

Parma, 11 July 2017  
EFSA/CONTAM/3115

## Scientific Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain

### Minutes of the 85<sup>th</sup> Plenary meeting

**Held on 4-6 July 2017, Parma (Italy)  
(Agreed on 26 July 2017)**

#### Participants

- **Panel Members:**

Jan Alexander, Lars Barregard<sup>1</sup>, Margherita Bignami, Beat Brüscheweiler, Sandra Ceccatelli, Bruce Cottrill<sup>2</sup>, Mike Dinovi<sup>2</sup>, Lutz Edler, Bettina Grassl-Kraupp, Christer Hogstrand<sup>3</sup>, Ron Hoogenboom, Helle Knutsen, Carlo Nebbia<sup>3</sup>, Isabelle Oswald, Annette Petersen, Martin Rose, Alain-Claude Roudot, Tanja Schwerdtle, Günter Vollmer and Heather Wallace.

- **Hearing Experts<sup>4</sup>:**

Manfred Metzler<sup>2</sup> (for Item 7.2) and Dieter Schrenk<sup>2</sup> (for Item 7.4)

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

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

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<sup>1</sup> Attendance on 5 and 6 July

<sup>2</sup> Attendance by audio-web conference

<sup>3</sup> Attendance on 4 and 5 July.

<sup>4</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>

## **EFSA:**

- **BIOCONTAM Unit:**

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

- **DATA Unit:**

Andrea Altieri (for items 7.3 and 8), Bruno Dujardin (for item 7.4), Francesco Vernazza (for item 11).

- **Observers:**

Not applicable

- **Others:**

Not Applicable

## **1. Welcome**

The Chair of the CONTAM Panel welcomed the participants.

## **2. Apologies for absence**

Christiane Vleminckx (CONTAM Panel) and Marina Marini (European Commission, DG Health and Food Safety, unit D1).

## **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>5</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest<sup>6</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.

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

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

## **5. Agreement of the minutes of the 84<sup>th</sup> Plenary meeting held on 10 – 11 May 2017, Parma (Italy)**

The minutes of the 84<sup>th</sup> Plenary meeting held on 10 – 11 May 2017 were agreed on 30 May 2017.

## **6. Report on the written procedures since the 84<sup>th</sup> Plenary meeting**

The Scientific Statement on Pyrrolizidine alkaloids in honey, tea, herbal infusions and food supplements was adopted by written procedure on 21 June 2017.

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

### **7.1. Draft Scientific Opinion on the assessment of a decontamination process for dioxins and PCBs in fish oil by physical filtration with activated carbon (EFSA-Q-2016-00794)<sup>7</sup>**

The Rapporteur from the SWG on Feed Detoxification presented the draft opinion on the assessment of a decontamination process for dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs in fish oil together with the main points for discussion. The CONTAM Panel discussed the different parts of the assessment and adopted the opinion, subject to incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting. The full opinion will be available on the Authority's webpage.

### **7.2. Draft Scientific Opinion on the assessment of a decontamination process for hydrocyanic acid in linseed intended for use in animal feed (EFSA-Q-2016-00798)<sup>8</sup>**

The Chair of the SWG on Feed Detoxification and the Rapporteur presented the draft opinion on the assessment of a decontamination process for hydrocyanic acid in linseed and linseed cake together with the main points for discussion. The CONTAM Panel suggested some revisions of the opinion that will be presented for possible adoption in a forthcoming Panel plenary.

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<sup>7</sup> <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2016-00794>

<sup>8</sup> <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2016-00798>

### **7.3 Draft Scientific opinion on the health risks related to the presence of moniliformin substances in food and feed (EFSA-Q-2010-01006)<sup>9</sup>**

The Chair of the WG on Fusarium toxins presented the draft opinion on moniliformin in food and feed for discussion and possible endorsement of the selected chapters. Due to the lack of time the Panel only discussed and commented on the approach for human hazard characterisation and risk characterisation. Several comments from the Panel members were received prior to the meeting which will assist the WG to finalise the draft opinion for a discussion and possible adoption at the September Panel meeting.

### **7.4. Draft Scientific opinion on the health risks related to the presence of furan and methylfurans in food (EFSA-Q-2016-00025)<sup>10</sup>**

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 presence of furan and methylfurans in food. The CONTAM Panel discussed the opinion and, subject to some minor revisions, endorsed the following sections: 1. Introduction, 2. Data and Methodology, 3.1.5. Critical effects and dose-response analysis, 3.1.6. Derivation of a health-based guidance value, 3.3. Dietary exposure assessment for humans, 3.4. Risk characterisation, 3.5. Uncertainty analysis and 4. Conclusions on occurrence and exposure.

### **7.5. Draft Scientific opinion on the health risks related to the presence of perfluoroalkylated substances in food**

Following agreement with the European Commission, the CONTAM Panel decided to deliver one scientific opinion on the risks related to the presence of perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) in food (EFSA-Q-2015-00526)<sup>11</sup>, and a second opinion on the risks related to the presence of perfluoroalkylated substances (PFASs), other than perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), in food (EFSA-Q-2017-00549)<sup>12</sup>. The Chair of the WG on perfluoroalkylated substances in food presented sections of the draft opinion on the health risks related to the presence of PFOS and PFOA in food, for discussion and possible endorsement. Subject to some revisions, the Panel endorsed the following sections on experimental animal toxicity: 3.3.3.1. Acute toxicity, 3.3.3.2. Repeat dose toxicity, 3.3.3.5. Immunotoxicity, and

<sup>9</sup> <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2010-01006>

<sup>10</sup> <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2016-00025>

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

<sup>12</sup> <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2017-00549>

3.3.3.7. Long-term toxicity and carcinogenicity. Under human observations, the following sections were endorsed: 3.3.4.1 Developmental effects, 3.3.4.2.1 Thyroid functions, 3.3.4.3 Metabolic outcomes, 3.3.4.4. Neurotoxic effects, 3.3.4.5. Acute effects, 3.3.4.6. Immune outcomes, and 3.3.4.7. Carcinogenicity outcomes.

#### **7.6. Draft Scientific opinion on the update of the risk assessment on 3-monochloropropane diol and its fatty acid esters (EFSA-Q-2016-00839)<sup>13</sup>**

The Chair of the WG on the update of the risk assessment on 3-monochloropropanol (3-MCPD) and its fatty acid esters presented the approach proposed by the WG to respond to the self-task mandate of the CONTAM Panel. The section on updated dose-response analysis of the renal effects of 3-MCPD was presented for discussion and possible endorsement to the CONTAM Panel. The CONTAM Panel agreed on the proposed approach and endorsed the aforementioned section subject to minor revisions.

#### **7.7. 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)<sup>14</sup>**

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 section of the draft opinion on the Transfer of PCDD/Fs and DL-PCBs in food producing animals.

### **8. Presentation of the occurrence data on tropane alkaloids in food**

The EFSA secretariat presented the results from the Article 36 Grant on the Occurrence of tropane alkaloids in food (consortium Stichting Dienst Landbouwkundig Onderzoek (RIKILT, The Netherlands), Institut de Recerca i Tecnologia Agroalimentàries (IRTA, Spain), Fera Science Ltd. (UK) and Vysoka Skola Chemicko-Technologicka V Praze (VSCHT, Czech Republic)) and gave an update on the tropane alkaloid occurrence data submitted to EFSA. The Panel agreed that the presence in food of other tropane alkaloids than atropine and scopolamine needs to be evaluated in relation to the assessment of the possible risks for human health.

<sup>13</sup> <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2016-00839>

<sup>14</sup> <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2015-000258>

## **9. Letter on the CONTAM opinion on nickel in food**

The CONTAM Panel discussed the letter received from the Nickel Institute and the Nickel Producers Environmental Research Association (NiPERA) on 18 May 2017. The Panel will analyse in detail the comments on the acute and chronic Health Based Guidance Values established in the scientific opinion on nickel in food and drinking water published in 2015 and will reply at the earliest convenience.

## **10. Letter on the CONTAM opinion on perchlorate in food**

The CONTAM Panel discussed the letter received from Fertilizers Europe on 3 October 2016. The Panel will analyse in detail the comments on the chronic Health Based Guidance Values established in the scientific opinion on perchlorate in food published in 2014 and will reply at the earliest convenience.

## **11. Draft Technical Report on dietary exposure to perchlorate in food**

An overview of the occurrence dataset and the approach taken for the preparation of the Scientific Report on human dietary exposure to perchlorate was presented to the CONTAM Panel. The Panel agreed with the approach with minor comments. The draft report will be distributed to the Panel for possible endorsement by written procedure.

## **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 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.

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

#### **12.2.1. Update from WG on Fusarium toxins**

See item 7.3. The work on the last opinion on diacetoxyscirpenol in food and feed in the series of the opinions allocated to this WG has started.

### **12.2.2. Update from WG on dioxins in food and feed**

See item 7.7

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

The Chair of the WG reported that a meeting had just taken place before the Plenary and that the work is in progress.

### **12.2.4. Update from WG on Perfluoroalkylated substances in food**

See item 7.5

### **12.2.5. Update from WG on Furan in food**

See item 7.4

### **12.2.6. Update from WG on 3-MCPD update**

See item 7.6

### **12.2.7. Update from WG on Opium alkaloids**

The EFSA secretariat informed the members of the CONTAM Panel that the work on the draft opinion is progressing well. Data providers can submit occurrence data to EFSA until 15 July and in the meantime the WG started the discussion of the toxicity of opium alkaloids, as well as the supporting information for the assessment.

### **12.2.8. Update from standing WG on feed detoxification**

See items 7.1 and 7.2.

### **12.2.9. Update from WG on Fumonisin in feed**

The Chair of the WG Fumonisin in feed presented the mandate and informed the members of the CONTAM Panel that the WG started in May (kick-off meeting) and a second meeting was held in June. The WG started the discussions of the fumonisin in feed occurrence data and exposure approach to take, as well as the supporting information for the assessment.

### **12.2.10. Update from WG on Hydrocyanic acid in food**

The Chair reported that a first teleconference has taken place in May and that a first physical meeting will take place right after the Plenary

## **12.3. EFSA**

### **12.3.1. Advisory Forum**

The CONTAM Panel was informed that the 64<sup>th</sup> meeting of the EFSA Advisory Forum was held on 8-9 June 2017. Additional information is available on the EFSA website<sup>15</sup>.

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<sup>15</sup> <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/170608>

### **12.3.2. Management Board**

The CONTAM Panel was informed that the 73<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the EFSA Management Board was held on 21 June 2017. In particular, the Management Board approved EFSA's new independence policy including new measures to reinforce EFSA's impartiality and protection against undue external influence. Additional information is available on the EFSA website<sup>16</sup>.

### **12.3.3. Other**

The Members of the CONTAM Panel received additional information on the Panel renewal procedures and were invited to disseminate the information in their scientific networks.

The members of the Panel were informed about the Technical report of EFSA on the draft minimum quality requirements for water reuse in agricultural irrigation and aquifer recharge. The report was on request from the Joint Research Centre (JRC) and will be published in the EFSA website in the second week of July.

The CONTAM Panel was informed that the Scientific report of EFSA on dyes used in aquaculture was approved by EFSA after review by external experts.

## **12.4 Scientific Committee and its Working Groups of interest to the CONTAM Panel**

The Chair of the CONTAM Panel highlighted the main items tabled for discussion at the forthcoming 84<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC) to be held on 12-13 July 2017. In particular the Scientific Committee will discuss the draft opinions on biological relevance and on the weight of evidence for possible adoption.

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 Weight of evidence, WG on Mixtures, WG on Biological relevance, and SWG on Genotoxicity.

## **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 *in vivo* toxicity and genotoxicity of beauvericin and enniatins (Consortium of Istituto Superiore di Sanità

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<sup>16</sup> <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/170621-0>

(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) an additional interim meeting was held on 20 June at which the additional interim report was discussed in order to ensure a positive project outcome considering the problems encountered with some studies so far. A draft final report is due on 31 August that is to be discussed on 19 September. Deadline for delivery of the final report is 1 October

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 21 March.

For the procurement with the University of Chemistry and Technology (UCT), Prague and EcoMole, for an extensive literature search on glycoalkaloids and quinolozidine alkaloids, an interim report was submitted and a progress meeting took place on 30 June.

#### **14. Any other business**

The dates for the 2018 plenary meetings of the CONTAM Panel were proposed:

- 23-25 January;
- 20-22 March;
- 14-16 May;
- 12-14 June;
- July (inauguration meeting of the 2018-2021 CONTAM Panel, dates will be communicated in due time);
- 25-26-27 September;
- 13-14-15 November.