



Brussels, 13 July 2005
EFSA/CONTAM/320

**MINUTES OF THE 12TH PLENARY MEETING OF THE
SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN (CONTAM)
HELD ON 21 TO 22 JUNE 2005 IN BRUSSELS**

(ADOPTED BY WRITTEN PROCEDURE ON 12 JULY 2005)

PARTICIPANTS

Panel Members:

Jan Alexander, Herman Autrup, Denis Bard, Angelo Carere, Lucio Guido Costa, Jean-Pierre Cravedi, Alessandro di Domenico, Johanna Fink-Gremmels, John Gilbert, Philippe Grandjean, Niklas Johansson, Rolaf van Leeuwen (vice-chair), Jirí Ruprich, Josef Schlatter (chair), Dieter Schrenk, Greet Schoeters, Agneta Oskarsson, Philippe Verger (vice-chair)

EFSA

Ulla Bertelsen (Assistant Scientific Co-ordinator CONTAM Panel), Tlaitmass Bounou (Administrative Secretary CONTAM Panel), Claudia Heppner (Scientific Co-ordinator CONTAM Panel), Juliane Kleiner (Scientific Expert Services)

European Commission

Almut Bitterhof (DG Health and Consumer Protection), Jean-Francois Roche (DG Health and Consumer Protection)¹, Martin Slayne (DG Health and Consumer Protection), Frans Verstraete (DG Health and Consumer Protection), Esra Gultekin (trainee DG Health and Consumer Protection)

Ad hoc experts:

Hildegard Pzryrembel (Panel on dietetic products, nutrition and allergies, NDA), Diane Benford

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The chair of the Panel opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. Apologise for absence were received by Roberto Fanelli (CONTAM Panel). Several Panel members indicated prior to the meeting that they could not stay for the third day of the plenary meeting, 23 July, and it was noted that the quorum

¹ Only present on 22 June 2005

would not be reached at that day. Thus, it was decided to have only a two day plenary meeting from 21 to 22 of June.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The proposed agenda was adopted by adding an additional item (no. 14), meeting dates for 2006. The revised agenda was adopted without modifications.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No specific interests were declared by the members of the CONTAM Panel.

4. MATTERS ARISING SINCE THE PREVIOUS MEETING

No matters have arisen since the previous meeting.

5. FEEDBACK FROM THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE (SC)

No SC plenary meeting has been held since the last CONTAM Panel meeting.

6. GENERAL INFORMATION FROM EFSA

The scientific co-ordinator informed the Panel on following items:

EFSA annual report 2004

The Panel members were informed that the annual report of EFSA for 2004 was recently published and that all members will receive a copy.

International Conference on risk assessment of both genotoxic and carcinogenic compounds

Comments received on the EFSA SC opinion on “Harmonised Approach for Risk Assessment of Compounds which are both Genotoxic and Carcinogenic” will be discussed at a SC WG meeting in July, and it is planned to submit the revised opinion to the SC for adoption in September or October 2005. Furthermore, an international conference on risk assessment of both genotoxic and carcinogenic compounds based on working papers developed by the organisers (EFSA, WHO and ILSI) will be held on 16 to 18 November 2005 in Brussels. The objective of this conference is to facilitate discussions on the conclusions and to reach consensus of best practice. Panel members who are interested to attend this conference should contact the Secretariat by mid July 2005.

Symposium on “Thermal processing of food: potential health benefits and risk”

On 25 to 27 September 2005 there will be a symposium on “thermal processing of food: potential health benefits and risks” organized by SKLM² at the University of Kaiserslautern, Germany. Members who are interested to participate this symposium should respect following deadlines set by the organiser³: abstract submissions by 31 July 2005, registration by 2 September 2005.

7. GENERAL INFORMATION FROM THE COMMISSION

The Service within the Commission responsible for legislation mentioned that the draft Commission Regulation on Fusarium toxins in food (Regulation 856/2005)⁴ has been adopted and the Regulation will enter into force in July 2006. Levels for mycotoxins in feed are currently discussed in the expert group of undesirable substances in feed. Levels for dioxins and PCBs expressed as total TEQ are aimed for adoption in September 2005 for both food and feed.

Furthermore, the members were informed that the DG Research will launch under the 6th Framework program, area 8 policy supporting research, a call for projects on furan responding to EFSA’s report on this subject⁵. The Panel was also informed that recent *in vivo* data on furan generated within the Heatox⁶ project indicate that furan is not genotoxic.

8. WORK PROGRAMME

8.1 Official requests to EFSA received from the European Commission

The Panel was informed that a revised terms of reference for the request on hormones were agreed with the Commission. The official request on Ochratoxin A (OTA) in food will be send to EFSA in July 2005 before the first meeting of the working group (WG) on OTA will take place. The request related to nitrate in vegetables will be submitted to EFSA in July 2005. Member States have been asked to submit data on this subject to the Commission by end of June 2005.

² Senate Commission on Food Safety (SKLM) of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)

³ email: sklm@rhrk.uni-kl.de

⁴ OJ L 143, 7.6.2005, p. 3-8.

⁵ http://www.efsa.eu.int/science/contam/contam_documents/760_en.html

⁶ http://www.slv.se/templatesHeatox/Heatox_default_8425.aspx

8.2 Update on undesirable substances in animal feed (section: persistent organic pollutants)

The chair of the WG on undesirable substances in animal feed (USAF), section persistent organic pollutants (POPs) informed the Panel that the opinion on endosulfan as undesirable substance in animal feed was adopted by written procedure on 20 June 2005. The Panel members are currently invited to adopt by written procedure the opinion on lindane as undesirable substances in animal feed. The WG is in the process of preparing opinions on aldrin/dieldrin and endrin. The aim is to submit these opinions for potential adoption to the November CONTAM plenary meeting. Afterwards the WG will prepare opinions on following compounds hexachlorobenzene, DDT, chlordane and heptachlor. The Panel was also informed that a new member joined the WG.

8.3 Update on non-dioxin like PCBs

There was no update given as the draft opinion on NDLCB will be discussed during the 12th plenary meeting.

8.4 Update PFOS

The chair of the WG informed the Panel that the WG met for the 2nd time on 20 June 2005. Good progress on this opinion was made, however food data, particular European data are limited. Hence, it will be difficult to carry out a human exposure assessment from food. The chair pointed out that the concentrations of PFOS have decreased over the last years, however replacement compounds enter the market. A dissemination workshop on the exposure assessment of perfluorinated alkylated substances (including PFOS and PFOA) in the European environment is organised by the PERFORCE⁷ project in Antwerp, Belgium, on June 30th 2005. The chair of the WG will participate in this workshop. PFOS compounds will also be discussed at the Fluoros symposium on 19 to 20 August in Toronto, Canada.

9. Safety of wild and farmed fish (SWAFF). Draft opinion.

A member of the NDA Panel introduced the chapter of the opinion focusing on nutritional and beneficial effects of eating fish. The chair as well as a member of the SWAFF WG introduced the other chapters of the opinion on safety of wild and farmed fish. The CONTAM Panel adopted this opinion subject to incorporation of changes as suggested during the discussions. The chair of the CONTAM Panel expressed his appreciation to the WG.

⁷ www.science.uva.nl/perforce/

10. Non-dioxin like PCB (NDL-PCB). Draft opinion.

The chair of the WG NDL-PCB introduced the draft opinion on NDL-PCB in feed and food and highlighted the complicated scientific issues such as lacking information on the composition of mixtures and contamination of NDL-PCB with DL-PCB. He pointed out that this opinion is not foreseen for adoption for this plenary meeting, but the WG would appreciate some steering and feedback on the current draft opinion. The members of the Panel expressed their appreciation for this opinion and suggested following changes: i) to add a subchapter explaining the structure of the opinion; ii) to include occurrence data of metabolites iii) to integrate the chapter on molecular mechanistic endpoints into the toxicity part. In general the members of the Panel supported that the risk assessment is based on human body burden. A revision of this opinion will be submitted to the next CONTAM Panel meeting for possible adoption.

11. Concentration limits for boron and fluoride in natural mineral waters. Draft opinion.

A member of the CONTAM Panel introduced the opinion on concentration limits boron and fluoride in natural mineral waters. The advice is based on two opinions from the NDA Panel on the tolerable upper intake level (UL) for boron⁸ and fluoride⁹. The CONTAM Panel adopted this opinion subject to incorporation of changes as suggested during the discussions. The chair of the CONTAM Panel expressed his appreciation to the rapporteur.

12. Undesirable substances in animal feed – fumonisins. Draft opinion

The chair of the WG USAF-MT introduced the draft opinion on fumonisins as undesirable substance in animal feed. The CONTAM Panel adopted this opinion subject to incorporation of changes as suggested during the discussions. The chair of the CONTAM Panel expressed his appreciation to the WG. No further mycotoxins have to be evaluated and therefore the WG will disband.

13. Any other business

There was no any other business.

⁸ http://www.efsa.eu.int/science/nda/nda_opinions/529/opinion_nda08_ej80_boron_v2_en1.pdf

⁹ http://www.efsa.eu.int/science/nda/nda_opinions/851/opiniononulfluoride1.pdf

14. Meeting dates 2005/2006

For the remaining life-span of the CONTAM Panel following meeting dates were fixed for 2006: 24 to 26 January 2006 and 3 to 5 April 2006. As these meetings will take place in Parma it was agreed that in principal meetings will commence at 14.00 hrs in order to allow Panel members to travel in the morning of the meeting to Parma, and meetings will be closed after lunch. The next CONTAM Plenary meeting will be not, as originally scheduled, a three days meeting, but only a two day meeting on September 6th to 7th 2005.