

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON FOOD CONTACT MATERIALS (FCM) 12th FCM Panel Plenary meeting



17-18 March 2026
14:00-17:30 / 09:00-17:00
MINUTES (Agreed on 1 April 2026)

Location: Teleconference

Attendees:

- FCM Panel Members:
Riccardo Crebelli, Maria da Silva, Konrad Grob, Ester Heath, Claude Lambré (chair), Evgenia Lampi, Maria Rosaria Milana (vice-chair), Marja Pronk, Gilles Rivière, Mario Ščetar, Georgios Theodoridis, Els Van Hoeck (vice-chair), Nadia Waegeneers
- Hearing Experts¹:
Tom Jansen
- Applicants participating in a technical hearing²:
Not Applicable
- European Commission:
Martinus Nagtzaam
- EFSA:
Food Ingredients and Packaging (FIP) Unit: Zainab Al Harraq, Eric Barthélémy, Roberta Bazzacco, Daniele Comandella, Violetta Costanzo, Cristina Croera, Marcella De Divitiis, Blanka Halamoda-Kenzaoui, Alexandros Lioupis, Alessa Lübke, Remigio Marano, Zahra Ghazal Mazloumi, Sandra Rainieri, Vasiliki Sfika, Katharina Volk
Methodology and Scientific Support (MESE) Unit: Petra Gergelová
Communication Unit: Joana Isabel Sousa, Piero Zilio
- Others:
ECHA: Stefano Frattini, Michaela Lucas, Vessela Vitcheva

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants and thanked them for their commitment towards EFSA. Apologies were received from Riccardo Crebelli who was absent on 17 March.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Panel 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

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



out by the FCM Panel members invited to the present meeting. 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 Panel members at the beginning of the present meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 11th Panel Plenary meeting held on 27 to 29 January 2026 via teleconference

The [minutes of the 11th FCM Panel meeting](#) were agreed by written procedure on 9 February 2026.

5. Report on written procedure

Not Applicable

6. Scientific topics submitted for discussion/adoption

6.1. Statement on the data requirements for the safety assessment of hazardous bisphenols other than Bisphenol A (BPA) and their derivatives ([EFSA-Q-2025-00427](#))

The FCM Panel discussed all parts of the draft statement. The statement was unanimously endorsed for public consultation.

6.2. Consolidation of exposure data to complete part 1 and inform on part 2 of the re-evaluation of risks to public health related to the presence of phthalates, structurally similar substances and replacement substances from food contact materials (FCMs) ([EFSA-Q-2025-00018](#))

An update was provided on the status of the work, including the review of available data across the domains of dietary exposure (including exposure from FCMs), non-dietary exposure and human biomonitoring. The Panel was informed that the Working Group selected DINCH for the pilot exposure assessment, which will be developed in the coming months. A further update will be presented at the June Plenary meeting.

6.3. Draft opinion on the safety assessment of L-Aspartic acid, N-benzoyl-, sodium salt (1:2) as a new substance to be used in plastic for food contact materials ([EFSA-Q-2024-00487](#))

The FCM Panel discussed all parts of the draft opinion. The opinion was unanimously endorsed. The adoption will take place once the public consultation on the non-confidential version of the application is completed.

7. Other scientific topics for information/discussion

None



8. Update on mandates received/validated/withdrawn since the 11th FCM plenary

1. New questions received: 1

Food Sector	EFSA-Q-Number	Subject	Reception date
FCM	EFSA-Q-2026-00099	Application for the extension of use of the substance benzyl alcohol to be used in plastic for food contact uses	13/02/2026

2. Valid questions: 2

Food Sector	EFSA-Q-Number	Subject	Validity date
REC	EFSA-Q-2025-00227	Application for the authorisation of the recycling process MKF-Schimanski-ERGIS_MKFSE-B4-B5-PET to produce recycled plastic for food contact uses	30/01/2026
REC	EFSA-Q-2025-00584	Application for the authorisation of the recycling process Polymetrix_Rooflow to produce recycled plastic for food contact uses	30/01/2026

3. Withdrawn questions: None

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

9.1. Feedback from EFSA

9.1.1 Draft revised guidance on default values

The FCM Panel was provided with outlines of the updated Scientific Committee guidance on default values and uncertainty factors, with particular focus on elements relevant to the Panel's assessments. The discussion focused specifically on human body weight and the extrapolation for exposure duration. The Panel agreed to provide further input on the draft as part of the ongoing targeted consultation with EFSA Panels, using the established template.

9.1.2 Panel Plenary Social Sciences at EFSA

A presentation on the work carried out by the group of Social Science at EFSA was given to the Panel.

9.2 Feedback from EC

None



9.3 Feedback from Scientific Committee

The Chair reported the main points discussed during the 129th Scientific Committee Plenary meeting, held on 26 February 2026.
An extensive update on the activities of the SC cross cutting WG on Biomarkers of effect was given to the Panel.

9.4 Feedback from WGs

9.4.1 FCM WG on Food Contact Materials

No additional issues were brought to the attention of the FCM Panel further to what is already recorded in the [minutes of the WG](#).

9.4.2 FCM WG on Recycling Plastic

No additional issues were brought to the attention of the FCM Panel further to what is already recorded in the [minutes of the WG](#).

9.4.3 FCM WG on Extraction Solvents

No additional issues were brought to the attention of the FCM Panel further to what is already recorded in the [minutes of the WG](#).

9.4.4 FCM WG on the evaluation of substances used to reduce microbial contamination from products of animal origin

No additional issues were brought to the attention of the FCM Panel further to what is already recorded in the [minutes of the WG](#).

9.4.5 FCM WG on Preparation for re-evaluation of phthalates, structurally similar substances and replacement substances

No additional issues were brought to the attention of the FCM Panel further to what is already recorded in the [minutes of the WG](#).

10. Any other business

None

11. Next meeting

The next FCM Panel meeting will take place online on 19-21 May 2026.
