



Brussels, 12 October 2005
EFSA/CONTAM/342

MINUTES OF THE 13TH PLENARY MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN (CONTAM) HELD ON 6 TO 7 SEPTEMBER 2005 IN BRUSSELS

(ADOPTED BY WRITTEN PROCEDURE ON 10 OCTOBER 2005)

PARTICIPANTS

Panel Members:

Herman Autrup, Denis Bard, Angelo Carere, Lucio Guido Costa, Jean-Pierre Cravedi, Alessandro di Domenico, Johanna Fink-Gremmels¹, John Gilbert, Philippe Grandjean, Niklas Johansson, Rolaf van Leeuwen (vice-chair), Jirí Ruprich, Josef Schlatter (chair), Dieter Schrenk, Greet Schoeters, Philippe Verger (vice-chair)

EFSA

Ulla Bertelsen (Assistant Scientific Co-ordinator CONTAM Panel), Claudia Heppner (Scientific Co-ordinator CONTAM Panel), Juliane Kleiner (Scientific Expert Services)²

European Commission

Martin Slayne (DG Health and Consumer Protection)², Frans Verstraete (DG Health and Consumer Protection)

Ad hoc experts:

Diane Benford, John-Christian Larsen¹

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The chair of the Panel opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. Apologies for absence were received from Jan Alexander and Agneta Oskarsson (CONTAM Panel) as well as from the European Commission by Almut Bitterhof (DG Health and Consumer Protection).

¹ Only present on 7 September 2005

² Only present on 6 September 2005

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The proposed 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)

The chair, who was not present at the last SC meeting due to a parallel CONTAM plenary meeting, reported according to the draft minutes, that EFSA accepted from the SC three self tasking mandates on botanicals and the use of botanical preparations, the use of benchmark dose approach in risk assessment as well as the implementation of a pro-active policy on the welfare of animals. CONTAM Panel members who wish to contribute to these areas were invited to inform the Secretariat.

6. GENERAL INFORMATION FROM EFSA

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

Cooperation under article 36.

The Panel members were invited to circulate the information note regarding the nomination of competent organisations in accordance with Regulation 178/2002, article 36, to scientific organisations in their country.

Operational strategy for expert meetings in Parma

A report is in preparation which will contain information on meetings in Parma. The SC will discuss this report at its next meeting (15-16 September 2005).

Data collection on polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH)

A member of the EFSA Scientific Expert Services informed the Panel about the collection of data on PAH. An online database for submitting data should be operational by October 2005.

EFSA Deputy Director awarded prize for efforts in improving animal welfare

In August 2005 Herman Koeter has been awarded with the prestigious Doerenkamp-Zbinden Foundation prize for his efforts in improving animal welfare through the development of alternative methods to animal testing.

EFSA Executive Director takes up new post

Geoffrey Podger was appointed to take up a post as Chief Executive of the British Health and Safety Executive (HSE) on 28 November 2005.

Management Board (MB)

The next meeting of the MB will take place on 13 September 2005. At this meeting the nomination of new CONTAM experts related to the Panel's vacancies is expected.

Advisory forum (AF)

The next AF forum meeting will take place on 30 September 2005 in Cyprus. The agenda and meeting documents can be found on the EFSA web page.

7. GENERAL INFORMATION FROM THE COMMISSION

The Service within the Commission responsible for legislation mentioned that the Standing Committee will express an opinion on measures based on EFSA's opinion on camphechlor, lead, cadmium and fluorine as undesirable substances in animal feed by the end of September 2005. The Panel was also informed that with regard to mycotoxins in feed (deoxynivalenol, zearalenone, ochratoxin A and fumonisins) orientation values rather than maximum levels will be set as a first step.

It is furthermore foreseen that Member States will also express an opinion on a proposal to set maximum levels for the sum of dioxins and dioxin-like polychlorinated biphenyls (DL-PCB) expressed in WHO toxic equivalents, using WHO toxic equivalency factors. For a transitional period, the existing maximum levels for dioxins in addition to the newly set levels for the sum of dioxins and DL-PCBs remain applicable. The Commission Recommendation 2002/201/EC of 4 March 2002 on the reduction of the presence of dioxins, furans and PCB in feedingstuffs and foodstuffs will also be amended accordingly.

Martin Slayne informed the Panel that due to changes in his career he will from October 2005 not any longer work for the Commission. The Panel thanked him for the excellent collaboration and wished him all the best for his future.

8. WORK PROGRAMME

8.1 Official requests to EFSA received from the European Commission

The Panel was informed that EFSA has received 13 new requests which fall within the mandate of the CONTAM Panel. Eleven requests concern undesirable substance in animal feed (chlordan, DDT, heptachlor, hexachlorobenzene, aldrin/dieldrin, *Madhuca longifolia*, theobromine, free gossypol, HCN, glucosinolates and pyrrolizidine alkaloids, the last 3 being revised requests). One request concerns ochratoxin A in food which was already presented by the Commission at the previous plenary meeting, and one request on cross-contamination of non-target feedingstuffs by coccidiostats authorised for use as feed additives. All requests, except for the coccidiostats, were accepted and different working groups are already put in place. For the request on coccidiostats the Panel proposed some minor changes to the terms of reference and indicated that the proposed deadline of April 2006 is not achievable due to the heavy work load of the Panel and the fact that 11 different active substances have to be considered. The Commission representative indicated that separate opinions could be adopted for the different active substances. The Panel members also pointed out that experts from the FEEDAP Panel as well as information from industry would be needed.

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

The assistant scientific co-coordinator informed the Panel that the work for the opinions on aldrin/dieldrin and endrin as undesirable substances in animal feed has already started and that these opinions most likely will be presented to the next CONTAM plenary meeting. Panel members were invited to submit any occurrence data on these substances or on others which will be evaluated in the near future (see item 8.1) to the Secretariat.

8.3 Update on undesirable substances in animal feed (section: natural plant products)

The assistant scientific co-coordinator informed the Panel that the working group (WG) had a first meeting in June 2005. At this meeting the draft structure of the opinions on HCN, glucosinolates and pyrrolizidine alkaloids as well as the distribution of tasks, rapporteurs and timelines have been discussed.

8.4 Update on ochratoxin A in food

The chair informed the Panel that the WG met for the first time in July 2005. A good scientific debate took place on how to proceed with the main focus of the opinion regarding genotoxicity and carcinogenicity. Furthermore, the draft structure

of the opinion as well as the distribution of tasks, rapporteurs and timelines was established.

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

The chair of the WG introduced the draft opinion on NDL-PCB in feed and food. The chair of the Panel expressed his appreciation for this opinion to the WG. In principle the Panel agreed to the proposed risk characterisation based on human body burdens, but the document was not adopted because many revisions were proposed by the Panel. The mandate to introduce these revisions was given to a small drafting group of the WG on NDL-PCB. The revised opinion will be discussed at the next CONTAM plenary meeting.

10. CONTAM Plenary meeting dates 2005/2006

For the remaining life-span of the CONTAM Panel the following meeting dates were fixed: 7 to 9 November 2005, 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 on the last day. Furthermore, the Secretariat proposed to fix meeting dates beyond April 2006 although the mandate of the present Panel will expire in May 2006, as it is expected that some experts will be re-nominated. The following additional meeting dates with a venue in Parma have been agreed: 27 to 29 June 2006, 12-14 September 2006, and 21-23 November 2006.

11. Any other business

Two Panel members reported back from the 9th Fluoros International Symposium on Fluorinated Alkyl Organics in the Environment as well as the 25th International Symposium on Halogenated Environmental Pollutants and Persistent Organic Pollutants (Dioxin 2005) which took place on 18 to 20 and 21 to 26 August 2005 in Toronto, Canada.