optimising the use of resources, and building more transparency and trust), draft preliminary EFSA management plan 2014, and draft preliminary budget and establishment plan 2014. The minutes of the Management Board are available on the EFSA website¹².

9.3.3. Other

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

Hubert Deluyker decided to step down as Director of Science Strategy and Coordination. He will continue as a Scientific Advisor to the EFSA Executive Director. Juliane Kleiner has been appointed the Director of Science Strategy and Coordination, and Tobin Robinson the head of joint unit of Scientific Committee and Emerging Risks. The appointments are effective from 16 May 2013 onwards.

Valentina Mota, administrative staff member, will leave the CONTAM Unit in the end of June 2013, and Marina Sutunkova, National Expert for Professional Training of the CONTAM Unit will leave the CONTAM Unit in the mid-June 2013.

9.4. European Commission

The European Commission representative gave a comprehensive feedback on the activities of the European Commission in relation to the issued scientific opinions of the CONTAM Panel. Several amendments for current legislation have been made or 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 the opinions.

¹¹ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/130306a-m.pdf>

¹² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/mb130314/docs/mb130314-m.pdf>

10. Other scientific topics for information

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

For the Article 36 grant on the study on the influence of food processing on nitrate levels in vegetables (signed with the University of Maribor, Slovenia in August 2012 for one year), the second interim report was delivered in May 2013.

For the procurement on a combined toxicokinetic and *in vivo* genotoxicity study on *Alternaria* toxins (signed with the Fraunhofer Institute, Germany in August 2012 for two years), the delivery of the first interim report (planned for the end of March 2013) was postponed.

For the procurement to collate the literature on oral toxicity data on chromium and nickel, the second interim report on nickel is to be delivered in June 2013. The final report combining literature data for both metals will be delivered by the end of 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 definitive protocol submitted by RICARDO-AEA Ltd was approved. The process has started to award the follow-up contract.

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 (launched in February 2013), the deadline to present proposals is 27 May 2013.

For the Article 36 grant to collect occurrence data on sterigmatocystin in food (launched in March 2013), the deadline to present proposals is 3 June 2013.

10.2. Presentation on EFSA Risk ranking call

An overview of the EFSA Risk ranking call was presented to the CONTAM Panel members. The mandate of the call: Critical review of the potential and limitations of methodologies, tools and proposals for ranking of risks associated with diet and health, food and feed, including social science risk analyses approaches, related to 1) the toxicological, biological and nutritional health risks of well-known chemical substances, biological agents and nutritional components in food and feed; and 2) examples where these may be assessed based on existing and/or new common denominators. The CONTAM Panel members raised several questions for further consideration. The deadline for submission of proposals is 17 May 2013.

10.3. Presentation on DCM activities

This agenda item was deferred to the upcoming CONTAM Panel meetings due to lack of time.

11. Questions from Observers

No questions from the observers (see agenda item 5).

12. Any Other Business

No other business was raised.