SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN

9th Working Group meeting on Thebaine and Oripavine

29 May 2026
9:00-13:00
MINUTES - Agreed on June 11, 2026

Location: Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Birgit Dusemund, Antonio Hernández-Jerez, Tim Hofer, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Martin Rose
- Hearing Experts[1]:
NA
- Applicants participating in a technical hearing[2]:
Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
EC: Frans Verstraete
- EFSA:
CONTAM Unit: Anna Christodoulidou

MESE Unit: Zsuzsanna Horvat, MOSBACH-SCHULZ Olaf

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 Independence[3] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[4], 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 27th April 2026, via webconference

The minutes of the 8th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 8 May 2026.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

Discussion of the EFSA scientific opinion on the risk for public health related to the presence of thebaine and oripavine in poppy seeds and derived products (EFSA-Q-2024-00400)

The WG reviewed the sections on analytical methods, occurrence data and exposure, legislation, uncertainty analysis, toxicokinetics, toxicity in humans and animals, genotoxicity, and hazard and risk characterisation. Revisions and follow-up actions were agreed. The sections of the draft opinion will be presented to the Panel at its 161st plenary meeting (16–18 June) for discussion and possible endorsement.

VI. Next meeting

TBC

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN

8th Working Group meeting on Thebaine and Oripavine

27 April 2026
14:00-18:00
MINUTES - Agreed on May 8, 2026

EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY

Location: Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Birgit Dusemund, Antonio Hernández-Jerez, Tim Hofer, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Martin Rose
- Hearing Experts[1]:
Emilio Benfenati
- Applicants participating in a technical hearing[2]:
Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
EC: Frans Verstraete
- EFSA:
CONTAM Unit: Anna Christodoulidou, Giulia Rampazzo

MESE Unit: Zsuzsanna Horvat

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 Independence[3] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[4], 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.

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[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 7th Working Group meeting held on 25th March 2026, via webconference

The minutes of the 7th Working Group meeting were agreed on 3 April 2026.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

Discussion of the EFSA scientific opinion on the risk for public health related to the presence of thebaine and oripavine in poppy seeds and derived products (EFSA-Q-2024-00400)

The WG reviewed and discussed the version of the sections on occurrence data and exposure assessment. Additionally, the sections on genotoxicity and hazard characterisation, Mode of Action, Critical effects, and Derivation of reference points for human health were discussed and reviewed. Tasks for the next meeting were agreed.

VI. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 29 May 2026, via web conference.

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN

7th Working Group meeting on Thebaine and Oripavine

25 March 2026
09:00-16:00
MINUTES - Agreed on March 3, 2026

Location: Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
  Birgit Dusemund, Antonio Hernández-Jerez, Tim Hofer, Jean-Charles Leblanc
- Hearing Experts[1]:
  Emilio Benfenati
- Applicants participating in a technical hearing[2]:
  Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
  EC: Frans Verstraete
- EFSA:
  CONTAM Unit: Anna Christodoulidou, Giulia Rampazzo

  MESE Unit: Zsuzsanna Horvat

  ED Chief Scientific Office: DORNE Jean-Lou Christian Michel

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 Independence[3] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[4], 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.

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[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 6th Working Group meeting held on 21 January2026, via webconference

The minutes of the 6th Working Group meeting were agreed on 21 January 2026.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

Discussion of the EFSA scientific opinion on the risk for public health related to the presence of thebaine and oripavine in poppy seeds and derived products (EFSA-Q-2024-00400)

The WG reviewed and discussed the finalised version of the sections on occurrence data and exposure assessment. Additionally, the sections on Toxicity and hazard characterisation, Mode of Action, Critical effects, and Derivation of reference points for human health were reviewed. Tasks for the next meeting were agreed.

VI. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 27 April 2026, via web conference.

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN

6th Working Group meeting on Thebaine and Oripavine

21 January 2026
09:00-16:00
MINUTES - Agreed on 21 January 2026

EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY

Location: Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
  Birgit Dusemund, Antonio Hernández-Jerez, Tim Hofer, Jean-Charles Leblanc
- Hearing Experts[1]:
  Margherita Bignami, Emilio Benfenati
- Applicants participating in a technical hearing[2]:
  Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
  EC: Frans Verstraete
- EFSA:
  CONTAM Unit: Anna Christodoulidou, Lydia Alarcón Asensio

  MESE Unit: Zsuzsanna Horvat

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 Independence[3] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[4], 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.

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[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 5th Working Group meeting held on 8 December 2025, via webconference

The minutes of the 5th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 8 December 2025.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

Discussion of the EFSA scientific opinion on the risk for public health related to the presence of thebaine and oripavine in poppy seeds and derived products (EFSA-Q-2024-00400)

The WG discussed the clean occurrence data and the outcome of the exposure assessment. Additionally, the sections on Toxicokinetics, Animal toxicity, Human toxicity, Mode of Action and Critical effects were discussed. The approach for the derivation of a reference point was considered. The list of pending tasks for next meeting was agreed on.

VI. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 25 February 2026, via web conference.

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN

5th Working Group meeting on Thebaine and Oripavine

8 December 2025
14:00-18:00
MINUTES - Agreed on 8 December 2025

EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY

Location: Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Birgit Dusemund, Antonio Hernández-Jerez, Tim Hofer , Jean-Charles Leblanc
- Hearing Experts[1]:
Margherita Bignami, Emilio Benfenati
- Applicants participating in a technical hearing[2]:
Not applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Frans Verstraete
- EFSA:
FEEDCO Unit: Anna Christodoulidou, Lydia Alarcón Asensio

MESE Unit: Zsuzsanna Horvath

- 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 Independence[3] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[4], 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.

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[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 28 October 2025, via web-conference

The minutes of the 4th Working Group meeting were agreed during the meeting on 28 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 thebaine and oripavine in poppy seeds and derived products (EFSA-Q-2024- 00400)

The WG discussed the occurrence data from 2018 in comparison to the data from previous years on thebaine and oripavine. The approach to follow for the occurrence and dietary exposure scenarios were agreed on by the WG. The QSAR data for genotoxicity was presented and interpretation of the results was discussed. The sections on Toxicokinetics, Animal toxicity, Human toxicity and Mode of Action were discussed. 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 21 January 2026, via web conference.

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN

4th Working Group meeting on Thebaine and Oripavine

28 October 2025
14:00-18:00
MINUTES - Agreed on 28 October 2025

Location: Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Birgit Dusemund, Antonio Hernández-Jerez, Tim Hofer, Jean Charles Leblanc
- Hearing Experts[1]:
Emilio Benfenati
- Applicants participating in a technical hearing[2]:
Not applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
- EFSA:
FEEDCO Unit: Anna Christodoulidou, Lydia Alarcón Asensio

MESE Unit: Zsuzsanna Horvath

- 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 Independence[3] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[4], 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

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[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 3rd Working Group meeting held on 24 September 2025, via web-conference

The minutes of the 3rd Working Group meeting were agreed during the meeting on 24 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 thebaine and oripavine in poppy seeds and derived products (EFSA-Q-2024- 00400)

The WG discussed the occurrence data and the exposure approaches followed in the 2011 and 2018 EFSA Opinions on poppy alkaloids. The findings were compared to the available thebaine and oripavine occurrence data from the last 10 years and a way forward for the exposure assessment was discussed. The QSAR report was presented to the WG and the use of further computational models was discussed. The sections on Toxicokinetics, Animal toxicity, Developmental and reproductive toxicity, Neurotoxicity, Genotoxicity and Human toxicity were discussed. The list of pending tasks for next meeting was agreed.

VI. Any Other Business

None.

VII. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 8 December 2025, via web conference.

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN

3rd Working Group meeting on Thebaine and Oripavine

24 September 2025
9:00-16:00
MINUTES - Agreed on 24 September 2025

EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY

Location: Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
  Birgit Dusemund, Antonio Hernández-Jerez[1], Tim Hofer[2] , Jean Charles Leblanc
- Hearing Experts[3]:
  Margherita Bignami
- Applicants participating in a technical hearing[4]:
  Not applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
  EC: Frans Verstraete
- EFSA:
  FEEDCO Unit: Anna Christodoulidou, Lydia Alarcón Asensio

  MESE Unit: Zsuzsanna Horvath
- 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 Independence[5] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[6], 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.

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[1] Absent from 9:30 to 10:30
[2] Present form 13:30 to 16:00
[3] 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

[4] 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

[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 2nd Working Group meeting held on 10 June 2025, via web-conference

The minutes of the 2nd Working Group meeting were agreed during the meeting on 10 June 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 thebaine and oripavine in poppy seeds and derived products (EFSA-Q-2024- 00400)

The WG discussed the changes made to the draft protocol sent for publication. The occurrence data available in the EFSA Scientific Datawarehouse (SDWH) on thebaine and oripavine in poppy seeds and other products for the last 10 years was presented. The strategy for data cleaning and the exposure approach were discussed. The animal toxicity studies, in particular acute toxicity, were discussed as well as MoA and biomonitoring data in humans. Toxicokinetic studies mainly on the distribution and metabolism of thebaine and oripavine were reviewed. The list of pending tasks for next meeting was agreed.

VI. Any Other Business

None.

VII. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 28 October 2025, via web conference.

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN

2nd Working Group meeting on Thebaine and Oripavine

10 June 2025
9:00-13:00
MINUTES - Agreed on 10 June 2025

EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY

Location: Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Birgit Dusemund, Antonio Hernández-Jerez, Tim Hofer
- Hearing Experts[1]:
Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
EC: not present
- EFSA:
CONTAM Unit: Anna Christodoulidou, Lydia Alarcón Asensio

MESE Unit: Zsuzsanna Horvath
- Others:
Not applicable

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Jean-Charles Leblanc

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 Independence[2] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[3], 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.

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[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 1st Working Group meeting held on 9 April 2025, in via web-conference

The minutes of the 1st Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 5 March 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 thebaine and oripavine in poppy seeds and derived products (EFSA-Q-2024-00400)

The WG reviewed the Draft Protocol and made changes to better suit the requirements of this Opinion. Considerations of the assessment questions and eligibility criteria for the selection of toxicity studies were discussed. An overview of the selected literature was presented and the currently available toxicological and occurrence data was discussed by the WG. An extraction of the occurrence data on thebaine and oripavine available to EFSA from the last 10 years was presented. A first analysis of the amount of submitted data, critical food categories and distribution of the data was provided. Tasks were allocated.

VI. Any Other Business

None.

VII. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 24 September 2025 via webconference.

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN

1st Working Group meeting on Thebaine and Oripavine

9 April 2025
9:00-13:00
MINUTES - Agreed on 5 May 2025

EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY

Location: Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Birgit Dusemund, Antonio Hernández-Jerez, Tim Hofer, Jean-Carles Leblanc
- Hearing Experts[1]:
Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
EC: not present
- EFSA:
CONTAM Unit: Anna Christodoulidou, Lydia Alarcón Asensio

MESE Unit: Zsuzsanna Horvath

- 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 Independence[2] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[3], 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.

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[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 1st Working Group meeting held on 9 April 2025, in via web-conference

The minutes of the 1st Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 5 March 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 thebaine and oripavine in poppy seeds and derived products (EFSA-Q-2024-00200)

The members of the Working Group were introduced to the collaborative way of work and discussed the mandate and the interpretation of the terms of reference. The WG agreed on upcoming meeting dates as well as the work plan that will be followed to draft this Opinion. 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 thebaine and oripavine in poppy seeds and derived products.

VI. Any Other Business

None.

VII. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 10 June 2025 via webconference.