

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN

CONTAM Panel Plenary meeting



30 - 31 January 2024
09:30-17:30 / 09:30-17:00
MINUTES - Agreed on 14 February 2024

Location: Teleconference

Attendees:

- Panel Members:
Margherita Bignami, Laurent Bodin, James Kevin Chipman, Jesús Del Mazo, Bettina Grasl-Kraupp, Christer Hogstrand, Laurentius (Ron) Hoogenboom, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Carlo Nebbia, Elsa Nielsen¹, Evangelia Ntzani, Annette Petersen, Salomon Sand, Dieter Schrenk (Chair), Tanja Schwerdtle, Christiane Vleminckx, Heather Wallace
- Hearing Experts²:
Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
EC: Frans Verstraete, Veerle Vanheusden, Ivana Poustkova (DG-SANTE)
- EFSA:
FEEDCO_CONTAM: Maria Anastassiadou, Mst Tazmin Akhter, Anna Christodoulidou, Chantra Eskes, Mary Gilsean (HoU), Elena Gkimprixi, Eirini Kouloura, Marianna Kujawa, Luisa Ramos Bordajandi, Elena Rovesti, Hans Steinkellner, Tuuli Tauriainen
- Others:
MESE_Analysis: Petra Gergelova, Francesca Riolo, Jose Ángel Gómez Ruiz
FIP: Gloria López-Gálvez

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Panel members

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 Working Group 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.

¹ On 31 January 2024 participated until 15.30 CET.

² 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/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

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



4. Agreement of the minutes of the 137th CONTAM Panel Plenary meeting held on 28-30 November 2024, in Parma

The minutes of the 137th Panel plenary meeting were agreed by written procedure on 15 December 2023.

5. Report on written procedure

None.

6. Scientific output(s) submitted for discussion/adoption

6.1 Draft opinion on the update of tetrabromobisphenol A (TBBPA) in food. (EFSA-Q-2018-00434)

The Chair of the WG on BFRs in food presented the draft Opinion on the update of the risk assessment of TBBPA and its derivatives in food for discussion and possible endorsement of selected sections. The CONTAM Panel members went through the sections on Methodology for occurrence/exposure assessment, Occurrence submitted to EFSA, Exposure assessment, Food processing, Occurrence an exposure reported in the literature, Non-dietary sources of exposure and some sections under Toxicity in experimental animals. The Panel provided comments to the draft sections presented and endorsed these sections. The Panel also discussed considerations on the selection of the critical endpoint and critical studies. The WG will take into consideration the feedback received and will continue with the development of the draft Opinion.

6.2 Draft opinion on on small organoarsenic species in food. (EFSA-Q-2021-00496)

The occurrence data and methodology used for the exposure assessment were presented together with the results for the different exposure scenarios. The CONTAM Panel endorsed the proposed approach providing comments for refinement. The sections on Methodology for occurrence/exposure assessment and Occurrence data submitted to EFSA were endorsed. The Chair of the WG presented the proposed approach for the risk assessment. Both data for hazard assessment and on occurrence of small organoarsenic species in food were limited and therefore a risk assessment could only be carried out for certain compounds. The Panel endorsed the approach for risk assessment providing advice regarding the application of uncertainty factors. The Panel then went through the sections on Toxicokinetics, Biomarkers, Toxicity in experimental animals, Cell transformation, Mode of action, Observations in humans, Selection of critical effects and Dose response assessment. All these sections were endorsed pending updates where requested. The WG will take into consideration the feedback received and will continue with the development of the draft Opinion.

6.3 Draft opinion on on the risk for human and animal health related to the presence of Polychlorinated Naphthalenes in food and feed. (EFSA-Q-2020-00663)

The Chair of the WG on PCNs presented the draft Opinion for discussion of the public consultation comments and for possible adoption. The CONTAM Panel discussed the replies proposed by the WG on PCNs to the stakeholders' comments and suggested some amendments. The updates introduced in the draft Opinion following the public consultation



comments were also discussed and were agreed by the Panel. The Panel adopted the Opinion and thanked the WG members and EFSA staff for their work.

7. Other scientific topics for information/discussion

7.1 Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability – One Substance One Assessment (CSS-1S1A). Impact for EFSA.

EFSA staff presented an overview of the Chemicals strategy for sustainability (CSS) focusing on the One Substance One Assessment (1S1A) and the activities that EFSA is performing to implement the strategy. The CSS was published in October 2020; the strategy aims to have an EU toxic-free environment by 2050. EFSA is contributing to the relevant strategy's objectives, among which the 'One substance one assessment' (1S1A). An outline of the main activities being conducted in EFSA to implement the CSS-1S1A and a summary of the items which will impact EFSA's work was provided; among the latter, the early identification of cross-cutting substances, the data sharing and the study on mapping data requirements and risk assessment methodologies were presented. A note on the EU Common data platform on chemicals was also given. The legal proposals supporting the 1S1A already adopted by the European Commission, i.e. CLP Revision, Regulation on data and the Re-attribution of tasks, were also announced.

8. Feedback from the Scientific Committee/ Scientific Panels/EFSA/ EC

8.1 Scientific Committee

There has been no meeting of the EFSA Scientific Committee since the last CONTAM Plenary meeting in November 2023. The next meeting will be held on 5-6 February 2024 and the CONTAM Panel Chair informed on the items planned for discussion.

For the Working Groups of interest to the CONTAM Panel, updates were provided on the activities of the Cross-cutting WGs on Genotoxicity, on Uncertainty, on Benchmark dose, Biomarkers of effects, appraisal of Epidemiological studies, Update of the risk-benefit assessment Guidance, and on Fluoride.

8.2 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.

8.3 Scientific Panel(s) including their Working Groups

- **WG on BFRs in food**



See Item 6.1. The Chair of the WG provided an overview of the data available and progress for the draft Opinion on the update of the risk assessment of brominated phenols and their derivatives in food.

- **WG on Feed detoxification processes**

None

- **WG on Arsenic in food**

See Item 6.2.

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

See Item 6.3.

8.4 EFSA

The CONTAM Panel members were informed about the on going joint FEEDAP-CONTAM self task mandate on animal exposure assessment. This task started in December 2023, and is being carried out by a subgroup of the FEEDAP Animal nutrition WG, with the participation of a CONTAM Panel member⁵. The discussion on the diets of the different animal species will continue in the upcoming meetings.

The CONTAM Panel members were informed about the discussions from the CONTAM pre-plenary meeting which took place on 22 December 2023 (see Item 10). The meeting addressed the FEEDAP Panel approach to make use of experimental animal data to derive safe levels for food-producing and non-food producing animals. The main items addressed included i) the Feed Additives maximum safe concentration in feed for Targets Species (FACTS) calculator, ii) the proposed use of the FEEDAP approach within CONTAM Opinions, iii) the impact of species related differences in toxicokinetics and toxicodynamics, iv) general discussions, v) possible ways forward and next steps. In particular, it was agreed that it would be useful to develop a guidance document to harmonise within EFSA the use of toxicological studies with laboratory animals to derive reference values for food-producing and non-food producing animals.

The CONTAM Panel members were informed about i) the preparatory work for the expected upcoming mandates, ii) the availability of a new harmonised template for the chapters on occurrence and dietary exposure assessment for the CONTAM Opinions, as well as iii) about the meeting plan for the upcoming months.

9. Any other business

None.

10. Preparatory meetings

Since the last 137th Plenary meeting, a preparatory meeting chaired by EFSA staff was held on the 22nd December 2023 to discuss together with experts from the CONTAM and FEEDAP Panels about

⁵ Minutes available online: <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/wgs/feed-additives/wg-animal-nutrition-2018-2023.pdf>



the use of experimental animal data to derive safe levels for food-producing and non-food producing animals (FEEDAP approach). See Item 8.4.

11. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 23 February 2024, via teleconference.