UNIT ON FEED AND CONTAMINANTS

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN

MINUTES OF THE 125th PLENARY MEETING

Meeting open to Observers

Held on 13-15 September 2022, teleconference

(Agreed on 29 September 2022)

Participants

- **Panel Members:**

  Margherita Bignami, Laurent Bodin, Kevin Chipman[1], Jesús Del Mazo, Bettina Grasl-Kraupp, Christer Hogstrand, Ron Hoogenboom[2], Jean-Charles Leblanc, Carlo Nebbia, Elsa Nielsen, Evangelia Ntzani[3], Annette Petersen, Salomon Sand[4], Dieter Schrenk, Tanja Schwerdtle, Christiane Vleminckx[5] and Heather Wallace.

- **Hearing Experts[6]:**

  Andy Hart (for Item 8.1)

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

  Ivana Poustkova, Veerle Vanheusden[7] and Frans Verstraete (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 and Hans Steinkellner

  PREV Unit:

[1] Absent on 14 09 2022 from 11.00 to 12.00 CET.
[2] Absent on 13 09 2022 from 15.00 to 17.00 CET.
[3] Absent on 14 09 2022 from 12.00 to 13.00 CET.
[4] Absent on 13 09 2022 from 13.30 to 16.00 CET.
[5] Absent on 14 09 2022 from 10.00 to 11.00 CET.
[6] 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
[7] Present on 15 09 2022 only.

Marco Binaglia (for item 8.4)

MESE Unit:

Claudia Cascio (for item 8.2), Petra Gergelova (for item 8.3), José Ángel Gómez Ruiz (for item 8.4), Olaf Mosbach-Schulz (for item 8.1), Francesca Riolo (for item 8.1)

- **Observers:**

Thomas Tietz[8] (for item 8.4), See Annex I

- **Others:**

Not applicable.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants to this plenary meeting. Apologies were received from Katja Schirmer (FEEDCO Unit).

2. Brief introduction of the Panel members

The meeting participants introduced themselves to the Observers.

3. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

4. Declarations of Interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[9] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[10], 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 at the beginning of this meeting. Further details on the outcome of the screening of the Oral declarations of interest made at the beginning of the meeting are shown in Annex II.

5. Presentation of the EFSA guidelines for Observers

The CONTAM Panel coordinator presented the Guidelines for Observers.

6. Agreement of the minutes of the 124th Plenary meeting held on 12-14 July 2022

[8] GP/EFSA/BIOCONTAM/2021/01

[9] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

[10] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

The minutes of the 124th Plenary meeting held on 12-14 July 2022 were agreed by written procedure on 3 August 2022[11].

7. Report on written procedures since the 124th Plenary meeting held on 12-14 July 2022

A written procedure was held for the possible adoption of the Draft Opinion 'Assessment of information as regards the toxicity of T-2 and HT-2 toxin for ruminants' (EFSA-Q-2021-00711)[12]. The Opinion was adopted by unanimous vote on 29 August 2022 and publication at the EFSA Journal and EFSA website will follow.

In agreement with the Panel Chair, Annette Petersen has been nominated as Chair of the WG on OTA in Feed.

8. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion and possible adoption

8.1. Risk assessment of *N*-nitrosamines (*N*-NAs) in food (EFSA-Q-2020-00665)[13]

The Chair of the WG on *N*-NAs in food presented the remaining parts of the opinion on toxicokinetics, the exposure and uncertainty assessment, as well as the final conclusions and recommendations for possible endorsement. The Panel endorsed the selected sections. The revised opinion including the abstract and the summary will be sent to the Panel for endorsement for public consultation via written procedure.

8.2. Risk assessment of grayanotoxins (GTXs) in certain honey (EFSA-Q-2020-00509)[14]

The Chair of the WG on GTXs in certain honey presented the section on hazard identification and characterisation. The parts of the section relating to toxicokinetics, toxicity in experimental animals, genotoxicity, observations in humans, mode of action, relative potencies of grayananes and considerations of critical effects and dose-response analysis were endorsed by the Panel, providing that the suggested changes will be implemented. The WG will continue with the development of the risk assessment.

8.3. Risk assessment of polychlorinated naphthalenes (PCNs) in food and feed (EFSA-Q-2020-00663)[15]

The Chair of the WG on PCNs in food and feed presented the draft protocol for possible endorsement by the Panel. The Panel provided minor amendments and endorsed the draft protocol. The WG will continue with the development of the risk assessment.

8.4. Update of the risk assessment of mineral oil hydrocarbons (MOH) in food (EFSA-Q-2020-00664)[16]

[11] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2022-08/MINUTES_0.pdf
[12] https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2021-00711
[13] https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2020-00665
[14] https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2020-00509
[15] https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2020-00663
[16] https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2020-00664

The Chair of the WG on MOH in food presented for discussion and possible endorsement the sections on occurrence and exposure assessment. The Panel endorsed the presented sections pending minor suggested changes. The WG will continue to work on the finalisation of the assessment and uncertainty analysis.

8.5. Update of the risk assessment of polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) in food (EFSA-Q-2018-0432)[17]

The Chair of the WG on Brominated flame retardants (BFRs) presented the draft sections on considerations of critical effects, dose-response and derivation of a HBGV/MOE approach for discussion and possible endorsement. The sections on Observations in humans and Mode of action were also presented. The Panel provided comments that will be considered by the WG in finalising these sections and the risk assessment.

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

9.1. European Commission

The European Commission representative gave an 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.

9.2. Update from CONTAM Panel Working Groups

- **WG on Brominated flame retardants (BFRs) in food**

  See item 8.5.

- **WG on Feed detoxification**

  There are no new mandates to EFSA regarding the remit of this WG.

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

  See item 8.4.

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

  See Item 8.1.

- **WG on Arsenic in food**

  The chair of the WG reported that a meeting of the EFSA Scientific Committee cross-cutting WG on Benchmark Dose was held to discuss the question forwarded to them by the CONTAM Panel as agreed at the 124th CONTAM Plenary meeting. Once an answer is received it will be considered by the WG on Arsenic in food and the CONTAM Panel. In the meanwhile, the WG is progressing well in the development of relevant sections of the draft Opinion.

- **WG on Grayanotoxins in certain honey**

  See item 8.2.

- **WG on Mycotoxins in feed**

  The Chair updated the Panel on the progress of the mandate. The WG is working towards finalising the Opinion on the assessment of information as regards the

[17] https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2018-00432

toxicity of deoxynivalenol (DON) for horses and poultry other than laying hens, that will be presented for possible adoption at the upcoming plenary meeting.

- **WG on Polychlorinated Naphthalenes (PCNs) in food and feed**

  See item 8.3.

- **WG on Ergot Alkaloids in feed**

  The Chair of the WG informed on the progress of work on this mandate. The first two WG meetings had taken place and the WG will update the Panel at the next plenary meeting.

9.3. EFSA

The EFSA CONTAM Panel coordinator confirmed that there will be an ad-hoc Plenary meeting on 14 October 2022 dedicated to the discussion of the draft Opinion on inorganic arsenic and the draft Opinion on the assessment of information as regards the toxicity of DON for horses and poultry other than laying hens. It will be explored whether the following Panel meeting 22-24 November can be held as a hybrid meeting.

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

There has been no meeting of the EFSA Scientific Committee meeting since the last CONTAM Plenary. The next meeting will be 21-22 September 2022[18]. A thematic workshop on biomarkers of effect in risk assessment will be held 22-23 September 2022 to begin a scoping discussion on the vision, challenges, views and recommendations to help EFSA to shape its future work in this area.

For the Working groups of interest for the CONTAM Panel, updates were provided on the activities of the Cross-cutting WGs on Genotoxicity, on Uncertainty and on Benchmark dose, as well as on the activities of the SC WGs on Protocol development, SC WG on the Update of the risk-benefit assessment guidance, WG on Copper and WG on Fluoride.

10. Answer to questions from Observers

See Annex III

11. Any other business

Not applicable.

[18] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/110th-plenary-meeting-scientific-committee

ANNEX I – List of registered Observers

Last Name	First Name	Affiliation
Panton	Sean	National authority
Colebrook	Liz	Private sector
Geiser	Stefanie	Private sector
Latino	Alessio	Private sector
Gramigna	Lucia	Private sector
Hajjar	Kalila	Private sector
Stavropoulou	Angeliki	Other
Heptner	Kai	International organisation
Altay	Yigit	Private sector
Rreingruber	Eva	Private sector
Gunawardena	Manjula	Private sector
Saari	Katri	NGO
Hejjas	Kata	Other
Mavromichali	Evangelia	Private sector
marini	irene	Private sector
Haugas	Anneli	National authority
Palisi	Angelica	University/public research institute
Hassan	Hend	Other
Gousgounis	Ioannis	Private sector
Brown	Paul	University/public research institute
Fusari	Massimo	Private sector
Gkana	Eleni	National authority
Chavan	Manoj	National authority
Avirvarei	Alexandra-Costina	University/public research institute
Onafowope	Michael	National authority
Aznar	Aude	Private sector
Basagoiti	Jon	Private sector
Choleridis	Themistoklis	Private sector
Drndar Pepikj	Slada	National authority
Josheski	Martin	National authority
Castell	Victoria	National authority
Karaca	Hakan	University/public research institute
Kaya	Evrim	University/public research institute
Hanci	Serap	National authority
Milicevic	Dragan	University/public research institute
Rodarte	Alejandro	Other
Jovic	Dragana	University/public research institute
Vahter	Sille	National authority
Mutemberezi	Valentin	National authority
Spadafora	Damiana	University/public research institute
Wrobel	Kacper	University/public research institute
Almeida Costa	Sofia	University/public research institute

Mereu	Luciana	Private sector
Vargas	Alfonso	International organisation
Cogalniceanu	Elena	Private sector
Hajslova	Jana	University/public research institute
Pulkrabova	Jana	University/public research institute
Dvorakova	Darina	University/public research institute
El Youssfi	Mourad	University/public research institute
Teoh	Keng Ngee	Private sector
Pabel	Ulrike	National authority
Milicevic	Dragan	University/public research institute
Petrarca	Mateus	University/public research institute
Sadeghian	Yousef	National authority
Ioannou Kakouri	Eleni	NGO
Mavriou	Galini	University/public research institute
Rovellini	Pierangela	Other
Calderari	Igor	Other
Christopher	Jonadab	Other
Sepehr	Aref	University/public research institute
Abesingha Gunawardena	Manjula	Private sector
Monteiro	Sarogini	National authority
Carne	Géraldine	Other
Sharma	Himanshu	Private sector
Katikou	Panagiota	National authority
Oreglio	Marco	Private sector
Duarte	Marta	Private sector
Serrano	Natalia	Private sector
Gruszecka-Kosowska	Agnieszka	University/public research institute
Sabljak	Iva	Private sector
Lekakou	Andriana	Other
Vryzas	Zisis	University/public research institute
Cerqueira	Renata	Private sector

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

With regard to this meeting, Professor Heather Wallace declared the following interest: Appointment as a Commissioner to the Committee of Human Medicines within the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) (UK).

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[9] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[10] 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.

ANNEX III – Answer to questions from observers

Questions submitted at the time of registration related to item 8.4 and answered orally during the meeting (questions reported as submitted):

Question 1 (Kalila Hajjar): *Is there available information to further differentiate the toxicological profile of C-fractions of MOSH and MOAH or specific groups of compounds (1-2 rings PACs vs 3-7 ring PACs), further than what was done in the EFSA 2012 opinion? Did EFSA identify markers of MOAH contamination that would be more easy to analyze (and less controversial) as it was did for PAH as an example? Are there sufficient data supporting a TDI or MOE approach for MOSH/MOAH?*

Answer (Kevin Chipman): The MOAH are very complex mixtures of substances. They are composed very differently depending on their origin. Therefore, no specific individual MOAH compounds can be used as marker substances for all conceivable MOAH mixtures. MOAH can be considered as largely alkylated PAH. Alkylation may render genotoxic PAH non-genotoxic, but also non-genotoxic PAH may become genotoxic, in both cases depending on the position of the alkyl groups and their structure. Hence it is still unknown which types of MOAH are of concern - apart from a focus on 3-7 ring MOAH. Genotoxicity is identified as a concern and scenarios on potency are being looked at.

For MOSH, some toxic responses in F344 rats that have been assigned to n-alkanes are considered not relevant to human. The WG and Panel are working on the finalisation of the risk assessment and a margin of exposure approach is being considered.

Question 2 (Angeliki Stavropoulou): *FEDIOL, the EU vegetable oil and protein meal association, has contributed to EFSA calling for data since 2020. We have also shared our concerns regarding the MOH data, like lack of harmonised reporting of results by labs, current lack of reproducibility at low MOAH levels, scattered results when integrating the same hump (JRC report 2022), presence of interfering compounds, little guidance on how to integrate the total hump versus calculation per C-fraction. How those analytical uncertainties on MOH are addressed and how they have been taken into account?*

Answer (Kevin Chipman, José Ángel Gómez Ruiz): The quality of the data depends on the experience of the laboratory and the applied sample preparation. Therefore, it is important to select appropriate laboratories and

find agreements on the sample preparation and possibly confirmation like GC×GC. The analytical uncertainty depends on the matrix and is typically between 10 and 40% also for experienced laboratories. In addition, to try to minimise the impact of the uncertainties linked to the analysis and reporting of MOH in the current dietary exposure estimations, the WG and Panel followed different steps, including the exclusion of data with anomalous MOAH/MOSH ratios that might indicate the presence of interferences or wrong analyses; the use, whenever possible, of the reported data on the whole hump rather than the individual C-fractions to derive total MOAH/MOSH values in the samples; and the identification and exclusion of analytical results not complying with JRC guidance on analytical performance requirements (LOQ). The WG is conducting a detailed uncertainty analysis, the results of which will be reflected in the Opinion.

Questions submitted at the time of registration (questions reported as submitted):

Question 3 (Hend Hassan): *Fields in details concern food hygiene.*

Answer (Luisa Ramos Bordajandi): The question is not clear and thus an answer cannot be provided.

Question 4 (Renata Cerqueira): *What that emergent contaminants for future?*

Answer (Luisa Ramos Bordajandi): EFSA has several activities in place to identify emerging risks in the food chain, to support risk managers in anticipating risks and taking effective and timely prevention measures to protect consumers, animals, plants and the environment. For more information about these activities, please see the information related to Emerging Risks at the EFSA website[19].

There were no questions submitted during the meeting.

[19] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/topics/topic/emerging-risks