

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON
CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN
CONTAM Panel Plenary meeting



11 December 2024
9:00-17:30
MINUTES - Agreed on 3 January 2024

Location: EFSA (Parma)

Attendees:

o Panel Members:

Agneta Åkesson¹, Vasileios Bampidis², Margherita Bignami, Laurent Bodin, James Kevin Chipman, Gisela Degen, Antonio Hernández-Jerez, Tim Hofer, Christer Hogstrand, Helle Katrine Knutsen (Chair)³, Stefano Landi, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Kyriaki Machera, Evangelia Ntzani⁴, Salomon Sand, Katharina Vejdovszky, Barbara Viviani,

o Hearing Experts⁵:

Thor Halldorsson (item 6.1)

o European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

Frans Verstraete (DG-SANTE)

o EFSA:

FEEDCO_CONTAM: Lydia Alarcón Asensio, Maria Anastassiadou, Anna Christodoulidou, Chantra Eskes (CONTAM Team Leader), Mary Gilsenan (FEEDCO Head of Unit), Eirini Kouloura, Mariano López Romano, Natasa Mikulic, Luisa Ramos Bordajandi (Panel Coordinator), Anamarija Romac, Elena Rovesti, Hans Steinkellner, Tuuli Tauriainen.

o Others:

MESE_Analysis: Olaf Mosbach-Schulz, Francesca Riolo, Efisio Solazzo

o Observers:

Federico Cruciani

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Guido Rychen, Tanja Schwerdtle, and Ivana Poutskova and Veerle Vanheusden (DG-SANTE).

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Panel members

¹ Absent from 12.00 to 16.30 CET.

² Absent from 12.00 to 14.30 CET.

³ Absent from 13.30 CET onwards.

⁴ As first vice-Chair of the CONTAM Panel, she acted as Panel Chair from 13.30 CET onwards.

⁵ As defined in Article 34 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>



In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁶ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁷, 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.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 147th CONTAM Panel Plenary meeting held on 12-14 November 2024, Parma

The minutes of the 147th Panel plenary meeting were agreed by written procedure on 28 November 2024.

5. Report on written procedure

The following WG Chairs was nominated by written procedure and agreed by Panel Chair:

Anna Christodoulidou (EFSA staff) has been nominated as Chair of the WG Semicarbazide in food.

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

6.1 Draft Opinion on the update of the Opinion on perchlorate in food ([EFSA-Q-2024-00168](#))

The Chair of the WG on Perchlorate and the responsible Scientific Officer presented the draft Opinion on the updated assessment of the risk to human health related to the presence of perchlorate in food, for possible endorsement for public consultation. The CONTAM Panel went through the new sections presented, i.e. Risk of bias assessment, Derivation of a HBGV, Occurrence data, Dietary exposure assessment, Reported non-dietary sources of exposure, Risk characterisation, Uncertainty analysis, Conclusions, Recommendations, Abstract and Summary. The Panel also went through the changes introduced to address comments made at previous meetings and agreed to them. The Panel endorsed the draft Opinion for public consultation, taking into consideration the changes requested by the Panel during the meeting.

7. Updates on new mandates

7.1 Final mandates received

The CONTAM Panel received two new mandates as described below (more information available at <https://open.efsa.europa.eu>):

- Request for a Scientific Opinion on the risks for human health related to the presence of **semicarbazide (SEM) in food** ([EFSA-Q-2024-00581 / M-2024-00098](#)).
- Request for a Scientific Opinion on the safety of smoked meat and smoked meat products, smoked fish and smoked fishery products and smoked cheese and smoked dairy products following the use of **conventional smoking processes** ([EFSA-Q-2024-00692 / M-2024-00091](#)).

⁶ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁷ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



7.2 Panel feedback on the need for updated assessments

The CONTAM Team Leader asked for volunteers from the CONTAM Panel to evaluate, upon request from EC, whether new evidence is available which would warrant an update of the following EFSA Opinions: i) the 2010 EFSA Opinion on melamine in food and feed⁸, and ii) the 2020 EFSA Opinion on the risk assessment of glycoalkaloids in feed and food⁹.

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

8.1 European Commission

This item was postponed to the next meeting.

8.2 Scientific Panel(s) including their Working Groups

This item was postponed to the next meeting.

8.3 Scientific Committee

The CONTAM Panel second vice-Chair reported on matters discussed at the last meeting of the EFSA Scientific Committee (SC) held 20-21 November 2024, which addressed mainly the draft Scientific Opinion on Bromide, on Fluoride and on updates of SC guidances. For the SC Working Groups of interest to the CONTAM Panel, updates were provided on the activities of the Cross-cutting WG on Genotoxicity.

8.4 EFSA

The CONTAM Panel informed about the meeting dates in 2025. An overview of the achievements in 2024 was given with special thanks to the members of the CONTAM Panel 2018-2024, CONTAM Panel 2024-2029, CONTAM Team and EFSA staff from the Units providing support to the activities of the CONTAM Panel.

9. Any other business

None.

10. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 22-23 January 2025 (WEB).

⁸ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/fr/efsajournal/pub/1573>

⁹ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/6222>