

Parma, 15 May 2017
EFSA/CONTAM/3046

Scientific Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain
Minutes of the 84th plenary meeting
Held on 10-11 May 2017, Parma (Italy)
(Agreed on 30-05-2017)

Participants

- **Panel Members:**

Jan Alexander, Lars Barregard, Margherita Bignami, Beat Brüsweiler, Sandra Ceccatelli¹, Mike Dinovi², Lutz Edler³, Bettina Grassl-Kraupp, Christer Hogstrand, Ron Hoogenboom, Helle Knutsen, Carlo Nebbia, Isabelle Oswald, Annette Petersen, Martin Rose¹, Alain-Claude Roudot⁴, Tanja Schwerdtle, Christiane Vleminckx, Günter Vollmer and Heather Wallace.

- **Hearing Experts⁵:**

Not applicable

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

Frans Verstraete (European Commission, DG Health and Food Safety, unit E2),

EFSA:

- **BIOCONTAM Unit:**

Katleen Baert, Marco Binaglia, Paolo Colombo, Mari Eskola, Sara Levorato, Karen Mackay, Luisa Ramos Bordajandi, Ruth Roldán Torres, and Hans Steinkellner.

- **DATA Unit:**

Andrea Altieri (for item 7.1), Bruno Dujardin (for item 7.5), Petra Gergelova (for items 7.4 and 9) and José Ángel Gómez Ruiz (for items 7.3 and 8).

- **Observers:**

Not applicable

- **Others:**

Not Applicable

¹ Attendance by Audio-web conference on 11 May only

² Attendance by audio-web conference.

³ Attendance on 10 May only

⁴ Attendance on 11 May only

⁵ 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>

1. Welcome

The Chair of the CONTAM Panel welcomed the participants.

2. Apologies for absence

Bruce Cottrill (CONTAM Panel), Frank Swartenbroux (European Commission, DG Health and Food Safety, unit E2), Marina Marini (European Commission, DG Health and Food Safety, unit D1) and Marta Hugas (BIOCONTAM Unit).

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 Processes⁶ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest⁷, 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 83rd Plenary meeting held on 14 – 16 March 2017, Parma (Italy)

The minutes of the 83rd Plenary meeting held on 14 – 16 March 2017 were agreed on 10 April 2017.

6. Report on the written procedures since 83rd Plenary meeting

The updated Scientific Opinion on Erucic acid in food and feed, including the corrections discussed at the 83rd CONTAM Panel Plenary meeting was adopted by written procedure on 6 April 2017.

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

7.1. Draft Scientific opinion on the risks for animal health related to the presence of zearalenone and its modified forms in feed (EFSA-Q-2015-00247)⁸

The Chair of the WG on Zearalenone in feed presented, for discussion and possible adoption, the draft opinion on the risks for animal health related to the presence of zearalenone and its modified forms in feed. Since most of the sections have been endorsed already at previous meetings, it was agreed to focus the discussion on those not endorsed which were chapters 3.4. Risk characterisation and 3.5 Uncertainty analysis and 4. Conclusions. The CONTAM Panel adopted the opinion subject to incorporation of

⁶ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

⁷ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

⁸ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2015-00027>

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.

7.2. Draft Scientific Statement on the presence of free gossypol in whole cotton seed (EFSA-Q-2016-00708)⁹

The Panel discussed the draft Scientific Statement on the presence of free gossypol in whole cotton seed, drafted by the CONTAM Secretariat in collaboration with two Panel members. The assessment concluded that an update to the Scientific Opinion on gossypol as an undesirable substance in animal feed was not required. The CONTAM Panel adopted the statement subject to minor changes as suggested during the meeting. The chair of the CONTAM Panel expressed her appreciation to the EFSA staff for the preparatory work on the draft statement.

7.3. Draft Scientific statement on the risks for human health related to the presence of pyrrolizidine alkaloids in honey, tea, herbal infusions and food supplements (EFSA-Q-2016-00800)¹⁰

The Panel discussed the draft Scientific Statement on the risks for human health related to the presence of pyrrolizidine alkaloids (PAs) in honey, tea, herbal infusions and food supplements. In view of the new guidance of the EFSA Scientific Committee on the use of Benchmark dose in risk assessment, the Panel agreed on the proposal to update the dose response analysis of the tumour incidence in rodents induced by lasiocarpine and riddelliine, performed in the previous opinion on PAs in food and feed published in 2011. The Panel endorsed the sections on chronic and acute risk characterization and on the list of PAs of relevance for food and feed subject to minor changes as suggested during the meeting. The Statement will be finalised pending some clarifications regarding additional information on the carcinogenicity study on lasiocarpine found on the website of the US National Toxicology Programme, and sent to the CONTAM Panel for possible adoption by written procedure by the end of June 2017.

7.4. Draft Scientific opinion on the health risks related to the presence of perfluoroalkylated substances in food (EFSA-Q-2015-00526)¹¹

The Chair of the WG on perfluoroalkylated substances (PFASs) presented, for discussion and possible endorsement of some sections, the draft opinion on the health risks related to the presence of PFASs in food. The CONTAM Panel discussed and endorsed the following sections of the opinion: 1.3.1 Chemistry, 1.3.2 Methods of Analysis, 1.3.4 Production and Use of the Compounds and 3.3.2 Biomonitoring. The CONTAM Panel also discussed the proposed endpoints from human observation and animal toxicity studies, and the application of benchmark dose modeling.

7.5. Draft Scientific opinion on the health risks related to the presence of furan and methylfurans in food (EFSA-Q-2016-00025)¹²

The Chair of the WG on Furan in food presented, for discussion and possible endorsement of some sections, the draft opinion on the health risks related to the

⁹ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2016-00708>

¹⁰ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2016-00800>

¹¹ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2015-00526>

¹² <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2016-00025>

presence of furan and methylfurans in food. The CONTAM Panel discussed the opinion and, subject to some minor revisions, endorsed the following sections: 2.3. Occurrence data submitted to EFSA, and 3.2. Occurrence data. The proposed approach for the exposure assessment was presented and agreed by the CONTAM Panel.

7.6. Draft Scientific opinion on the health risks related to the presence of dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs in feed and food (EFSA-Q-2015-00028)¹³

The Chair of the WG on Dioxins in food and feed presented, for discussion and possible endorsement of some sections, the draft opinion on the risks related to the presence of dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs in feed and food. The CONTAM Panel discussed and, subject to minor revisions, endorsed the following sections of the draft opinion: 1.3.1 Sources, characteristics and environmental fate, 1.3.2 Sampling and methods of analysis, 1.3.3 Previous risk assessments, 1.3.4 Legislation and 3.3.2 Levels in humans.

8. Draft technical report on dietary exposure to ergot alkaloids in food and feed

The draft report on dietary exposure assessment to ergot alkaloids in food and feed was presented to the CONTAM Panel. The Panel noted that the new exposure assessment indicates higher human acute and chronic exposure levels in comparison to those estimated in the previous Scientific Opinion published in 2012. This notwithstanding, a slight exceedance of the group ARfD and TDI was noted only at the maximum upper bound levels in the younger age groups of the high consumer scenarios. Overall, the CONTAM Panel concluded that an update of the risk characterisation included in the previous Scientific Opinion on ergot alkaloids in food and feed is not warranted. The Panel endorsed the draft report with minor comments.

9. Draft technical report on dietary exposure to T2 and HT2 in food and feed

The approach proposed for the report on dietary exposure assessment to T2 and HT2 toxins in food was presented to the CONTAM Panel. The Panel agreed with the proposed approach with minor comments. The draft report will be sent to the CONTAM Panel for possible endorsement by written procedure.

10. Feedback from the Scientific Committee/Scientific Panels, EFSA, the European Commission

10.1. European Commission

The European Commission representative gave feedback on the activities of the European Commission in relation to the 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 are under preparation by the European Commission, based on CONTAM opinions.

¹³ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2015-00258>

10.2. CONTAM Panel Working Groups

10.2.1. Update from WG on Fusarium toxins

The Chair of the WG informed the members of the CONTAM Panel that the work on the draft opinion on moniliformin (MON) in food and feed is proceeding well.

10.2.2. Update from WG on dioxins in food and feed

See item 7.6

10.2.3. Update from WG on Group HBGV for mycotoxins

The Chair of the WG informed the members of the CONTAM Panel that the work on the draft opinion on fumonisins is progressing well.

10.2.4 Update from WG on Zearalenone in feed

See item 7.1

10.2.5. Update from WG on Perfluoroalkylated substances (PFASs) in food

See item 7.4

10.2.6. Update from WG on Furan in food

See item 7.5

10.2.8. Update from WG on Opium alkaloids

The Chair of the WG on opium alkaloids informed the members of the CONTAM Panel that a second meeting was held in April. The WG started the discussion of the toxicity of opium alkaloids, as well as the supporting information for the assessment.

10.2.9. Update from WG on 3-MCPD update

The Chair of the WG informed the members of the CONTAM Panel that the work on the draft opinion the update of the 3-MCPD assessment is progressing well.

10.2.10. Update from standing WG on feed detoxification

The Chair of the SWG informed the members of the CONTAM Panel that six applications for feed detoxification processes are under assessment by the SWG. The SWG set up criteria for the assessment following Commission Regulation (EU) 2015/786 and since some data gaps have been identified requests for additional information for selected applications are being prepared.

10.3. EFSA

10.3.1. Advisory Forum

Due to lack of time the agenda item was deferred to the next plenary meeting.

10.3.2. Management Board

Due to lack of time the agenda item was deferred to the next plenary meeting.

10.3.3. Other

The process for renewal of EFSA scientific Panels for years 2018-2021 has started and a call for experts will be launched soon. The CONTAM Panel was informed that in preparation of the 2018 renewals EFSA Management Board had endorsed changes to the establishment and operations of EFSA's Scientific Committee, its Scientific Panels and Working Groups. The Panel members were made aware that an expert can serve a maximum of three terms of office on the same Scientific Panel and a maximum of two terms as Chair of the same Scientific Panel. Further to specific request it was also clarified that a period of service shorter than 18 months is not considered.

The CONTAM Panel was informed about a letter from DG SANTE asking for scientific support in relation to the on-going discussion on the presence of cadmium in fertilisers. A reply will be drafted by the CONTAM Team and shared with the Panel for comments and approval.

10.4 Scientific Committee and its Working Groups of interest to the CONTAM Panel

The Chair of the CONTAM Panel highlighted the main items discussed in the 82nd plenary meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC) held on 26-27 April 2017. In particular the Scientific Committee adopted the guidance on risk assessment of substances present in food intended for infants below 16 weeks of age. A general discussion on the role and responsibilities of the EFSA Scientific Committee, and the possible improvement of working practice also took place.

The respective CONTAM Panel members who are members of the SC WGs of interest to the CONTAM Panel reported on the current status of these WGs, namely the WG on Mixtures, WG on Biological relevance, WG on Weight of evidence and SWG on Genotoxicity.

11. Other scientific topics for information and/or discussion

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

For the Article 36 grant on *in vivo* toxicity and genotoxicity of beauvericin and enniatins, (Consortium of Istituto Superiore di Sanità (ISS), Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development (ENEA) and French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety (ANSES) a second interim meeting was held on 7 April 2017 where the 2nd interim report was discussed. It was agreed that an additional interim report needs to be delivered by 11 June 2017 that will be discussed at an additional interim meeting taking place on 20 June 2017.

A negotiated procedure for the implementation and verification of published dioxin PBPK modelling codes into ACSLXtreme software was signed with RIVM (The Netherlands). The first interim report was delivered on 21 March 2017.

12. Any other business

The representative of the European Commission asked to include a discussion on the findings of the external scientific report "Occurrence of tropane alkaloids in food"¹⁴ in the agenda of the next meeting of the CONTAM Panel, in view of the forthcoming preparation of the EFSA report on the human acute exposure assessment to tropane alkaloids¹⁵. The Panel agreed with this proposal.

¹⁴ <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.2903/sp.efsa.2016.EN-1140/pdf;jsessionid=D433D4621E9E928E3ABE056D7891BDF6.f03t02>

¹⁵ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2016-00565>