

Parma, 21 March 2011
EFSA/CONTAM/1329 rev.1

**MINUTES OF THE 42ND PLENARY MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON
CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN (CONTAM) HELD ON 4 JANUARY
2011 BY CONFERENCE CALL**

Agreed on 21 March 2011

PARTICIPANTS

Panel Members:

Jan Alexander, Diane Benford (vice-chair)¹, Alan Boobis, Sandra Ceccatelli, Alessandro Di Domenico, Daniel Doerge, Eugenia Dogliotti, Lutz Edler, Peter Farmer, Metka Filipič, Thierry Guérin, Helle Katrine Knutsen, Miroslav Machala, Antonio Mutti¹, Josef Schlatter¹ (chair) and Rolaf van Leeuwen (vice-chair)

EFSA:

Unit on Contaminants (CONTAM unit)

Claudia Heppner, Katleen Baert and Elena Zeraschi

Unit on Assessment Methodology (AMU unit)

José Cortinas Abrahantes

European Commission:

Frank Swartenbroux (DG Health and Consumers, unit E3) and Marina Marini (DG Health and Consumers, unit 03)

1. WELCOME

The chair of the CONTAM Panel welcomed the members to the 42nd CONTAM plenary meeting. The chair of the CONTAM Panel invited the vice-chair, Rolaf van Leeuwen, to chair agenda item 5. This proposal was accepted by the vice-chair.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Johanna Fink-Gremmels, Peter Fürst, and Jean-Pierre Cravedi of the CONTAM Panel and Almut Bitterhof of the European Commission.

¹ Physically present in Parma

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

No revisions were proposed to the draft agenda, and the agenda was adopted

4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

EFSA secretariat screened both the annual and specific declarations of interest (ADoI, SDoI) filled in by the scientific experts invited to this meeting in accordance with EFSA's Policy on declarations of interests.

With regard to the ADoI, SDoI and this meeting, no interests were declared by the experts other than those already declared in the ADoI or in a previous SDoI and screened by EFSA in accordance with its Policy on Declaration of Interests and implementing documents thereof.

5. TOLERABLE WEEKLY INTAKE FOR CADMIUM. DRAFT STATEMENT

The chair of the CONTAM WG on cadmium modelling presented the draft statement on the tolerable weekly intake for cadmium (question number: EFSA-Q-2010-01008). The European Commission had asked EFSA to confirm whether the current tolerable weekly intake (TWI) of 2.5 µg/kg body weight (b.w.) for cadmium which was established by the CONTAM Panel in 2009 was still considered appropriate or whether any modifications were needed in view of the provisional tolerable monthly intake (PTMI) of 25 µg/kg b.w. established by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) in 2010. Both assessments used the same epidemiological dataset.

The members of the CONTAM Panel appreciated the current draft statement which took into account the guidance given during the 41st CONTAM Panel meeting such as presenting first the similarities in both risk assessments. However, the CONTAM Panel felt that further modifications to the current draft statement had to be made in order to express in a clear and comprehensive manner the methodological differences between the two assessments including expressing the uncertainties and assumptions made. In addition, the CONTAM Panel noted that the annex of the draft statement, which was mainly drafted by an EFSA AMU unit staff member, contained rather detailed technical information on the methodology used by EFSA and the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA), a sensitivity analysis in relation to the choice of the toxicodynamic variability function used by the JECFA and its impact on establishing a health-based guidance value. The CONTAM Panel proposed that this annex should be issued as a separate scientific report by EFSA.

The opinion would be re-submitted for possible adoption to the next CONTAM Panel meeting (see item 10). The representative of the European Commission indicated that this slight delay in adopting the statement was acceptable, but further delays would result in difficulties in meeting the follow-up discussions on this subject scheduled with Members States.

The vice-chair of the CONTAM Panel expressed his appreciation to the members of the WG and EFSA staff for the preparatory work on the draft statement.

6. WORKING PROGRAMME

This agenda item was deferred to the 43rd CONTAM Panel meeting due to lack of time.

7. FEEDBACK FROM SC MEETING

This agenda item was deferred to the 43rd CONTAM Panel meeting due to lack of time.

8. FEEDBACK FROM EFSA

This agenda item was deferred to the 43rd CONTAM Panel meeting due to lack of time.

9. GENERAL INFORMATION FROM THE COMMISSION SERVICES ON MATTERS RELATING TO CONTAM

This agenda item was deferred to the 43rd CONTAM Panel meeting due to lack of time.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The members of the CONTAM Panel meeting agreed to have an additional plenary meeting (43rd) by conference call on 18 January 2011 to facilitate the possible adoption of the statement on tolerable weekly intake for cadmium.

No additional other business was raised.