

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN

CONTAM Panel Plenary meeting



29 – 30 April 2024
09:30-17:30 / 09:30-17:30
MINUTES - Agreed on 13 May 2024

Location: Teleconference

Attendees:

- Panel Members:
Margherita Bignami, Laurent Bodin, James Kevin Chipman, Jesús Del Mazo, Bettina Grasl-Kraupp¹, Christer Hogstrand, Laurentius (Ron) Hoogenboom, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Carlo Nebbia², Elsa Nielsen, Evangelia Ntzani³, Annette Petersen⁴, Salomon Sand⁵, Dieter Schrenk (Chair), Tanja Schwerdtle⁶, Christiane Vleminckx, Heather Wallace
- Hearing Experts⁷:
Federico Cruciani
- 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 Gkimprizi, Eirini Kouloura, Marianna Kujawa, Luisa Ramos Bordajandi, Elena Rovesti, Hans Steinkellner, Tuuli Tauriainen
FEEDCO_FEEDAP: Matteo Innocenti
- Others:
MESE_Analysis: Francesca Riolo, Jose Ángel Gómez Ruiz
KNOW: Angelo Maggiore

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 Independence⁸ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁹, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by

¹ Absent on Day 1 from 17.00 CET onwards, and on Day 2 participated from 10.00 CET onwards.

² Absent on Day 2 from 17.00 CET onwards.

³ On Day 1 participated from 10.00 CET onwards.

⁴ Absent on Day 1 from 16.30 CET onwards.

⁵ Absent on Day 1 from 14.30-16.00 CET, and on Day 2 from 11.00 CET onwards.

⁶ Absent on Day 1 from 15.50 CET onwards, and on Day 2 from 9.30-10.30 CET and 15.00-16.30 CET.

⁷ 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>

⁸ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁹ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



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.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 140th CONTAM Panel Plenary meeting held on 19-21 March 2024, in Parma

The minutes of the 140th Panel plenary meeting were agreed by written procedure on 9 April 2024.

5. Report on written procedure

None.

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

6.1 Draft Opinion on the update of the Opinion on brominated phenols and their derivatives in food ([EFSA-Q-2018-00435](#))

The Chair of the WG on BFRs in food presented the draft Opinion on the update of the risk assessment of brominated phenols and their derivatives in food for discussion and possible endorsement of selected sections. The CONTAM Panel members went through the sections on Toxicokinetics, Toxicity in experimental animals, Observations in humans, Mode of action, Consideration of critical effects, dose-response assessment and Approach for risk characterisation. In addition, the sections on Methodology for occurrence/exposure assessment, Occurrence data submitted to EFSA, Exposure assessment, Food processing, Occurrence and exposure reported in the literature and Non-dietary sources of exposure. The Panel provided comments to the draft sections presented that will be taken into consideration by the WG to continue with the development of the draft Opinion.

6.2 Draft Scientific Statement on animal exposure assessment for CONTAM and FEEDAP Opinions ([EFSA-Q-2023-00406](#))

EFSA staff presented an update from the FEEDAP Animal Nutrition WG, tasked with delivering the output for this mandate. The WG approached the CONTAM Panel with a list of animals for which the dietary exposure assessment should be derived as a standard for CONTAM Opinions. The list was endorsed by the CONTAM Panel. The final output for the mandate will be presented to the CONTAM Panel for endorsement on 4th June and to the FEEDAP Panel for adoption on 6th June 2024.

7. Other scientific topics for information/discussion

7.1 Emerging chemical risk identification at EFSA: the SCREENER project

EFSA staff presented an overview of the activities related to emerging chemical risks conducted in the context of EFSA's environmental scanning process. The focus was on the SCREENER project (Screening for emerging chemical risks in the food chain). The SCREENER project aims at carrying out an in-depth evaluation of previously prioritised 212 REACH chemicals, and additional substances detected in food samples with a focus on halogenated organic chemicals not included in the previous list. Multi-residue high-resolution mass spectrometry-based analytical methods were developed and validated for qualitative



screening of the above-mentioned chemicals in plant and animal-based matrices. The detection of the halogenated organic chemicals was performed through non-target analysis in the same food items. Fifteen chemicals (twelve REACH chemicals and three halogenated organic compounds) were prioritised for quantitative analysis. Finally, possible methodologies for hazard characterisation, exposure assessment, and preliminary characterisation of potential emerging risks were presented for these fifteen chemicals.

8. Update on new mandates

8.1 Request for an update of the scientific Opinion on lectins in food

The CONTAM Panel agreed with the proposal from the EFSA Secretariat to establish an ad-hoc WG for the preparation of the Scientific Opinion. A Chair was nominated at the 140th CONTAM Plenary meeting. An overview presentation was given to the CONTAM Panel on the Background and Terms of Reference for the mandate, the composition of the WG and on the agreed timelines.

8.2 Request for a scientific Opinion on Δ^8 -THC establishment of a health-based guidance value

The CONTAM Panel agreed with the proposal from the EFSA Secretariat to establish an ad-hoc WG for the preparation of the Scientific Opinion. A Chair was nominated at the 140th CONTAM Plenary meeting. The responsible scientific officer presented to the CONTAM Panel the Background and the Terms of Reference for the mandate, the composition of the WG and the agreed timelines.

8.3 Request for a scientific Opinion on the update fo the 2018 Opinion on PCDD/Fs and DL-PCBs in food and feed on the basis of the new 2022 WHO TEF values

The CONTAM Panel agreed with the proposal from the EFSA Secretariat to establish an ad-hoc WG for the preparation of the Scientific Opinion. A Chair was nominated at the 140th CONTAM Plenary meeting. An overview presentation was given to the CONTAM Panel on the Background and Terms of Reference for the mandate, the composition of the WG and on the agreed timelines.

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

9.1 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.

9.2 Scientific Panel(s) including their Working Groups

- **WG on BFRs in food**

See Item 6.1.



- **WG on Feed detoxification processes**

None

- **WG on Arsenic in food**

The Chair of the WG reported that the draft Opinion on small organoarsenic species is under public consultation (deadline for commenting 7 May). The WG will finalise the draft considering the comments received. The draft Opinion on complex organoarsenic species is progressing well and will be discussed at the upcoming Plenary meetings.

- **WG on Animal exposure assessment (FEEDAP Panel Animal Nutrition WG)**

See Item 6.2.

- **WG on Lectins**

The Chair of the WG informed the CONTAM Panel about the discussions held during the 1st WG Lectins on April 10th, on the project plan and timelines. [Link](#) to the minutes of the WG meeting.

- **WG on BEA genotoxicity**

The Chair of the WG reported that the literature for this mandate has already been retrieved, that a first WG meeting has taken place and that a Hearing Expert has joined the WG to support in the evaluation of the in silico data.

- **WG on Perchlorate update**

The Chair of the WG provided an update on the activity on the mandate on perchlorate in food, in particular regarding the output of the extensive literature search. The second WG meeting will take place on 7th May 2024.

- **WG Δ^8 -THC**

The CONTAM Panel was informed about the discussions held during the 1st WG Δ^8 -THC on 11 April, on the project plan and timelines. [Link](#) to the minutes of the WG meeting.

- **WG Dioxins update**

The Chair of the WG informed that the setting up of the WG is on-going and that preliminary work to tackle this mandate has started. The first WG meeting will take place 29 May.

9.3 Scientific Committee

The CONTAM Panel Chair reported on matters important for the work of the Panel that were discussed at the last meeting of the EFSA Scientific Committee held 10-11 April.

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.



9.4 EFSA

The EFSA Executive Director joined the Plenary meeting whereby he acknowledged the members of the CONTAM Panel and exchanged about the achievements and work performed during the 2018-2024 Panel mandate.

The CONTAM Panel members were informed about the dates of the upcoming plenary meetings.

10. Any other business

None.

11. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 13 May 2024, via teleconference.