

Parma, 22 June 2015  
EFSA/CONTAM/2503

## **Scientific Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain**

### **Minutes of the 72<sup>nd</sup> plenary meeting**

**Held on 3-5 June, 2015, Parma (Italy)**

**(Agreed on 13 July 2015)**

#### **Participants**

- **Panel Members:**

Diane Benford, Bruce Cottrill, Sandra Ceccatelli<sup>1</sup>, Michael Dinovi<sup>1</sup>, Eugenia Dogliotti<sup>2</sup>, Lutz Edler, Peter Farmer, Peter Fürst, Ron Hoogenboom, Helle Knutsen, Anne-Katrine Lundebye<sup>3</sup>, Manfred Metzler, Antonio Mutti<sup>3</sup>, Carlo Nebbia, Michael O'Keeffe, Annette Petersen, Dieter Schrenk, Hendrik Van Loveren<sup>4</sup>, Christiane Vleminckx and Pieter Wester.

- **Hearing Expert<sup>5</sup>:**

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

Frans Verstraete (EC)<sup>3</sup>

- **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 7.1.), Sofia Ioannidou (for item 7.2).

- **Observers<sup>6</sup>:**

Not Applicable

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<sup>1</sup> Present by tele-web on 3 June, 4 June (pm only) and 5 June.

<sup>2</sup> Present by tele-web on 3 June only.

<sup>3</sup> Present on 3-4 June.

<sup>4</sup> Present on 4-5 June.

<sup>5</sup> 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>

<sup>6</sup> <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 Marina Marini (European Commission, DG Health and Food Safety, unit 03), Frank Swartenbroux (European Commission, DG Health and Food Safety, unit E7), Almut Bitterhof and Veerle Vanheusden (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 Processes<sup>7</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest<sup>8</sup>, 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 71<sup>st</sup> Plenary meeting held on 28-30 April 2015, Parma (Italy)**

The minutes of the 71<sup>st</sup> Plenary meeting held on 28-30 April 2015 were agreed by written procedure on 26 May 2015<sup>9</sup>.

## **6. Report on the written procedures since 71<sup>st</sup> Plenary meeting**

No written procedures were issued since the previous Plenary meeting of the CONTAM Panel

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

### **7.1 Draft Scientific Opinion on the risks to human health related to the presence of chlorate in food (EFSA-Q-2014-00534)<sup>10</sup>**

The CONTAM Panel discussed the opinion on chlorate in food (EFSA-Q-2014-00534) that was tabled for adoption at this meeting. A particular emphasis was given to those parts of

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

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

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

<sup>10</sup> <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2014-00534>

the opinion that have not yet been endorsed at the previous Plenary (sections on hazard identification and characterisation). Minor updates, mainly in the summary and conclusion sections, were agreed by the Panel. The CONTAM Panel 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 and the EFSA staff.

## **7.2 Draft Scientific Opinion on the risks to human health related to the presence of nitrofurans and their metabolites in food (EFSA-Q-2014-00066)<sup>11</sup>**

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 draft opinion on nitrofurans and their metabolites in food. The CONTAM Panel 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 SWG and the EFSA staff.

## **7.3 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)<sup>12</sup>**

The chair of the CONTAM WG on THC in milk and other food of animal origin presented the draft opinion (EFSA-Q-2013-00787). The CONTAM Panel adopted the opinion, subject to the 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.

## **8 New mandates**

### **8.1. Request for a scientific opinion on the risks for animal health related to the presence of zearalenone and its modified forms in feed (EFSA-Q-2015-00247)<sup>13</sup>**

The CONTAM Panel discussed the requests and agreed to initiate a new WG on Zearalenone in feed. Since the activity is not planned to start before the end of the 2012-2015 mandate of the CONTAM Panel, the Panel agreed that the WG chair will be appointed under the 2015-2018 mandate of the CONTAM Panel.

### **8.2. Request for a scientific opinion on the risks for animal health related to the presence of fumonisins and their modified forms in feed (EFSA-Q-2015-00248)<sup>14</sup>**

The CONTAM Panel discussed the requests and agreed to initiate a new WG on Fumonisins in feed. Since the activity is not planned to start before the end of the 2012-2015 mandate of the CONTAM Panel, the Panel agreed that the WG chair will be appointed under the 2015-2018 mandate of the CONTAM Panel.

<sup>11</sup> <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2014-00066>

<sup>12</sup> <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2013-00787>

<sup>13</sup> <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2014-00247>

<sup>14</sup> <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2015-00248>

## **9. Feedback from the Scientific Committee/the Scientific Panel, EFSA, the European Commission**

### **9.1. Scientific Committee and Scientific Panel(s) including their Working Groups**

#### **9.1.1 Scientific Committee and its Working Groups of interest to CONTAM Panel**

The chair of the CONTAM Panel highlighted the main items tabled in the agenda of the 73<sup>rd</sup> plenary meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC), scheduled for 8-10 June 2015. In particular the draft guidance on uncertainty in risk assessment was tabled for endorsement for public consultation, and the Panel was reminded that following this the guidance will be applied for trials to scientific opinions of the different EFSA Panels. More information is available on the EFSA website<sup>15</sup>.

The respective CONTAM Panel members who are members of the SC WGs of interest to the CONTAM Panel informed about current status of these WGs, namely the standing WG on Emerging Risks (SC), the standing WG on Guidance review (SC), the standing Working Group on Genotoxicity (SC), the WG on Uncertainty in Risk Assessment (SC), and the WG on Safety risks from insects as food and feed (SC), the WG on weight of evidence (SC), the WG on BMD approach (SC) and the WG on Prometheus (AMU).

### **9.2. CONTAM Panel Working Groups**

#### **9.2.1. Working Group on *Fusarium* toxins**

The chair of the WG on *Fusarium* toxins presented to the CONTAM Panel the approach taken for the draft opinion on deoxynivalenol and its acetylated and modified forms in food and feed (EFSA-Q-2014-00445) in which the European Commission had asked EFSA to assess the risk for public and animal health related to the presence of the aforementioned mycotoxins in food and feed. 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.

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

See item 7.2 for the Scientific Opinion on the risks to human health related to the presence of nitrofurans and their metabolites in food. The chair of the standing working group informed the members of the CONTAM Panel that the SWG started to work on the draft opinion on malachite green in food.

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

See item 7.3.

#### **9.2.4. Working Group on Chlorate in food**

See item 7.1.

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<sup>15</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/panels/scer.htm?wtrl=01>

#### **9.2.5. 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. A technical consultation will be held in mid of June with the main industrial stakeholders to gather information on the use of different fats and oils in the food industry.

#### **9.2.6. Working Group on Phorbol esters in Jatropha kernel meal**

The chair of the working group 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.

#### **9.2.7. Working Group Erucic acid in food and feed**

The vice-chair of the WG on erucic acid in food and feed informed the members of the CONTAM Panel that the WG started to work on the draft opinion on erucic acid in food and feed (EFSA-Q-2015-00027).

### **9.3. EFSA**

#### **9.3.1. Advisory Forum**

This agenda item was deferred to the 73<sup>rd</sup> CONTAM Panel meeting (1-3 July 2015). More information on the AF and its meeting is available on the EFSA website<sup>16</sup>.

#### **9.3.2. Management Board**

This agenda item was deferred to the 73<sup>rd</sup> CONTAM Panel meeting (1-3 July 2015). More information on the MB and its meeting is available on the EFSA website<sup>17</sup>.

#### **9.3.3. Other**

The CONTAM Panel discussed the content of a letter received on 29 May 2015 from the Nickel Institute, in which several comments were raised on the risk assessment approach applied in the CONTAM Scientific Opinion on the risks to public health related to the presence of nickel in food and drinking water. The CONTAM Panel agreed to nominate a group of Panel Members to prepare a written response to the comments received.

### **9.4. European Commission**

The European Commission representative gave feedback on the activities of the European Commission in relation to the issued scientific opinions of the CONTAM Panel. Several amendments for 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.

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/af/afmeetings.htm>

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/mb/mbmeetings.htm>

## **10. Other scientific topics for information and/or discussion**

### **10.1. 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 was submitted and the second interim meeting took place on 10 April 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 draft final report was submitted in May 2015. The final version of the report is due mid June 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 final report was published on the EFSA website.

For the Article 36 grant on occurrence of tropane alkaloids in food (signed with the appointed beneficiary (RIKILT (the Netherlands), IRTA (Spain), FERA (UK) and VSCHT (Czech Republic)), the first interim meeting took place in May 2015 (4 months from the start of the project), where the first interim report was discussed.

A call for an Article 36 grant on generation of occurrence data on citrinin in food was launched on the first of April 2015. The deadline to submit proposals was 22 May 2015 and the evaluation of the received proposals is ongoing.

## **11. Achievements of the CONTAM Panel in 2012-2015**

The CONTAM Team presented the achievements of the 2012-2015 mandate of the CONTAM Panel. The CONTAM Team Leader thanked the Members of the Panel for the valuable work, the high commitment and the positive attitude demonstrated during the three year mandate. The chair of the CONTAM Panel thanked the Panel members and the CONTAM Team for their contributions and efforts.

## **12. Any other business**

Not Applicable