

17 March 2026

09:00-18:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 1 April 2026

Location: Teleconference

Attendees:

○ Panel Members:

Agneta Åkesson, Vasileios Bampidis, Margherita Bignami, Laurent Bodin, James Kevin Chipman, Gisela Degen, Antonio Hernández-Jerez, Tim Hofer, Christer Hogstrand, Helle Katrine Knutsen (Chair), Stefano Landi, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Kyriaki Machera, Evangelia Ntzani, Isabelle P. Oswald, Guido Rychen, Salomon Sand, Katharina Vejdovszky

○ Hearing Experts¹:

Federico Cruciani, Annamaria Romac, Tuuli Tauriainen

○ Applicants participating in a technical hearing²:

Not Applicable

○ European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

EC: Ivana Poustkova, Veerle Vanheusden, Frans Verstraete

○ EFSA:

FEEDCO Unit – CONTAM Team: Maria Anastasiadou, Elena Bogensperger, Anna Christodoulidou, Chantra Eskes (CONTAM Team Leader), Alexandros Georganas, Mary Gilsenan (FEEDCO Head of Unit), Eirini Kouloura, Anita Radovnikovic, Luisa Ramos Bordajandi (Panel Coordinator), Giulia Rampazzo, Elena Rovesti, Sofie Schryvers, Hans Steinkellner

FEEDCO Unit – FEED Team: Lydia Alarcon Asensio

MESE Unit: Francesca Riolo

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Barbara Viviani. Jean-Charles Leblanc did not participate in agenda point 6.3 due to a conflict of interest being identified for this agenda item.

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 Management,⁴ EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by

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



the Panel members invited to the present meeting. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Annual Declarations of Interest, please refer to the Annex. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 157th CONTAM Panel Plenary meeting held on 3-4 February 2026, via teleconference

The minutes of the 157th Panel plenary meeting were agreed by written procedure on 20 February 2026.

5. Report on written procedure

None.

6. Scientific output(s) submitted for discussion / endorsement / approval

6.1 Draft Opinion on the risks for human health related to the presence of semicarbazide (SEM) in food (EFSA-Q-2024-00581)

The Chair of the WG on SEM in food and responsible EFSA Scientific Officer presented for possible endorsement for public consultation the draft Opinion on the risks to human health related to the presence of SEM in food. The proposed risk assessment approaches were presented for the Panel to finalise the draft ~~s~~Scientific Opinion. The CONTAM Panel discussed and agreed on the approach, reviewed the draft Opinion, and endorsed it for public consultation. The Chair of the Panel and the WG thanked all contributors for their work.

6.2 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 on BFRs in food and the responsible EFSA Scientific Officer presented the draft Opinion on the update of the risk assessment for emerging and novel BFRs in food for possible endorsement for public consultation. The CONTAM Panel went through the sections related to the six BFRs included in Commission Recommendation, part of the 21 remaining BFRs included in the 2012 Opinion, the Conclusions and the Recommendations. The draft Opinion was not endorsed for public consultation, and the comments received will be taken into account by the WG in revising the draft risk assessment.

6.3 Draft Statement to assess the appropriateness of the study carried out by ANSES (the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety) on the effectiveness of sanitary shucking of queen scallops (*Aequipecten opercularis*) contaminated by okadaic acid toxins with a view to the production of edible parts meeting the safety requirements foreseen in the Union legislation (EFSA-Q-2026-00065)

The Chair of the WG on sanitary shucking of scallops and the responsible Scientific Officer presented the methodological approach proposed for assessing the



appropriateness of the study carried out by ANSES on the effectiveness of sanitary shucking of queen scallops contaminated by okadaic acid toxins with a view to the production of edible parts meeting the safety requirements foreseen in the Union legislation. Comments received by the Panel were discussed and will be addressed by the WG.

6.4 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 draft replies to the public consultation comments were shared for written comments. These will be taken into account by the WG in finalising the replies.

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

7.1 European Commission

The European Commission representatives gave a brief update on the follow-up activities in relation to the scientific Opinions of the CONTAM Panel. Several legislative measures are under discussion with the Member States as an outcome of the CONTAM Panel Scientific Opinions.

7.2 Scientific Panel Working Groups

- **WG Dioxins update⁵**

See item 6.4.

- **WG Enniatins and beauvericin⁶**

This item was postponed to the next Plenary meeting.

- **WG Alternaria⁷**

This item was postponed to the next Plenary meeting.

- **WG on BFRs in food⁸**

See item 6.2.

- **WG on Phomopsins⁹**

This item was postponed to the next Plenary meeting.

- **WG Semicarbazide¹⁰**

⁵ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2024-06/wg-dioxins-update.pdf>

⁶ https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2024-10/wg-enniatis-food-feed_0.pdf

⁷ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2024-10/wg-alternaria-toxins-feed-food.pdf>

⁸ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/wgs/chemical-contaminants/wg-BFRs.pdf>

⁹ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2025-04/wg-phomopsins.pdf>

¹⁰ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2025-03/minutes-wg-semicarbazide-food.pdf>



See item 6.1.

- **WG Conventionally Smoked Foods¹¹**

This item was postponed to the next Plenary meeting.

- **WG Thebaine and oripavine¹²**

This item was postponed to the next Plenary meeting.

- **WG Matrine and oxymatrine¹³**

This item was postponed to the next Plenary meeting.

- **WG Capsaicin¹⁴**

This item was postponed to the next Plenary meeting.

- **WG OPFRs¹⁵**

This item was postponed to the next Plenary meeting.

- **EFSA WG on Hg¹⁶**

This item was postponed to the next Plenary meeting.

- **WG micro- and nanoplastics¹⁷**

This item was postponed to the next Plenary meeting.

- **WG on sanitary shucking of scallops – okadaic acid¹⁸**

See item 6.3.

7.3 Scientific Committee including their Working Groups

This item was postponed to the next Plenary meeting.

7.4 EFSA

The CONTAM Panel members were informed about the ongoing public consultations of several EFSA Scientific Committee outputs: the draft scoping paper 'Strengthening the Use of ADME/TK Data and PBK Modelling in EFSA's Risk Assessment'¹⁹, the 'Draft guidance on default values and uncertainty factors to be used by the EFSA Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels

¹¹ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2025-03/wg-conventionally-smoked-foods.pdf>

¹² <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2025-05/wg-thebaine-oripavine-minutes.pdf>

¹³ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2025-06/wg-matrine-oxymatrine-in-food.pdf>

¹⁴ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2025-08/wg-contam-capsaicin-in-foods-m.pdf>

¹⁵ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2025-10/wg-contam-OPFRs-minutes.pdf>

¹⁶ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2026-02/wg-mercury.pdf>

¹⁷ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2026-02/CONTAM%20Minutes%20WG%20on%20micro%20-%20and%20nanoplastics%20in%20foods.pdf>

¹⁸ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2026-02/WG%20Scallops.pdf>

¹⁹ <https://connect.efsa.europa.eu/RM/s/consultations/publicconsultation2/a0ITk000007fSVI/pc1852>



and Units in the absence of actual measured data²⁰, and on the 'Draft guidance on critical appraisal of evidence for food and feed safety assessments'²¹.

The members were reminded about the upcoming dates of Plenary meetings in 2026.

8. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 21-23 April 2026, in Parma.

²⁰ <https://connect.efsa.europa.eu/RM/s/consultations/publicconsultation2/a0ITk000007kRij/pc1861>

²¹ <https://connect.efsa.europa.eu/RM/s/consultations/publicconsultation2/a0ITk000007cNQz/pc1838>



Annex

Interests and actions resulting from the screening of the Annual Declaration of Interest

In the Annual Declaration of Interest submitted by Dr Jean Charles Leblanc, the following interest has been declared: "Head of the pesticides and marine biotoxins unit at the food safety laboratory of ANSES. During the 157th CONTAM Plenary, Dr Jean Charles Leblanc declared that this ANSES unit prepared the report on the effectiveness of sanitary shucking of queen scallops contaminated by lipophilic toxins. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence²² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management²³, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, the interest above was deemed to represent a conflict of interest.

This resulted in the exclusion of the expert from any discussion, voting or other processing of the agenda item 6.3 by the concerned scientific group.

²² https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf

²³ https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-2024.pdf