

Parma, 11 March 2016
EFSA/CONTAM/2690

Scientific Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain
Minutes of the 77th plenary meeting
Held on 1-3 March 2016, Parma (Italy)
(Agreed on 20-04-2016)

Participants

- **Panel Members:**

Jan Alexander, Lars Barregard, Margherita Bignami, Sandra Ceccatelli¹, Bruce Cottrill², Mike Dinovi³, Lutz Edler, Bettina Grassl-Kraupp, Christer Hogstrand, Ron Hoogenboom, Helle Knutsen, Carlo Nebbia¹, Isabelle Oswald, Annette Petersen¹, Vera Rogiers, Martin Rose, Alain-Claude Roudot, Tanja Schwerdtle, Christiane Vleminckx, Günter Vollmer and Heather Wallace.

- **Hearing Experts⁴:**

Ian Morris (for item 7.1), Diane Benford⁵ (for item 7.2), Hans Van Egmond (for item 7.4)

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

Frans Verstraete (European Commission, DG Health and Food Safety, unit E2)

- **EFSA:**

- **BIOCONTAM Unit:**

Marco Binaglia, Mari Eskola, Marta Hugas, Karen Mackay, Luisa Ramos Bordajandi, Ruth Roldán Torres, Hans Steinkellner, Natalie Thatcher and Mathijs Van Manen.

- **DATA Unit:**

Francesco Vernazza (for item 7.1), Andrea Altieri (for item 7.4), José Ángel Gómez Ruiz (for item 9.2.5)

- **Observers⁶:**

Not Applicable

¹ Present on 2 and 3 March only.

² Present on 1 and 2 March, attendance by audio-web conference on 3 March

³ Attendance by audio-web conference

⁴ 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>

⁵ Attendance by audio-web conference on 1 March.

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

- **Others:**

Not Applicable

1. Welcome

The CONTAM Panel Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Marina Marini (European Commission, DG Health and Food Safety, unit D1), Frank Swartenbroux (European Commission, DG Health and Food Safety, unit E2), Matthias Gehling and Sandra Wagener (Bundesinstitut fur Risikobewertung (BfR), for item 7.5)

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 76th Plenary meeting held on 19-21 January 2016, Parma (Italy)

The minutes of the 76th Plenary meeting held on 19 - 21 January 2016 were agreed⁹.

6. Report on the written procedures since 76th Plenary meeting

Not applicable

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

7.1 Draft scientific opinion on the risks for human health related to the presence of 2- and 3-monochloropropanediol (2- and 3-MCPD) fatty acid esters and glycidyl fatty acid esters in food (EFSA-Q-2014-00535)¹⁰

The chair of the CONTAM WG on MCPD and glycidyl esters presented the draft opinion (EFSA-Q-2014-00535) in which the European Commission had asked EFSA to assess the risks to human health related to the presence of 2- and 3-MCPD fatty acid esters and glycidyl fatty acid esters in food. The CONTAM Panel revised the opinion including the

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

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

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

¹⁰ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2014-00535>

changes implemented after the last discussion at the 75th CONTAM Panel meeting (November 2015). The CONTAM Panel adopted the opinion subject to incorporation of changes as agreed 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 acute health risks related to the presence of hydrocyanic acid in apricot kernels and products derived from apricot kernels (EFSA-Q-2015-00225)¹¹

The Chair of the WG on hydrocyanic acid in apricot kernels presented the draft opinion (EFSA-Q-2015-00225) in which the European Commission had asked EFSA to assess the acute human health risks related to the presence of hydrocyanic acid in apricot kernels and products derived from apricot kernels (ground, milled, cracked, chopped). The CONTAM Panel adopted the opinion subject to incorporation of minor changes as agreed during the meeting. The CONTAM Panel agreed to change the title of the opinion substituting the term “hydrocyanic acid” with “cyanogenic glycosides”. The chair of the CONTAM Panel expressed her appreciation to the members of the WG and the EFSA staff

7.3 Draft Scientific Opinion on the appropriateness to set a group health based guidance value for zearalenone and its modified forms (EFSA-Q-2015-00226)¹²

The Chair of the WG on group HBGVs for mycotoxins and their modified forms presented the draft opinion (EFSA-Q-2015-00226) in which the European Commission had asked EFSA to assess the appropriateness to set a group health based guidance value for zearalenone and its modified forms. The CONTAM Panel adopted the opinion subject to incorporation of minor changes as agreed during the meeting. The chair of the CONTAM Panel expressed her appreciation to the members of the WG and the EFSA staff.

7.4 Draft Scientific 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)¹³

The Chair of the WG on *Fusarium* toxins presented the sections with regard to human and animal exposure assessment of the draft opinion on deoxynivalenol (DON) in food and feed. The members of the CONTAM Panel discussed the imputation method used for the occurrence data of the deoxynivalenol, its acetylated and modified forms and its implications to estimations of human and animal exposure. The CONTAM Panel agreed to the approach of the draft opinion and proposed revisions for the discussed sections. The CONTAM Panel endorsed the discussed sections on human and animal exposures, including the appendices.

¹¹ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2015-00225>

¹² <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2015-00226>

¹³ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2013-00721>

7.5. Draft statement on the presence of plastic microparticles and nanoparticles in food, with particular focus on seafood (EFSA-Q-2015-00159)¹⁴

The chair of the WG presented the draft statement and an overview of the approach taken by the WG. The CONTAM Panel agreed with the structure of the draft statement and to the change in title, from “The presence of plastic microparticles and nanoparticles in food with particular focus on seafood”, to, “The presence of microplastics and nanoplastics in food with particular focus on seafood”. The CONTAM Panel suggested some additional areas to be included in the statement and further recommendations were proposed.

7.6. Draft Scientific Opinion on the risks for human health related to the presence of malachite green in food of animal origin (EFSA-Q-2014-00815)¹⁵

The chair of the Standing WG (SWG) on non-allowed pharmacologically active substances in food and feed and their reference points for action presented the draft opinion on malachite green in food to the Panel members for discussion. The Panel discussed the opinion and, subject to some minor revisions, endorsed sections 3.3. Hazard identification and characterisation and 3.4. Risk characterisation.

8. BfR letter on potential scientific divergence concerning the Scientific Opinion on chloramphenicol in food and feed

The CONTAM Team Leader presented the letter received from the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) reporting a potential scientific divergence was identified concerning the Scientific Opinion on chloramphenicol in food and feed adopted by the CONTAM Panel in 2014. The Panel agreed to nominate a group of experts from the Standing Working Group (SWG) on Non-allowed pharmacologically active substances in food and feed and their reference points for action and from the CONTAM Panel to address the comments raised by BfR. The CONTAM Secretariat will liaise with BfR to organise a meeting where the potential divergence will be discussed with the aim to solve it or document it in line with the provision of Article 30 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002¹⁶. In addition, the Scientific Officer responsible of the SWG coordination noted that a potential divergence with BfR was identified in the scientific opinion on malachite green in food of animal origin currently under development (see item 7.6), and the CONTAM Panel agreed that both topics could be addressed in the same meeting.

9. Feedback from the Scientific Committee/Scientific Panels, EFSA, the European Commission

9.1. European Commission

Due to lack of time this agenda item was deferred to the 78th CONTAM Panel plenary meeting.

¹⁴ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2015-00159>

¹⁵ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2014-00815>

¹⁶ Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety.

9.2. CONTAM Panel Working Groups

9.2.1. Working Group on Fusarium toxins

See item 7.4

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

See item 7.6.

9.2.3. Working Group on dioxins in food and feed

Due to lack of time this agenda item was deferred to the 78th CONTAM Panel plenary meeting.

9.2.4. Working Group on MCPD and glycidyl esters

See item 7.1.

9.2.5. Working Group on Erucic acid in food and feed

The Chair of the WG on erucic acid in food and feed informed the members of the CONTAM Panel that the Scientific Opinion on the risks for animal and human health related to the presence of erucic acid in feed and food is progressing well. The CONTAM Panel discussed the occurrence data of erucic acid in food and feed.

9.2.6. Update from WG on Hydrocyanic acid in apricot kernels

See item 7.2.

9.2.7. Update from WG on Group HBGV for mycotoxins

See item 7.3.

9.2.8. Update from WG on Plastic microparticles

See item 7.5.

9.2.9 Update from WG on Zearalenone in feed

Due to lack of time this agenda item was deferred to the 78th CONTAM Panel plenary meeting.

9.3. EFSA

9.3.1 Scientific Committee and Scientific Panel(s) including their Working Groups

Due to lack of time this agenda item was deferred to the 78th CONTAM Panel plenary meeting.

9.3.2. Advisory Forum

Due to lack of time this agenda item was deferred to the 77th CONTAM Panel plenary meeting. Information on the 58th Advisory Forum meeting is available on the EFSA website¹⁷.

¹⁷ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/it/events/event/151208a>

9.3.3. Management Board

Due to lack of time this agenda item was deferred to the 77th CONTAM Panel plenary meeting. Information on the 67th Management Board meeting is available on the EFSA website¹⁸

9.3.4. Other

The CONTAM Team Leader noted that the next plenary meeting of the CONTAM Panel will be open to external observers, and briefed the CONTAM Panel on the procedures for EFSA guidelines for Observers.

The CONTAM Team Leader briefly presented the outcome of the Panel survey on "methodological needs" for evidence use in scientific assessments, part of the deliverables of the Prometheus project. The CONTAM Panel was asked to finalise the collective view based on the individual responses to the survey by mid-March 2016.

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 Institut national de la recherche agronomique (INRA, France) and Norwegian Institute of Public Health (NIPH, Norway) in September 2013), the project deadline has been extended to end of January 2016. The final meeting will take place in the first half of February 2016 and the final report is under preparation.

For the Article 36 grant on occurrence of tropane alkaloids in food, the contract was signed with the appointed beneficiary (Stichting Dienst Landbouwkundig Onderzoek (RIKILT, The Netherlands)), Institut de Recerca i Tecnologia Agroalimentàries (IRTA, Spain), Fera Science Ltd. (UK) and Vysoka Skola Chemicko-Technologicka V Praze (VSCHT, Czech Republic). The second interim meeting took place in January 2016 (12 months from the start of the project), where the second interim report was discussed. The draft final report will be submitted and discussed at the final meeting in June 2016.

For the Article 36 grant on occurrence data on citrinin in food, the contract was signed with the appointed beneficiary (RIKILT, The Netherlands), Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA, The Netherlands), Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (UCSC, Italy), IRTA (Spain) and National Institute of Public Health – National Institute of Hygiene (NIPH-NIH, Poland) in August 2015. The project kick-off meeting was held on 22 September 2015. The interim report will be submitted in April 2016.

11. Any other business

Not Applicable

¹⁸ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/151203>