
Biological hazards and contaminants Unit (BIOCONTAM Unit)

Parma, 27 March 2015
EFSA/CONTAM/2406

Scientific Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain
Minutes of the 70th plenary meeting
Held on 3-5 March, 2015, Parma (Italy)
(Agreed on 13 April 2015)

Participants

- **Panel Members:**

Diane Benford¹, Bruce Cottrill, Sandra Ceccatelli, Michael Dinovi², Eugenia Dogliotti³, Lutz Edler, Peter Farmer, Peter Fürst, Ron Hoogenboom, Helle Knutsen, Anne-Katrine Lundebye³, Antonio Mutti, Carlo Nebbia¹, Michael O’Keeffe, Annette Petersen, Hendrik Van Loveren, Christiane Vleminckx⁴ and Pieter Wester.

- **Hearing Expert⁵:**

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

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- **EFSA:**

- **BIOCONTAM Unit:**

Katleen Baert, Marco Binaglia, Barbara Dörr, Mari Eskola, Ernesto Liebana Criado, Karen Mackay, Luisa Ramos Bordajandi, Hans Steinkellner and Natalie Thatcher

- **DATA Unit:**

José Ángel Gómez Ruiz (for items 7.1 and 7.3), Davide Arcella (for item 7.4, 7.5 and 8.2.1).

- **Observers⁶:**

Not Applicable

¹ Present on 4-5 March 2015

² Present by tele-web on 3-5 March 2015.

³ Present on 3-4 March 2015

⁴ Present by tele-web on 5 March 2015.

⁵ As defined in Article 11 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

⁶ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/stakeholders/observers.html>

- **Others:**

Not Applicable

1. Welcome

The chair welcomed the participants.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Manfred Metzler and Dieter Schrenk (CONTAM Panel), Marina Marini (European Commission, DG Health and Food Safety, unit 03), Frans Verstraete and Frank Swartenbroux (European Commission, DG Health and Food Safety, unit E7), Almut Bitterhof and Veerle Vanheudsen (European Commission, DG Health and Food Safety, unit E3).

3. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

4. Declarations of Interest of Scientific Panel members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes⁷ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest⁸, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest and the Specific Declarations of Interest filled in by the Scientific Panel Members invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest 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.

5. Agreement of the minutes of the 69th Plenary meeting held on 20-22- January 2015, Parma (Italy)

The minutes of the 69th Plenary meeting held on 20-22 January 2015 were agreed by written procedure on 19 February 2015⁹.

6. Report on the written procedures since 69th Plenary meeting

The CONTAM Team Leader communicated by written procedure the Panel members appointed as chair and vice chair of the new WGs to be set up.

Helle Knutsen and Henk Van Loveren will be the chair and vice-chair of the WG on dioxins in food and feed (EFSA-Q-2015-00028), respectively. Eugenia Dogliotti and Bruce Cottrill will be the chair and vice-chair of the WG on erucic acid in food and feed (EFSA-Q-2015-00027), respectively.

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

⁸ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

⁹ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/contam/contammeetings.htm>

7. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion and/or possible adoption

7.1 Discussion and possible adoption of the draft Scientific Opinion on the risks for animal and public health and the environment related to the presence of nickel in feed (EFSA-Q-2013-00766)¹⁰

The chair of the CONTAM WG on Nickel in feed presented the draft opinion (EFSA-Q-2013-00766) in which the European Commission had asked EFSA to assess the risk for animal and public health and environment related to the presence of nickel in feed. The CONTAM Panel discussed the draft opinion, and proposed further revisions for some chapters. Therefore the draft opinion was not adopted in the plenary meeting and the CONTAM Panel agreed to have it presented for possible adoption by written procedure by the end of March 2015. The use of toxicological data in livestock animals was discussed in detail in this opinion. The CONTAM Panel agreed that in several cases where data gaps are identified for a given livestock species, toxicity data from other species could be used to bridge the gap allowing therefore for risk characterisation. This procedure would not be different from that used in the case of the human risk assessment, in which data in laboratory animals are used to conclude on human toxicity. The CONTAM Panel agreed that this issue should be presented for discussion by the Panel Chair at the next meeting of the EFSA Scientific Committee. The Panel also identified the intake of soil as a potential source of exposure for livestock animals. However, there seems to be a lack of data for an accurate assessment of the relative contribution from soil intake to the overall exposure to nickel of livestock animals.

7.2. BMD approach for the Scientific Opinion on the risks to human health related to the presence of nitrofurans and their metabolites in food (EFSA-Q-2014-00066)¹¹

The chair of the CONTAM Standing WG (SWG) on Non-allowed pharmacologically active substances in food and feed and their reference points for action presented to the CONTAM Panel the possible approaches for the hazard characterisation of the substances under the scope of the opinion. The members of the CONTAM Panel discussed the approach and provided their suggestions. The chair of the SWG will bring the comments back to the SWG which will take them into account in the draft opinion. The draft opinion on the risks to human health related to the presence of nitrofurans and their metabolites in food will be presented for further discussion at the 71th meeting of the CONTAM Panel (28-30 April 2015) and for possible adoption at the 72nd meeting of the CONTAM Panel (3-5 June 2015).

7.3. Discussion on approach to take for the draft Scientific Opinion on the risks for human health related to the presence of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) in milk and other food of animal origin (EFSA-Q-2013-00787)¹²

The chair of the CONTAM WG on THC in milk and other food of animal origin presented the approaches taken by the WG for the exposure assessment and hazard identification and characterisation in the draft opinion (EFSA-Q-2013-00787) in which the European Commission had asked EFSA to assess the risk for human health related to the presence of THC in milk and other food of animal origin. The members of the CONTAM Panel discussed the presented approaches and provided their suggestions. The chair of the WG will bring the comments back to the WG which will take them into account in the draft opinion. The draft opinion on the risks for human health related to the presence of THC in milk and other food

¹⁰ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2013-00766>

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of animal origin will be presented for discussion and possible adoption at the 71st meeting of the CONTAM Panel (28-30 April 2015).

7.4. Discussion on the draft Scientific Opinion on the risk to human health related to the presence of acrylamide in food (EFSA-Q-2013-00007)¹³

The chair of the WG on Acrylamide in food presented to the members of the CONTAM Panel the discussion of the comments received during the public consultation of the draft opinion on acrylamide in food (EFSA-Q-2013-00007). The CONTAM Panel discussed the comments and the responses to the comments. The chair of the WG will bring the feedback received to the WG which will take them into account. The comments and their respective responses will be described in an EFSA Technical Report that will be published together with the Scientific Opinion on acrylamide in food. The draft opinion will be presented for possible adoption at the 71st meeting of the CONTAM Panel (28-30 April 2015).

7.5. Discussion on the draft Scientific Opinion on the risks to human health related to the presence of chlorate in food (EFSA-Q-2014-00534)¹⁴

The chair of the CONTAM WG on chlorate in food presented the approach taken for the hazard identification and characterisation in the draft opinion (EFSA-Q-2014-00534). The members of the CONTAM Panel discussed the approach and provided their suggestions. The chair of the WG will bring the comments back to the WG which will take them into account in the draft opinion. The draft opinion on the risks to human health related to the presence of chlorate in food will be presented for further discussion at the 71th meeting of the CONTAM Panel (28-30 April 2015) and for possible adoption at the 72nd meeting of the CONTAM Panel (3-5 June 2015).

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

8.1. Scientific Committee and Scientific Panel(s) including their Working Groups

8.1.1 Scientific Committee and its Working Groups of interest to CONTAM Panel

This agenda item was deferred to the 71st CONTAM Panel meeting (28-30 April 2015) due to lack of time.

8.2. CONTAM Panel Working Groups

8.2.1. WG on Perchlorate in food – correcting opinion

The DATA Unit presented the dataset on the occurrence of perchlorate in food following the correction of the previously identified error and the new data received since the adoption of the Scientific Opinion (EFSA-Q-2013-00675), and proposed the approach to follow for the correction of the opinion. The members of the CONTAM Panel discussed the approach and provided their suggestions. The corrected opinion will be presented for discussion and possible adoption at the 71st CONTAM Panel meeting (28-30 April 2015).

8.2.1. Working Group on Acrylamide in food

See item 7.4.

¹³ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2013-00007>

¹⁴ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2014-00534>

8.2.3. 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 opinion on the risks to human and animal health related to the presence of deoxynivalenol and its acetylated and modified forms in food and feed (EFSA-Q-2013-00721) is progressing well.

8.2.4. Working Group on Nickel in feed

See item 7.1.

8.2.5. Standing Working Group Non-allowed pharmacologically active substances in food and feed and their reference points for action

See item 7.2.

8.2.6. Working Group on Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) in milk and other products of animal origin

See item 7.3.

8.2.7. Working Group on Chlorate in food

See item 7.5.

8.2.8. Working Group MCPD and glycidyl esters

The vice-chair of the WG on MCPD and glycidyl esters in food informed the members of the CONTAM Panel that the draft opinion on MCPD and glycidyl esters in food (EFSA-Q-2014-00535) is progressing well.

8.2.9. Working Group on Phorbol esters in *Jatropha* kernel meal

The vice-chair of the WG on Phorbol esters informed the members of the CONTAM Panel that the draft opinion on Phorbol esters in *Jatropha* kernel meal (EFSA-Q-2014-00445) is progressing well.

8.3. EFSA

8.3.1. Advisory Forum

The 55th Advisory Forum (AF) meeting was held on 4 and 5 March 2015 in Parma, Italy. Among the items for discussion in the agenda, there were the presentation of the EFSA data warehouse, further discussion on a draft guideline for dealing with situations of diverging scientific opinions (Article 30 of the founding regulation), and an exchange of information on the forthcoming risk assessment activities both at EFSA and at Member State level. More information on the AF and its meeting is available on the EFSA website¹⁵.

8.3.2. Management Board

The acting Head of the BIOCONTAM Unit informed the CONTAM Panel that the next Management Board (MB) meeting will take place on 19 March 2015 and that the proposed nominations for the 2015-2018 mandates of the EFSA Panels and Scientific Committee will

¹⁵ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/af/afmeetings.htm>

be presented for approval. More information on the MB and its meeting is available on the EFSA website¹⁶.

8.3.3. Other

The Team Leader of the CONTAM Panel and Reports Team informed the CONTAM Panel that the Bundesinstitut für Risikobewertung (BfR) agreed on the proposed approach to deliver a Scientific Statement on the presence of plastic microparticles and plastic nanoparticles in food. The Panel agreed to set up a WG to deliver the statement. The WG chair will be nominated and communicated to the CONTAM Panel by written procedure. The CONTAM Panel was informed that Ron Hoogenboom joined the EFSA WG on Prometheus and will represent the CONTAM Panel in the WG activity.

8.4. European Commission

This agenda item was deferred to the 71st CONTAM Panel meeting (28-30 April 2015).

9. Other scientific topics for information and/or discussion

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

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 second interim report is currently under preparation.

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 final report was submitted in January 2015.

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 second interim report was submitted in September 2014. The final report is due in May 2015.

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 draft final report was submitted in January 2015. The final report was submitted in February 2015.

For the Article 36 grant on occurrence of tropane alkaloids in food, the contract was signed with the appointed beneficiary (RIKILT (the Netherlands), IRTA (Spain), FERA (UK) and VSCHT (Czech Republic). The project kick-off meeting was held on 8 January 2015.

A call will be launched for an Article 36 grant on generation of occurrence data on citrinin in food.

10. Any other business

Not Applicable

¹⁶ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/mb/mbmeetings.htm>