

Parma, 29 January 2018  
EFSA/CONTAM/3319

## Scientific Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain

### Minutes of the 88<sup>th</sup> Plenary meeting

**Held on 23-25 January 2018, Parma (Italy)**  
**(Agreed on 14 February 2017)**

#### Participants

- **Panel Members:**

Jan Alexander, Lars Barregård<sup>1</sup>, Margherita Bignami, Beat Brüscheweiler, Sandra Ceccatelli, Bruce Cottrill, Mike Dinovi<sup>2</sup>, Lutz Edler, Bettina Grasl-Kraupp, Christer Hogstrand, Ron Hoogenboom, Helle Knutsen, Carlo Nebbia<sup>3</sup>, Isabelle Oswald, Annette Petersen, Martin Rose, Alain-Claude Roudot<sup>1</sup>, Tanja Schwerdtle, Christiane Vleminckx and Heather Wallace.

- **Hearing Experts<sup>4</sup>:**

Not applicable

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

Frans Verstraete (European Commission, DG Health and Food Safety, unit E2)<sup>5</sup>

- **EFSA:**

- **BIOCONTAM Unit:**

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<sup>1</sup> Attendance by audio-web conference on 24-25 January only.

<sup>2</sup> Attendance on 23 January only.

<sup>3</sup> Attendance on 24-25 January only.

<sup>4</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>5</sup> Attendance on 23-24 January only

Katleen Baert, Marco Binaglia, Paolo Colombo, Ernesto Liebana Criado, Karen Mackay, Luisa Ramos Bordajandi, Ruth Roldán Torres, Marijke Schutte and Hans Steinkellner.

- **DATA Unit:**

Bruno Dujardin (for item 7.2.), Davide Arcella (for items 7.5., 7.6., 8.2.6. and 10.2.12.), Zsuzsanna Horvath (for item 7.6.), Andrea Altieri (for items 7.7. and 8.2.1.), and Claudia Cascio (for item 10.2.12.).

- **AMU Unit:**

José Cortiñas Abrahantes (for Item 7.2.)

- **Observers:**

Not applicable

- **Others:**

Not applicable

## **1. Welcome**

The Chair of the CONTAM Panel welcomed the participants.

## **2. Apologies for absence**

Günter Vollmer (CONTAM Panel), Veerle Vanheusden (European Commission, DG Health and Food Safety, unit E2) and Marina Marini (European Commission, DG Health and Food Safety, unit D1).

## **3. Adoption of agenda**

Upon request of the European Commission representative, a discussion on the availability of data on the toxicity of calystegines was included as an additional agenda item under 10. Any other Business.

## **4. Declarations of Interest of Scientific Panel members**

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes<sup>6</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest<sup>7</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 had been identified during

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<sup>6</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

## **5. Agreement of the minutes of the 87<sup>th</sup> Plenary meeting held on 21 – 23 November 2017, Parma (Italy)**

The minutes of the 87<sup>th</sup> Plenary meeting held on 21 - 23 November 2017 were agreed on 12 December 2017.

## **6. Report on the written procedures since the 87<sup>th</sup> Plenary meeting**

Not applicable.

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

### **7.1. Draft scientific opinion on the appropriateness to set a group health based guidance value for fumonisins and their modified forms (EFSA-Q-2015-00227)<sup>8</sup>**

The Chair of the WG on HBGV for mycotoxins presented the draft opinion the appropriateness to set a group health based guidance value for fumonisins and their modified forms for possible adoption.

The CONTAM Panel discussed the different parts of the assessment 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 WG and EFSA staff.

### **7.2. Draft opinion on the effect on public health of a possible increase of the maximum level for aflatoxin total from 4 µg/kg to 10 µg/kg in peanuts and processed products thereof, intended for direct human consumption or use as an ingredient in foodstuffs (EFSA-Q-2017-00698)<sup>9</sup>**

The Chair of the WG on Maximum level of aflatoxins in peanuts presented for possible adoption the draft opinion on the effect on public health of a possible increase of the maximum level for aflatoxin total from 4 µg/kg to 10 µg/kg in peanuts and processed products thereof, intended for direct human consumption or use as an ingredient in foodstuffs.

The CONTAM Panel discussed the different parts of the assessment and adopted the opinion, subject to incorporation of minor changes

<sup>8</sup> <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2015-00227>

<sup>9</sup> <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2017-00698>

as suggested during the meeting. The Chair of the CONTAM Panel expressed her appreciation to the WG and EFSA staff.

### **7.3 Draft Scientific Opinion on the Assessment of a decontamination process for dioxins and PCBs from fish meal by hexane extraction and replacement of fish oil (EFSA-2016-00796)<sup>10</sup>**

The Chair of the SWG on Feed detoxification presented for possible adoption the draft opinion on the assessment of a decontamination process for dioxins and PCBs from fish meal by means of solvent extraction followed by exchange with decontaminated fish oil. The CONTAM Panel discussed the different parts of the assessment and adopted the opinion, subject to incorporation of minor changes as suggested during the meeting. The title was also revised to better reflect the content of the assessment. The Chair of the CONTAM Panel expressed her appreciation to the SWG and EFSA staff.

### **7.4. Discussion on the draft scientific opinion of decontamination processes for dioxins PCBs from fish meal by replacement of fish oil (EFSA-Q-2016-00797)<sup>11</sup>**

The Chair of the SWG on Feed detoxification presented for possible adoption the draft opinion on the assessment of decontamination processes for dioxins and PCBs in fish meal by extraction of fish oil, filtration and adsorption with activated carbon, and replacement with decontaminated fish oil. The CONTAM Panel discussed the different parts of the assessment and adopted the opinion, subject to minor incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting. The title was also revised to better reflect the content of the assessment. The Chair of the CONTAM Panel expressed her appreciation to the SWG and EFSA staff.

### **7.5. Draft Scientific opinion on the health risks related to the presence of perfluorooctane sulfonate and perfluorooctanoic acid in food (EFSA-Q-2015-00526)**

The Chair of the WG on Perfluoroalkylated substances in food presented the draft opinion on the health risks related to the presence of perfluorooctane sulfonate and perfluorooctanoic acid in food, for discussion and possible adoption. The CONTAM Panel discussed all sections of the opinion. Additional subsections under human observations (Section 3.3.4) and mode of action (Section 3.3.5) were endorsed. The modelling of selected human outcomes

<sup>10</sup> <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2016-00796>

<sup>11</sup> <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2016-00797>

was discussed and it was agreed that further elaboration would be required before the opinion can be adopted. The Panel therefore decided to continue the discussion of the draft opinion at a forthcoming Panel audio-web meeting, where the opinion will be presented again for possible adoption.

#### **7.6. Draft Scientific opinion on the health risks related to the presence of dioxins and dioxin like-PCBs in feed and food (EFSA-Q-2015-00028)<sup>12</sup>**

The Chair of the WG on Dioxins in food and feed presented, for discussion and possible endorsement, the sub-section of the draft opinion related to adverse effects in poultry. The CONTAM Panel endorsed this section pending minor amendments. In addition, the section on observations in humans and the approach for the human exposure assessment were presented for discussion. The feedback given by the Panel will be taken into account and these sections will be discussed again at the next CONTAM Panel meeting.

#### **7.7. Draft opinion on the risks for animal health related to the presence of Fumonisin and their modified forms in feed (EFSA-2015-00248)<sup>13</sup>**

The Chair of the WG on Fumonisin in feed presented the following draft sections of the opinion for discussion and possible endorsement 1.Introduction, 2. Data methodologies, 3.1.1 Toxicokinetics, 3.1.2 Mode of action and 3.2 Feed occurrence data. The sections were endorsed pending minor updates. The section 3.1.3 Adverse effects in livestock fish, horses and companion animals was discussed and the Panel gave feedback on the approach to take.

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

#### **8.1. European Commission**

The European Commission representative gave an extensive overview on the activities of the European Commission in relation to the scientific opinions adopted by the current mandate of the CONTAM Panel. In addition, an overview of possible future mandates in the area of contaminants in the food chain was given.

<sup>12</sup> <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2015-000258>

<sup>13</sup> <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2015-00248>

## **8.2. CONTAM Panel Working Groups**

### **8.2.1. Update from WG on Fusarium toxins**

The Chair of the WG on Fusarium toxins briefly presented the possible scenarios to conduct human risk assessments for 4, 15 – diacetoxyscirpenol (DAS). The WG was requested to elaborate further on the selected scenario based on human data (generated after intravenous administration of DAS) for discussion at a forthcoming CONTAM Panel plenary.

### **8.2.2. Update from WG on Dioxins in food and feed**

See item 7.6.

### **8.2.3. Update from WG on Group HBGV for mycotoxins**

See item 7.1 The WG has fulfilled its tasks and delivered four opinions.

### **8.2.4. Update from WG on Perfluoroalkylated substances in food**

See item 7.5.

### **8.2.5. Update from standing WG on Feed detoxification**

See items 7.3 and 7.4.

### **8.2.6. Update from WG on Opium alkaloids**

The Chair of the opium alkaloids WG and EFSA staff presented the approach for the risk assessment. An evaluation of the new scientific literature has been carried out and an approach for the hazard characterisation has been proposed. The CONTAM Panel agreed with the presented approach for the exposure assessment, including the grouping of the occurrence data on poppy seed samples according to country of origin. The Panel thanked the WG for the work already carried out and endorsed the proposed approach. The Opinion will be presented to the CONTAM Panel at the 90<sup>th</sup> CONTAM Panel meeting.

### **8.2.7. Update from WG on Fumonisin in feed**

See item 7.7.

### **8.2.8. Update from WG on Hydrocyanic acid in food**

Due to time constraints the agenda item was deferred to the next meeting.

### **8.2.9 Update from WG on Chlorinated paraffins in food and feed**

Due to time constraints the agenda item was deferred to the next meeting.

#### **8.2.10 Update from WG on Glycoalkaloids in food and feed**

Due to time constraints the agenda item was deferred to the next meeting.

#### **8.2.11 Update from WG on Maximum level of aflatoxins in peanuts**

See item 7.2.

### **8.3. EFSA**

#### **8.3.1. Advisory Forum**

Due to time constraints the agenda item was deferred to the next meeting.

#### **8.3.2. Management Board**

Due to time constraints the agenda item was deferred to the next meeting.

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

Due to time constraints the agenda item was deferred to the next meeting.

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

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

Due to time constraints the agenda item was deferred to the next meeting.

## **10. Any other business**

Due to time constraints the Panel could not discuss the overview available literature on toxicity of calystegines prepared by the CONTAM Team. It was agreed that the presentation will be shared for discussion by written procedure and the outcome of the discussion will be reported in the minutes of a forthcoming CONTAM Panel meeting.

The CONTAM Panel agreed to organise an additional audio-web meeting in February 2018 for the discussion and possible adoption of the Scientific opinion on the health risks related to the presence of perfluorooctane sulfonate and perfluorooctanoic acid in food (see item 7.5.)