

Location: EFSA - Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Agneta Åkesson (Chair), Vasileios Bampidis, Valérie Fessard, Silvia Gratz, Matthias Peiser
Barbara Viviani
- Hearing Experts¹:
Benjamin Sachse
- Applicants participating in a technical hearing²:
Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not Applicable
- EFSA:
Chief Scientist Office: Claudia Heppner
FEEDCO Unit: Eirini Kouloura, Anita Radovnikovic
MESE: Rita Sofia Ferreira De Sousa
- Others:
Federico Cruciani participated as ISA (Individual Scientific Advisor) for all agenda items.
Lydia Alarcón Asensio participated as contractor for all agenda items.

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 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

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



during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the Working Group members at the beginning of these meetings.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 3rd Working Group meeting held on 27 October 2025, via webconference

The minutes of the 3rd Working Group (WG) meeting were agreed by written procedure on 4 November 2025.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. Draft opinion on the health risk related to the presence of Capsaicin in foods. (EFSA-Q-2025-00304)

The members of the Working Group discussed and reviewed the draft protocol, mainly the section of the approach to reply to exposure assessment questions and information to be extracted from selected articles. The supporting information sections of the draft Opinion, including chemistry, sample preparation, analytical methods, previous risk assessment and legislation were presented to the WG, and will be further discussed at the upcoming WG meeting. The occurrence data submitted to EFSA were presented by the MESE representative and a general discussion was held on the approach to take for the exposure assessment. The members of the WG provided an overview of the studies reviewed, pertaining to the sections on toxicokinetics, toxicity in experimental animals and observations in humans. Tasks were distributed among the members.

VI. Any Other Business

None.

VII. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 17 December 2025, via web conference.

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN

3rd Working Group meeting on Capsaicin in food

27 October 2025

9:30-17:30

MINUTES - Agreed on 4 November 2025



Location: EFSA - Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Agneta Åkesson (Chair), Vasileios Bampidis, Valérie Fessard, Silvia Gratz, Barbara Viviani
- Hearing Experts¹:
Matthias Peiser, Benjamin Sachse
- Applicants participating in a technical hearing²:
Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Stylianos Koulouris
- EFSA:
Chief Scientist Office: Claudia Heppner, Andreas Pelecanos
FEEDCO Unit: Eirini Kouloura, Anita Radovnikovic, Lydia Alarcón Asensio
- 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 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.

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<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 2nd Working Group meeting held on 30 September 2025, via webconference

The minutes of the 2nd Working Group (WG) meeting were agreed by written procedure on 8 October 2025.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. Draft opinion on the health risk related to the presence of Capsaicin in foods. (EFSA-Q-2025-00304)

The members of the Working Group discussed and reviewed the draft protocol, including eligibility criteria for the study selection and the information to be extracted from selected articles. The literature review approach and the progress of the article screening were presented, and details regarding the next steps were clarified. The members of the WG provided an overview of the studies reviewed, pertaining to the sections on toxicokinetics, toxicity in experimental animals and observations in humans. Tasks were distributed among the members.

VI. Any Other Business

None.

VII. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 24 November 2025, via web conference.

Location: EFSA - Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Agneta Åkesson (Chair), Vasileios Bampidis¹, Valérie Fessard, Silvia Gratz, Barbara Viviani²
- Hearing Experts³:
Matthias Peiser, Benjamin Sachse⁴
- Applicants participating in a technical hearing⁵:
Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Stylianos Koulouris
- EFSA:
Chief Scientist Office: Claudia Heppner, Andreas Pelecanos
FEEDCO Unit: Eirini Kouloura, Anita Radovnikovic, Lydia Alarcón Asensio
- Others:
Federico Cruciani participated as ISA (Individual Scientific Advisor) for all agenda items

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 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 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

¹ Absent between 11.00 -14.00

² Absent between 9.00-10.30

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 Absent between 9.00-12.30

⁵ 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>

⁶ https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf

⁷ https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-2024.pdf



during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the Working Group members at the beginning of these meetings.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 1st Working Group meeting held on 6 August 2025, via webconference

The minutes of the 1st Working Group (WG) meeting were agreed by written procedure on 14 August 2025.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. Draft opinion on the health risk related to the presence of Capsaicin in foods. (EFSA-Q-2025-00304)

The members of the Working Group discussed and reviewed the interpretation of the Terms of Reference section in the draft Opinion. The literature review approach and the progress of article screening were presented, and details regarding the next steps were clarified. The members of the WG provided an overview of the studies reviewed, pertaining to the sections on toxicokinetics, toxicity in experimental animals and observations in humans. Finally, the members of the WG discussed the latest modifications in the draft protocol. Tasks were distributed among the members.

VI. Any Other Business

None.

VII. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 27 October 2025, via web conference.

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN

1st Working Group meeting on Capsaicin in food

6 August 2025

9:30-13:30

MINUTES - Agreed on 14 August 2025



Location: EFSA - Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Agneta Åkesson (Chair), Vasileios Bampidis, Valerie Fessard, Silvia Gratz, Barbara Viviani
- Hearing Experts¹:
Matthias Peiser, Benjamin Sachse
- Applicants participating in a technical hearing²:
Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Frans Verstraete, Stylianos Koulouris
- EFSA:
Chief Scientist Office: Claudia Heppner, Andreas Pelecanos
FEEDCO Unit: Eirini Kouloura, Anita Radovnikovic, Lydia Alarcón Asensio
- Others:
Federico Cruciani participated as ISA (Individual Scientific Advisor) for all agenda items

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 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.

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



IV. Tour de table

The participants at the 1st WG on Capsaicin in food provided a brief introduction of their background and their involvement in other EFSA's activities, if any.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. Draft opinion on the health risk related to the presence of Capsaicin in foods. (EFSA-Q-2025-00304)

The members of the Working Group were given a brief overview of the Background and Terms of Reference (ToR) for the mandate on the risk assessment of capsaicin in food, as requested by the European Commission. The project plan and timelines were presented as well as the approach taken for the literature screening, especially the established inclusion and exclusion criteria were discussed. The members of the WG discussed the structure of the draft Opinion on the health risk related to the presence of capsaicin in foods and reviewed the interpretation of the ToR. The members of the WG discussed also the assessment questions formulated to address the ToR. Finally, the WG was informed of the CONTAM Way of Working. Tasks were distributed to the members of the WG.

VI. Any Other Business

None.

VII. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 30 September 2025, via web conference.
