EVIDENCE MANAGEMENT UNIT

Record of the views expressed at the

6th Meeting of the EFSA Discussion Group on Food Chemical Occurrence Data

Held on 16/05/2019, Brussels (Belgium)

Participants

- **Chair:** Doreen Dolores Russell (EFSA)
- **Members of the Discussion Group**

Organisation	Name
AESGP – Association of the European Self-Medication Industry	Oliver Hartmann
BEUC - The European Consumer Organisation	Gemma Trigueros
SPIRITS Europe	Mario Gregori
CEFIC – European Chemical Industry Council	Miguel Angel Prieto Arranz
EU Speciality Food Ingredients	Joanna Jaskolska
FEDIOL - The EU Vegetable Oil and Proteinmeal Industry	Julie Roïz
FDE - FoodDrinkEurope	Angeliki Vlachou Rebeca Fernandez
FSE - Food Supplements Europe	Patrick Coppens
EDA – European Dairy Association	Kinga Adamaszwili Maria Libertini
NATCOL – The Natural Food Colours Association	Valerie Rayner
SNE - Specialised Nutrition Europe	Evangelia Mavromichali
THIE – Tea and Herbal Infusions Europe	Julia Biller
UNESDA - Union of European Soft Drinks Association	Patrice Commarmond

Apologies

Patrick Fox (AMFEP – Association of Manufacturers and Formulations of Enzyme Products), Gloria Espino (FoodServiceEurope)

Observers from the European Commission

Guillermo Cardon – European Commission DG Health and Food Safety (SANTE), Unit E2 (Food Processing Technologies and Novel Foods).

Representatives of the European Food Safety Authority

Doreen Dolores Russell Evidence Management (DATA Unit), Anastasia Livaniou (DATA Unit), Alexandra Tard Food Ingredients and Packaging (FIP Unit).

1. Welcome, apologises for absence and adoption of the agenda

The Chair welcomed the participants and the Commission representative to the 6th meeting of the EFSA Stakeholder Discussion Group on Food Chemical Occurrence Data. She thanked the group for their continued interest in and support of EFSA data collection activities. A tour de table was conducted to allow new members to the group to introduce themselves. Apologise received from AMFEP and Food Service Europe. The agenda for the meeting was outlined and adopted.

2. An introduction to Open Food Tox

Anastasia Livaniou presented the purpose, content and uses of the OpenFoodTox (OFT), EFSA's Chemical Hazards Database. OFT is a structured database summarising the key information related to all chemical risk assessments performed by EFSA and contains details on substance characterisation, the links to EFSA's related outputs and a summary of the critical toxicological endpoints and population reference values. The data can be downloaded from EFSA's open data repository and explored with a microstrategy tool. A hands-on demonstration of how to navigate around the data in OFT was provided.

In the discussions that followed CEFIC asked if OFT contains or is linked with ECHA's (European Chemicals Agency) chemicals data while FDE requested clarifications on the work to be done in relation to the overarching guidance documents published by the EFSA Scientific Committee. On the former point EFSA replied that OFT contains data for chemicals as assessed by EFSA only, and that ECHA chemical information can be found on the eChemPortal as well as ECHA's databases. On the latter issue, EFSA explained that a template will be produced to facilitate the assessment of quality of evidence needed for the risk assessment. Other questions concerned the tool itself: navigation at substance level from reference points tab (CEFIC), direct link with in-silico tools to continue search for related substances (CEFIC), the inclusion of data from recently published scientific opinions (BEUC) and how updates are performed (AESGP).

3. Data publication – next steps

Doreen Russell presented background to the open data initiative and latest developments in opening EFSA data in accordance with one of the strategic objectives of the EFSA Strategy 2020. She advised that the guidance on the proactive publication of data from monitoring programmes used in EFSA scientific assessments has been published https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.2903/sp.efsa.2019.EN-1544. From now on, data used in EFSA opinions will be made available in the open data portal zenodo, with only the data specified in the guidance document redacted. At present, the guidance does not address data provided outside monitoring programmes but the review of Regulation (EC) 178/2002 may impact on this given the importance attached to increased transparency. With respect to this, one participant sought clarity on whether industry data would be published with the opinions on food additives and EFSA replied that this was currently not the case but requests for this data can still be made under the public access to documents regulation.

4. Update on the food additive re-evaluation programme

Alexandra Tard gave an update on the status of the food additives re-evaluation work and the 2019 work programme. The renewal of the FAF Panel in 2018, which included a change of remit as well as some experts new to the topic(s), have influenced the progress of the re-evaluation programme given that many experts are also members of all seven working groups. The schedule for opinions to be published in 2019 was shared with the meeting and is available on the EFSA website. It was advised that the opinion on phosphates would be published the following week, after being pre-notified to all interested parties. The work programme 2019 includes not only new assessments but also follow-up assessments of already published opinions to include, for example, infants below 16 weeks taking into account the guidance document produced by EFSA's scientific committee. The on-going work relating to the sweeteners was presented and the plan for addressing their re-evaluation was provided. It includes three sub-groups (strategy, chemistry and exposure) with two protocols being prepared: one focussing on the scope of the assessment and the other on the exposure assessment. Both draft protocols will be subject to public consultations and the timelines for the consultations were shared with the meeting.

In the discussion that followed, BEUC asked about the Titanium Dioxide opinion and EFSA advised that data is still being collected. Specialty Food Ingredients asked for further details about the protocols and would these differ depending on the type of sweetener. SNE asked clarifications about the current call for data for infants below 16 weeks of age. They will meet the deadline for most calls for data but might need extension for locust bean gum for which they are about to launch further clinical studies, a letter was already send to EFSA about this. The deadlines are usually strict but provided good arguments are presented (gathering the data requested/to finalising a study), EFSA usually accepts the extension of deadline. UNESDA also sought information on how niche products are addressed in the exposure assessment and how the decision to use either

the brand loyal or non-brand loyal scenario for the risk characterisation, is reached by the Panel. It was explained that when reported by the data provider as niche products, the use levels are usually not used in the refined scenario, but for the maximum scenario when no MPL is set. Concerning the choice of the scenario, the Panel is usually looking at whether people could be brand-loyal to one of the most contributing food categories in the exposure assessment. If this is the case, then brand-loyal scenario is chosen.

5. Calls for data; analytical data on contaminants and additives, additive usage

Doreen Russell shared the status of calls for data issued by EFSA. She reiterated the point made by the previous speaker that no new call for additive usage data will be issued in 2019. She advised that the call for the continuous collection of chemical contaminants in food and feed is published on the EFSA website at http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/consultations/call/190410

With respect to contaminants, the need for data on Brominated Flame Retardants (BFRs) and Nickel in food and drinking water, with the respective deadlines for the opinions and related data deadlines was shared with the participants. A brief update on food enzymes was also provided and the workshop in June 2019 mentioned.

The EC provided information on the follow-up calls for data with respect to glutamates and glutamic acid including the different types of data needed as indicated in the call. The EC indicated that once an ADI is newly established for an additive which has no numerical MPL, legal limits (MPLs) need to be set. CEFIC sought clarity on whether it is only occurrence data on BFRs that is requested in the call for data which EFSA confirmed was the case.

6. Any other business – closure of meeting

The Chair thanked all the participants for their input and contributions. She advised that the presentations would be sent the discussion group in the coming days while the minutes would be shared with the group for their comments prior to publication on the EFSA website. She asked for feedback on whether the format of the meetings need changes in any way. The members who commented were positive about the meetings as provide a very useful format for discussion and addressing issues. She advised that a new template has been developed for the submission of additive usage data (linking the food to the additive legislative class) and in the future to also include the legal limits (MPLs). FoodDrinkEurope sought clarification on whether it would be possible to work on the template offline, i.e. would it be possible to compile data from various sources into one template in a user-friendly way (copy/paste) or data will have to be imported line by line? FoodDrinkEurope also requested EFSA to have a training session for all the relevant stakeholders once the new tool is released and before its use on the next data collection. Many participants agreed to test the new tool and EFSA advised that the next meeting of the Discussion Group would be arranged before the new call for additives data is published and will include a training on the new tool.

7. Dedicated training on completing the tool to send contaminants data in SSD2 (Standard Sample Description 2) to EFSA

Hands on training on data reporting using the data reporting template for reporting data in SSD2 commenced in the afternoon session. During the training, proposals were made and discussed to improve the reporting template which EFSA agreed to implement as far as possible. The benefits of using the EFSA catalogue browser was emphasised and though the training exercise was not completed, the file compiled by EFSA during the training created a valid transmission in EFSA's DCF (Data Collection Framework). Participants were encouraged to ask for access to the DCF if they intend to submit data and to contact EFSA data.collection@efsa.europa.eu with any questions or support needs. EFSA will publish the revised template on zenodo as soon as possible.

The meeting closed at 16:30 as anticipated in the agenda.