

# SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN

## 1<sup>st</sup> Working Group meeting on Mercury

08 January 2026  
09:00-13:00 CET  
MINUTES - Agreed on 16 January 2026



**Location:** Webconference

**Attendees:**

- Working Group Members:  
Thorhallur Halldorsson, Katharina Vejdovszky, Barbara Viviani
- Hearing Experts<sup>1</sup>:  
Not applicable
- Applicants participating in a technical hearing<sup>2</sup>:  
Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:  
Veerle Vanheudsen (DG-SANTE)
- EFSA:  
FEEDCO Unit: Hans Steinkellner (chair), Elena Zoe Bogensperger, Chantra Eskes  
MESE Unit: Maria Bastaki, Irene Pilar Muñoz Guajardo
- 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<sup>3</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management<sup>4</sup>, 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 have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the Working Group members at the beginning of the meeting.

<sup>1</sup> 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>

<sup>2</sup> 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>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf](https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-2024.pdf](https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-2024.pdf)



## IV. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

### **a. *Draft Statement on the findings presented in the Toxicological Profile for Mercury issued by the US ATSDR (M-2025-00131)***

The WG members discussed the Terms of Reference for this statement with the representative from the European Commission. The available literature potentially relevant for the mandate was discussed. Afterwards, the draft structure and content of the statement were discussed, and tasks were allocated to the WG members.

## V. Any Other Business

None

## VI. Next meeting

To be determined.