Parma, 20 March 2017
EFSA/CONTAM/3005

Scientific Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain

Minutes of the 83rd plenary meeting

Held on 14-16 March 2017, Parma (Italy)

(Agreed on 10-04-2017)

Participants

- **Panel Members:**

  Jan Alexander[1], Lars Barregard[2], Margherita Bignami, Sandra Ceccatelli[1], Bruce Cottrill, Mike Dinovi[3], Lutz Edler, Bettina Grassl-Kraupp, Christer Hogstrand, Ron Hoogenboom, Helle Knutsen, Carlo Nebbia[1], Isabelle Oswald, Annette Petersen, Martin Rose, Alain-Claude Roudot, Tanja Schwerdtle and Christiane Vleminckx.

- **Hearing Experts[4]:**

  Not applicable

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

  Frans Verstraete (European Commission, DG Health and Food Safety, unit E2)[5], Frank Swartenbroux (European Commission, DG Health and Food Safety, unit E2)[6]

  EFSA:

  - **BIOCONTAM Unit:**

    Katleen Baert, Marco Binaglia, Paolo Colombo, Mari Eskola, Marta Hugas, Sara Levorato, Karen Mackay, Luisa Ramos Bordajandi, Ruth Roldán Torres, and Hans Steinkellner.

  - **DATA Unit:**

    Andrea Altieri (for item 7.1), Davide Arcella (for item 7.2), Petra Gergelova (for item 7.4), José Ángel Gómez Ruiz (for item 8.3.3).

- **Observers:**

  Not applicable

- **Others:**

  Not Applicable

[1] Attendance on 14-15 March only
[2] Attendance on 15-16 March only.
[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 14 March only.
[6] Attendance by audio-web conference on 16 March only

1. Welcome

The Chair of the CONTAM Panel welcomed the participants.

2. Apologies for absence

Beat Brüschweiler Günter Vollmer and Heather Wallace (CONTAM Panel), Paolo Caricato (European Commission, DG Health and Safety, unit G4) and Marina Marini (European Commission, DG Health and Food Safety, unit D1).

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[7] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest[8], 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 82nd Plenary meeting held on 24 – 26 January 2017, Parma (Italy)

The minutes of the 82nd Plenary meeting held on 24 – 26 January 2017 were agreed on 20 February 2017.

6. Report on the written procedures since 82nd Plenary meeting

Not applicable.

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

7.1. Draft Scientific opinion on the risks for animal health related to the presence of zearalenone and its modified forms in feed (EFSA-Q-2015-00247)[9]

The Chair of the WG on Zearalenone in feed presented, for discussion and possible adoption, the draft opinion on the risks for animal health related to the presence of zearalenone and its modified forms in feed.

This scientific opinion is one of the selected opinions to evaluate and give feedback on the Draft for Internal Testing of the "Guidance on Uncertainty in EFSA Scientific Assessment" (EFSA Scientific Committee, 2016). The Panel discussed the pilot uncertainty analysis performed by the WG with the support of a hearing expert (member of the EFSA Working Group on Uncertainty in Risk Assessment), the risk characterization and conclusions on the risk taking into account the pilot uncertainty exercise. Feed-back

[7] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf
[8] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf
[9] http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2015-00027

from Panel members suggesting adaptation of the text was given. The Panel discussed and endorsed the section on recommendations. The Panel requested revisions to the WG on the sections uncertainty, risk characterization and conclusions. The revised draft opinion will be presented to the next CONTAM Panel meeting for discussion and possible adoption.

7.2. Draft Scientific opinion on the evaluation of the toxicity of Tetrodotoxins (TTX) and TTX-analogues in bivalve molluscs and marine gastropods (EFSA-Q-2016- 00399)[10]

The Chair of the WG on Tetrodotoxin (TTX) and TTX-analogues, presented the draft scientific opinion on the evaluation of the toxicity of TTX and TTX-analogues in bivalve molluscs and marine gastropods for possible adoption. Since most of the sections have been endorsed already, It was agreed to focus the discussion on those not endorsed which were chapters 3.2.4. Relative potency of TTX analogues, 3.2.5 Setting of a HBGV, 3.6. Risk characterisation and 3.7. Uncertainty analysis. The CONTAM Panel adopted the opinion subject to incorporation of 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 in particular noting the short time that was given to deliver this output.

7.3 Draft Scientific opinion on the appropriateness to set a group health based guidance value for nivalenol and its modified forms (EFSA-Q-2015-00228)[11]

The Chair of the WG for HBGV for mycotoxins presented the draft opinion for discussion and possible adoption. He pointed out that the opinion has not been discussed previously and was rather compact not the least since EFSA has presented a comprehensive risk assessment on nivalenol only in 2013 and not a lot of new studies on nivalenol have been made public since then. The CONTAM Panel adopted the opinion subject to incorporation of 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.

7.4 Draft Scientific opinion on the health risks related to the presence of perfluoroalkylated substances (PFAS) in food (EFSA-Q-2015-00526)12

The chair of the WG on PFAS presented sections of the draft opinion for discussion and possible endorsement. The CONTAM Panel endorsed the sections on synthesis, current occurrence data in food and the current (dietary) exposure assessment. In addition, the CONTAM Panel agreed to the proposed approach for the derivation of the HBGVs for perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA). For substances where there are insufficient data, it was agreed that the derivation of HBGVs would not be appropriate.

[10] http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2016-00399
[11] http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2015-00228
[12] http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2015-00526

7.5 Draft Scientific opinion on the health risks related to the presence of furan and methylfurans in food (EFSA-Q-2016-00025)[13]

The Vice-chair of the WG on furan in food presented, for discussion and possible endorsement of some sections, the draft opinion on the health risks related to the presence of furan and methylfurans in food. The EFSA secretariat presented the approach for the hazard characterisation and the risk characterisation. The CONTAM Panel discussed the opinion and, subject to some minor revisions, endorsed the following sections: 3.1.1. toxicokinetics, 3.1.2. toxicity in experimental animals, 3.1.3. observations in humans and 3.1.4. mode of action.

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

8.1. European Commission

The European Commission representative gave feedback on the activities of the European Commission in relation to the 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 are under preparation by the European Commission, based on CONTAM opinions.

8.2. CONTAM Panel Working Groups

8.2.1. Update from WG on Fusarium toxins

The Chair of the WG informed the members of the CONTAM Panel that the work on the draft opinion on moniliformin (MON) in food and feed is proceeding well and that the work on draft opinion on diacetoxyscirpenol (DAS) started.

8.2.2. Update from WG on dioxins in food and feed

The Chair of the WG presented an extended update of the progress of the draft opinion. Section will be presented for discussion or possible endorsement at the next Panel meeting.

8.2.3. Update from WG on Group HBGV for mycotoxins

See item 7.3

8.2.4 Update from WG on Zearalenone in feed

See item 7.1

8.2.5. Update from WG on Perfluoroalkylated substances (PFASs) in food

See item 7.4

8.2.6. Update from WG on Furan in food

See item 7.5

8.2.7. Update from WG on TTX and TTX-analogues

See item 7.2.

[13] http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2016-00025

8.2.8. Update from WG on Opium alkaloids

The Chair of the WG on opium alkaloids informed the members of the CONTAM Panel that a first meeting was held in February. At this meeting the literature search was discussed. The draft structure and content of the draft opinion has been agreed.

8.3. EFSA

8.3.1. Advisory Forum

The CONTAM Team Leader informed the CONTAM Panel that the 63rd meeting of EFSA's Advisory Forum meeting was held on March 2017. Additional information is available on the EFSA website[14].

8.3.2. Management Board

No meeting of the Management Board took place from the last meeting of the CONTAM Panel. The item was deferred to the 84th Plenary meeting of the CONTAM Panel.

8.3.3. Other

EFSA has been informed that a member of the European Edible Oils and Protein meal Industry Federation (FEDIOL) reported a wrong unit in the occurrence dataset submitted to EFSA. This dataset was used in the opinion on Erucic acid in food and feed (EFSA-Q-2015-00027) published on the EFSA website on 9 November 2016. EFSA re-analysed the corrected dataset and updated the relevant tables and text of the scientific opinion. The CONTAM Panel proposed some revisions. The opinion will be send to the CONTAM Panel for re-adoption by written procedure.

EFSA presented to the CONTAM Panel the state of the art of an EFSA scientific report under preparation to address the mandate received from the European Commission to assess a list of dyes used in aquaculture in the context of the establishment of Reference Points for Action (RPA) (EFSA-Q-2016-00396)[15]. In this context, EFSA consulted the CONTAM Panel regarding the interpretation of some criteria present in the *Guidance on methodological principles and scientific methods to be taken into account when establishing Reference Points for Action (RPAs) for non-allowed pharmacologically active substances present in food of animal origin,* adopted by the CONTAM Panel in 2013. The CONTAM Panel agreed the following points:

- for the TSV assignment, only the intended use of substances should be considered for their allocation in Group II and III;
- skin sensitisation should not be used as exclusion criterion for establishment of RPAs for dyes;
- the criterion specifying that Group I substances are excluded from the guidance document when there is evidence that the related TSV may not be adequately health protective should be deleted;
- inorganic substances should be excluded from the guidance document.

An update of the guidance document is warranted to clarify these points.

[14] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/160928
[15] http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2016-00396

8.4 Scientific Committee and its Working Groups of interest to the CONTAM Panel

The Chair of the CONTAM Panel highlighted the main items discussed in the 82nd plenary meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC) held on 15-16 February 2017. In particular the Scientific Committee endorsed the draft opinions on biological relevance and on the weight of evidence for public consultation. The Scientific Committee agreed to the proposed self-task mandate on the update of the assessment on 3-MCPD, presented by CONTAM Panel Chair and CONTAM Team Leader. Finally the CONTAM Panel Chair informed the panel on the outcome of the discussion at the Scientific Committee meeting on the draft opinions on nitrates and nitrites of the Panel on Additives and Nutritional Sources (ANS Panel).

The respective CONTAM Panel members who are members of the SC WGs of interest to the CONTAM Panel reported on the current status of these WGs, namely the WG on Weight of evidence, WG on Mixtures, WG on Biological relevance, and SWG on Genotoxicity.

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 occurrence of tropane alkaloids in food, the contract was signed with the appointed beneficiaries (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 final report was approved and published on the EFSA website in December 2016.

For the Article 36 grant on occurrence data on citrinin in food, the contract was signed with the appointed beneficiaries (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 final report was approved and published on the EFSA website in February 2017.

For the Article 36 grant on *in vivo* toxicity and genotoxicity of beauvericin and enniatins, the 2nd interim meeting (discussion of the 2nd interim report with the appointed beneficiaries (Consortium of Istituto Superiore di Sanità (ISS), Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development (ENEA) and French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety (ANSES) will be held on 7 April 2017. The consortium proposes several deviations from the initial project plan which are currently under review by EFSA.

A negotiated procedure for the implementation and verification of published dioxin PBPK modelling codes into ACSLXtreme software was signed with RIVM (The Netherlands) and the first interim report is expected by mid-March.

10. Any other business

Not applicable