European Food Safety Authority

Unit on Biological hazards and contaminants

Parma, 25 June 2014
EFSA/CONTAM/2178

Scientific Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain
Minutes of the 65th plenary meeting
Held on 14-15 May 2014, Parma

(Agreed on 04.07.2014)

Participants

- **Panel Members:**

  Diane Benford, Bruce Cottrill, Sandra Ceccatelli, Michael Dinovi[1], Eugenia Dogliotti[2], Lutz Edler, Peter Farmer, Peter Fürst, Ron Hoogenboom, Helle Knutsen, Anne-Katrine Lundebye, Manfred Metzler, Carlo Nebbia, Michael O'Keeffe, Dieter Schrenk, 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 (European Commission, DG Health and Consumers, unit E3)

- **EFSA:**
  - **BIOCONTAM Unit:**

    Katleen Baert, Marco Binaglia, Bianca Bottoni, Gina Cioacata, Athanasios Gkrillas, Ernesto Liebana Criado, Karen Mackay, Luisa Ramos Bordajandi and Hans Steinkellner

  - **DATA Unit:**

    Fanny Héraud (for item 5.1), Petra Gergelova (for item 5.2)

  - **NUTRI Unit:**

    Valeriu Curtui and Silvia Valtueña Martínez (for item 8.1)

  - **RASA Department:**

    Marta Hugas (for item 7.3.3)

[1] Participated vie tele/webconference.
[2] Participated vie tele/webconference on 15 May 2014 only.

- **Executive Directorate:**

  Bernhard Url (for item 7.3.3)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Marina Marini (European Commission, DG Health and Consumers, unit 03), Frank Swartenbroux (European Commission, DG Health and Consumers, unit E3), Mari Eskola (BIOCONTAM Unit, EFSA) and Natalie Thatcher (BIOCONTAM Unit, EFSA).

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes[3] and the Decision of the Executive Director implementing this Policy regarding Declarations of Interests[4], EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of interest and the Specific Declarations 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 64th Plenary meeting held on 26-27 March 2014

The minutes were agreed by written procedure on 5 May 2014 and published on the EFSA website[5].

5. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion and/or possible adoption

5.1. Possible endorsement for public consultation of the draft opinion on acrylamide in food (EFSA-Q-2013-00007)

The chair of the CONTAM WG on Acrylamide in food presented 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 for endorsement for public consultation. The members of the CONTAM Panel discussed the draft opinion and endorsed it for public consultation provided that the modifications proposed by the CONTAM Panel are addressed prior to the consultation. The draft opinion will be then released for the public consultation on the EFSA website for a restricted time period. The feedback received during the consultation will assist the CONTAM Panel in finalising the scientific opinion on acrylamide in food.

[3] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf
[4] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules.pdf
[5] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/contam/contammeetings.htm

5.2. Discussion on the draft opinion on beauvericin and enniatins in food and feed (EFSA-Q-2010-00999) – selected chapters

The vice-chair of the CONTAM WG on Fusarium toxins presented the draft opinion (EFSA-Q-2010-00999) in which the European Commission had asked EFSA to assess the risk for human and animal health related to the presence of beauvericin and enniatins in food and feed, and in particular the section on risk characterisation. The members of the CONTAM Panel discussed the draft sections and provided their suggestions. The vice-chair of the WG will bring the comments back to the WG which will take them into account and continue with the development of the draft opinion. The draft opinion on beauvericin and enniatins in food and feed will be presented for possible adoption at the 66th meeting of the CONTAM Panel (16-18 July 2014).

6. New mandates

6.1. Request from EC for a scientific statement assessing the possible increase of risk to human health related to a possible temporary derogation of the maximum level of deoxynivalenol, zearalenone and fumonisins for maize and maize based products (EFSA-Q-2014-00321)

The members of the CONTAM Panel were informed that EFSA had received an EC request for a scientific statement of EFSA assessing the possible increase of risk to human health related to a possible temporary derogation of the maximum level of deoxynivalenol, zearalenone and fumonisins for maize and maize based products. This mandate was allocated to the BIOCONTAM Unit, and the CONTAM Team and the DATA Unit will develop the opinion internally involving three reviewers from the CONTAM Panel. The EFSA Statement is to be developed by 21 May 2014. The main approach to take in the statement was presented to the members of the CONTAM Panel.

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

7.1. Scientific Committee and other Scientific Panels

The chair of the CONTAM Panel highlighted the main items discussed in the 67th plenary meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC) held on 3-4 April 2014. In particular, the new mandates proposed the activity of the SC WGs were discussed. These are: the revision of the SC guidance on benchmark dose approach, the use of the weight of evidence approach in risk assessment, the SC guidance on biological relevance and the set up the standing WG on genotoxicity. The proposal for the new structure of the EFSA scientific outputs was also discussed. More information is available on the EFSA website[6].

The respective CONTAM Panel members who are members of the SC WGs and other Scientific Panel WGs relevant for the CONTAM Panel informed about current status of these WGs, namely the standing WG on Emerging Risks (SC), the standing WG on Guidance review (SC), and WG on Uncertainty in Risk Assessment (SC).

[6] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/panels/scer.htm?wtrl=01

7.2. CONTAM working groups

7.2.1. Working group on Acrylamide in food

See item 5.1.

7.2.2. Working group on Chromium and nickel

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) is progressing well.

7.2.3. Working group on *Fusarium* toxins

The vice-chair of the WG on *Fusarium* toxins informed the members of the CONTAM Panel that the draft opinion on deoxynivalenol, metabolites of deoxynivalenol and masked deoxynivalenol in food and feed (EFSA-Q-2013-00721) is progressing well. See also item 5.2.

7.2.4. Working group on Masked mycotoxins in food and feed

The chair of the WG on Masked mycotoxins in food and feed informed the members of the CONTAM Panel that the WG started to work on the draft opinion on metabolites and masked or bound forms of certain mycotoxins in food and feed (EFSA-Q-2013-00720).

7.2.5. Working group on Nickel in feed

The chair of the WG on Nickel in feed informed the members of the CONTAM Panel that the WG started to work on the draft opinion on nickel in feed (EFSA-Q-2013-00766).

7.2.6. Standing working group Non-allowed pharmacologically active substances in food and feed and their reference points for action

The chair of the SWG on Non-allowed pharmacologically active substances in food and feed and their reference points for action informed the members of the CONTAM Panel that the draft opinion on chloramphenicol in food and feed (EFSA-Q-2013-00925) is progressing well, and that the SWG will start to work on the draft opinion on nitrofurans and their metabolites in food (EFSA-Q-2014-00066) from July onwards.

7.2.7. Working group on Perchlorate food

The chair of the WG on Perchlorate in food informed the members of the CONTAM Panel that the draft statement perchlorate in food, in particular fruits and vegetables (EFSA-Q-2013-00675) is progressing well.

7.2.8. Working group on Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) in milk and other products of animal origin

The chair of the WG on THC in milk and other products of animal origin informed the members of the CONTAM Panel that the draft opinion on tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) in milk and other products of animal origin (EFSA-Q-2013-00787) is progressing well.

7.3. EFSA

7.3.1. Advisory Forum

Since the last CONTAM Panel meeting there have not been Advisory Forum meetings. The latest Advisory Forum meeting took place on 5-6 March 2014 in Athens, Greece. More information on the Advisory Forum meeting is available on the EFSA website[7].

7.3.2. Management Board

Since the last CONTAM Panel meeting there have not been Management Board meetings The latest Management Board meeting took place on 20 March 2014 in Parma. More information on the Management Board meeting is available on the EFSA website[8].

7.3.3. Other

The Head of RASA Department Marta Hugas and the EFSA Executive Director Bernhard Url visited the CONTAM Panel meeting to discuss on the implementing rules of the declarations of interest and the resignation of Ivonne Rietjens from the CONTAM Panel and its WGs. The CONTAM Panel noted that in its process for adoption of the scientific opinions, extensive peer review of the text drafted by external experts and Panel members is regularly performed. The contributions of Ivonne Rietjens to the draft opinion on acrylamide, still under development, were also discussed in view of the new interest situation identified. It was concluded that all the contributions drafted by Ivonne Rietjens in the acrylamide opinion have been thoroughly discussed by WG members, and subsequently peer reviewed by the members of the CONTAM panel. This process ensures that the information provided is transparently considered.

The CONTAM Panel agreed to the change of the WG Chair for the WG on Perchlorate in food and Christiane Vleminckx was nominated the chair of the WG. For the WG on *Fusarium* toxins the chair position was left empty at the CONTAM Panel meeting but later Lutz Edler was nominated the chair of the WG on *Fusarium* toxins.

The acting team leader of the CONTAM Team of the BIOCONTAM Unit informed the members of the CONTAM Panel on the following matters:

7.4. 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 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.

[7] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/af/afmeetings.htm
[8] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/mb/mbmeetings.htm

8. Other scientific topics for information and/or discussion

8.1. Presentation on the draft scientific opinion of the NDA Panel on the on health benefits of fish and shellfish consumption in relation to health risks associated with exposure to methyl mercury

The scientific officer of the NUTRI Unit presented the draft scientific opinion of the NDA Panel on the health benefits of fish and shellfish consumption in relation to health risks associated with exposure to methyl mercury (EFSA-Q-2013-00167) to the members of the CONTAM Panel. The CONTAM Panel discussed the conclusions and provided further feedback. The CONTAM Panel also proposed that an additional text to reflect the health risks from the consumption of fish and shellfish due to the presence of methyl mercury in fish and shellfish is needed in the draft NDA opinion, and this text will be developed before the possible adoption of the draft opinion.

8.2. Present status of current outsourcing activities of the CONTAM Team (BIOCONTAM Unit)

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 by the beginning of April 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 first interim report is due in July 2014.

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 second interim report is due in August 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 second interim report is due in September 2014.

For the Article 36 Grant on *in vivo* genotoxicity studies on nivalenol and deoxynivalenol, (signed with ANSES (France) and IPL (France) in December 2013), the kick-off meeting took place in January 2014 and the interim report is due in June 2014.

For the Article 36 grant on deoxynivalenol biomarkers in urine (signed with ISS (Italy), Unicatt (Italy), NVI (Norway), NIPH (Norway) and UoH (UK) in December 2013), the first interim report is due in August 2014.

9. Any other business

No other business was raised.