

Scientific Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain

Minutes of the 90th Plenary meeting

**Held on 20-22 March 2018, Parma (Italy)
(Agreed on 12 April 2018)**

Participants

- **Panel Members:**

Jan Alexander, Lars Barregård¹, Margherita Bignami, Beat Brüscheweiler, Sandra Ceccatelli, Bruce Cottrill¹, Mike Dinovi², Lutz Edler, Bettina Grasl-Kraupp, Christer Hogstrand³, Ron Hoogenboom, Helle Knutsen, Carlo Nebbia³, Isabelle Oswald¹, Annette Petersen⁴, Martin Rose, Alain-Claude Roudot, Tanja Schwerdtle⁵, Christiane Vleminckx, Günter Vollmer and Heather Wallace⁴.

- **Hearing Experts⁶:**

Laurent Bodin (for Item 7.5)

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

Frans Verstraete (European Commission, DG Health and Food Safety, unit E2)⁷

- **EFSA:**

- **BIOCONTAM Unit:**

¹ Physical attendance on 20-21 March and by audio-web conference on 22 March.

² Attendance by audio-web conference.

³ Attendance on 20-21 March only.

⁴ Attendance by audio-web conference on 20 and 22 March only.

⁵ Attendance by audio-web conference on 22 March only.

⁶ 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>

⁷ Attendance on 23-24 January only

Katleen Baert, Marco Binaglia, Paolo Colombo, Ernesto Liebana Criado, Karen Mackay, Luisa Ramos Bordajandi, Ruth Roldán Torres, Marijke Schutte and Hans Steinkellner.

- **DATA Unit:**

Davide Arcella (for items 7.1., 7.2., 7.3 and 7.4), Zsuzsanna Horvath (for item 7.2.), and Claudia Cascio (for item 7.3.).

- **AMU Unit:**

Laura Ciccolallo (for item 7.2.)

- **Observers:**

Not applicable

- **Others:**

Not applicable

1. Welcome

The Chair of the CONTAM Panel welcomed the participants.

2. Apologies for absence

Veerle Vanheusden (European Commission, DG Health and Food Safety, unit E2) 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 Processes⁸ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest⁹, 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 had been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

⁸ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

⁹ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

5. Agreement of the minutes of the 89th Plenary meeting held on 16 February 2018, Parma (Italy)

The minutes of the 89th Plenary meeting held on 16 February 2018 were agreed on 15 March 2018.

6. Report on the written procedures since the 88th Plenary meeting

The following request from the European Commission was discussed by written procedure:

- Request from EC to EFSA for an update of the EFSA Scientific Opinion on guidance on methodological principles and scientific methods to be taken into account when establishing Reference Points for Action (RPAs) for non-allowed pharmacologically active substances present in food of animal origin (EFSA-Q-2018-00114).

The Panel agreed to assign the mandate to the Standing Working Group on Non-allowed pharmacologically active substances in food and feed and their RPAs.

An overview of the available data on toxicity of calystegines was distributed to the Panel for discussion by written procedure. The CONTAM Panel agreed that the information available in open literature is not sufficient to perform a risk assessment for the presence of calystegines in the food chain.

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

7.1. Draft opinion on the risks for animal health related to the presence of fumonisins and their modified forms in feed (EFSA-2015-00248)¹⁰

The Chair of the WG on Fumonisins in feed presented the draft opinion on the risks for animal health related to the presence of fumonisins and their modified forms in feed for possible adoption. The CONTAM Panel discussed the different parts of the assessment and adopted the opinion, subject to incorporation of minor changes as suggested during the meeting. The Chair of the CONTAM Panel expressed her appreciation to the WG and EFSA staff.

¹⁰ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2015-00248>

7.2. 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)¹¹

The Chair of the WG on Dioxins in food and feed presented, for discussion and possible endorsement, the sections of the draft opinion related to the Occurrence data in food and feed submitted to EFSA, Human dietary exposure assessment, and Observations in humans. The CONTAM Panel endorsed this section pending minor amendments. In addition, the sections on toxicokinetics, toxicity in experimental animals, mode of action, and selection of critical effects were presented for discussion. The feedback given by the Panel will be taken into account and these sections will be discussed again at the next CONTAM Panel meeting.

7.3. Update of the scientific opinion on the health risks related to the presence of opium alkaloids in poppy seeds (EFSA-Q-2016-00812)¹²

The Chair of the WG on Opium alkaloids presented for possible adoption the draft update of the opinion on the health risks related to the presence of opium alkaloids in poppy seeds. The CONTAM Panel discussed the different parts of the assessment and adopted the opinion, subject to incorporation of minor changes as suggested during the meeting. The Chair of the CONTAM Panel expressed her appreciation to the WG and EFSA staff.

7.4. Draft Scientific opinion on the risks to human and animal health related to the presence of 4,15 – diacetoxyscirpenol in food and feed (EFSA-Q-2010-01010)

The Chair of the WG on *Fusarium* toxins presented, for discussion and possible endorsement, the sections of the draft opinion related to toxicokinetics in experimental animals and humans, toxicity in experimental animals and the human data. The CONTAM Panel endorsed these sections subject to incorporation of minor changes as suggested during the meeting. In addition the section on human hazard characterization was presented and discussed. Comments and suggestions received from the Panel will be taken into account by the WG and will be discussed again at the next CONTAM Panel meeting.

¹¹ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2015-000258>

¹² <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2016-000812>

7.5. Draft Scientific opinion on the health risks related to the presence of perfluorooctane sulfonate and perfluorooctanoic acid in food (EFSA-Q-2015-00526)¹³

The Chair of the WG on Perfluoroalkylated substances in food presented for possible adoption the draft opinion on the health risks related to the presence of perfluorooctane sulfonate and perfluorooctanoic acid in food. The CONTAM Panel discussed the different parts of the assessment and adopted the opinion, subject to incorporation of minor changes as suggested during the meeting. The Chair of the CONTAM Panel expressed her appreciation to the WG and EFSA staff.

8. Health Based Guidance Value for Perchlorate

The CONTAM Panel discussed again the position of Fertilizers Europe on the Tolerable Daily Intake established for perchlorate in 2014, in view of a new letter received via DG SANTE in December 2017. The Panel will analyse in detail this new information and will reply at the earliest convenience.

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

9.1. European Commission

The European Commission representative gave an extensive overview on the activities of the European Commission in relation to the scientific opinions adopted by the current mandate of the CONTAM Panel. In addition, an overview of possible future mandates in the area of contaminants in the food chain was given.

9.2. CONTAM Panel Working Groups

9.2.1. Update from WG on Fusarium toxins

See item 7.4.

9.2.2. Update from WG on Dioxins in food and feed

See item 7.2.

9.2.3. Update from WG on Perfluoroalkylated substances in food

The Chair of the WG on PFAS in food informed the members of the CONTAM Panel that the work on the 2nd opinion, on PFASs other than PFOS and PFOA, is progressing well. The proposed approach for the risk assessment will be presented to the CONTAM Panel at the 91st CONTAM Plenary meeting.

¹³ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2015-000526>

See also item 7.5.

9.2.4. Update from Standing WG on Feed detoxification

The Chair of the SWG informed that the assessment of the last application is currently on hold since the SWG is waiting for additional data from the feed business operator.

9.2.5. Update from WG on Opium alkaloids

See item 7.3

9.2.6. Update from WG on Fumonisin in feed

See item 7.1.

9.2.7. Update from WG on Hydrocyanic acid in food

The Chair of the WG informed that the work is progressing well and that the next WG meeting will take place end of March. The proposed approach to risk assessment will be presented to the Panel at the 91st CONTAM Plenary meeting.

9.2.8 Update from WG on Chlorinated paraffins in food and feed

The Chair of the WG informed that the work is progressing well. The European federation of the chloro-alkali industry has been contacted to obtain access to unpublished study reports cited in previous risk assessments.

9.2.9 Update from WG on Glycoalkaloids in food and feed

The Chair of the WG informed that the work is progressing well. The second physical meeting will take place on 22-23 March in Parma. The WG will evaluate the available studies and data received by EFSA.

9.2.10 Update from WG on Quinolizidine alkaloids in food and feed

The Chair of the WG informed that a first WG meeting has taken place beginning of March and that the next WG meeting will take place end of April.

9.2.11 Update from Standing WG on Non-allowed pharmacologically active substances in food and feed and their RPAs

The Chair of the SWG informed that the SWG had a first meeting to discuss the approach.

9.3. EFSA

9.3.1. Advisory Forum

The CONTAM Panel was informed that the 67th meeting of the EFSA Advisory Forum was held on 6 February 2018. Additional information is available on the EFSA website¹⁴.

9.3.2. Management Board

The CONTAM Panel was informed that the 76th meeting of the EFSA Management Board was held on 20-21 March 2018. In particular it was reported that the Management Board adopted the proposed list of candidates for membership of the 2018-2021 mandate of the Scientific Panels and the Scientific Committee as well as the placement of suitable candidates on the reserve list

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

The Chair of the CONTAM Panel highlighted the main items discussed at the 86th Plenary meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC), held on 15-16 November 2017. In particular, the Scientific Committee discussed the draft Guidance on communicating uncertainty in scientific Assessment and the draft Guidance on risk assessment of chemical mixtures. Other draft opinions of relevance to the CONTAM Panel were discussed, namely the draft guidance for risk assessment on nanomaterials in food and feed, which was endorsed for public consultation. 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 TTC and the Standing WG on Genotoxicity.

10. Other scientific topics for information and/or discussion

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

EFSA informed that the final report from the Art. 36 grant on *in vivo* toxicity and genotoxicity of beauvericin and enniatin B was received and is currently being evaluated.

11. Any other business

Not applicable.

¹⁴ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/it/events/event/180206>