

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN

9th Working Group meeting on Semicarbazide

16 January 2026
14:00-18:00
MINUTES - Agreed on 16 January 2026



Location: Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Margherita Bignami, Laurence Castle, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Kyriaki Machera, Carlo Nebbia
- Hearing Experts¹:
Not Applicable
- Applicants participating in a technical hearing²:
Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
EC: Ivana Poustkova
- EFSA:
CONTAM Unit: Anna Christodoulidou, Lydia Alarcon Asensio
MESE Unit: Francesca Riolo

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups 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 and the preparatory meetings listed under agenda item "Preparatory meeting/s with Risk Assessment". No conflicts of interest related to the issues discussed in these meetings have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the Working Group members at the beginning of these meetings.

¹ As defined in Article 34 of the document "Implementing Rule of the Management Board of the European Food Safety Authority laying down the rules on the selection, appointment and operations of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and of their Working Groups":
<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/paneloperation.pdf>

² As defined in the "EFSA's Catalogue of support initiatives during the life cycle of applications for regulated products":
<https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.2903/sp.efsa.2021.EN-6472>

³ https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf

⁴ https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-2024.pdf



IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 8th Working Group meeting held on 17 December 2025, via webconference

The minutes of the 8th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 17 December 2025.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

- a. Discussion of the EFSA scientific opinion on the risk for public health related to the presence of Semicarbazide in food ([EFSA-Q-2024-00581](#))**

The WG discussed the sections of the draft scientific opinion on Toxicokinetics, General toxicity, Mode of action, Occurrence data and Exposure assessment and finalise them for presentation to the CONTAM Panel. The list of tasks for next meeting was agreed on.

VI. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 23 January 2026, via web conference.

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN

8th Working Group meeting on Semicarbazide

17 December 2025

9:00-13:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 17 December 2025



Location: Parma

Attendees:

- Working Group Members¹:
Laurence Castle, Jean-Charles Leblanc
- Hearing Experts²:
- Applicants participating in a technical hearing³:
Not applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Frans Verstraete⁴
- EFSA:
FEEDCO Unit: Anna Christodoulidou
MESE Unit: Francesca Riolo
- Others:
Not applicable

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁵ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁶, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting and the preparatory meetings listed under agenda item "Preparatory meeting/s with Risk Assessment". No conflicts of interest related to the issues discussed in these meetings have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the Working Group members at the beginning of these meetings.

² As defined in Article 34 of the document "Implementing Rule of the Management Board of the European Food Safety Authority laying down the rules on the selection, appointment and operations of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and of their Working Groups":
<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/paneloperation.pdf>

³ As defined in the "EFSA's Catalogue of support initiatives during the life cycle of applications for regulated products":
<https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.2903/sp.efsa.2021.EN-6472>

⁴ From 12.15 on

⁵ https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf

⁶ https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-2024.pdf



IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 5th Working Group meeting held on 12-13th November 2025, in Parma

The minutes of the 6th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 13th November 2025.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

- a. Discussion of the EFSA scientific opinion on the risk for public health related to the presence of Semicarbazide in food ([EFSA-Q-2024-00581](#))**

The WG discussed the sections of the draft scientific opinion on occurrence and exposure.

VI. Any Other Business

None.

VII. Next meeting

The next meeting will be on 16 January.

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN

7th Working Group meeting on Semicarbazide

12-13 November 2025
9:30-18:30/9:30-13:30
MINUTES - Agreed on 13 November 2025



Location: Parma

Attendees:

- Working Group Members¹:
Margherita Bignami, Laurence Castle, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Kyriaki Machera, Carlo Nebbia
- Hearing Experts²:
Romualdo Benigni
- Applicants participating in a technical hearing³:
Not applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Ivana Poustcova⁴, Ulricke Muelow-Stollin
- EFSA:
FEEDCO Unit: Anna Christodoulidou, Anita Radovnikovic*
MESE Unit: Francesca Riolo
- Others:
Not applicable

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁵ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁶, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting and the preparatory meetings listed under agenda item "Preparatory meeting/s with Risk Assessment". No conflicts of interest related to the issues discussed in these meetings have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the Working Group members at the beginning of these meetings.

² As defined in Article 34 of the document "Implementing Rule of the Management Board of the European Food Safety Authority laying down the rules on the selection, appointment and operations of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and of their Working Groups":
<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/paneloperation.pdf>

³ As defined in the "EFSA's Catalogue of support initiatives during the life cycle of applications for regulated products":
<https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.2903/sp.efsa.2021.EN-6472>

⁴ Present on 12 November

⁵ https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf

⁶ https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-2024.pdf



IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 5th Working Group meeting held on 1st October 2025, via web-conference

The minutes of the 6th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 1st October 2025.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. Discussion of the EFSA scientific opinion on the risk for public health related to the presence of Semicarbazide in food ([EFSA-Q-2024-00581](#))

The WG discussed the draft scientific opinion, focusing in particular on the available occurrence data and exposure scenarios. The possibility to include QSAR and read across approaches was discussed. Draft text, mainly on animal toxicity was reviewed. The list of pending tasks for the next meeting was agreed.

VI. Any Other Business

None.

VII. Next meeting

Possible meeting dates for 2026 were agreed. The next meeting will be on 17 December 2025 (TBC).

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN

6th Working Group meeting on Semicarbazide



01 October 2025
14:00-18:00
MINUTES - Agreed on 01 October 2025

Location: Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Margherita Bignami, Laurence Castle, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Kyriaki Machera, Carlo Nebbia¹
- Hearing Experts²:
Not applicable
- Applicants participating in a technical hearing³:
Not applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not applicable
- EFSA:
FEEDCO Unit: Anna Christodoulidou, Anita Radovnikovic, Lydia Alarcón Asensio
MESE Unit: Francesca Riolo, Octavian Mihalache
- Others:
Not applicable

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups 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 and the preparatory meetings listed under agenda item "Preparatory meeting/s with Risk Assessment". No conflicts of interest related to the issues discussed in these meetings have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the Working Group members at the beginning of these meetings.

¹ Present from 16h onwards

² As defined in Article 34 of the document "Implementing Rule of the Management Board of the European Food Safety Authority laying down the rules on the selection, appointment and operations of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and of their Working Groups":
<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/paneloperation.pdf>

³ As defined in the "EFSA's Catalogue of support initiatives during the life cycle of applications for regulated products":
<https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.2903/sp.efsa.2021.EN-6472>

⁴ https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf

⁵ https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-2024.pdf



IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 5th Working Group meeting held on 22 September 2025, via web-conference

The minutes of the 5th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 22 September 2025.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. Discussion of the EFSA scientific opinion on the risk for public health related to the presence of Semicarbazide in food ([EFSA-Q-2024-00581](#))

The WG discussed the draft scientific opinion, focusing in particular on the available occurrence data from Mintel and the industry data provided to EFSA. Exposure scenarios were discussed and agreed on by the WG. Additional possible sources of semicarbazide were discussed, including feed ingredients. Draft text, mainly on chemistry, analytical methods, MoA and animal toxicity, was reviewed. The list of pending tasks for next meeting was agreed on.

VI. Any Other Business

None.

VII. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 12-13 November 2025, in Parma.

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN

5th Working Group meeting on Semicarbazide

22 September 2025

14:00-18:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 22 September 2025



Location: Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Margherita Bignami, Laurence Castle, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Kyriaki Machera, Carlo Nebbia
- Hearing Experts¹:
Not applicable
- Applicants participating in a technical hearing²:
Not applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
EC: Ivana Poutskova, Frans Verstraete
- EFSA:
FEEDCO Unit: Anna Christodoulidou, Lydia Alarcón Asensio
MESE Unit: Francesca Riolo, Octavian Michalache
- Others:
Not applicable

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups 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 and the preparatory meetings listed under agenda item "Preparatory meeting/s with Risk Assessment". No conflicts of interest related to the issues discussed in these meetings have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the Working Group members at the beginning of these meetings.

¹ As defined in Article 34 of the document "Implementing Rule of the Management Board of the European Food Safety Authority laying down the rules on the selection, appointment and operations of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and of their Working Groups":
<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/paneloperation.pdf>

² As defined in the "EFSA's Catalogue of support initiatives during the life cycle of applications for regulated products":
<https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.2903/sp.efsa.2021.EN-6472>

³ https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf

⁴ https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-2024.pdf



IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 4th Working Group meeting held on 4 July 2025, via web-conference

The minutes of the 4th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 4 July 2025.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. Discussion of the EFSA scientific opinion on the risk for public health related to the presence of Semicarbazide in food ([EFSA-Q-2024-00581](#))

The WG discussed the draft scientific opinion, and in particular assessed the available occurrence data from the literature, the EFSA's database as well as the data provided by stakeholders. Food compositions and foods/ingredients of interest were discussed in order to derive exposure scenarios. The toxicokinetic data available for animals and humans was presented. Within the animal toxicity studies, outcomes of the genotoxicity and carcinogenicity data available was discussed by the WG. The list of pending tasks for next meeting was agreed on.

VI. Any Other Business

None.

VII. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 1 October 2025, via web conference.

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN

4th Working Group meeting on Semicarbazide

4 July 2025

14:00-16:00

MINUTES – Agreed on 4 July



Location: Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members: Laurence Castle, Jean-Charles Leblanc
- Hearing Experts¹: Not Applicable

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
EC: not applicable

- EFSA:
CONTAM Unit: Lydia Alarcón Asensio, Anita Radovnikovic
MESE Unit: Francesca Riolo

- Others:
Not applicable

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

All invited experts attended the meeting.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting and the preparatory meetings listed under agenda item "Preparatory meeting/s". No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in these meetings have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

IV. Scientific topic for discussion

¹ As defined in Article 34 of the document "Implementing Rule of the Management Board of the European Food Safety Authority laying down the rules on the selection, appointment and operations of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and of their Working Groups":
<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/paneloperation.pdf>

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



1.1. Discussion of the EFSA scientific opinion on the risk for public health related to the presence of Semicarbazine in food (EFSA-Q-2024-00581)

The members of the working group discussed the information available so far on the occurrence data on semicarbazide (data submitted as part of the veterinary residues monitoring and data submitted by the stakeholders in response to a [Annual call for continuous collection of chemical contaminants occurrence data in food and feed](#)).

The WG will continue reviewing relevant information to be discussed at the next meeting. Tasks were agreed.

V. Any Other Business

None.

VI. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 22 September 2025.

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN

3rd Working Group meeting on Semicarbazide

27 June 2025

9:00-16:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 27 June 2025



Location: Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members: Margherita Bignami, Laurence Castle, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Kyriaki Machera, Carlo Nebbia
- Hearing Experts¹: Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
EC: Ivana Poustkova
- EFSA:
CONTAM Unit: Lydia Alarcón Asensio, Anna Christodoulidou, Anita Radovnikovic
MESE Unit: Francesca Riolo
- Others:
Not applicable

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting and the preparatory meetings listed under agenda item "Preparatory meeting/s". No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in these meetings have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

¹ As defined in Article 34 of the document "Implementing Rule of the Management Board of the European Food Safety Authority laying down the rules on the selection, appointment and operations of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and of their Working Groups": <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/paneloperation.pdf>

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 2nd Working Group meeting held on 8 May 2025, via web-conference

The minutes of the 2nd Working Group meeting were agreed on 8 May 2025.

V. Scientific topic for discussion

1.1. Discussion of the EFSA scientific opinion on the risk for public health related to the presence of Semicarbazide in food (EFSA-Q-2024-00581)

The members of the working group discussed the information available so far on semicarbazide regarding toxicokinetics, genotoxicity, carcinogenicity, analytical methods, occurrence and processing. The WG will continue reviewing relevant information to be discussed at the next meeting. Tasks were agreed.

VI. Any Other Business

None.

VII. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 22 September 2025.

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN

2nd Working Group meeting on Semicarbazide

8 May 2025

9:00-16:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 8 May 2025



Location: Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members: Margherita Bignami, Laurence Castel, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Kyriaki Machera, Carlo Nebbia
- Hearing Experts¹: Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
EC: Ivana Poustkova, Frans Verstraete
- EFSA:
CONTAM Unit: Lydia Alarcon Asensio, Anna Christodoulidou, Anita Radovnikovic
MESE Unit: Francesca Riolo
- Others:
Not applicable

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting and the preparatory meetings listed under agenda item "Preparatory meeting/s". No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in these meetings have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

¹ As defined in Article 34 of the document "Implementing Rule of the Management Board of the European Food Safety Authority laying down the rules on the selection, appointment and operations of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and of their Working Groups":
<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/paneloperation.pdf>

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-2024.pdf



IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 1st Working Group meeting held on 12 March 2025, via web-conference

The minutes of the 1st Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 12 March 2025.

V. Scientific topic for discussion

a. Expression of interest for collaboration from MS and EU partners

The members of the WG were informed about the expression of interest to this Opinion from Member states and European Partners.

1.1. Discussion of the EFSA scientific opinion on the derivation of a health-based guidance value (HBGV) for Δ 8-tetrahydrocannabinol (Δ 8-THC) (EFSA-Q-2024-00581)

The members of the working group discussed general matters regarding the interpretation of the terms of reference and the retrieval of relevant literature that need to be clarified before they start contributing to the draft Opinion. They reviewed the protocol and the proposed structure of the Opinion and agreed on the tasks and the workplan.

VI. Any Other Business

None.

VII. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 26 and 27 June 2025.

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN

1st Working Group meeting on Semicarbazide in food

12 March 2025
9:00-17:30 CET
Minutes

Location: Webconference

Chair: Anna Christodoulidou

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:

Margherita Bignami, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Kyriaki Machera, Carlo Nebbia, Laurence Castel.

- EFSA:

FEEDCO Unit: Anna Christodoulidou, Anita Radovnikovic, Lydia Alarcon Asensio

MESE: Francesca Riolo

- EC: Frans Verstraete

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair of the WG welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², 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.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

¹ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

² https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-2024.pdf



4.1 Discussion of the EFSA scientific opinion on the risk for public health related to the presence of *Semicarbazide* in food (EFSA-Q-2024-00581)

The members of the Working Group were introduced to the collaborative way of work and discussed the mandate, the interpretation of the terms of reference and previous EFSA evaluations of *Semicarbazide*. The WG was presented with an overview of the results from the 1st step of the systematic literature review, including preliminary numbers of selected relevant articles. A first discussion on the Draft Protocol was performed as well as a discussion on the structure of the draft Opinion on the risk for public health related to the presence of *Semicarbazide* in food.

5. Any Other Business

The possibility for consultation with stakeholders in order to collect unpublished data that may be available was discussed.

6. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 8 May 2025