

BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS AND CONTAMINANTS UNIT

Scientific Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain

Minutes of the 12th meeting of the Working Group on HCN in food - teleconference

25 February 2019

(Agreed 1 March 2019)

Participants

- **Working Group Members:**

Tanja Schwerdtle (chair)

Barbara Viviani

Leon Brimer*

Manfred Metzler

Diane Benford

Francesca Romana Mancini

- **Hearing Experts:**

Klaus Abraham

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

Frans Verstraete

- **EFSA:**

BIOCONTAM Unit: Hans Steinkellner

DATA Unit: Davide Arcella

- **Others:**

Not applicable

*Participated until 10.00

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest², EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of Interest and the Specific Declaration of Interest filled in by the working group members invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic for discussion

4.1. Discussion of the EFSA report on the public consultation on the scientific opinion on the health risk related to hydrocyanic acid in foods other than raw apricot kernels forms (EFSA-Q-2018-00688) and discussion of the changes to be made in the opinion (EFSA-Q-2016-00802)

The WG members discussed the draft responses to the comments received from the stakeholders during the public consultation and several amendments were made. The experts also discussed the relevance of findings upon repeated exposure in the light of a study not considered previously. The WG agreed to consult with CONTAM Panel members on the issue. Several minor tasks for updating the draft report on the public consultation and the draft opinion were allocated to WG members.

5. Any Other Business

Not applicable

6. Next meeting

tbd

¹ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS AND CONTAMINANTS UNIT

Scientific Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain

Minutes of the 11th meeting of the Working Group on HCN in food

10-11 Oct 2018

(Agreed 11 Oct 2018)

Participants

- **Working Group Members:**

Tanja Schwerdtle (chair)*

Barbara Viviani

Leon Brimer

Manfred Metzler

Diane Benford*

Francesca Romana Mancini*

- **Hearing Experts:**

Klaus Abraham*

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

Frans Verstraete*

- **EFSA:**

BIOCONTAM Unit: Hans Steinkellner

DATA Unit: Davide Arcella

- **Others:**

Not applicable

* Participated via teleconference

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest², EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of Interest and the Specific Declaration of Interest filled in by the working group members invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic for discussion

4.1. Draft opinion on the scientific opinion on the health risk related to hydrocyanic acid in foods other than raw apricot kernels forms (EFSA-Q-2016-00802)³

The WG members discussed the draft text of the opinion considering the comments from the CONTAM Panel to all chapters. Special attention was given to the chapters on exposure assessment, risk characterisation and uncertainties. Tasks were allocated to the WG members. The chair of the WG agreed that the opinion should be tabled for endorsement for public consultation at the November CONTAM Plenary meeting.

5. Any Other Business

Not applicable

6. Next meeting

tbd

¹ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

³ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/wicket/page?2>

BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS AND CONTAMINANTS UNIT

Scientific Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain

Minutes of the 10th meeting of the Working Group on HCN in food

7 Sept 2018 - TELECONFERENCE

(Agreed 7 July 2018)

Participants

- **Working Group Members:**

Tanja Schwerdtle (chair)

Barbara Viviani

Leon Brimer

Manfred Metzler

Diane Benford

- **Hearing Experts:**

Klaus Abraham

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

- **EFSA:**

BIOCONTAM Unit: Hans Steinkellner

DATA Unit: Davide Arcella

- **Others:**

Not applicable

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Francesca Romana Mancini.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest², EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of Interest and the Specific Declaration of Interest filled in by the working group members invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic for discussion

4.1. Draft opinion on the scientific opinion on the health risk related to hydrocyanic acid in foods other than raw apricot kernels forms (EFSA-Q-2016-00802)³

The WG members discussed the draft text of the opinion considering the comments from the CONTAM Panel to all chapters. Special attention was given to the chapter on derivation of health based guidance values and exposure assessment. Tasks were allocated to the WG members.

5. Any Other Business

Not applicable

6. Next meeting

10-11 October 2018

¹ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencypolicy.pdf>

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

³ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/wicket/page?2>

BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS AND CONTAMINANTS UNIT

Scientific Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain

Minutes of the 9th meeting of the Working Group on HCN in food

5-6 July 2018

(Agreed 6 July 2018)

Participants

- **Working Group Members:**

Tanja Schwerdtle (chair)

Barbara Viviani

Leon Brimer

Manfred Metzler

Diane Benford*

- **Hearing Experts:**

Klaus Abraham

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

Frans Verstraete**

- **EFSA:**

BIOCONTAM Unit: Hans Steinkellner

DATA Unit: Davide Arcella

- **Others:**

Not applicable

*via teleconference

**via teleconference on the second day

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Francesca Romana Mancini.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest², EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of Interest and the Specific Declaration of Interest filled in by the working group members invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic for discussion

4.1. Draft opinion on the scientific opinion on the health risk related to hydrocyanic acid in foods other than raw apricot kernels forms (EFSA-Q-2016-00802)³

The WG members discussed the draft text of the opinion considering the comments from the CONTAM Panel to all chapters. Special attention was given to the chapter on derivation of health based guidance values. Tasks were allocated to the WG members.

5. Any Other Business

Not applicable

6. Next meeting

7 September 2018

¹ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

³ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/wicket/page?2>

BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS AND CONTAMINANTS UNIT

Scientific Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain

Minutes of the 8th meeting of the Working Group on HCN in food

1 June 2018

(Agreed 1 June 2018)

Participants

- **Working Group Members:**

Tanja Schwerdtle (chair)

Barbara Viviani

Leon Brimer

Manfred Metzler

Francesca Romana Mancini

- **Hearing Experts:**

Klaus Abraham

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

- **EFSA:**

BIOCONTAM Unit: Hans Steinkellner

DATA Unit: Davide Arcella

- **Others:**

Not applicable

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Diane Benford.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest², EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of Interest and the Specific Declaration of Interest filled in by the working group members invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic for discussion

4.1. Draft opinion on the scientific opinion on the health risk related to hydrocyanic acid in foods other than raw apricot kernels forms (EFSA-Q-2016-00802)³

The WG members discussed the draft text of the opinion in particular chapters, toxicity, food processing and conclusions. Occurrence and approaches to exposure assessment were also discussed. Tasks were allocated to the different WG members.

5. Any Other Business

Not applicable

6. Next meeting

5-6 July 2018

¹ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencypolicy.pdf>

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

³ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/wicket/page?2>

BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS AND CONTAMINANTS UNIT

Scientific Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain

Minutes of the 7th meeting of the Working Group on HCN in food

25-26 April 2018,

(Agreed 26 April 2018)

Participants

- **Working Group Members:**

Tanja Schwerdtle (chair)

Diane Benford*

Leon Brimer

Manfred Metzler

Francesca Romana Mancini

- **Hearing Experts:**

Klaus Abraham

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

- **EFSA:**

BIOCONTAM Unit: Hans Steinkellner

DATA Unit: Davide Arcella

- **Others:**

Not applicable

*Participated via teleconference

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Barbara Viviani.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest², EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of Interest and the Specific Declaration of Interest filled in by the working group members invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic for discussion

4.1. Draft opinion on the scientific opinion on the health risk related to hydrocyanic acid in foods other than raw apricot kernels forms (EFSA-Q-2016-00802)³

The WG members discussed the draft text of the opinion in particular chapters on analytical methods, toxicokinetics, toxicity, human observations, food processing and health based guidance values. Occurrence, consumption data and approaches to exposure assessment were also discussed. Tasks were allocated to the different WG members.

5. Any Other Business

Not applicable

6. Next meeting

1 June 2018

¹ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

³ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/wicket/page?2>

BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS AND CONTAMINANTS UNIT

Scientific Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain

Minutes of the 6th meeting of the Working Group on HCN in food

**Teleconference held on 27 March 2018,
(Agreed 27 March 2018)**

Participants

- **Working Group Members:**

Tanja Schwerdtle (chair)

Diane Benford

Leon Brimer

Manfred Metzler

Francesca Romana Mancini

Barbara Viviani

- **Hearing Experts:**

Klaus Abraham

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

- **EFSA:**

Biological hazards and contaminants unit: Hans Steinkellner

- **Others:**

Not applicable

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest², EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of Interest and the Specific Declaration of Interest filled in by the working group members invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic for discussion

4.1. Draft opinion on the scientific opinion on the health risk related to hydrocyanic acid in foods other than raw apricot kernels forms (EFSA-Q-2016-00802)³

The WG members discussed the draft text of the opinion in particular chapters on toxicokinetics, occurrence and food processing. They also discussed the approach for setting health based guidance values and exposure assessment. Occurrence and consumption data were discussed. Tasks were allocated to the different WG members.

5. Any Other Business

Not applicable

6. Next meeting

25-26 April 2018

¹ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencpolicy.pdf>

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

³ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/wicket/page?2>

BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS AND CONTAMINANTS UNIT

Scientific Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain

Minutes of the 5th meeting of the Working Group on HCN in food

held on 25-26 January 2018, EFSA, Parma

(Agreed 26 January 2018)

Participants

- **Working Group Members:**

Tanja Schwerdtle (chair)

Diane Benford

Leon Brimer

Manfred Metzler

Francesca Romana Mancini

- **Hearing Experts:**

Klaus Abraham

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

- **EFSA:**

Biological hazards and contaminants unit: Hans Steinkellner

DATA unit: Andrea Altieri

- **Others:**

Not applicable

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Barbara Viviani.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest², EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of Interest and the Specific Declaration of Interest filled in by the working group members invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic for discussion

4.1. Draft opinion on the scientific opinion on the health risk related to hydrocyanic acid in foods other than raw apricot kernels forms (EFSA-Q-2016-00802)³

The WG members discussed the draft text of the opinion in particular chapters on analytical methods, toxicokinetics, toxicity, human observations, occurrence and food processing. Occurrence and consumption data were discussed. Approaches to exposure assessment were also discussed. Tasks were allocated to the different WG members.

5. Any Other Business

Not applicable

6. Next meeting

27 March 2018

¹ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencpolicy.pdf>

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

³ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/wicket/page?2>

BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS AND CONTAMINANTS UNIT

Scientific Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain

Minutes of the 4th meeting of the Working Group on HCN in food

held on 23-24 November 2017, EFSA, Parma

(Agreed 24 November 2017)

Participants

- **Working Group Members:**

Tanja Schwerdtle (chair)

Diane Benford*

Leon Brimer

Manfred Metzler

Barbara Viviani

Francesca Romana Mancini*

- **Hearing Experts:**

Klaus Abraham

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

- **EFSA:**

Biological hazards and contaminants unit: Hans Steinkellner

DATA unit: Andrea Altieri

- **Others:**

Not applicable

*Participating via teleconference

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest², EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of Interest and the Specific Declaration of Interest filled in by the working group members invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic for discussion

4.1. Draft opinion on the scientific opinion on the health risk related to hydrocyanic acid in foods other than raw apricot kernels forms (EFSA-Q-2016-00802)³

The WG members discussed the draft text of the opinion in particular chapters on analytical methods, toxicokinetics, toxicology, human observations, previous risk assessments, occurrence and food processing. Preliminary occurrence and consumption data were presented and discussed. Tasks were allocated to the different WG members.

5. Any Other Business

Not applicable

6. Next meeting

25 – 26 January 2018

¹ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

³ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/wicket/page?2>

BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS AND CONTAMINANTS UNIT

Scientific Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain

Minutes of the 3rd meeting of the Working Group on HCN in food

held on 21-22 September 2017, EFSA, Parma

(Agreed 22 September 2017)

Participants

- **Working Group Members:**

Tanja Schwerdtle (chair)

Diane Benford*

Leon Brimer

Barbara Viviani

Francesca Romana Mancini

- **Hearing Experts:**

Klaus Abraham

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

- **EFSA:**

Biological hazards and contaminants unit: Hans Steinkellner

DATA unit: Andrea Altieri

- **Others:**

Not applicable

*Participating via teleconference on the first day only

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Manfred Metzler.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest², EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of Interest and the Specific Declaration of Interest filled in by the working group members invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic for discussion

4.1. Draft opinion on the scientific opinion on the health risk related to hydrocyanic acid in foods other than raw apricot kernels forms (EFSA-Q-2016-00802)³

The WG members discussed the draft text of the opinion in particular chapters on chemistry, toxicokinetics, toxicology, human observations, previous risk assessments and legislation. Preliminary occurrence data were presented and discussed. Tasks were allocated to the different WG members.

5. Any Other Business

Not applicable

6. Next meeting

23 – 24 November 2017

¹ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencypolicy.pdf>

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

³ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/wicket/page?2>

BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS AND CONTAMINANTS UNIT

Scientific Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain

Minutes of the 2nd meeting of the Working Group on HCN in food

held on 6-7 July 2017, EFSA, Parma

(Agreed 7 July 2017)

Participants

- **Working Group Members:**

Tanja Schwerdtle (chair)

Diane Benford

Leon Brimer

Barbara Viviani

Francesca Romana Mancini

Manfred Metzler*

- **Hearing Experts:**

Not applicable

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

Frans Verstraete**

- **EFSA:**

Biological hazards and contaminants unit: Hans Steinkellner

DATA unit: Andrea Altieri

- **Others:**

Not applicable

*Participating via teleconference on the first day only

**Participating only on the first day

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest², EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of Interest and the Specific Declaration of Interest filled in by the working group members invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic for discussion

4.1. Draft opinion on the scientific opinion on the health risk related to hydrocyanic acid in foods other than raw apricot kernels forms (EFSA-Q-2016-00802)³

The WG members discussed the draft text of the opinion in particular chapters on chemistry, toxicokinetics, toxicology, human observations, previous risk assessments and legislation. Preliminary occurrence data were presented and discussed. Tasks were allocated to the different WG members.

5. Any Other Business

Not applicable

6. Next meeting

21 – 22 September 2017

¹ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencypolicy.pdf>

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

³ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/wicket/page?2>

BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS AND CONTAMINANTS UNIT

Scientific Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain

Minutes of the 1st meeting of the Working Group on HCN in food

held on 19 May 2017, TELECONFERENCE

(Agreed 19 May 2017)

Participants

- **Working Group Members:**

Tanja Schwerdtle (chair)

Diane Benford

Leon Brimer

Barbara Viviani

Francesca Mancini

Manfred Metzler

- **Hearing Experts:**

Not applicable

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

Frans Verstraete

- **EFSA:**

Biological hazards and contaminants unit: Hans Steinkellner

DATA unit: Andrea Altieri

- **Others:**

Not applicable

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest², EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of Interest and the Specific Declaration of Interest filled in by the working group members invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic for discussion

4.1. Draft opinion on the scientific opinion on the health risk related to hydrocyanic acid in foods other than raw apricot kernels forms (EFSA-Q-2016-00802)³

The WG members discussed the terms of reference of the opinion the literature to be retrieved, the call for data, the food commodities to be considered and a draft structure of the opinion. Tasks were allocated to the different WG members.

5. Any Other Business

Not applicable

6. Next meeting

6-7 July 2017

¹ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencypolicy.pdf>

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

³ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/wicket/page?2>