

Parma, 9 July 2018
EFSA/CONTAM/3489

Scientific Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain

Minutes of the 93rd Plenary meeting

**Held on 4-5 July 2018, Parma (Italy)
(Agreed on 20 July 2018)**

Participants

- **Panel Members:**

Margherita Bignami, Laurent Bodin, Kevin Chipman, Jesus Del Mazo, Christer Hogstrand, Ron Hoogenboom, Jean-Charles Leblanc¹, Carlo Nebbia, Elsa Nielsen, Evangelia Ntzani, Annette Petersen, Salomon Sand, Dieter Schrenk, Tanja Schwerdtle, and Heather Wallace.

- **Hearing Experts²:**

Not applicable

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

Frans Verstraete

- **EFSA:**

- **BIOCONTAM Unit:**

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 item 9.1.).

¹ Physical attendance on 4 July and by audio-conference on 5 July.

² 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>

- **Observers:**
Not applicable
- **Others:**
Not applicable

1. Welcome and roundtable introductions

The Team Leader of the CONTAM Team welcomed the participants. The CONTAM Panel members and the BIOCONTAM Unit staff members presented briefly themselves and their scientific backgrounds.

2. Apologies for absence

Bettina Grasl-Kraupp and Christiane Vleminckx (CONTAM Panel), 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 Processes³ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest⁴, 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.

5. Election of the CONTAM Panel chair and vice chairs

The election took place following the procedure established by EFSA. The election was chaired by the CONTAM Team Leader. Dieter Schrenk was elected as the Chair of the CONTAM Panel, and Christer Hogstrand and Heather Wallace were elected as vice-chairs of the CONTAM Panel. The rest of the meeting was chaired by the newly appointed chair of the CONTAM Panel.

³ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

6. Presentation of the CONTAM Panel and EFSA CONTAM Team, summary of activities. Work programme 2015-2018 and proposal on best practices for the functioning of the CONTAM Panel and its working groups.

The CONTAM Team Leader presented the remit of the CONTAM Panel and the tasks of the CONTAM team in the BIOCONTAM Unit. An overview of the activities carried out by the 2015-2018 mandate of the CONTAM Panel and the activity plan for the 2018-2021 mandates was provided. The proposal on best practice for the functioning of the Panel and its working groups (WGs) was also presented and discussed.

7. Legal framework of contaminants in the food chain and feedback on DG SANTE activity and workplan

The EC representative presented the European legal framework for contaminants in food and feed and an overview of the current activities of DG SANTE. The plan for the possible future EC mandates to EFSA falling within the remit of the CONTAM Panel was also provided.

8. Introduction to the on-going mandates, confirmation of WG and appointment of WG chairs

The Scientific Officers of the CONTAM team introduced the on-going mandates to the Panel, including the composition of the working groups (WG). For each WG, the Chairs and vice-Chairs were formally confirmed by the Panel Chair, or new WG chairs and vice-Chairs were nominated where needed.

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

The Scientific Officer coordinating the standing Working Group (SWG) presented the terms of reference and the previous activity of the SWG. The panel agreed that the SWG has to be re-established. Ron Hoogenboom and Carlo Nebbia were confirmed as SWG Chair and vice-Chair, respectively.

8.2. Standing Working Group on Feed detoxification

The Scientific Officer coordinating the SWG presented the terms of reference and the previous and current activity of the SWG. The panel agreed that the SWG has to be re-established. Christer Hogstrand was confirmed as Chair and Ron Hoogenboom was added as a new expert to the SWG and nominated vice-Chair.

8.3. Working Group on Perfluoroalkylated substances in food

The Scientific Officer coordinating the WG presented the terms of reference and past and current activity of the WG. The panel agreed with the current WG composition and the Panel Chair confirmed Tanja Schwerdtle as WG Chair.

8.4. Working group on Hydrocyanic acid in food

The Scientific Officer coordinating the WG presented the terms of reference and current activity of the WG. The panel agreed with the current WG composition and the Panel Chair confirmed Tanja Schwerdtle WG Chair.

8.5. Working group on Glycoalkaloids in food and feed

The Scientific Officer coordinating the WG presented the terms of reference and current activity of the WG. The panel agreed with the current WG composition and the Panel Chair nominated Bettina Grasl-Kraupp as WG Chair.

8.6. Working Group on Quinolizidine alkaloids in food and feed

The Scientific Officer coordinating the WG presented the terms of reference and current activity of the WG. The panel agreed with the current WG composition and the Panel Chair confirmed Margherita Bignami and Annette Petersen as WG Chair and vice-Chair, respectively.

8.7. Working group on Chlorinated paraffins in food and feed

The Scientific Officer coordinating the WG presented the terms of reference and current activity of the WG. The panel agreed with the current WG composition and the Panel Chair nominated Elsa Nielsen as WG Chair and confirmed Beat Brüschweiler (CEP Panel Member) as vice-Chair.

9. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion (WG chairs, EFSA)

9.1. Scientific Opinion on the human health risks related to the presence of hydrocyanic acid in foods other than raw apricot kernels (EFSA-Q-2016-00802)⁵

The Chair of the WG on HCN in food introduced the on-going mandate and the approach to risk assessment for the opinion. The Panel went through the opinion discussing the text and agreed to endorse the sections on chemistry, analytical methods, previous risk assessments, legislation and standards, methodology for retrieval of public literature and toxicokinetics, subject to incorporation of minor changes as suggested during the meeting. The Chair of the WG noted that the

⁵ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2016-00802>

comments received from the Panel will be discussed at the WG meeting that was to take place after the CONTAM Plenary. It was agreed that an update of the opinion should be presented for discussion the next CONTAM Panel Plenary meeting.

9.2. Scientific opinion on the risk to human health related to the presence of perfluoroalkylated substances, other than perfluorooctane sulfonate and perfluorooctanoic acid, in food (EFSA-Q-2017-00549)⁶

The Chair of the WG on PFASs in food introduced the on-going mandate to the new CONTAM Panel members. An overview of the recently adopted opinion on PFOS and PFOA in food was given, together with an outline of the possible approaches to take for the assessment in the current draft opinion, on PFASs, other than PFOS and PFOA, in food.

9.3. Scientific Opinion on the risks for animal and human health related to the presence of glycoalkaloids in food and feed (EFSA-Q-2016-00811)⁷

The Scientific Officer coordinating the WG presented the terms of reference and current activity of the WG. The work is progressing well. The last WG meeting was held 21-22 June in Parma. The meeting focused on the updated draft chapters on chemistry, analytical methods, sources, previous assessments, toxicity and observations in humans. The progress with regard to acquiring additional occurrence data in food and feed was also discussed.

9.4. Draft Scientific Opinion on the risks for animal and human health related to the presence of chlorinated paraffins in food and feed (EFSA-Q-2016-00801)⁸

The Scientific Officer coordinating the WG presented the terms of reference and current activity of the WG. A more detailed feedback of the progress of this draft opinion will be given at the next CONTAM Panel meeting.

9.5. Draft Scientific Opinion on the risks for animal and human health related to the presence of quinolizidine alkaloids in feed and food (EFSA-Q-2016-00810)⁹

The Scientific Officer coordinating the WG presented the terms of reference and current activity of the WG. The work is progressing well. The last (3rd) WG meeting was held 6-7 June in Parma. A more

⁶ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2017-00549>

⁷ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2016-00811>

⁸ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2016-00801>

⁹ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2016-00810>

detailed feedback of the progress of this draft opinion will be given at the next CONTAM Panel meeting.

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

10.1. Scientific Committee and Scientific Panel(s) including their Working Groups

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

The CONTAM Panel Chair briefly reported to the Panel what discussed in the preliminary briefing of the 6th mandate of the EFSA Scientific Committee. The first Scientific Committee meeting will be held on 17 September 2018. The Members of the Panel were also requested to express their possible interest to join Scientific Committee's WGs with relevance with the CONTAM Panel remit. Finally, short updates on the on-going activities of the WG on Mixtures, WG on Toxicological Threshold of Concern (TTC) and SWG on Genotoxicity were given by the Panel members who are currently members/chairs of these WGs.

10.2. EFSA

10.2.1. Advisory Forum

The CONTAM Team Leader informed the Panel that the on-going discussion about the scientific divergence identified between EFSA and other European risk assessment bodies on the assessment of PFOA and PFOS in food was presented at the 68th meeting of the EFSA advisory forum, held on 6-7 June 2018. Additional information on this meeting is available in the EFSA website¹⁰.

10.2.2. Management Board

The CONTAM Team Leader informed that the 77th meeting of the EFSA Management Board took place on 20 June 2018. Additional information on this meeting is available in the EFSA website¹¹.

10.2.3. Other

The CONTAM Team Leader informed the Panel that training sessions on the EFSA guidance documents will be organized and there will be the option to have specific sessions organized for the CONTAM Panel.

¹⁰ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/180606>

¹¹ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/180620-0>

11. Meeting dates for the 2018/2019 CONTAM Panel plenary meetings

The following dates were scheduled for the 2018-2019 CONTAM Panel meetings:

- 94th meeting: 25-27 September 2018
- 95th meeting: 13-15 November 2018
- 96th meeting: 29-31 January 2019
- 97th meeting: 18-20 March 2019
- 98th meeting: 14-16 May 2019
- 99th meeting: 9-11 July 2019
- 100th meeting: 24-26 September 2019
- 101st meeting: 26-28 November 2019

12. Any other business

Not applicable