

---

UNIT ON CONTAMINANTS

Parma, 13 August 2012  
EFSA/CONTAM/1781

**SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN**  
**Minutes of the 54<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting of the Scientific Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain**

**Held on 11-12 July 2012, Parma**

**(Agreed on 5 9 2012)**

**Participants**

- **Panel Members:**

Diane Benford, Sandra Ceccatelli, Bruce Cottrill, Michael Dinovi, Eugenia Dogliotti, Lutz Edler, Peter Farmer, Peter Fürst, Anne-Katrine Lundebye-Haldorsen<sup>1</sup>, Ron Hoogenboom, Manfred Metzler, Michael O’Keeffe, Carlo Nebbia,<sup>2</sup> Ivonne Rietjens, Dieter Schrenk, Vittorio Silano, Hendrik Van Loveren,<sup>2</sup> Christiane Vleminckx and Pieter Wester

- **European Commission:**

Frans Verstraete (DG Health and Consumers, unit E3)<sup>2</sup>

- **EFSA:**

- **RASA Directorate:**

Bernhard Url

- **CONTAM Unit:**

Katleen Baert, Marco Binaglia, Gina Cioacata, Carolina Di Bona, Mari Eskola, Valentina Mota, Silvia Inés Nicolau Solano, Luisa Ramos Bordajandi, Doina Stoica and Natalie Thatcher

- **DCM Unit:**

Stefan Fabiansson and Mary Gilsenan

- **LRA Unit:**

Dirk Detken

- **IT Systems:**

Marco Castaldini

---

<sup>1</sup> Present on 11 July 2012 only.

<sup>2</sup> Present on 12 July 2012 only.

## 1. Welcome

The Executive Director of EFSA, Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle, welcomed the members of the Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain (CONTAM), the Panel on Animal Health and Welfare (AHAW) and the Panel on Plant Protection Products and their Residues (PPR) to the inauguration meeting and to the common session of the three Panels.

## 2. Informative afternoon session (11 July 2012)

The informative session was held jointly with AHAW and PPR Panels and presentations on EFSA's role as scientific advisory body, EFSA's risk assessment activities, EFSA's communication activities, and Administrative framework for supporting experts<sup>3</sup> were given by Executive Director, Head of Risk Assessment and Scientific Assistance (RASA) Directorate, Head of Scientific Evaluation of Regulated Products (REPRO) Directorate, Head of Legal and Regulatory Affairs (LRA) Unit, Director of Communications (COMMS) and Financial Officer.

## 3. Welcome and apologies for absence (12 July 2012)

The acting head of the CONTAM Unit welcomed the CONTAM Panel members to the CONTAM Panel session and chaired the first part of the meeting.

Apologies were received from Helle Knutsen (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).

## 4. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

## 5. Round table presentation of CONTAM Panel members and CONTAM Unit staff

The CONTAM Panel members and the CONTAM Unit staff members presented briefly themselves and their scientific backgrounds.

## 6. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes regarding Declarations of Interests (Dols)<sup>4</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director implementing this Policy<sup>5</sup>, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest (ADoI) and the 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 have been identified during the screening process or in the Oral Declaration of interest (ODOI) at the beginning of this meeting<sup>6</sup>.

---

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/120711-a.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> Specific Declaration of interest (SDoI) not applicable for this meeting as scientific opinions were not presented for discussion or possible adoption.

## **7. Agreement of the minutes of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Plenary meeting held on 27-29 June 2012 in Parma**

Agreed by written procedure<sup>7</sup>.

## **8. Election of CONTAM Panel chair and two vice-chairs**

The election took place following the procedure established by EFSA<sup>8</sup> and under the supervision of the Head of LRA Unit. The election was chaired by the acting head of the CONTAM Unit. Diane Benford was elected as a chair of the CONTAM Panel, and Peter Fürst and Dieter Schrenk were elected as vice-chairs of the CONTAM Panel. The rest of the meeting was chaired by the newly appointed chair of the CONTAM Panel.

## **9. Report on written procedures since 53<sup>rd</sup> Plenary meeting**

No items at this meeting.

## **10. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion and possible adoption**

No items at this meeting.

## **11. New mandates**

No new official mandates falling within the mandate of the CONTAM Panel have been received by EFSA. However, an outline related to requests which will arrive in the near future was given by the Commission.

## **12. Feedback from the Scientific Committee/the Scientific Panel, Working Groups, EFSA and the European Commission**

### **12.1 Scientific Committee and other Scientific Panels**

The last Scientific Committee (SC) meeting was held on 21 May 2012 in Parma. The minutes are available on the EFSA website<sup>9</sup>.

### **12.2 CONTAM Work programme and working groups**

The Director of the RASA Directorate gave a short introduction on himself and expressed his appreciation to the CONTAM Panel members for accepting the nomination for the CONTAM Panel. In relation to the CONTAM Panel's risk assessments, the acting head of the CONTAM Unit gave a presentation on the mandate and remit of the CONTAM Panel, its working groups and structure of scientific opinions of the CONTAM Panel. In addition, the work programme and the organisation of the work related to current working groups were outlined.

---

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/120627.htm>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/paneloperation.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/120521-m.pdf>

### **12.2.1 Working group on Alkaloids**

The scientific officer co-ordinating the work of the WG on Alkaloids informed the members of the CONTAM Panel on the present status of the WG. The WG is currently working on the draft opinion on tropane alkaloids in food and feed (EFSA-Q-2010-01038). The draft opinion will be presented for possible adoption in the second half of 2013. Peter Fürst agreed to continue as the chair of this WG.

### **12.2.2 Working group on Aspergillus toxins**

The scientific officer co-ordinating the work of the WG on *Aspergillus* toxins informed the members of the CONTAM Panel on the present status of the WG. The WG is currently working on the draft opinion on sterigmatocystin in food and feed (EFSA-Q-2010-01005). The draft opinion will be presented for possible adoption in the end of this year. Lutz Edler agreed to continue as the chair of this WG.

### **12.2.3 Working group on BFRs**

The scientific officer co-ordinating the work of the WG on Brominated Flame Retardants BFRs informed the members of the CONTAM Panel on the present status of the WG. The WG is currently working on the draft opinion on emerging and novel BFRs (EFSA-Q-2010-00220). The draft opinion will be presented for possible adoption at the next plenary meeting of the CONTAM Panel. This will be the last opinion of the series of opinions on BFRs in food. Dieter Schrenk agreed to be the new chair of this WG.

### **12.2.4 Working group on Chromium and nickel**

The scientific officer co-ordinating the work of the WG on Chromium and nickel informed the members of the CONTAM Panel on the present status of the WG. The WG will start working on the draft opinion on Chromium in food (EFSA-Q-2012-00379) in autumn 2012. After this draft opinion, the WG will develop the draft opinion on Nickel in food (EFSA-Q-2012-00378). Eugenia Dogliotti agreed to continue as the chair of this WG.

### **12.2.5 Working group on Dioxins in food for children**

The scientific officer co-ordinating the work of the WG on Dioxins in food for children informed the members of the CONTAM Panel on the present status of the WG. The WG will start working on the draft opinion on dioxins in food for children (EFSA-Q-2011-01091) in July 2012. Peter Fürst agreed to be the new chair of this WG.

### **12.2.6 Working group on *Fusarium* toxins**

The acting head of CONTAM unit co-ordinating the work of the WG on *Fusarium* toxins informed the members of the CONTAM Panel on the present status of the WG. The WG is currently working on the draft opinion on nivalenol in food and feed (EFSA-Q-2010-01003). The draft opinion will be presented for possible adoption in the first half of 2013. The WG will also develop the draft opinions on beauvericin and enniatins in food and feed (EFSA-Q-2010-00999), diacetoxyscirpenol in food and feed (EFSA-Q-2010-01010) and moniliformin in food and feed (EFSA-Q-2010-01006). Peter Farmer agreed to continue as the chair of this WG.

### **12.2.7 Working group on Meat inspection contaminants and the Overarching EFSA working group**

The scientific officer co-ordinating the work of the WG on Meat inspection informed the members of the CONTAM Panel on the present status of the WG. The WG is currently working on the draft opinions on bovine meat inspection (EFSA-Q-2011-00111) and domestic sheep and goat meat inspection (small ruminants meat inspection) (EFSA-Q-2011-00960). They will be presented for possible adoption in the second half of 2012 or in the first half of 2013. The WG will also develop the draft opinions on farmed game meat inspection (EFSA-Q-2011-00961) and solipeds meat inspection (EFSA-Q-2010-01010). Michael O'Keeffe agreed to be the new chair of this WG.

### **12.2.8 Working group on Mercury in food**

The scientific officer co-ordinating the work of the WG on Mercury in food informed the members of the CONTAM Panel on the present status of the WG. The draft opinion on mercury and methylmercury in food (EFSA-Q- 2011-00923) will be presented for possible adoption in the end of this year. Helle Knutsen agreed to continue as the chair of this WG.

### **12.2.9 Working group on Previous cargoes – re-evaluation**

The scientific officer co-ordinating the work of the WG on Previous cargoes re-evaluation informed the members of the CONTAM Panel on the present status of the WG. The WG is currently working on the third and last draft opinion on the re-evaluation of substances as acceptable previous cargoes (Part III of III, EFSA-Q-2010-01464). The draft opinion on Part III will be presented for possible adoption at the next plenary meeting of the CONTAM Panel. Eugenia Dogliotti agreed to be the new chair of this WG.

### **12.2.10 Working group on Reference points for action**

The scientific officer co-ordinating the work of the WG on Reference points for action (RPA) informed the members of the CONTAM Panel on the present status of the WG. The WG is currently working on the draft opinion on reference points for action (EFSA-Q-2011-00149). The draft opinion will be presented for possible adoption in the end of this year. Peter Fürst agreed to be the new chair of this WG.

## **12.3 EFSA**

### **12.3.1 Role of the CONTAM Unit**

The acting head of the CONTAM Unit presented the role of the CONTAM Unit with an overview of the unit mandate and the detailed tasks of the unit staff. In addition, the respective CONTAM Unit staff members presented practical issues in relation to the scientific opinions of the CONTAM Panel and administrative matters of the Panel and WG meeting organisation.

### **12.3.2 Current outsourcing activities of CONTAM Unit**

The scientific officers co-ordinating the outsourcing activities of the CONTAM Unit informed the members of the CONTAM Panel on the present status of these 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<sup>10</sup>. The evaluation of the offers is in progress 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<sup>11</sup>. The evaluation of the offers is in progress and will be finalised by mid July 2012.

### **12.3.3 Role of Dietary and Chemical Monitoring Unit (DCM)**

The head of the DCM Unit presented the role of the DCM Unit with an overview of the unit mandate and outlined ongoing projects on data collection and human exposure assessment.

### **12.3.4. Presentation on the tool for declarations of interest (DOI)**

A staff member from EFSA IT Applications gave a presentation on the new features of the DOI tool in relation to the new implementing rules of EFSA on the Dols.

## **12.4 European Commission**

The EC representative presented the regulatory framework in the area of contaminants in food and feed.

## **13. Meeting dates of the CONTAM Panel**

The meeting dates of the CONTAM Panel meetings for 2012 and 2013 were agreed and are available on the EFSA website<sup>12</sup>.

## **14. Other scientific topics for information**

No other scientific issues were reported.

## **15. Any Other Business**

No other business was raised.

---

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/art36grants/article36/gpefsacontam201201.htm>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/tenders/tender/ocefsacontam201201.htm>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/contam/contammeetings.htm>