SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON FOOD CONTACT MATERIALS (FCM)

14th FCM Panel Plenary meeting– OPEN to observers

30 June – 2 July 2026
14:00-18:00 / 09:00-17:00 / 10:00-12:30
MINUTES (Agreed on 20 July 2026)

Location: EFSA, Parma / 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, Nadia Waegeneers

- European Commission: Clelia Antico, Jonathan Briggs, Stella D'Amore, Martinus Nagtzaam, Bastiaan Schupp

- Hearing experts: Henk van Loveren, Christian Jung

- EFSA:
Food Ingredients and Packaging (FIP) Unit: Zainab Al Harraq, Eric Barthélémy, Roberta Bazzacco, Daniele Comandella, Violetta Costanzo, Marcella De Divitiis, Blanka Halamoda-Kenzaoui, Alessa Lübke, Remigio Marano, Zahra Ghazal Mazloumi, Sandra Rainieri, Vasiliki Sfika, Katharina Volk.

  Methodology and Scientific Support (MESE) Unit: Francesca Riolo, Laura Martino

- ECHA: Stefano Frattini

OPEN SESSION

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants and thanked them for their commitment towards EFSA. The Chair welcomed the observers and explained to the observers the structure of the Scientific Panels and Committee, the workflow of the safety assessment of regulated products. He then invited the Panel experts to give a brief introduction of themselves.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Panel members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[1] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[2], EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Panel members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to

[1] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf
[2] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 13th Panel Plenary meeting held on 20 May 2026

The minutes of the 13th FCM Panel meeting were agreed by written procedure on 26 May 2026.

5. Report on written procedure

None.

6. Presentation of EFSA guidelines for observers

The FCM Panel coordinator introduced the rules for observers to be followed during and after the open Plenary meeting as well as some tips for the smooth running of the meeting, including the rules on recording and transcribing the meeting. Observers were given the possibility to send questions when submitting their registration and these questions would be answered in dedicated sessions during the meeting. Observers were also informed about the opportunity to submit additional questions during the meeting through the dedicated channel.

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

7.1. Feedback from Scientific Committee

No meetings of the Scientific Committee were held between the 13th and 14th FCM Plenary Meetings.

7.2. Feedback from WGs

7.3.1 FCM WG on Food Contact Materials

The major achievements, ongoing work and future challenges of the WG were presented to the Panel. The progress on dossier evaluation is recorded in the minutes of the WG.

7.3.2 FCM WG on Recycling Plastic

The major achievements, ongoing work and future challenges of the WG were presented to the Panel. The progress on dossier evaluation is recorded in the minutes of the WG.

7.3.3 FCM WG on Extraction Solvents

The major achievements, ongoing work and future challenges of the WG were presented to the Panel. The progress on dossier evaluation is recorded in the minutes of the WG.

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

The major achievements, ongoing work and future challenges of the WG were presented to the Panel. The progress on the work is recorded in the minutes of the WG.

7.3. Feedback from EC

An overview of the main activities of the EC relevant to FCM were presented to the Panel.

8. Scientific topics for information/discussion

8.1. Request to review and priority setting for Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC) present in the Union List of authorized substances for plastic food contact materials and articles (EFSA-Q-2026-00213)

The draft Technical Report was presented to the Panel for information and discussion.

8.2. Guidance on the data requirements for the safety assessment of hazardous bisphenols other than Bisphenol A (BPA) and their derivatives (EFSA-Q-2025-00427)

The Panel was updated on the development of the guidance, including the status of the work and the outcomes of the public consultation on the draft guidance.

8.3. 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-2020-00725) (EFSA-Q-2025-00018)

The current status of the work on the analysis of exposure data for prioritised plasticisers, including draft estimates of dietary and non-dietary exposure for the selected pilot substance (DINCH), were presented to the Panel. In addition, several sections of the technical report were presented for review and endorsement by the Panel.

8.4. Guidance on the evaluation of the safety of extraction solvents used in the production of foodstuffs and food ingredients (EFSA-Q-2025-00601)

The part of the guidance on the information needed to estimate the exposure to extraction solvents residues present in food was rewieved and endorsed by the Panel.

9. Questions from and answers to Observers (in application of the guidelines for Observers)

The following questions were collected from the online registration form, and answered by EFSA during the plenary meeting.

No	Question and Answer
1.	**Q:** What are the main scientific challenges currently faced by the FCM Panel in the identification and risk assessment of non-intentionally added substances (NIAS) in food contact materials?
	A: The main scientific challenges faced by the FCM Panel in the identification of NIAS relate to the ability of currently applied analytical technologies and methodologies to: (a) detect all potentially present compounds at sufficiently low levels, given that detection limits may not be low enough (e.g. in the low µg/L range) to rule out the presence of genotoxic substances; and (b) reliably identify detected compounds due to limitations in mass spectrometric resolution and/or the lack of comprehensive reference libraries, particularly for LC-based analyses.
2.	**Q:** 1. How does EFSA envisage the development and implementation of harmonised and standardised analytical methodologies for restricted substances in food contact materials, ensuring consistent criteria across laboratories in alignment with EU Reference Laboratories, particularly considering the current discrepancies observed between accredited laboratories? In particular, how will this be addressed for NIAS, for substances such as bisphenols (e.g. definition of analytical scope and content), and for PFAS, including the establishment of comprehensive target lists to minimise the risk of false negatives and ensure comparability and reliability of data? 2. a. There is no official method for extracting samples for high purity and NIAS analysis of plastics raw materials as solvent. So, whether it can be proven using its own test method, individual national test method, thesis, etc. b. If high purity analysis and NIAS analysis are possible only in test recognized by international organizations or countries. 3. Does EFSA recommend any analytical methods or approaches for the identification and characterisation of NIAS in plastic food contact materials?
	A: It is not in the remit of EFSA to provide analytical methods or to standardize these. EFSA assesses safety and checks analytical methods used by the applicant to verify the absence of substances that could be a risk for consumers. Harmonised and standardised methods, possibly consistent with the requirements for ISO17025 accreditation are always useful. The EU Reference Laboratory (EURL) in collaboration with Members States National Reference Laboratories (NRL) for FCM are working for this task. The capability of analytical methods to provide reliable results is proven with appropriate validation (e.g. detection/quantification limits, specificity, selectivity, recovery, precision, robustness). Validated methods can be accepted following verification of the suitability of the validation approach applied.

3.	**Q:** What role does EFSA expect advanced analytical techniques, such as high-resolution mass spectrometry and non-targeted screening, to play in future evaluations of migrating substances from food contact materials?
	A: EFSA considers advanced analytical techniques important in generating reliable and scientifically robust data for the identification and quantification of substances migrating from food contact materials into food. In particular, EFSA recognises the significant potential of high-resolution mass spectrometry (HRMS) in non-targeted screening (NTS) and suspect screening approaches to improve the detection and characterisation of both intentionally added substances and non-intentionally added substances (NIAS). EFSA is also aware of ongoing developments in high-throughput and multianalyte methodologies, which are enhancing the capability to identify a broader range of compounds and support a more comprehensive assessment of chemical migration from FCMs.
4.	**Q:** How does EFSA foresee the integration of New Approach Methodologies (NAMs), including in vitro and computational approaches, into future safety assessments of food contact substances?

	A: The assessment of Regulated compounds which must be performed by EFSA is usually described in specific regulations. As regards FCM, two main points must be considered: • they are regulated by a specific Regulation (1935/2004) and their risk assessment is performed by EFSA following a note for guidance (2008). The approach is based on the principle that the toxicity dataset which must be prepared by the applicant depends on the amount of substance that migrates from the material into the food. A low migration needs only a control of the genotoxic potential, a high migration requires a full toxicity dataset and an intermediate one only a 90day study in addition to the genotoxicity tests. • Because the migration must be very low according to the principle of inertia of the FCM, often, only genotoxicity tests conducted in vitro using bacteria, isolated cells or cell lines are needed, and accordingly, the use of in vivo tests using animals is most of the times limited to a subchronic 90day toxicity test for which no non-animal test is currently accepted. In 1959 Russel and Burch introduced the principle of the 3Rs about the use of animals in research. It aims at the Replacement, Reduction, and Refinement of animal testing, and to promote the use of alternative methods. In accordance with Directive 2010/63/EU EFSA has been applying this 3Rs principle for many years. To this aim, several guidance documents, which present many activities that can be used to reach this goal have been published by EFSA. Among these are: Read Across, QSAR (Structure/Function), Systematic Literature Review, PBK modeling, … in addition, concepts such as e.g. the TTC, and the Weight of Evidence Approach help addressing this issue, thus limiting the need for new animal data. In the context of the 3Rs principle, the FCM Panel is also making use of all publicly available relevant and reliable studies performed in vivo and invitro/in silico, once they have been appraised and deemed supportive information, thus avoiding requesting any additional (animal) data. Thus, the FCM Panel is already and for years active in the field of limiting the use of animals and promoting alternative models. In the context of an ambitious project involving numerous international partners, a roadmap for action on New Approach Methodologies in Risk Assessment is currently under development by EFSA. In the future, it should be applicable to all pieces of EU chemical legislation involving animal testing for performing RA.
5.	**Q:** How can students and young professionals from developing countries become more involved in EFSA's scientific activities and international collaborations?
	A: A possibility is applying to the T EFSA traineeship program (see for example the 2026 call: EFSA Traineeships Call 2026 - EFSA Careers).

The following questions were collected during the open session and answered by EFSA during the plenary meeting.

No	Questions and Answers
6.	**Q:** Many industrial associations are developing guidelines for common approaches to assess NIAS. Would EFSA consider these guidelines to help EC get resolution on the topic?"
	A : Any contribution from industry is considered and evaluated when part of an application. However, it is not within EFSA's remit to list methods deemed validated or reliable, nor to endorse or recommend specific industry approaches or analytical methods. For the risk assessment of applications for FCM substances, the reliability of the provided data must be assessed against existing requirements for quality in Analytical Chemistry.
7.	**Q:** The targeted methods give strong results in BPA detection but, in migration experiments, dimers and trimers coming from the material also have to be taken into account. For these methods, there are no current analytical methods to quantify dimers or trimers, and there are not available standards to quantify them, therefore we can suppose that the double of amount of BPA is migrating into food. There is a gap between analytical assessment and what happens in vivo.
	A: Targeted analytical methods are generally designed to quantify specific regulated substances, such as BPA, and may not capture the full range of migrating species, including oligomers, such as dimers and trimers. In the context of an EFSA application, applicants are encouraged to provide data on all relevant migrants. Assumptions regarding the migration of dimers or trimers based solely on the measured concentration of BPA would need to be supported by appropriate scientific evidence. Where analytical standards are not available, approaches such as suspect screening can be used to support the detection and identification of potential migrants, including oligomers. Theis approach, often combining multiple analytical techniques, can help in assessing whether all relevant migrating substances have been adequately considered.
8.	**Q:** Questions asked after the presentation of the work on the analysis of exposure data for prioritised plasticisers, including draft estimates of dietary and non-dietary exposure for the selected pilot substance (DINCH). Were you able to retrieve in the data the type of material that was used to package the food? I understood that the focus was on canned food? Is it representative of a diet to consume only cans?
	A: The data provided as part of the chemical monitoring data collection included data on occurrence in food as well as information on the packaging material for some food samples. The assessment did not specifically focus on canned food, but included all food categories for which data were available; the most frequently reported packaging type was glass jars with metal lids. When the WG will identify additional food categories that could be major contributors, these and their potential impact on the exposure estimates will be acknowledged in the uncertainties. Additionally, data on migration of plasticisers or their concentration in packaging materials were submitted during a data collection focusing specifically on FCMs.

CLOSED SESSION

8.5. Draft opinion on EFSA-Q-2026-00015 (Application for the authorisation of 5-[[[cis-4-(1,1-dimethylethyl)cyclohexyl]carbonyl]amino]-N1,N3-bis[cis-4-(1-methylethyl)cyclohexyl]-1,3-benzenedicarboxamide as a new substance to be used in plastic for food contact uses)

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 dossier is completed.

10. New mandates

10.1. New questions received: None

10.2. 2. Valid questions: 2

Food Sector	EFSA-Q-Number	Subject	Validity date
REC	EFSA-Q-2026-00223	Application for the authorisation of the recycling process EREMA_VACUREMA MPR to produce recycled plastic for food contact uses	30 June 2026
FCM	EFSA-Q-2025-00656	Application for the authorisation of cork granules as a new substance to be used in plastic for food contact uses	21 May 2026

10.3. Withdrawn questions: None

11. AoB

None

12. Next Plenary meeting

The next FCM Panel meeting will take place online, from 15 to17 September 2026.

Annex I: List of Observers

Online:

103 observers registered; 58 attended online, 6 attended on site

Observer	Organization
Adarme Yully	Lavazza
Badeka Anna	International Hellenic University
Batke Monika	University of Duisburg-Essen
Benes Eszter	Federation of Responsible Food Manufacturers
Braunegger Tobias	MULTIVAC Sepp Haggenmüller SE & Co. KG
Calatayud Mirasol Carmen	AINIA
Carpen Alina	Faculty of Food Science and Technology, UASVM Cluj
Colombo Gianluca	FoodDrinkEurope
Costa Alice	MARS
Cunha Maria João	Grupo Nabeiro - Delta Cafés
De Berardinis Chiara	University of Parma
De Cort Suzanne	E&Act
De Klein Daisy	knoell
De Oude Wim	Eastman Chemical Company
Díaz González Raúl	Huhtamaki
Dimitris Mandis	Agmpm
Dopter Aymeric	Extraction solvents WG
Eisert Ralf	BASF
Ferroni Carlotta	Ministry of health
Garde-Belza Jose-Angel	AINIA-Technological Center
Girard Florent	Ligepack

Observer	Organization
Gkrintzali Georgia	Food Safety Officer
Gómez Martínez Melania	CADEL RECYCLING LAB S.L.
Gómez-Coca Raquel Beatriz	Instituto de la Grasa -CSIC-
Hajjar Kalila	FEDIOL
Hartmann Georg	WACKER CHEMIE AG
Hayrapetyan Ruzanna	Danone
Hoppe Maria	BASF SE
Kassouf Amine	Global Food Regulatory Science Society (GFoRSS)
Lee Hye-Won	Korea Natural Resource & Economic Research Institute (NRR)
Lee Eunju	Ministry of Food and Drug
Linda Zanchi	Salchi Metalcoat
Llensa Daniel	AKZONOBEL
Lozowska Julia	Student
Mahdiani Maryam	Tetra Pak
Marinovich Marina	university of milan
Michalak Michal	Amcor RPSI Berry Superfos Lubień
Mostardini Francesca	University of Parma
Moulisova Alena	National Institute of Public Health
Mousia Zoi	EFSA (ENREL)
Napierska Dorota	Zero Waste Europe
Niegowska Conforti Magdalena	FAO
Oboeuf Maxence	DANONE
Papantonopoulou Myrta	AkzoNobel Packaging Coatings
Prestel Sarah	TÜV SÜD

Observer	Organization
Razzano Clémence	APPLiA - Home Appliance Europe
Ribeiro Catarina	Quina Ribeiro lda
Roncarolo Chiara	Lavazza
Schmahl Pascal	Cefic
Schmid Petra	Fraunhofer Institute for Process Engineering and Packaging IVV
Song Min Kyuong	Korea Natural Resource & Economic Research Institute (NRR)
Ternstroem Carl	Woodcomposite Sweden AB
Thomann Marlies	Tetra Pak
Thomas Diemo	BYK-Chemie GmbH
Vintilă Iuliana	University Dunărea de Jos Galați
Wang Danlei	Flora Food Group
Westerhout Joost	RIVM
Yada Makiko	The European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic)

On site:

Observer	Organization
Cavazza Antonella	University of Parma
Dimitrijevic Jelena	RegFocus Consulting
Kalantari Ghazal	University of Parma
Oldring Peter	sherwin williams
Pandya Pranjal	University of Parma
Shariati Fatemeh	University of Parma