

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN

CONTAM Panel Plenary meeting



23 February 2024

09:30-17:30

MINUTES - Agreed on 7 March 2024

Location: Teleconference

Attendees:

o Panel Members:

Margherita Bignami, Laurent Bodin, James Kevin Chipman, Jesús Del Mazo, Bettina Grasl-Kraupp, Christer Hogstrand¹, Laurentius (Ron) Hoogenboom, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Carlo Nebbia, Elsa Nielsen, Evangelia Ntzani, Annette Petersen², Salomon Sand, Dieter Schrenk (Chair), Tanja Schwerdtle, Christiane Vleminckx, Heather Wallace

o Hearing Experts³:

Diane Benford (item 6.1), Federico Cruciani (item 6.1 and 6.2), Henri Schroeder (item 6.2)

o European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

EC: Frans Verstraete, Veerle Vanheusden, Ivana Poustkova (DG-SANTE)

o EFSA:

FEEDCO_CONTAM: Mst Tazmin Akhter, Anna Christodoulidou, Chantra Eskes, Mary Gilsean (HoU), Elena Gkimprizi, Eirini Kouloura, Marianna Kujawa, Luisa Ramos Bordajandi, Elena Rovesti, Hans Steinkellner, Tuuli Tauriainen

o Others:

MESE_Analysis: Jose Ángel Gómez Ruiz

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 Independence⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁵, 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 Absent 14.00-15.30 CET.

² Absent from 13.00 CET onwards.

³ 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>

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

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



4. Agreement of the minutes of the 138th CONTAM Panel Plenary meeting held on 30-31 January 2024, tele-conference

The minutes of the 138th Panel plenary meeting were agreed by written procedure on 14 February 2024.

5. Report on written procedure

In agreement with the Panel Chair, Kevin Chipman has been nominated as Chair of the WG on perchlorate, which will work on an updated scientific Opinion on the risks for human health related to the presence of perchlorate in food.

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

6.1 **Draft Opinion on on small organoarsenic species in food. (EFSA-Q-2021-00496)**

The Chair of the WG on Arsenic presented the draft Opinion on small organoarsenic species in food for discussion and possible endorsement of selected sections. The Panel went through the section on Derivation of reference points and approach to risk assessment and Risk characterisation, and endorsed these sections pending agreed updates. The Panel also discussed the sections on Occurrence data submitted to EFSA and Exposure assessment, and the way to express the occurrence data submitted to EFSA. The structure and content of the section on Uncertainty analysis was discussed and agreed. The WG will take into consideration the feedback received and will continue with the development of the draft Opinion.

6.2 **Draft Opinion on the update of tetrabromobisphenol A (TBBPA) and its derivatives 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 pending sections under Toxicity in experimental animals (Immunotoxicity, Neurotoxicity/neurobehavioural effects, Genotoxicity, Carcinogenicity) as well as through the sections on Observations in humans, Mode of action, Consideration of critical effects, Dose-response analysis, Approach for risk characterisation and Risk characterisation. The Panel provided comments to the draft sections presented and endorsed these sections. The WG will take into consideration the feedback received and will continue with the development of the draft Opinion.

7. Any other business

The members were informed on the recent public consultations launched by the EFSA Scientific Committee on the 'Draft Guidance on Risk-Benefit Assessment of Foods, Update'⁶ and on the 'Draft Guidance on appraising and integrating evidence from epidemiological studies for use in EFSA's scientific assessments'⁷.

⁶ <https://connect.efsa.europa.eu/RM/s/publicconsultation2/a0ITk0000009vS5/pc0821>

⁷ <https://connect.efsa.europa.eu/RM/s/publicconsultation2/a0ITk0000006h5V/pc0806>



8. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 19-21 March 2024, in Parma (OPEN to Observers).