Record of the views expressed at the

3rd meeting of the EFSA Stakeholder Consultative Platform Discussion Group on Food Chemical Occurrence Data

Held on 29/09/2015, Brussels (Belgium)

Participants

- **Chair:** Doreen Dolores Russell (EFSA)
- **Members of the Discussion Group**

Organisation	Name
AESGP – Association of the European Self-Medication Industry	Kinga Adamaszwili
BEUC - The European Consumer Organisation	Gemma Trigueros
CEFIC – European Chemical Industry Council	Miguel Prieto Arranz
ELC – Federation of European Speciality Food Ingredients Industries	Petr Menšik
ESA – European Snacks Association	Marta de la Cera
AIJN - European Fruit Juice Association	Chris Bruyninckx
FEDIOL - The EU Vegetable Oil and Proteinmeal Industry	Julie Roïz
FoodDrinkEurope	Angeliki Vlachou
Food Supplements Europe	Patrick Coppens
ICGA – International Chewing Gum Association	Christophe Leprêtre
Food Chemical Risk Analysis	David Tennant
MARINALG	Joy Hardinge
NATCOL – The Natural Food Colours Association	Mary O'Callaghan
SNE - Specialised Nutrition Europe	Aaron O'Sullivan
EFSA Stakeholder Consultative Platform Chair	Andreas Varlamos
UNESDA - Union of European Soft Drinks Association	Patrice Commarmond

- **Apologies**

FEDIMA – Federation of the EU Manufacturers and Suppliers of Ingredients to the Bakery, Confectionery and Patisserie Industries - Jean Christophe Kremer

CAOBISCO – Association Chocolate, Biscuits & Confectionery of Europe – Alice Costa

FoodDrinkEurope – Beate Kettlitz

SpiritsEurope – Bettina Breuer

UNESDA – Union of European Soft Drinks Association – Helen Benson

European Dairy Association – Euromilk – Hélène Simonin

CEFIC – European Chemical Industry Council – Cédric Delveaux

- **Observers**

Wim Debeuckelaere – European Commission DG Health and Food Safety (SANTE), Unit E7 (Food improvement agents)

- **Representatives of the European Food Safety Authority**

Doreen Dolores Russell (DATA), Enikő VARGA (DATA), Alexandra Tard (FIP), Paolo Colombo (FIP), Luisa Ramos Bordajandi (BIOCONTAM by teleconference)

1. Welcome and round table presentation

The Chair, Doreen Dolores Russell (EFSA DATA Unit), welcomed all the participants and the Commission representative to the 3rd meeting of the Discussion Group on Food Chemical Occurrence Data. Apologises received from Jean Christophe Kremer (FEDIMA), Alice Costa (CAOBISCO), Beate Kettlitz (FoodDrinkEurope), Bettina Breuer (SpiritsEurope), Helen Benson (UNESDA), Hélène Simonin (Euromilk) and Cédric Delveaux (CEFIC).

The agenda was agreed and the programme for the day outlined together with an overview of the main topics to be discussed. A 'tour de table' enabled the meeting's participants to introduce themselves.

1.1 Review/status of actions from the 2nd meeting of the discussion group

The Chair updated the meeting on the status of the pending and completed actions from the 2nd meeting of the Discussion Group on Food Chemical Occurrence Data.

2. Update on the revisions to the template for reporting food additive usage data

Enikő VARGA (DATA Unit) presented an overview of the changes introduced by EFSA to the template for reporting additive usage data, highlighting the new features and revisions introduced. Included was an explanation that as it is not possible to include a macro for reporting a maximum permitted level value when one exists it is necessary to report this manually.

David Tennant (Food Chemical Risk Analysis) commented that with respect to reporting a single value concerning the percentage fat content it is preferable to indicate a range. EFSA acknowledged the difficulties with this for certain food groups such as desserts, but advised that a value is needed and suggested inserting a clarification on this within the template comment field. It was also indicated that composition tables available in the EFSA comprehensive food consumption database could be used.

The group also considered how to report a food additive which is no longer used including reporting zero values and *Quantum Satis*. The group discussed how reporting *Quantum Satis* values should not result in an over-estimation in the exposure assessment. Angeliki Vlachou (FDE) asked how EFSA interprets a zero value and Aaron O'Sullivan (SNE) suggested that EFSA has a dialogue with data providers at the point when the exposure refinement is performed. The group also encouraged EFSA to look at other databases such as MINTEL which contains 10 years of food labelling details and other databases available at Member State level were also mentioned. EFSA informed the group that improved interaction and communication is planned between data providers and EFSA during the data validation process.

The meeting also discussed the rationale for a re-introduction of market share into the template adding that some refinement and guidance on how to interpret the descriptors (representative, partly representative or not present) in this category is required. The discussion group will reflect further on how reporting market share could be addressed.

3 Contaminants

3.1 Activities of the Scientific Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain (BIOCONTAM)

Luisa Ramos Bordajandi (BIOCONTAM Unit) updated the Discussion Group on the activities of the EFSA CONTAM Panel. The schedule for opinions to be adopted was presented together with the expected future requests for scientific advice.

A request for more information on Biocides was made together with a general point concerning chemical contaminants in food being outside the expertise/knowledge of some of the members of the group.

4. Food Additives

4.1 The use of food additive data provided by the Discussion Group in the EFSA scientific opinions

Alexandra Tard (FIP Unit) gave a presentation on how the data provided by the Discussion Group is used in the scientific opinions produced by EFSA. The exposure approach utilised in recent re-evaluations of food additives was explained and specific examples of the use of reported usage data given. New developments were also provided to the Discussion Group including updates to the EFSA comprehensive food consumption database, infant exposure (4-11 months) and MINTEL's Global New Products database access.

Chris Bruyninckx (AIJN) asked if the MINTEL database would be used to estimate exposure. EFSA replied that it is a new source of information that will be used to check if an additive is used or not in a food. David Tennant acknowledged the new approach as a good way forward. He was in favour of the inclusion of a brand-loyal scenario in the exposure assessment and asked in what situations the brand loyal and non-brand loyal scenario would be used. Aaron O'Sullivan stated that the inclusion of infants in the assessment was a positive step. Gemma Trigueros (BEUC) commented on the appropriateness of additives used in infant formula for group less than 3 months to

which Wim Debeuckelaere (DG Santé) confirmed that only authorised additives can be used. EFSA informed the meeting that its Scientific Committee will develop guidance on the requirements for the risk assessment of substances in food for infants below 12 weeks of age and that the guidance document would be subject to a public consultation.

In relation to the choice between data coming from industry and analytical data coming from Member States (MSs) to be used in the exposure assessment, Patrick Coppens (FSE) asked for clarification as to what is reliable data while David Tennant asked how the exposure assessment for an additive used only one country is extended to the whole EU. EFSA explained that the reliability of data depends on their sources and the number of data; and in instances of lack of information the industrial usage data are complemented with concentration data provided by Member States.

4.2 State of play and tentative work programme for the re-evaluation of food additives

Paolo Colombo (FIP Unit) advised the Discussion Group of the current situation regarding the food additives re-evaluation work programme. He outlined the timetable for the programme and its progress together with the challenges faced by the EFSA working groups in performing the re-evaluations. He provided an overview of the opinions already adopted as well as the next steps in the re-evaluation programme.

Petr Menšik (ELC) asked when the next workshop for food additives will take place. EFSA replied that it is tentatively planned for second half of 2016 but that no date has yet been set. Joy Hardinge (MARINALG) asked about how to obtain information on the progress of specific food additives included into the re-evaluation programme and where the data provided in the past is in the system. EFSA advised that high level information for following the progress on the re-evaluation programme can be obtained from the ANS Panel and Working Group's agendas and minutes on the EFSA website and that EFSA's DATA Unit will provide the Discussion Group with a table detailing the data it has in its database by additive usage category description and circulate this to the Discussion Group with the draft minutes. Andreas Verlamos (EFSA Stakeholder Consultative Platform Chair) asked about emerging concerns such as emulsifiers and intestinal effects to which EFSA confirmed it is aware of and has addressed this in relevant opinions. Mary O'Callaghan (NATCOL) spoke about the time lapse between the activities of risk assessment and the actions of the risk managers. Wim Debeuckelaere advised the Discussion Group that the risk managers do not always react immediately to the scientific evaluation carried out by EFSA as there may be a need for additional data or possibly further consultation is needed. A question was raised about the possibility of members of the Discussion Group participating in EFSA working groups or plenary meetings. EFSA explained that each EFSA scientific Panel has at least one open plenary meeting a year (the next one for ANS Panel will be in September 2016). The involvement of external experts in EFSA working group meetings is on an *ad hoc* basis, for example, "technical hearings" to provide information or clarifications.

In response to a request for some additional information concerning a European Commission funded external project 'Ad hoc study in preparation of the development of a common methodology for gathering of information by the Member States on the consumption and use of food additives and flavourings in the European Union' Wim

Debeuckelaere provided some background to the initiative and the need for change to the enforcement of food additives analytical checks at Member State level and, that this could be a source of further usage data generation. A working group on enforcement on food improving agents will be established by the Commission with the MSs to address this issue.

In view of the imminent launch of Batch 4 call for data Angeliki Vlachou (FDE) asked if the deadline for the final call for data within the re-evaluation process could be identified. EFSA advised that calls for data are periodically issued and advised that it is expected to issue calls until 2020 (for sweeteners) with the objective of filling any data gaps.

5. Feedback from the 28th meeting of the Stakeholder Consultative Platform: Presentation of the draft revisions to the terms of reference of the Discussion Group on Food Chemical Occurrence Data

Doreen Dolores Russell explained why EFSA would like to extend the mandate of the Discussion Group for a further 2 years to 2017 to align it with the food additive re-evaluation programme and also include within the scope of activities the consideration of chemical contaminants. Though the main focus of the Discussion Group would remain food additives usage it is the wish of EFSA that the Associations represented can be requested to ask their members if they have data on a specified chemical contaminant, when the data gaps for that contaminant are identified. It was for this reason that the food contaminant Acrylamide was specifically included in the current terms of reference of the Discussion Group. Valuable data was provided by the industries represented by the Discussion Group on not only Acrylamide but also more recently data on 3 MCPDs, Chlorates and Erucic Acid. For the next steps in the process of extending the mandate the views of this meeting will be shared with the EFSA Stakeholder Consultative Platform.

The Discussion Group fully discussed the proposal and expressed their strong support for the continuation of the group for an additional 2 years. Andreas Varlamos (EFSA Stakeholder Consultative Platform Chair) commented that the Discussion Group could be a good forum for exchanging views on many different aspects of food safety including environmental considerations.

6. Data Submission

Enikő VARGA guided the Discussion Group through the steps of data submission to EFSA as well as the procedure for data validation prior to inclusion in the EFSA database. She advised the group that EFSA will also seek some assurances from all its data providers on data reliability from now onwards. A step by step guide to submitting additive usage data to the EFSA Data Collection Framework (DCF) tool was given.

A clarification from the meeting was requested on the visibility of data provided by other associations in the DCF. EFSA explained that the tool is configured in such way so as to limit the data provider's view only to the data provided by his/her organisation/association.

7. The EFSA scientific data warehouse

Doreen Dolores Russell introduced the EFSA Data Warehouse (DWH) to the meeting participants. She explained what a DWH is, the rationale for the establishment of one for EFSA, data to be accessible from the DWH and the access rules. She advised that according to the current access rules no data which is subject to commercial confidentiality can be openly shared. It is expected that aggregated data will be accessible to all EFSA stakeholders in 2016 via the EFSA website as well as the info graphics in the form of Dashboards.

The Discussion Group appreciated the development of a DWH and requested additional information including a live demonstration of its functionality which was subsequently presented.

8. Any other business

The Chair advised that the presentations would be sent the discussion group in the coming days while the minutes would be shared with the group for their comments prior to publication on the EFSA website. At the next meeting, stakeholders will be invited to take the floor to present topics of interest to the Discussion Group. EFSA highlighted the forthcoming 'Shaping the future of food safety, together' EFSA scientific conference as part of EXPO 2015 in Milan as further opportunity to interact with the members of the Discussion Group.