



Outcome of the Information Session on the EFSA Dioxins risk assessment

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*70th Advisory Forum meeting
Vienna, Austria, 28-29 November 2018*

DIOXINS INFORMATION SESSION

- An Information Session on the Dioxins opinion was held 13 November 2018 at EFSA.
- The objectives were:
 - ✓ Present **methodologies** applied in the EFSA Opinion
 - ✓ Present the **main outcomes** of the assessment
 - ✓ Opportunity for an **open dialogue** with EFSA and the experts who worked on the opinion
 - ✓ To **provide clarifications** ahead of its publication



DIOXINS INFORMATION SESSION

- A total of 22 representatives from 14 European countries participated



- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Iceland
- Ireland
- Italy
- The Netherlands
- Norway
- Spain
- Sweden
- UK

DIOXINS INFORMATION SESSION

- Nine countries had submitted comments to the opinion



- Finland
- Germany
- Iceland
- Ireland
- Italy
- The Netherlands
- Norway
- Spain
- Sweden

Most comments were on the limitations of the **key study selected for the derivation of the new Health-based Guidance Value** (7 times lower of the previous one derived by SCF in 2001), the **toxicokinetic modelling** and the uncertainties identified in the assessment.

DIOXINS INFORMATION SESSION

- The focus was on the topics raised in the comments received from the different countries on:

Mainly on:

- Studies in humans – critical study
- Toxicokinetic modelling & derivation HBGV
- TEF scheme



But also on:

- Methodology
- Occurrence data and exposure assessment
- Trends in exposure and human milk
- Studies in experimental animals
- Uncertainty and recommendations

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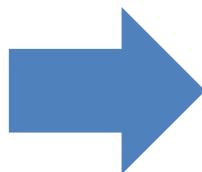
- EFSA experts addressed the comments received, and concluded that the conclusions section and uncertainty analysis in the opinion already address sufficiently all these points.
- Future research needs that could lead to a refinement of the risk assessment were identified and discussed during the meeting.
- Beside the scientific issues, in general there is concern on how to communicate the outcome of the opinion to the public, in particular in view of the implications on fish consumption and breastfeeding.
- Some countries were firm in their considerations in relation to the limitations of the critical study and uncertainties in the toxicokinetic modelling.

DIOXINS INFORMATION SESSION

- The **opinion** was published 20 November.
 - Accompanied by a **Web Story** and an updated **Topic on Dioxins**
 - **Lines to take** were shared with the CEN
- The **comments received and the presentations given during the Information Session** were published at the EFSA website together with the opinion
- The **Information Session report** is being agreed by all participants, and will be published at the EFSA website together with the opinion

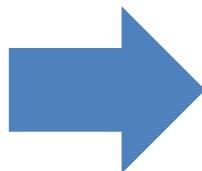
WHAT IS NEXT?

- EC has initiated contacts with WHO for the **revision of the WHO- Toxicity Equivalency factors (WHO₂₀₀₅-TEF)**



Identified by the CONTAM Panel as one of main uncertainties and the fist recommendation in the opinion to reduce the uncertainties in the assessment

- EC is planning to ask EFSA for a **risk-benefit of fish consumption related to the presence of Dioxins and DL-PCBs**
- EC and MS will discuss in December at an Expert Committee meeting the follow-up of the opinion



The opinion was presented at the EC Expert Committee on 10 September 2018

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