

Parma, 5 October 2015  
EFSA/CONTAM/2564

**Scientific Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain**  
**Minutes of the 74<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting**  
**Held on 23-25 September, 2015, Parma (Italy)**  
**(Agreed on 11 November 2015)**

## Participants

- **Panel Members:**

Jan Alexander, Lars Barregard, Margherita Bignami, Sandra Ceccatelli<sup>1</sup>, Bruce Cottrill<sup>2</sup>, Michael Dinovi<sup>3</sup>, Lutz Edler, Christer Hogstrand, Ron Hoogenboom, Helle Knutzen, Carlo Nebbia<sup>4</sup>, Isabelle Oswald, Annette Petersen, Alain-Claude Roudot<sup>2</sup>, Tanja Schwerdtle, Christiane Vleminckx, Günter Vollmer and Heather Wallace<sup>5</sup>.

- **Hearing Expert<sup>6</sup>:**

Johanna Fink Gremmels<sup>4</sup> and Manfred Metzler<sup>4</sup> (for item 8.2), and Dieter Schrenk<sup>7</sup> (for item 8.3)

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

Frans Verstraete (EC)<sup>1</sup>

- **EFSA:**

- **BIOCONTAM Unit:**

Katleen Baert, Marco Binaglia, Barbara Dörr, Mari Eskola, Ernesto Liebana Criado, Karen Mackay, Luisa Ramos Bordajandi, Ruth Roldán Torres, Hans Steinkellner and Natalie Thatcher

- **DATA Unit:**

Andrea Altieri (for item 8.1) and Francesco Vernazza (for item 8.3)

- **External Relations Unit:**

Francesca Avanzini (for item 9)

- **Observers<sup>8</sup>:**

<sup>1</sup> Present on 24 and 25 September only.

<sup>2</sup> Present on 23 and 24 September only.

<sup>3</sup> Attendance by audio-web conference on 23 and 24 September only.

<sup>4</sup> Present on 24 September only.

<sup>5</sup> Attendance by audio-web conference on 23 September only.

<sup>6</sup> As defined in Article 11 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest:

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> Present on 25 September only.

Not Applicable

- **Others:**

Not Applicable

## **1. Welcome and round table presentation**

The CONTAM Panel Chair welcomed the participants.

## **2. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Bettina Grassl-Kraupp and Vera Rogiers (CONTAM Panel), Marina Marini (European Commission, DG Health and Food Safety, unit 03), and Frank Swartenbroux (European Commission, DG Health and Food Safety, unit E7).

## **3. Adoption of agenda**

The agenda was adopted without changes.

## **4. Declarations of Interest of Scientific Panel members**

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes<sup>9</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest<sup>10</sup>, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest and the Specific Declarations of Interest filled in by the Scientific Panel Members invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest 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.

## **5. Agreement of the minutes of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Plenary meeting held on 2-3 July 2015, Parma (Italy)**

The minutes of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Plenary meeting held on 2-3 July 2015 were agreed by written procedure on 5 September 2015<sup>11</sup>.

## **6. Report on the written procedures since 73<sup>rd</sup> Plenary meeting**

Not applicable.

## **7. Proposal for self-task programme of the CONTAM Panel**

The CONTAM Panel discussed the proposals for self-task mandates presented by its members. The Panel agreed to include the following topics in the list of possible self-task mandates: cadmium in food (update of the previous opinion), arsenic in food (update of the previous opinion), tetrodotoxin in seafood, aluminium in food, sterigmatocystin in food (update of the previous opinion), and brominated and mixed halogenated dioxins in food. Due to the current workload and the expected new mandates, the Panel agreed that it is not

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/stakeholders/observers.html>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/contam/contammeetings.htm>

possible to include self-task mandates in the current activity plan, but decided on the order of priority, considering the first two topics in the aforementioned list as of higher priority compared to the others.

## **8. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion and/or possible adoption**

### **8.1. Draft Scientific Opinion on the risks to human and animal health related to the presence of deoxynivalenol and its acetylated and modified forms in food and feed (EFSA-Q-2013-00721)<sup>12</sup>**

The chair of the CONTAM WG on *Fusarium* toxins presented the selected chapters of the draft opinion (EFSA-Q-2013-00721) in which the European Commission had asked EFSA to assess the risks to human and animal health related to the presence of deoxynivalenol and its acetylated and modified forms in food and feed. The CONTAM Panel discussed the draft opinion and endorsed the selected chapters subject to incorporation of minor changes as suggested during the meeting. In addition, the chair of the WG presented an approach to take for the human and animal exposure and hazard identification and characterisation. The received comments will be taken into consideration in the draft opinion in the upcoming WG meetings.

### **8.2. Draft Scientific Opinion on the risks for human and animal health related to the presence of phorbol esters in Jatropha kernel meal (EFSA-Q-2014-00445)<sup>13</sup>**

The chair of the CONTAM WG on the presence of phorbol esters in Jatropha kernel meal presented the draft opinion (EFSA-Q-2014-00445). The CONTAM Panel discussed the draft opinion, and proposed further revisions for some chapters. Therefore the draft opinion was not adopted in the plenary meeting and the CONTAM Panel agreed to have it presented for possible adoption by written procedure by the end of October 2015.

### **8.3. Draft scientific opinion on the risks for human health related to the presence of 2 and 3-monochloropropanediol (2- and 3-MCPD) fatty acid esters and glycidyl fatty esters in food (EFSA-Q-2014-00535)<sup>14</sup>**

The Chair of the WG presented the draft opinion (EFSA-Q-2014-00535) on the risks for human health related to the presence of 2 and 3-monochloropropanediol (2- and 3-MCPD) fatty acid esters and glycidyl fatty esters in food, and an approach to take for the human exposure and hazard identification and characterisation. The CONTAM Panel discussed the draft opinion and suggested changes. The received comments will be taken into consideration in the draft opinion in the upcoming WG meetings.

## **9 Managing relations with media**

A representative of the External Relations Unit presented to the Panel the mission of the Unit and the services provided to the Scientific Panels.

<sup>12</sup> <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2013-00721>

<sup>13</sup> <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2014-00445>

<sup>14</sup> <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2014-00535>

## **10. Dietary exposure assessment: activity of the DATA Unit and its support to the CONTAM Panel**

The agenda item was deferred to the 75<sup>th</sup> CONTAM Panel meeting (18-20 November).

## **11. External technical report: “Survey on sterigmatocystin in food”**

The outcome of the Article 36 project (GP/EFSA/CONTAM/2013/02) “Survey on sterigmatocystin in food” was presented to the CONTAM Panel. The CONTAM Panel discussed the outcome of the project and noted that with these new occurrence data it is possible to assess the exposure to sterigmatocystin and to characterise the risk for sterigmatocystin in food. The CONTAM Panel indicated that the update of the risk assessment on sterigmatocystin in food and feed could be done as a self-mandate.

## **12. Feedback from the Scientific Committee/Scientific Panels, EFSA, the European Commission**

### **12.1. European Commission**

The European Commission representative gave 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. In addition, the Panel was informed about new mandates under preparation falling in the remit of the CONTAM Panel.

### **12.2. CONTAM Panel Working Groups**

#### **12.2.1. Working Group on Fusarium toxins**

See item 8.1.

#### **12.2.2. Standing Working Group on Non-allowed pharmacologically active substances in food and feed and their reference points for action**

The Vice-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 Scientific Opinion on the adequacy in view of the protection of human health of the reference point for action for malachite green in food is progressing well.

#### **12.2.3. Working Group on dioxins in food and feed**

The Chair of the WG on dioxins in food and feed informed the members of the CONTAM Panel that the draft opinion on the risk for human and animal health related to the presence of PCDD/Fs and DL-PCBs in food and feed is progressing well.

#### **12.2.4. Working Group on MCPD and glycidyl esters**

See item 8.3.

#### **12.2.5. Working Group on Phorbol esters in Jatropha kernel meal**

See item 8.2.

### **12.2.6. Working Group on Erucic acid in food and feed**

The Chair of the WG on erucic acid in food and feed informed the members of the CONTAM Panel that the Scientific Opinion on the risks for animal and human health related to the presence of erucic acid in feed and food is progressing well.

### **12.2.7. Update from WG on Hydrocyanic acid in apricot kernels**

The chair of the WG reported that a first meeting (teleconference) was held on 4 September. At this meeting the literature search and criteria for study appraisal were discussed and slightly amended. Draft structure and content of the opinion has been agreed.

### **12.2.8. Update from WG on Group HBGV for mycotoxins**

The chair of the WG reported that a first meeting (teleconference) was held on 2 September. At this meeting literature search and criteria for study appraisal was discussed and slightly amended. Draft structure and content of the draft opinion has been agreed.

### **12.2.9. Update from WG on Plastic microparticles**

The chair of the WG reported that a first meeting (teleconference) was held on 17 September. At this meeting the literature search and criteria for study appraisal were discussed and slightly amended. Draft structure and content of the statement has been agreed.

## **12.3. EFSA**

### **12.3.1 Scientific Committee and Scientific Panel(s) including their Working Groups**

The Vice-chair and the Chair of the CONTAM Panel highlighted the main items discussed in the 74<sup>th</sup> and 75<sup>th</sup> plenary meetings of the Scientific Committee (SC) held on 23-24 July 2015 and 15 September 2015, respectively. In particular, it was noted that the draft opinion on production and consumption of insects as food and feed was presented for adoption at the 75<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting. More information is available on the EFSA website<sup>15</sup>.

The respective CONTAM Panel members who are members of the SC WGs of interest to the CONTAM Panel informed about current status of these WGs, namely the WG on Weight of evidence, WG on Biological relevance, WG on BMD approach, Prometheus, and WG on uncertainty in risk assessment. For this latter WG, it was reminded that the draft guidance on uncertainty will be endorsed by the SC for a trial period of about one year, in which the EFSA's scientific Panel will be asked to test the guidance on a scientific opinion under development. A presentation on the draft guidance will be provided to the CONTAM Panel at the 75<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting (18-20 November 2015).

### **12.3.2. Advisory Forum**

No meetings of the Advisory Forum took place since the previous plenary meeting of the CONTAM Panel. This agenda item was deferred to the 75<sup>th</sup> CONTAM Panel

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/it/scer/scmeetings>

meeting (18 - 20 November 2015). More information on the AF and its meeting is available on the EFSA website<sup>16</sup>.

### **12.3.3. Management Board**

No meetings of the Advisory Forum took place since the previous plenary meeting of the CONTAM Panel. This agenda item was deferred to the 75<sup>th</sup> CONTAM Panel meeting (18 - 20 November 2015). More information on the MB and its meeting is available on the EFSA website<sup>17</sup>.

### **12.3.4. Other**

The CONTAM Trainee presented the outcome of her traineeship project to produce an overview and analysis of the assessment factors applied in all the scientific opinions adopted so far by the CONTAM Panel.

The team leader of the CONTAM Team informed the Panel of the recent comments from NiPERA/Nickel Institute on the EFSA Scientific opinions on nickel in food and drinking water, and nickel in feed. In both cases, selected Panel members and former WG members who were involved in the preparation of the opinions were asked to prepare a reply to the comments.

## **13. Other scientific topics for information and/or discussion**

### **13.1. Present status of current outsourcing activities of the CONTAM Team (BIOCONTAM Unit)**

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 deadline has been extended to end of January 2016. A final meeting will be organised by the end of 2015.

For the Article 36 grant on occurrence of tropane alkaloids in food, the contract was signed with the appointed beneficiary (RIKILT (the Netherlands), IRTA (Spain), FERA (UK) and VSCHT (Czech Republic). The first interim meeting took place in May 2015 (4 months from the start of the project), where the first interim report was discussed. The second meeting will take place in January 2016.

For the Article 36 grant on occurrence data on citrinin in food, the contract was signed with the appointed beneficiary (RIKILT (the Netherlands), NVWA (the Netherlands), UCSC (Italy), IRTA (Spain) and NIPH-NIH (Poland)) in August 2015. The project kick-off meeting was held on 22 September 2015.

## **14. Any other business**

Not Applicable

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/af/afmeetings.htm>

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/mb/mbmeetings.htm>