

Parma, 18 July 2012
EFSA/CONTAM/1809

**MINUTES OF THE 53RD PLENARY MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON
CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN (CONTAM) HELD FROM
27 TO 29 JUNE 2012 IN PARMA**

Agreed on 8 August 2012

PARTICIPANTS.

CONTAM Panel Members:

Jan Alexander, Diane Benford (vice-chair), Alan Boobis, Sandra Ceccatelli, Bruce Cottrill, Jean-Pierre Cravedi, Alessandro Di Domenico, Daniel Doerge, Eugenia Dogliotti,¹ Lutz Edler, Peter Farmer, Metka Filipič, Peter Fürst, Thierry Guérin, Helle Knutsen, Miroslav Machala, Antonio Mutti, Martin Rose, Josef Schlatter (chair) and Rolaf van Leeuwen (vice-chair)

European Food Safety Authority (EFSA):

Unit on Contaminants (CONTAM unit)

Katleen Baert, Marco Binaglia (acting deputy head of unit), Gina Cioacata, Carolina Di Bona, Mari Eskola (acting head of unit), Nicklas Gustavsson (trainee), Silvia Nicolau Solano, Luisa Ramos Bordajandi, Doina Stoica and Natalie Thatcher

Unit on Dietary and Chemical Monitoring (DCM unit)

Jose Angel Gomez Ruiz

European Commission (EC):

Frans Verstraete (DG Health and Consumers, unit E3).

1. WELCOME.

The chair of the CONTAM Panel welcomed the members to the 53rd CONTAM plenary meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies for absence were received from Johanna Fink-Gremmels (CONTAM Panel), Marina Marini (DG Health and Consumers, unit 03), Frank Swartenbroux (DG Health and Consumers, unit E3) and Almut Bitterhof (DG Health and Consumers, unit E3).

¹ Available on 27 and 28 June 2012 only.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA.

The draft agenda was adopted.

4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Declarations of Interests, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of Interest (ADoI) and/or Specific Declaration of interest (SDoI) filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting were identified during the screening process or at the beginning of this meeting.

5. DRAFT OPINION ON ERGOT ALKALOIDS IN FOOD AND FEED (EFSA-Q-2010-01000). FOR POSSIBLE ADOPTION.

The chair of the CONTAM WG on alkaloids presented the draft opinion on ergot alkaloids in food and feed (EFSA-Q-2010-01000) where the European Commission had asked EFSA to assess the risk for public and animal health related to the presence of ergot alkaloids in food and feed. The CONTAM Panel adopted this opinion subject to incorporation of minor changes as suggested during the meeting. The chair of the CONTAM Panel expressed his appreciation to the members of the WG on alkaloids and EFSA staff for the preparatory work of this draft opinion.

6. DRAFT CHAPTERS OF THE OPINION ON STERIGMATOCYSTIN IN FEED AND FOOD (EFSA-Q-2010-01005). FOR DISCUSSION.

The chair of the CONTAM WG on *Aspergillus* toxins presented to the members of the CONTAM Panel the risk characterisation section of the draft opinion on sterigmatocystin in food and feed (EFSA-Q-2010-01005). The members of the CONTAM Panel discussed the approach proposed and provided their suggestions. Other parts of the draft opinion are progressing well. The draft opinion will be presented for possible adoption in the second half of 2012.

7. DRAFT OPINION ON EMERGING AND NOVEL BFRS IN FOOD (EFSA-Q-2010-00220). FOR DISCUSSION.

The chair of the WG on BFRs made a brief presentation to the members of the CONTAM Panel on the approach for the draft opinion on emerging and novel BFRs (EFSA-Q-2010-00220). The members of the CONTAM Panel discussed the approach and provided further suggestions. The draft opinion is progressing well and it will be presented for possible adoption at the 55th CONTAM Panel meeting (25 to 27 September 2012). This will be the last opinion of the series of opinions on BFRs in food.

8. WORK PROGRAMME.

8.1. GENERAL INFORMATION FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION (EC) SERVICES ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE CONTAM PANEL.

The EC reported on the follow-up of risk management in relation to the recent CONTAM Panel opinions and in particular: T-2 and HT-2 toxins in food and feed, opium alkaloids in poppy seeds, citrinin in food and feed and phomopsins in food and feed.

8.2. OFFICIAL REQUESTS TO EFSA FOR THE CONTAM PANEL.

No official requests have been received.

8.3. UPDATE FROM WG ALKALOIDS.

The vice-chair of the WG on alkaloids informed the members of the CONTAM Panel that the WG has started working on the opinion on tropane alkaloids. At the moment limited occurrence data are available but it is expected that more data will be submitted by one Member State in Autumn 2012. This warranted asking the EC to extend the deadline for adoption to July 2013.

8.4. UPDATE FROM WG ON ASPERGILLUS TOXINS.

See the item point 6.

8.5. UPDATE FROM WG BFRS.

See the item point 7.

8.6. UPDATE FROM WG FUSARIUM TOXINS.

The chair of the WG on Fusarium toxins informed the members of the CONTAM Panel that the draft opinion on nivalenol (EFSA-Q-2010-01003) is progressing well and that it will be presented for possible adoption in the first half of 2013.

8.7. UPDATE FROM WG MEAT INSPECTION INCLUDING THE EFSA OVERARCHING WG.

Due to absence of the chair of the WG on meat inspection, a member of the WG informed the members of the CONTAM Panel that the two ruminant opinions (bovines (EFSA-Q-2011-00111) and that on domestic sheep and goats (EFSA-Q-2011-0096)) are progressing well. The opinions will be presented for possible adoption in the first half of 2013. Preparatory work for the two remaining opinions (meat inspection of domestic solipeds (EFSA-Q-2011-00962) and of farmed game (EFSA-Q-2011-00961)) has started. Feedback on the technical hearings with stakeholders held at EFSA in April and May 2012 was also given.

8.8. UPDATE FROM WG ON MERCURY IN FOOD.

The chair of the WG on mercury in food informed the members of the CONTAM Panel that the draft opinion on mercury and methylmercury in food (EFSA-Q-2011-00923) is progressing well and that it will be presented for possible adoption at the 56th CONTAM Panel meeting (20 to 22 November 2012).

8.9. UPDATE FROM WG ON PREVIOUS CARGOES – RE-EVALUATION.

The chair of the WG on previous cargoes re-evaluation informed the members of the CONTAM Panel that the third and last draft opinion on the re-evaluation of substances as acceptable previous cargoes (Part III of III, EFSA-Q-2010-01464) is progressing well and that it will be presented for possible adoption at the 55th CONTAM Panel meeting (25 to 27 September 2012).

8.10. UPDATE FROM WG ON REFERENCE POINTS FOR ACTION.

The chair of the WG on RPAs informed the members of the CONTAM Panel that the draft opinion on reference points for action (EFSA-Q-2011-00149) is progressing well and that it will be presented for possible adoption at the 56th CONTAM Panel meeting (20 to 22 November 2012).

8.11. FEEDBACK FROM SC MEETING 21 TO 22 MAY 2012.

The vice-chair of the CONTAM Panel, who attended the 55th plenary meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC), reported that a presentation on EFSA's budget release was given. A guide on submission for evaluations of food additives was also presented at the meeting and the opinion on the threshold of toxicological concern (TTC) was adopted. The Panel chairs or vice-chairs presented the main achievements of the EFSA Scientific Panels during 2009-12 and new implementing rules for DOIs were presented and discussed. It was also pointed out that SC has initiated a dedicated network on the harmonisation of risk assessment methodologies. The details are available on the EFSA website².

8.12. FEEDBACK FROM EFSA.

The acting head of the CONTAM unit informed the members of the CONTAM Panel on the following matters:

Advisory Forum (AF) meeting 27-28 June 2012

During the Advisory Forum meeting in Copenhagen EFSA's work with Member States and work plan including prioritisation to optimise the use of risk assessment capacity in the EU were discussed. Also EFSA's management plan for 2013 was presented. The details are available on the EFSA website³.

Management Board (MB) meeting 14 June 2012

During the Management Board meeting in Parma the consolidated list of experts for the Scientific Committee and the eight Scientific Panels was

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/120521.htm>

³ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/120627a.htm>

adopted. In addition, EFSA's 2013 draft annual work programme for contracts and grants was adopted and the list of members of the Stakeholder Consultative Platform was revised. The details are available on the EFSA website⁴.

Other matters

The CONTAM Panel 2012-15 will have its inauguration meeting on 11-12 July 2012 at EFSA in Parma.

Outsourcing activities

The procurement to collate the literature on toxicity data on chromium and nickel in food and bottled water was launched by EFSA at the end of June 2012 under the EFSA framework contract.

The call for proposals for an Article 36 grant for a study on the influence of food processing on nitrate levels in vegetables was launched.⁵ The evaluation of the offers is progressing and will be finalised in July 2012.

Two offers were received regarding the call for tender for procurement on a combined toxicokinetic and *in vivo* genotoxicity study on *Alternaria* toxins.⁶ The evaluation of the offers is progressing and will be finalised by mid July 2012.

Achievements of the CONTAM Panel 2009-12

The CONTAM Team presented an interactive presentation on achievements of the CONTAM Panel in 2009-2012. In total 41 scientific outputs (36 scientific opinions and 5 Panel statements) were adopted and published. The acting head of unit thanked the members of the CONTAM Panel for their valuable work and good atmosphere during the last three years. The chair of the CONTAM Panel thanked the Panel members and the CONTAM Unit for their contributions, efforts and friendship over the last three years. He also thanked those members who had their last term in the CONTAM Panel and wished good luck to those members who continue in the new CONTAM Panel in July 2012. A member of the CONTAM Panel, on behalf of all members of the Panel, thanked the chair for his wise and knowledgeable leadership over the last three years, and indeed throughout all three mandates of the CONTAM Panel. Also the EC representative thanked the CONTAM Panel members for their work.

8.13. UPDATE FROM WGS OF SC OF INTEREST TO CONTAM PANEL.

The members of the CONTAM Panel were informed about the outcome of the SC WG on TTC Approaches (see 8.12).

⁴ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/120614a.htm>

⁵ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/art36grants/article36/gpefsacontam201201.htm>

⁶ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/tenders/tender/ocefsacontam201201.htm>

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

No other business was raised.