

10-12 May 2023

13:30-18:00/09:00-18:00/09:00-13:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 30 May 2023

**Location:** webconference

**Attendees:**

■ **Panel Members:**

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

■ **Hearing Experts<sup>3</sup>:**

Lars Barregård (for Item 6.4), Andy Hart (for Item 6.2)

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

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

■ **EFSA:**

**FEEDCO Unit:**

Maria Anastassiadou, Anna Christodoulidou, Federico Cruciani, Chantra Eskes, Mary Gilsenan, Eirini Kouloura, Luisa Ramos Bordajandi, Elena Rovesti, Hans Steinkellner, Tuuli Tauriainen, Magdalena Wagner, Ben Whitty

**MESE Unit:**

Jose Cortiñas Abrahantes (for Item 6.4), Petra Gergelova (for Item 6.1), José Angel Gómez Ruiz (for Item 6.3 and Item 7.3)

**iDATA Unit**

Sofia Ioannidou (for Item 6.2)

**RAL Unit**

Laure Excoffon (or Item 7.3)

**CORSER Unit**

Maria Chiara Petrolini (for Item 7.3)

■ **Observers:**

Not applicable

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<sup>1</sup> Absent on 11 May from 11.00-12.00 CET.

<sup>2</sup> Absent on 12 May.

<sup>3</sup> 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](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/expertselection.pdf)



■ **Others:**

Not applicable

## **1. Welcome and apologies for absence**

The Chair welcomed the participants to this Plenary meeting.

## **2. Adoption of agenda**

The agenda was adopted without changes.

## **3. Declarations of Interest**

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence<sup>4</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management<sup>5</sup>, 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, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

## **4. Agreement of the minutes of the 131<sup>st</sup> Plenary meeting held on 14-16 March 2023**

The minutes of the 131<sup>st</sup> Plenary meeting held on 14-16 March 2023 were agreed by written procedure on 10 April 2023<sup>6</sup>.

## **5. Report on written procedures since the 131<sup>st</sup> Plenary meeting held on 14-16 March 2023**

None.

## **6. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion and possible adoption**

### **6.1. Draft Opinion on the risk for human and animal health related to the presence of Polychlorinated Naphthalenes in food and feed (EFSA-Q-2020-00663)<sup>7</sup>**

The Chair of the WG on PCNs in feed and food gave an overview of the progress of the work for this mandate and presented the toxicity data in experimental animals. The section under Data and Methodologies related to Human dietary exposure assessment

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<sup>4</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/policy\\_independence.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf)

<sup>5</sup>

[http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/competing\\_interest\\_management\\_17.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/it/events/131st-plenary-meeting-contam-panel>

<sup>7</sup> <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2020-00663>



was discussed, as well as the main sections on Toxicokinetics, Previously reported occurrence data in the open literature, Food processing, Current dietary exposure assessment for humans and Exposure of high and frequent consumers of fish meat. These sections were endorsed by the CONTAM Panel with minor amendments suggested. The WG will consider the comments received by the Panel and update the relevant parts of the draft Opinion accordingly.

## **6.2. Draft Opinion on the update of the risk assessment of polybrominated diphenyl ethers in food (EFSA-Q-2018-00432)<sup>8</sup>**

The Chair of the WG on BFRs in food provided an overview of the modifications introduced into the draft Opinion since the last Plenary and presented the draft Opinion for possible endorsement for public consultation. The CONTAM Panel discussed and agreed to the changes introduced in the sections on Consideration of critical effects, Dose-response analysis, Risk characterisation, Uncertainty analysis and Conclusions. The Abstract and Summary were agreed and endorsed. The Panel endorsed the draft Opinion for public consultation.

## **6.3. Draft Opinion on the risk for animal health and transfer from feed to food of animal origin related to the presence of Ochratoxin A in feed (EFSA-Q-2021-00699)<sup>9</sup>**

The Chair of the WG and EFSA WG coordinator presented the activities carried out to date on the mandate by the WG on OTA in feed. The sections on Occurrence in feed and Toxicokinetics for most animal species of the draft Opinion were discussed and endorsed by the CONTAM Panel.

## **6.4. Draft Opinion on the update of the risk assessment of inorganic arsenic in food (EFSA-Q-2021-00250)<sup>10</sup>**

The Chair of the WG on Arsenic in food presented an overview about the approach to hazard assessment as agreed at the 131<sup>st</sup> Plenary by a majority of the Panel members together with an overview about the outcome. This was followed by a presentation of a Panel member having a divergent view regarding, e.g. the choice of the BMR, and suggesting an alternative approach. The presentations were followed by an extensive discussion in which a majority of the Panel retained the approach previously agreed, albeit suggestions were made such as, e.g. additional calculations with different BMRs. Furthermore, it was agreed to derive a single Reference Point instead of multiple Reference Points for each adverse outcome. The WG will consider the comments received by the Panel and update the draft Opinion where relevant. A discussion of the respective text in the Opinion will take place at the 133<sup>rd</sup> CONTAM Panel Plenary.

## **6.5. Draft Opinion on the risk for animal health related to the presence of Ergot alkaloids in feed (EFSA-Q-2021-00697)<sup>11</sup>**

The EFSA WG coordinator provided an update on the progress of the mandate by the WG on Ergot alkaloids in feed. The new section Interpretation of the Terms of Reference was presented to the Panel and endorsed with minor changes. In addition,

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<sup>8</sup> <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2018-00432>

<sup>9</sup> <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2021-00699>

<sup>10</sup> <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2021-00250>

<sup>11</sup> <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2021-00697>



the CONTAM Panel discussed and agreed to the changes introduced in the sections on Chemistry, Previous assessments, Legislation and Toxicity in pigs, which had already been endorsed by the Panel with minor suggestions for changes.

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

### **7.1. European Commission**

The European Commission representatives 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. The CONTAM Panel was informed about Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/915 of 25 April 2023 on maximum levels for certain contaminants in food that repeals Regulation (EC) No 1881/2006.

### **7.2. Updates from CONTAM Panel Working groups**

- **WG on BFRs in food**

See Item 6.2.

- **WG on Feed detoxification processes**

The Chair of the WG informed that the WG started the preparation of guidance to the feed business operators regarding the information needed to support the risk assessment of the detoxification processes applied to products intended for animal feed (as provided for in Directive 2002/32/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and in line with the acceptability criteria of the Regulation (EU) 2015/786).

- **WG on MOH in food**

The Chair of the WG provided an overview of the comments received during the public consultation of the draft Opinion on the update of the risk assessment of MOH in food that was open from 15 March to 30 April 2023. The WG is considering the comments received and working towards finalisation of the Opinion.

- **WG on Arsenic in food**

See Item 6.4.

- **WG on PCNs in feed and food**

See Item 6.1.

- **WG on Ergot alkaloids in feed**

See Item 6.5.

- **WG on Ochratoxin A in feed**

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See Item 6.3.

- **WG on Ambrosia seeds viability**

The Chair of the WG on Ambrosia seeds viability provided an overview of the information available to address the mandate and on the progress of the work. The draft Opinion will be presented for discussion and possible adoption at the next Plenary meeting.

### **7.3. Updates from EFSA**

**Beauvericin/Enniatins (BEA/ENNs):** At the 131<sup>st</sup> CONTAM Plenary meeting it was agreed to conduct a more in-depth analysis of the new information available, as to assess the suitability to update the CONTAM Panel Opinion on BEA/ENN in food and feed from 2014. After a short discussion, it was considered that the data base for a chronic toxicity assessment of both compounds was probably insufficient, while that for a genotoxicity assessment might be sufficient. Based on these discussions, the EC informed the Panel about their intention to submit a mandate restricted to the assessment of the genotoxicity of BEA.

**Cadmium:** A brief overview of new available information, occurrence data and published literature on Cadmium since the 2009 CONTAM Panel Opinion on Cadmium in food was provided. Panel members will check if there are any other ongoing or planned activities on Cadmium to be shared with the Panel.

**PFASs:** An update was given on the discussions that took place at the EFSA Advisory Forum on ongoing activities on PFAS. Furthermore, it was agreed that an update will be given to the Panel later in the year on the project investigating the use of NAMs to address PFASs immunotoxicity.

**Other matters:** The Panel members were introduced to the new 'Expert's corner' microsite. This platform provides essential resources and information to the EFSA experts, to facilitate collaboration and communication. A survey to collect comments and difficulties encountered when working on Teams was launched.

### **7.4. Updates from the Scientific Committee and its Working Groups of interest to the CONTAM Panel**

The CONTAM Panel Chair reported on matters important for the work of the Panel that were discussed at the last two meetings of the EFSA Scientific Committee held on 15-16 February<sup>12</sup> and on 19-20 April<sup>13</sup>. For the Working Groups of interest for the CONTAM Panel, updates were provided on the activities of the Cross-cutting WGs on Genotoxicity, and on Benchmark dose, as well as on the activities of the SC WGs on Protocol development, and on the Update of the risk-benefit assessment guidance. Updates were also given on the progress of the SC WG on Fluoride. Information will be shared as soon as available on the upcoming work on biomarkers of effects and appraisal of epidemiological studies.

## **8. Any other business**

Not applicable.

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<sup>12</sup> <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/112th-plenary-meeting-scientific-committee>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/113th-plenary-meeting-scientific-committee>