



SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN

MINUTES OF THE 119TH PLENARY MEETING

Audio-web conference, 25-27 January 2022

(Agreed on 10 February 2022)

Participants

■ Panel Members:

Margherita Bignami, Laurent Bodin, Kevin Chipman, Jesús Del Mazo, Bettina Grasl-Kraupp, Christer Hogstrand, Ron Hoogenboom, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Carlo Nebbia, Elsa Nielsen, Evangelia Ntzani, Annette Petersen, Salomon Sand, Dieter Schrenk, Tanja Schwerdtle, Christiane Vleminckx and Heather Wallace.

■ Hearing Experts¹:

Cristina Fortes (for item 6.2)²

■ European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

Frans Verstraete, Veerle Vanheusden and Ivana Poustkova (European Commission, DG Health and Food Safety, Unit E2).

■ EFSA:

FEEDCO Unit:

Maria Anastassiadou, Anna Christodoulidou, Federico Cruciani, Mary Gilsenan, Luisa Ramos Bordajandi, Elena Rovesti, Katja Schirmer and Hans Steinkellner.

MESE Unit:

Francesca Riolo (for item 6.2), Claudia Cascio (for Item 6.3)

PREV Unit:

Marco Binaglia (for Item 6.4)

■ Observers:

Not applicable

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/expertselection.pdf

² Participated on 26 01 2022 from 11.00 to 14.00 CET.

■ **Others:**

Not applicable.

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

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence³ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁴, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Panel members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process.

Certain interests were declared orally by the members before the beginning of the meeting. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Oral Declaration(s) of Interest made at the beginning of the meeting, please refer to the Annex.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 118th Plenary meeting held on 23-25.11.2021

The minutes of the 118th Plenary meeting⁵ held on 23-25 November 2021 were agreed by the CONTAM Panel on 15 December 2021.

5. Report on written procedures since the 118th Plenary meeting held on 23-25.11.2021

In agreement with the Panel Chair, Ron Hoogenboom has been nominated as Chair of the WG on Mycotoxins in Feed.

6. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion and possible adoption

6.1. Update of the risk assessment of polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) in food (EFSA-Q-2018-0432)⁶

The Chair of the WG on Brominated flame retardants (BFRs) presented the sections on Toxicokinetics, including Transfer from feed to food of animal origin and Levels in humans, and Toxicity in experimental animals, including Neurotoxicity, for possible endorsement. The sections on Observations in Humans and Mode of Action were presented for first

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁴ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁵ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/118th-plenary-meeting-contam-panel>

⁶ <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2018-00432>

reading. The Panel endorsed selected sections and provided general feedback that will be considered by the WG to continue developing the risk assessment.

6.2. Risk assessment of N-nitrosamines in food (EFSA-Q-2020-00665)⁷

The Chair of the WG on N-nitrosamines in food presented the sections of data and methodologies and observations in humans for possible endorsement. In addition, the proposed approach for hazard characterisation and the data provided to EFSA and the preliminary exposure to individual N-nitrosamines were presented to the Panel. The Panel endorsed selected sections and provided general feedback. The WG will continue with the development of the risk assessment.

6.3. Draft protocol for the risk assessment of grayanotoxins in certain honey (EFSA-Q-2020-00509)⁸

The Chair of the WG presented the draft protocol to be followed in the risk assessment of grayanotoxins in certain honey. The Panel provided revisions and endorsed the draft protocol.

6.4. Draft EFSA Statement on the conclusions of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on tropane alkaloids(EFSA-Q-2021-00636)⁹

The PREV Scientific Officer presented the draft EFSA Scientific report on the conclusions of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on tropane alkaloids for discussion and possible endorsement. The Panel endorsed the report pending minor amendments.

7. Feedback from the Scientific Committee/ Scientific Panels, CONTAM Working Groups, EFSA, the European Commission

7.1. European Commission

The European Commission representatives gave an extensive update on the follow-up activities in relation to the scientific opinions of the CONTAM Panel. Several legislative measures are under discussion with the Member States as an outcome of the CONTAM Panel scientific opinions.

7.2. Update from CONTAM Panel Working Groups

- **WG on Brominated flame retardants in food**

See item 6.1.

- **WG on Feed detoxification**

The WG Chair informed the Panel that the WG initiated its assessment on a new dossier concerning a process for dioxin decontamination of fish oil and vegetable oil and fats. The WG asked for further clarifications. Pending the provision of these clarifications the risk assessment is suspended.

- **WG on Hydroxymethyl furfural in bees**

The WG Chair informed the Panel that due to technical problems with the tool used for public consultations the deadline for the public consultation has been extended to 10 February 2022.

- **WG on Mineral oil hydrocarbons in food**

⁷ <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2020-00665>

⁸ <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2020-00509>

⁹ <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2021-00636>

The WG Chair informed the Panel that the WG is continuing to work on the assessment and that a new version of the draft opinion will be presented for discussion at the 120th CONTAM Panel plenary meeting. The next WG meeting will be held on 9-10 February 2022.

- **WG on N-nitrosamines in food**

See Item 6.2.

- **WG on Arsenic in food**

The WG Chair informed that the WG discussed the suggestions made by the Panel at a previous meeting and agreed to carry out a pooled analysis for the relevant adverse outcomes in human studies. In such a pooled analysis also studies carried out before 2009, i.e. already included in the previous opinion, are to be considered.

- **WG on Grayanotoxins in honey**

See Item 6.3.

- **WG on Acrylamide Genotoxicity**

The EFSA coordinator of the WG gave a more detailed feedback to the Panel members on the progress of the draft Statement on a review paper on the genotoxicity of acrylamide.

- **WG on Mycotoxins in Feed**

The WG Chair informed that the WG has been created to work on the three mandates from the EC on mycotoxins in feed and the first WG meeting will take place on 31 January 2022.

7.3. EFSA

The EFSA CONTAM Panel coordinator informed the Panel members that in view of COVID-19 situation, the March Plenary will still be held as an audio-web conference.

The Panel members were also informed on the new EFSA organisational blueprint and related changes in staff.

The members were informed on the outcome of the EFSA Workshop on 'Degree of certainty in scientific advice: implications for risk management and communication', that was held in November 2021 and in which risk managers and policymakers working in relevant areas, e.g. chemical contaminants, in the European Commission and Member State authorities participated. A discussion was held on the approaches to express the degree of certainty in the scientific outputs and its usefulness for risk managers.

7.4. Scientific Committee and Working groups of interest to the CONTAM Panel

The Panel Chair reported that there had been no meetings of the Scientific Committee since the last CONTAM Plenary meeting. The next meeting of the Scientific Committee will be held 9-10 February 2022¹⁰.

For the Working groups of interest for the CONTAM Panel, updates were provided on the activities of the Scientific Committee WG on Genotoxicity (no new meetings since the last CONTAM Plenary meeting), WG on the update of the Benchmark Dose guidance, WG on Copper and WG on Fluoride.

¹⁰ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/107th-plenary-meeting-scientific-committee>

8. Any other business

Not applicable.



UNIT ON FEED AND CONTAMINANTS

Annex

Interests and actions resulting from the Oral Declaration of Interest done at the beginning of the meeting

With regard to this meeting, Mr Christer Hogstrand declared the following interest: Research funding from the National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement & Reduction of Animals in Science (NC3Rs), to develop a suite of innovative, scalable bioassays for key adverse outcome pathways to replace in fish studies in chemical safety screening and regulatory environmental risk assessment (the funding received from the private sector does not exceed 25% of the total research budget that is managed by the expert for the area under concern). In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence³ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁴, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, the interest above was not deemed to represent a Conflict of Interest for the expert concerned.

Mr Ron Hoogenboom declared the following interest: Research funding from EFSA Procurement OC/EFSA/SCER/2021/13 - Case Study New Alternative Methodologies (NAMs) _ PFASs Immunotoxicity. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence³ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁴, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, the interest above was not deemed to represent a Conflict of Interest for the expert concerned.