European Food Safety Authority

Unit on Contaminants

Parma, 27 January 2014
EFSA/CONTAM/2072 rev2

Scientific Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain
Minutes of the 62nd plenary meeting
Held on 26-28 November 2013, Parma

(Agreed on 07.02.2014)

Participants

- **Panel Members:**

  Diane Benford, Sandra Ceccatelli, Bruce Cottrill, Michael Dinovi[1], Eugenia Dogliotti, Lutz Edler, Peter Farmer, Peter Fürst, Ron Hoogenboom, Helle Knutsen, Manfred Metzler[2], Carlo Nebbia, Michael O'Keeffe, Ivonne Rietjens, Vittorio Silano, Hendrik van Loveren, Christiane Vleminckx and Pieter Wester

- **Hearing Expert:**

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- **European Commission and/or Member States representatives:**

- Frans Verstraete[2] (European Commission, DG Health and Consumers, unit E3), Leonidas Palilis[3] (Hellenic Food Authority – for item 6.3)

- **EFSA:**

  - **CONTAM Unit:**

    Katleen Baert, Marco Binaglia, Gina Cioacata, Athanasios Gkrillas, Karen Mackay and Luisa Ramos Bordajandi

  - **DCM Unit:**

    Davide Arcella (for item 6.1), José Ángel Gómez Ruiz (for item 6.3) and Fanny Héraud (for item 6.2)

[1] Participated via tele-conference.
[2] Participated on 27-28 November 2013 only.
[3] Participated on 27 November 2013 via teleconference.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Anne-Katrine Lundebye (CONTAM Panel), Dieter Schrenk (CONTAM Panel), Marina Marini (European Commission, DG Health and Consumers, unit 03), Frank Swartenbroux (European Commission, DG Health and Consumers, unit E3), Mari Eskola (CONTAM Unit, EFSA) and Natalie Thatcher (CONTAM Unit, EFSA).

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda item 5.2 was changed and the draft opinion tabled for discussion was changed to discussion and possible adoption. For rest of the agenda there were no changes. The CONTAM Panel adopted the agenda with this change.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes[4] and the Decision of the Executive Director implementing this Policy regarding Declarations of Interests[5], EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest and the Specific Declaration of interest 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 at the Oral Declaration of interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 61st Plenary meeting held on 25-27 September 2013

The minutes were agreed by written procedure on 19 November 2013 and published on the EFSA website[6].

5. Written procedures since 61st Plenary meeting

5.1 Request from EC for an opinion on tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) in milk and other food of animal origin (EFSA-Q-2013-00787)

The CONTAM Panel discussed the request by written procedure and agreed to initiate a WG on tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) in milk and other food of animal origin. Peter Fürst agreed to be the chair of this WG.

6. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion and possible adoption

6.1. Discussion and possible adoption of the draft opinion on perchlorate in food, in particular fruits and vegetables (EFSA-Q-2013-00675)

The deputy acting Head of the CONTAM Unit presented the draft opinion (EFSA-Q-2013-00675), in which the European Commission had asked EFSA to assess the risk for public

[4] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf
[5] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules.pdf
[6] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/130925-m.pdf

health related to the presence of perchlorate in food, in particular fruits and vegetables. The CONTAM Panel discussed the draft opinion and identified divergences with national risk assessments carried out by two European Member States. Therefore the opinion was not adopted. The draft opinion will be presented for discussion and possible adoption at the 63rd CONTAM Panel meeting (25-27 February 2014), following the clarification of the identified divergences with the relevant national risk assessment bodies.

6.2. Discussion and possible adoption on the draft statement on a possible increase of the maximum level of deoxynivalenol for certain semi-processed cereal products (EFSA-Q-2013-00703)

The chair of the CONTAM WG on Maximum levels (MLs) of deoxynivalenol in certain cereal products presented the draft statement[7] on the risks for public health related to a possible increase of the maximum level of deoxynivalenol for certain semi-processed cereal products (EFSA-Q-2013-00703), in which the European Commission had asked EFSA to assess the risks to human health related to a possible increase of the ML of deoxynivalenol for flour, semolina, meal and flakes derived from wheat, maize or barley used as an ingredient from 750 µg/kg to 1000 µg/kg, with the understanding that the ML for bread (including small bakery wares), pastries, biscuits, cereal snacks and breakfast cereals remains at the level of 500 µg/kg.. The CONTAM Panel discussed the draft statement and adopted it subject to incorporation of minor changes as suggested during the meeting. The chair of the CONTAM Panel expressed her appreciation to the members of the WG and the EFSA staff.

6.3. Discussion and possible adoption on the draft opinion on chromium in foodstuff (EFSA-Q-2012-00379)

The chair of the CONTAM WG on Chromium and nickel presented the current status draft opinion on chromium in food and drinking water (EFSA-Q-2012-00379), in which the Hellenic Food Safety Authority had asked EFSA to assess the risks for public health related to the presence of chromium in food and hexavalent chromium in drinking water. The CONTAM Panel discussed the draft opinion and proposed further revisions for some chapters. Therefore the draft opinion was not adopted. The draft opinion will be presented for discussion and possible adoption at the 63rd CONTAM Panel meeting (25-27 February 2014).

6.4. Discussion on the draft opinion on acrylamide in food (EFSA-Q-2013-00007) - selected chapters

The chair of the CONTAM WG on Acrylamide in food presented the current status of the draft opinion (EFSA-Q-2013-00007) in which the European Commission had asked EFSA to assess the risk for public health related to the presence of acrylamide in food, and in particular the section on observations in humans. The members of the CONTAM Panel discussed the draft and provided their suggestions. The chair of the WG will bring back the comments to the WG, which will take them into account and continue with the development of the draft opinion. The draft opinion on acrylamide in food is progressing well.

7. New mandates

No new official mandates falling within the mandate of the CONTAM Panel have been allocated to the CONTAM Panel by EFSA. However, a request from the European

[7] Scientific opinion of the CONTAM Panel presented in the form of Statement.

Commission for a scientific opinion on chloramphenicol in food and feed has been submitted to EFSA. This will likely be allocated to the CONTAM Panel in the coming days. In addition, the European Commission has indicated to EFSA that a request for a scientific opinion on 3-MCPD and its esters, and glycidyl esters in food will be submitted to EFSA in the near future.

8. Feedback from the Scientific Committee/the Scientific Panels, Working Groups, EFSA, the European Commission

8.1. Scientific Committee and other Scientific Panels

The chair of the CONTAM Panel highlighted the main items discussed in the 64th plenary meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC) on 13-14 November 2013. These were: the feedback from a meeting organised by an Member of the European Parliament on the transparency in the use of expert opinions and the use of systematic reviews in the chemical safety assessment, the review of the EFSA communication strategy, the discussion on the review of the guidance on the use of the Benchmark Dose approach in the safety assessment of chemicals and, the draft opinion on Qualified Presumption of safety approach for botanicals. More information is available on the EFSA website[8].

The respective CONTAM Panel members who are the members of the SC WGs and other Scientific Panel WGs relevant for the CONTAM Panel informed about current status of these WGs, namely WG on Qualified presumption of safety for botanicals (SC), standing WG on Emerging risks (SC), standing WG on Guidance review (SC), WG on dissimilar mode of action (PPR Panel) and WG on BPA (CEF Panel).

8.2. CONTAM working groups

8.2.1. Working group on Acrylamide in food

See item 6.4.

8.2.2. Working group on Chromium and nickel

See item 6.3. The chair of the WG on chromium and nickel informed the members of the CONTAM Panel that the draft opinion on nickel in foodstuffs (EFSA-Q-2012-00378) will be started soon.

8.2.3. Working group on Fusarium toxins

The chair of the WG on Fusarium toxins informed the members of the CONTAM Panel that the draft opinion on beauvericin and enniatins in food and feed (EFSA-Q-2010-00999) is progressing well.

8.2.4. Working group on MLs of deoxynivalenol in certain cereal products

See item 6.2.

[8] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scer/scmeetings.htm

8.3. EFSA

8.3.1. Advisory Forum

This agenda item was deferred to the 63rd CONTAM Panel meeting (25-27 February 2014) due to lack of time. Information on the Advisory Forum meeting (5-6 December 2013 in Parma, Italy) is available on the EFSA website[9].

8.3.2. Management Board

This agenda item was deferred to the 63rd CONTAM Panel meeting (25-27 February 2014) due to lack of time. Information on the Management Board meeting (24 October 2013 and 19 December 2013 in Parma, Italy) is available on the EFSA website[10].

8.3.3. CONTAM Panel meeting dates for 2014

The dates for the 64th CONTAM Panel meeting were confirmed and the CONTAM Panel agreed that an additional meeting will be needed in 2014. The meeting dates for 2014 are available on the EFSA website[11].

8.3.4. Other

Marta Hugas who was recently appointed the Acting Director of the EFSA Risk Assessment and Scientific Assistance (RASA) Directorate visited the CONTAM Panel meeting. Marta Hugas was the former Head of EFSA BIOHAZ Unit and she was appointed in her new position due to the appointment of Bernhard Url as Acting Executive Director of EFSA.

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

Reorganisation of the EFSA Risk Assessment and Scientific Assistance (RASA) Directorate will be in force from the 1 January 2014 onwards. For the CONTAM Unit this means that the CONTAM Unit will be a CONTAM team in the new BIOCONTAM Unit. The acting Head of BIOCONTAM Unit will be Ernesto Liebana Criado.

Athanasios Gkrillas joined the CONTAM unit as an in-service trainee in October 2013 for one year and the previous in-service trainee Bistra Benkova left the CONTAM Unit in the end of November 2013.

8.4. European Commission

The European Commission representative gave a feedback on the activities of the European Commission in relation to the issued scientific opinions of the CONTAM Panel. Several amendments for current legislation have been made or are under discussion with the Member States as an outcome of the CONTAM Panel scientific opinions. In addition, several recommendations to the Member States have been made by the European Commission based on CONTAM opinions.

[9] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/131205-a.pdf
[10] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/mb/mbmeetings.htm
[11] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/contam/contammeetings.htm

9. Other scientific topics for information and/or discussion

9.1. Present status of current outsourcing activities of the CONTAM Unit

For the Article 36 grant on the study on the influence of food processing on nitrate levels in vegetables (signed with the University of Maribor, Slovenia in August 2012 for one year), the final report was approved in November 2013 and will be published on the EFSA website.

For the procurement on a combined toxicokinetic and *in vivo* genotoxicity study on *Alternaria* toxins (awarded to the Fraunhofer Institute, Germany, in August 2012 for two years), the first interim report was delivered in September 2013 and the second interim report is due in March 2014.

For the procurement on an extensive literature search and provision of summaries of the studies on oral toxicity of perfluoroalkylated substances, their precursors and potential replacements in experimental animals and humans (follow-up contract awarded to RICARDO-AEA Ltd.), the final report is expected to be completed by January 2014.

For the Article 36 grant on the combined bioaccumulation/toxicity study on a broad mixture of mineral oil saturated hydrocarbons relevant to the human dietary exposure (signed with INRA (France) and NIPH (Norway) in September 2013), the project has started following the kick-off meeting held in October 2013.

For the Article 36 grant to collect occurrence data on sterigmatocystin in food (signed with RIKILT (the Netherlands), Unicatt (Italy), Fera (United Kingdom), BPI (Greece) and NVWA (the Netherlands) in September 2013), the kick-off meeting took place in October 2013 and the first interim report is due in April 2014.

For the Article 36 grant on occurrence data of pyrrolizidine alkaloids in food (signed with RIKILT (the Netherlands), BfR (Germany) and IRTA (Spain) in September 2013), the kick-off meeting took place in October 2013 and the first interim report is due in April 2014.

For the Article 36 Grant on *in vivo* genotoxicity studies on nivalenol and deoxynivalenol, the call was launched in August 2013 and the deadline to present proposals was 21 October 2013. The evaluation of proposals is ongoing.

For the Article 36 grant on deoxynivalenol biomarkers in urine (launched in July 2013), the deadline to present proposals was 15 October 2013 and the evaluation of proposals is ongoing.

9.2. Achievements of the CONTAM Panel from July 2012 to the end of 2013

Due to the lack of time, the achievements of the CONTAM Panel from July 2012 to December 2013 were not presented but printed handouts of the presentation were given to the members of the CONTAM Panel. The chair of the CONTAM Panel and the acting deputy head of CONTAM Unit thanked the Panel members for their valuable work in 2013, expressed seasonal greetings and looked forward to meet the new challenges in 2014.

10. Any other business

No other business was raised.