

Scientific Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain

Minutes of the 96th Plenary meeting

Held on 29-31 January 2019, Parma (Italy)
(Agreed on 21 February 2019)

Participants

- **Panel Members:**

Margherita Bignami, Laurent Bodin, Kevin Chipman, Jesus Del Mazo, Bettina Grasl-Kraupp¹, Christer Hogstrand, Ron Hoogenboom, Jean-Charles Leblanc², Carlo Nebbia¹, Elsa Nielsen, Evangelia Ntzani, Annette Petersen, Salomon Sand³, Dieter Schrenk, Tanja Schwerdtle, Christiane Vleminckx and Heather Wallace.

- **Hearing Experts⁴:**

Not applicable

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

Frans Verstraete⁵ and Veerle Vanheusden (European Commission, DG Health and Food Safety, unit E2)

- **EFSA:**

- **BIOCONTAM Unit:**

Katleen Baert, Marco Binaglia, Anna Christodoulidou, Ernesto Liebana Criado, Karen Mackay, Kelly Niermans, Luisa Ramos Bordajandi, Elena Rovesti and Hans Steinkellner.

¹ Attendance on 30-31 January only.

² Attendance by audioweb-conference on 31 January.

³ Attendance on 29 January only.

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 audioweb-conference.

- **Observers:**
Not applicable
- **Others:**
Not applicable

1. Welcome apologies for absence

The Chair of the CONTAM Panel welcomed the participants. The new members of the CONTAM Team introduced themselves.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from 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 Processes⁶ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest⁷, EFSA screened the Annual 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 the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

5 Agreement of the minutes of the 95th Plenary meeting held on 14-15 November 2018

The minutes of the 95th Plenary meeting held on 14-15 November 2018 were agreed on 7 December 2018.

6. Report on written procedures since 95th Plenary meeting

Not applicable.

⁶ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/it/corporate/pub/policyonindependence>

⁷ https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

7. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion

7.1. Scientific opinion on the risk to human health related to the presence of chlorinated paraffins in feed and food (EFSA-Q-2016-00801)⁸

The Chair of the WG on Chlorinated Paraffins in food and feed presented, for discussion, the sections of the draft opinion on toxicokinetics, toxicity in experimental animals and mode of action. The Panel made suggestions to those sections and the draft opinion will be presented again at the next Plenary meeting.

7.2. Draft Scientific opinion on the risk to human health related to the presence of perfluoroalkylated substances, other than perfluorooctane sulfonate and perfluorooctanoic acid, in food (EFSA-Q-2017-00549)⁹

The Chair of the WG on Pefluoroalkylated substances in food presented for discussion, the sections of the draft opinion on Human Biomonitoring and selected sections on Human observations. The section on Human Biomonitoring was endorsed by the Panel, however due to time constraints, the sections on Human Observations were not discussed in great detail at this Plenary. In addition, a presentation was given by the WG Chair on the possible approaches to take; based on either single substances or the possible application of a mixture approach.

7.3. Draft Scientific opinion on the risks for animal and human health related to the presence of glycoalkaloids in feed and food, in particular in potatoes and potato-derived products (EFSA-Q-2016-00240)¹⁰

The Chair of the WG on Glycoalkaloids in feed and food presented, for discussion, the sections of the draft opinion on chemistry, sources, analytical methods, legislation, previous assessments, toxicity in experimental animals and observations in humans. The Panel made suggestions to those sections and the draft opinion will be presented again at the next Plenary meeting.

⁸ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2016-00801>

⁹ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2017-00549>

¹⁰ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2016-00240>

7.4. Draft scientific opinion on the risks for animal and human health related to the presence of quinolizidine alkaloids in feed and food, in particular in lupins and lupin-derived products (EFSA-Q-2016-00239)¹¹

The Chair of the WG on quinolizidine alkaloids in feed and food presented, for discussion, the sections of the draft opinion on supporting information on the assessment, toxicokinetics, toxicity in experimental animals, observations in humans and mode of action. The Panel made suggestions to those sections and the draft opinion will be presented again at the next Plenary meeting.

8. Feedback from technical hearing with industry representative on perchlorate

The CONTAM Team Leader reported the main points discussed in the technical hearing with an industry representative on the CONTAM Panel opinion on perchlorate (2014). The industry representative objected in particular the scientific robustness related to the derivation of the Tolerable Daily Intake of 0.3 µg/bw per day included in the aforementioned opinion and suggested that a higher TDI could be derived considering the high day-to-day variability in the thyroidal iodine uptake. The Panel confirmed that the approach to set the TDI is justified by the available data and related uncertainties. Overall it was concluded that an update of the TDI of 0.3 µg/bw per day is not warranted.

9. Overview of comments received in the public consultation on the draft Scientific Opinion on the human health risks related to the presence of cyanogenic glycosides in foods other than raw apricot kernels (EFSA-Q-2016-00802)¹²

The Chair of the WG on hydrocyanic acid in food presented an overview of the comments received in the public consultation carried out from 27 November 2018 to 25 January 2019. Seven stakeholders commented the draft. A technical report of EFSA containing the comments and EFSA responses will be discussed together with an updated opinion by the WG end of February. The report will be shared with the CONTAM Panel before approval. The updated opinion will be tabled for adoption at the March Plenary.

¹¹ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2016-00239>

¹² <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2016-00802>

10 Proposal of the CONTAM Team to harmonise and limit the length of the CONTAM Panel opinions

The CONTAM Panel discussed possible practices to reduce the length and improve the clarity and consistency of Panel outputs. It was agreed that a checklist and a short internal guidance reflecting the proposed practice will be prepared by the CONTAM Team.

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

11.1. European Commission

The European Commission representative gave an update on the activities of the European Commission in relation to the scientific opinions of the CONTAM Panel. Several amendments of current legislation are under discussion with the Member States as an outcome of the CONTAM Panel scientific opinions. Possible future mandates in the area of responsibility of the CONTAM Panel were also mentioned.

11.2. CONTAM Panel Working Groups

11.2.1. Update from WG on Perfluoroalkylated substances in food

See item 7.2.

11.2.2. Update from WG on Hydrocyanic acid in food

See item 9.

11.2.3. Update from WG on Chlorinated paraffins in food and feed

See item 7.1.

11.2.4. Update from the WG on Glycoalkaloids in food and feed

See item 7.3.

11.2.5. Update from WG on Quinolizidine alkaloids in food and feed

See item 7.4.

11.2.6. Update from WG on Ochratoxin A in food

The Chair of the WG informed the Panel that the work on the opinion is progressing well and that the next WG meeting will take place end of February.

11.2.7. Update from WG on Aflatoxins in food

The Scientific Officer coordinating the WG informed the Panel that the work is progressing well.

11.3. EFSA

11.3.1. Advisory Forum

Due to lack of time this agenda item was deferred to the 97th CONTAM Panel plenary meeting.

11.3.2. Management Board

Due to lack of time this agenda item was deferred to the 97th CONTAM Panel plenary meeting.

11.3.3. Other

The CONTAM Team Leader informed that activity will start on the mandates on brominated flame retardants in food (discussed at the 92nd meeting of the CONTAM Panel¹³) and on nitrite and nitrate in animal food (presented at the 93rd meeting¹⁴). For the latter the Panel agreed to set up an *ad hoc* WG. The WG chair will be nominated upon consultation between the CONTAM Team Leader and Panel Chair.

A new mandate issued by the European Commission on the re-evaluation of calcium lignosulfonate as acceptable previous cargoes for edible fats and oils was also mentioned. The official mandate will be shared with the Panel via written procedure.

11.4. Scientific Committee and Working Groups of interest to the CONTAM Panel

The CONTAM Team Leader reported to the Panel the main points discussed at the 91st meeting of the EFSA Scientific Committee¹⁵, that he attended on behalf of the CONTAM Panel Chair. In particular the outcome of the public consultation on the Draft guidance on chemical mixtures, the adoption of the Statement on genotoxicity assessment of chemical mixtures and the new self-task mandates on interpretation of epidemiological studies and non-monotonic dose-response were mentioned.

12. Any other business

Not applicable.

¹³ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/event/180612-m.pdf>

¹⁴ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/event/180925-m.pdf>

¹⁵ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/it/events/event/181121>