

RISK ASSESSMENT AND SCIENTIFIC ASSISTANCE DEPARTMENT

Parma, 29 September 2015 (updated 9 February 2018)

Note on the establishment of a Standing Working Group on non-allowed pharmacologically active substances in food and feed and their reference points for action (RPAs) of the Scientific Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain (2015-2018)

The Biological Hazards and Contaminants Unit is requested to manage the administrative and scientific activities of the Standing Working Group on non-allowed pharmacologically active substances in food and feed and their reference points for action (RPAs). The Biological Hazards and Contaminants Unit is also requested to organise the meetings of the Standing Working Group and assist in the preparation of the relevant EFSA scientific outputs in line with the tasks delegated to the Standing Working Group.

Background:

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) is the keystone of European Union risk assessment regarding food and feed safety, animal health and welfare, nutrition, plant protection and plant health. In close collaboration with national authorities and in open consultation with its stakeholders, EFSA provides independent and transparent scientific advice and clear communication on existing and emerging risks associated with the food chain. On request from the European Commission, European Parliament and Member States or on its own initiative¹, EFSA provides scientific opinions on issues falling under its remit.

The Scientific Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain, which deals with questions on contaminants in the food chain and undesirable substances such as natural toxicants, mycotoxins and residues of unauthorised substances not covered by another Panel, confirmed during its 73rd Plenary Meeting the need of a Standing Working Group on non-allowed pharmacologically active substances in food and feed and their reference points for action (RPAs).

Terms of reference:

The objective of the Standing Working Group on non-allowed pharmacologically active substances in food and feed and their reference points for action (RPAs) is to perform the preparatory work for the requests falling within the remit of the SWG for consideration by the CONTAM Panel. In order to fulfil its objective, the above-mentioned Standing Working Group shall consist of members with expertise in the following scientific areas: allergenicity, chemistry, knowledge on veterinary medicinal products, toxicokinetics, toxicology, knowledge on fish farming and fish health, and risk assessment.

Members:

During the 73rd Plenary Meeting of the Scientific Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain the Chair appointed (in consultation with EFSA) the Chair of the Standing Working Group on non-allowed pharmacologically active substances in food and feed and their reference points for action (RPAs). The decision on the composition of the Standing Working Group was made by the Chair of the Standing Working Group upon proposal of the respective EFSA Head of Unit. The composition of the Standing Working Group on non-allowed pharmacologically active substances in food and feed and their reference points for action (RPAs) is available on the EFSA website².

Scope in EFSA's work and outsourcing programme:

The Standing Working Group will assess the available and relevant scientific information and data provided to EFSA by Member States and stakeholders, those submitted through the applicants' dossiers, those collected through public

¹ Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and the Council of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety (OJ, L 31, 1.2.2002, p. 1-24).

² <https://ess.efsa.europa.eu/doi/doiweb/doisearch>

calls for data, as well as those collected by EFSA itself (as applicable). As appropriate, EFSA may outsource the collection, collation or analysis of scientific information, through its grant and procurement schemes, in order to support the scientific assessment of the Standing Working Group.

Timelines:

Provided the Standing Working Group on non-allowed pharmacologically active substances in food and feed and their reference points for action (RPAs) is not closed earlier, (e.g. as a result of a period of inactivity), then its mandate will terminate 4 months after the inaugural meeting of the subsequent Scientific Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain (2018-2021).

Expected deliverables:

Draft EFSA scientific outputs, which will be submitted for consideration and possible adoption by the Scientific Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain.

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