

**SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON
CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN**
152 Panel Plenary meeting



9 – 10 July 2025
9:00-17:30 / 09:00-17:30
MINUTES - Agreed on 24 July 2025

Location: webconference

Attendees:

o Panel Members:

Agneta Åkesson, Vasileios Bampidis, Margherita Bignami, Laurent Bodin, James Kevin Chipman, Gisela Degen¹, Antonio Hernández-Jerez, Tim Hofer, Christer Hogstrand (Chair²), Helle Katrine Knutsen (Chair), Stefano Landi, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Kyriaki Machera, Evangelia Ntzani, Isabelle Oswald³, Guido Rychen⁴, Salomon Sand, Katharina Vejdovszky, Barbara Viviani

o Hearing Experts⁵:

Ron Hoogenboom⁶, Heather Wallace⁷, Ullrika Sahlin⁸

o Applicants participating in a technical hearing⁹:

Not Applicable

o European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

EC: Frans Verstraete (DG-SANTE)

o EFSA:

FEEDCO Unit – CONTAM Team: Lydia Alarcón Asensio, Maria Anastassiadou, Anna Christodoulidou, Chantra Eskes (CONTAM Team Leader), Mary Gilsean (FEEDCO Head of Unit), Eirini Kouloura, Nataša Mikulić, Anita Radovnikovic, Luisa Ramos Bordajandi (Panel Coordinator), Elena Rovesti, Hans Steinkellner

MESE – Analysis Team: José Cortiñas Abrahantes, Bruno Dujardin, Rita Ferreira de Sousa, José Angel Gómez Ruiz, Olaf Mosbach-Schulz, Francesca Riolo

o Others:

Federico Cruciani

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Piroska Kiss, Ivana Poustkova, Veerle Vanheusden (DG-SANTE).

2. Introduction to new Panel member

The new Panel member Isabelle Oswald introduced herself to the Panel, followed by a roundtable introduction.

¹ Absent on Day 1 from 9:00 to 10:15 CET.

² Christer Hogstrand chaired the Panel during the discussion of item 7.2.

³ Absent on Day 1.

⁴ Absent on Day 1 from 12:00 to 14:00 CET.

⁵ 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>

⁶ Participated on Day 2 from 14:00-17:30 CET.

⁷ Participated on Day 1 from 9:00-13:00 CET.

⁸ Participated on Day 1 from 10:00-12:00 CET.

⁹ 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. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

4. Declarations of Interest of Panel members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹⁰ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management¹¹, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled by the Panel 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 Panel members at the beginning of this meeting.

5. Agreement of the minutes of the 151st Panel Plenary meeting held on 20-22 May 2025, in Parma

The minutes of the 151st Panel Plenary meeting were agreed by written procedure on 4 June 2025.

6. Report on written procedure

The following working group (WG) Chair was nominated by written procedure and agreed by Panel Chair:

Agneta Åkesson has been nominated as Chair of the WG Capsaicin.

7. Scientific output(s) submitted for discussion or endorsement

7.1 Draft Opinion on plant lectins in food ([EFSA-Q-2024-00195](#))

The Chair of the WG on Lectins and the responsible EFSA Scientific Officer presented the draft Opinion on plant lectins in food for possible endorsement for public consultation. The CONTAM Panel members discussed the sections on Mode of Action, Considerations of critical effects, Approach for risk characterisation, Risk characterisation, Uncertainty analysis, Conclusions and Recommendations as well as Abstract and Summary. The Panel endorsed the draft Opinion for public consultation, taking into consideration the changes requested by the Panel during the meeting.

7.2 Draft Opinion on the update of the risk assessment on PCDD/Fs and DL-PCBs in food and feed on the basis of the new 2022 WHO TEF values ([EFSA-Q-2024-00227](#))

The Chair of the WG Dioxins and the responsible EFSA Scientific Officer presented the draft Opinion on the update of the risk assessment of PCDD/Fs and DL-PCBs for possible endorsement of selected sections, for discussion of the approach for hazard characterisation, and for written comments on selected sections. The CONTAM Panel endorsed the sections on Occurrence data in food submitted to EFSA, Occurrence data for special food groups and Human dietary exposure. The Panel discussed the approach for hazard characterisation and the comments will be considered by the WG to continue with the development of the risk assessment. The written comments received in the sections Levels in human samples, Toxicity

¹⁰ https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf

¹¹ https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-2024.pdf



in experimental animals, Observations in humans, Mode of action will also be addressed by the WG.

7.3 Draft Opinion on the derivation of a health based guidance value (HBGV) for delta-8-tetrahydrocannabinol and its occurrence in food (EFSA-Q-2024-00200)

The Chair of the WG on Δ8-THC and the responsible EFSA Scientific Officer presented the draft Opinion on the derivation of a health-based guidance value for Δ⁸-THC and its occurrence in food for possible endorsement for public consultation. The CONTAM Panel members discussed the sections on Considerations of critical effects, Calculation of a relative potency factor, Derivation of a group HBGV for Δ8-THC and Δ9-THC, Uncertainty analysis, Conclusions and Recommendations as well as the Abstract and Summary. The Panel endorsed the draft Opinion for public consultation, taking into consideration the changes requested by the Panel during the meeting.

7.4 Draft Opinion on the update of the risks for animal and public health related to the presence of *Alternaria* toxins in feed and food (EFSA-Q-2024-00285)

The EFSA Scientific Officer responsible for the analysis of occurrence in food and human dietary exposure for the mandate on *Alternaria* toxins in feed and food presented the approach for the assessment of the occurrence data in food submitted to EFSA. The CONTAM Panel provided inputs that led to an amended proposal endorsed by the Panel, which will be implemented by the WG.

7.5 Draft Opinion on the update fo the risk assessment of Emerging and Novel BFRs in food (EFSA-Q-2018-00436)

The Chair of the WG and the responsible EFSA Scientific Officer presented the draft Opinion on Emerging and Novel BFRs for first reading of selected sections. The CONTAM Panel discussed the sections on tris(2,3-dibromopropyl) phosphate (TBDPP), N,N'-ethylenebis(tetrabromophthalimide) (EBTEBPI), hexabromocyclododecane (HBCYD) and bis(2-ethylhexyl) tetrabromophthalate (BEH-TEBP). Written comments were received in the sections on 2-ethylhexyl 2,3,4,5-tetrabromobenzoate (EH-TBB) and dibromoneopentyl glycol (DBNPG). The comments provided by the Panel will be considered by the WG to continue with the development of this risk assessment.

8. New mandates

8.1 Request for a Scientific Opinion on the risks for human health related to the presence of matrine and oxymatrine in food ([EFSA-Q-2025-00323](#))

An overview presentation was given to the CONTAM Panel on the Background and Terms of Reference of the mandate on the risk for human health related to the presence of matrine and oxymatrine in food, including the composition of the WG and the agreed timelines.

8.2 Request for a Scientific Opinion on the risks for animal and public health related to the presence of beauvericin and enniatins in feed and food, as regards beauvericin ([EFSA-Q-2025-00314](#))

An overview presentation was given to the CONTAM Panel on the Background and Terms of Reference of the mandate on the risks for public health related to the presence of beauvericin in feed and food, including the composition of the WG and the agreed timelines.



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

9.1 European Commission

The feedback on this item was postponed to the next meeting.

9.2 CONTAM Panel Working Groups

- **WG on Lectins¹²**

See item 7.1.

- **WG Dioxins update¹³**

See item 7.2.

- **WG Enniatins and Beauvericin¹⁴**

Updates as regards beauvericin: See item 8.2.

Updates as regards enniatins: The Chair of the WG informed that the comments made by Panel members during the 150th Plenary meeting to the draft Opinion on enniatins (sections on Chemistry, Analytical methods, Previous assessment, Toxicokinetics, Toxicity, Humans observations and biomonitoring, and Mode of action of enniatin toxicity) had been addressed by the WG. The modifications and replies were agreed by the concerned Panel members via written review. The Chair of the WG noted that the current hazard assessment and its conclusions will be finalised once the results from the research carried out within the Partnership for the Assessment of Risk from Chemicals (PARC) in the field of enniatins is available.

- **WG *Alternaria* toxins¹⁵**

See item 7.4.

- **WG on BFRs in food¹⁶**

See item 7.5.

- **WG on Phomopsins¹⁷**

The Chair of the WG informed on the progress of the literature review and development of the protocol for the risk assessment of phomopsins in feed and food.

- **WG Δ^8 -THC¹⁸**

See item 7.3.

- **WG Semicarbazide¹⁹**

¹² <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2024-04/wg-lectins-in-food.pdf>

¹³ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2024-06/wg-dioxins-update.pdf>

¹⁴ https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2024-10/wg-enniatins-food-feed_0.pdf

¹⁵ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2024-10/wg-alternaria-toxins-feed-food.pdf>

¹⁶ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/wqs/chemical-contaminants/wg-BfRs.pdf>

¹⁷ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2025-04/wg-phomopsins.pdf>

¹⁸ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2024-04/wg-delta8thc.pdf>

¹⁹ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2025-03/minutes-wg-semicarbazide-food.pdf>



The feedback on this item was postponed to the next meeting

- **WG Conventionally Smoked Foods²⁰**

The feedback on this item was postponed to the next meeting.

- **WG Thebaine and oripavine²¹**

The feedback on this item was postponed to the next meeting.

- **WG Matrine and oxymatrine²²**

See item 8.1.

- **WG Capsaicin**

The feedback on this item was postponed to the next meeting.

9.3 Scientific Committee including its Working Groups

The Chair of the Panel informed about the main topics discussed at the last Scientific Committee (SC) Plenary meeting, held on 2-3 July 2025.

For the Working Groups of interest to the CONTAM Panel, updates were provided on the activities of the Cross-cutting WGs on SC WG Genotoxicity, SC WG Biomarkers of effects, SC WG Default values, SC WG Critical appraisal of evidence and SC WG Margin of exposure. The members were informed about the adoption of the SC Guidance on the use of read-across for chemical safety assessment in food and feed²³.

9.4 EFSA

The Panel members were informed about recent reports published by RIVM regarding mixture risk assessment approaches to evaluate oral exposure to PFAS²⁴, and methodology for health-based guidance value derivation for PFAS²⁵. Furthermore, information was given on the EFSA CONTAM Team composition and organisation of attendance of Panel meetings and Scientific Committee WG meetings.

The members were reminded about the upcoming dates of Plenary meetings, and the proposal to hold an ad-hoc Plenary meeting in September via teleconference.

10. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 8 and 11 September, via teleconference.

²⁰ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2025-03/wg-conventionally-smoked-foods.pdf>

²¹ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2025-05/wg-thebaine-oripavine-minutes.pdf>

²² <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2025-06/wg-matrine-oxymatrine-in-food.pdf>

²³ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/9586>

²⁴ <https://www.rivm.nl/bibliotheek/rapporten/2025-0078.pdf>

²⁵ <https://www.rivm.nl/bibliotheek/rapporten/2025-0079.pdf>