



Scientific Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain

Minutes of the 108th Plenary meeting

Audio-web conference, 11 June 2020

(Agreed on 29 June 2020)

Participants

■ Panel Members:

Margherita Bignami, Laurent Bodin, Kevin Chipman, Jesús Del Mazo, Bettina Grasl-Kraupp, Christer Hogstrand, Ron Hoogenboom, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Carlo Nebbia, Elsa Nielsen, Evangelia Ntzani, Annette Petersen, Dieter Schrenk, Tanja Schwerdtle, Christiane Vleminckx and Heather Wallace.

■ Hearing Experts¹:

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, Anna Christodoulidou, Federico Cruciani, Ernesto Liebana Criado, Karen Mackay, Luisa Ramos Bordajandi, Hans Steinkellner and Carina Wenger.

DATA Unit:

Francesca Riolo (for Item 6.1.)

■ Observers:

NA

■ Others:

Not Applicable.

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/expertselection.pdf

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Salomon Sand (CONTAM Panel) Marina Marini (European Commission, DG Health and Food Safety, unit D1) and Veerle Vanheusden (European Commission, DG Health and Food Safety, Unit E2).

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Panel members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 107th plenary meeting held on 08.05.2020

The minutes of the 107th Plenary meeting held on 26-28 May 2020 were not finalised and will be sent to the CONTAM Panel together with the minutes of this meeting.

5. Report on written procedures since the 107th plenary meeting held on 08.05.2020

Not applicable.

6. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion and possible adoption

6.1. Draft Scientific opinion on the risks for animal and human health related to the presence of glycoalkaloids in feed and food, in particular in potatoes and potato-derived products (EFSA-Q-2016-00240)⁴

The Chair of the WG on Glycoalkaloids in food and feed introduced the changes implemented in the opinion based on the comments received during the public consultation. The Panel discussed most of the comments received during the public consultation and agreed with the proposals of the WG to address them. The opinion will be presented for possible adoption at the 110th CONTAM Panel meeting in July 2020.

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁴ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2016-00240>

6.2. Draft Update of the Scientific Opinion on Hexabromocyclododecanes (HBCDDs) in Food (EFSA-Q-2018-00433)⁵

The Chair of the WG on Brominated flame retardants in food presented the draft opinion on HBCDDs in food. The Panel progressed on the discussion on the approach to take for the hazard characterization of HBCDDs. The clarifications provided by the WG on the interpretation of the neurobehavioural studies and on the body burden estimations were discussed and the Panel requested additional clarifications.

7. Feedback from the Scientific Committee, EFSA, the European Commission

7.1. European Commission

The European Commission representative gave an update on the activities of the European Commission in relation to the scientific opinions of the CONTAM Panel, indicating incoming amendments of current legislation as an outcome of the CONTAM Panel scientific opinions.

7.2. Update from CONTAM Panel Working Groups

- **WG on Glycoalkaloids in food and feed**

See item 6.1.

- **WG on Perfluoroalkyl substances in food**

The draft opinion will be presented for discussion on the comments received during the public consultation at the 109th meeting of the CONTAM Panel.

- **WG on Brominated flame retardants in food**

See Item 6.2.

- **WG on Nitrites and nitrates in feed**

The public consultation on the draft opinion endorsed by the CONTAM Panel will be launched on 16 June 2020.

- **WG on Nickel in food**

The public consultation on the draft opinion endorsed by the CONTAM Panel was launched on 4 June 2020.

- **WG on Scallops**

The WG chair informed the Panel that the activity is progressing well. The next WG meeting is scheduled for 12 June 2020.

- **WG on Delayed meat inspection**

EFSA informed the Panel that the work is progressing well. Three CONTAM Panel with relevant expertise, Ron Hoogenboom, Carlo Nebbia and

⁵ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2018-00433>

Annette Petersen, were asked to review the sections of the opinion of relevance to the CONTAM Panel.

7.3. EFSA

EFSA informed the Panel on the outcome of the 2020 EFSA's expert mutual assessment. Overall, both the survey of Panel experts' commitment and engagement, and the EFSA assessment of experts showed a positive outcome.

EFSA presented to the Panel a new mandate from the European Commission to assess the efficacy and safety of high-pressure processing for food. The mandate is mainly focused on biological risks and was allocated to the Panel on Biological Hazards (BIOHAZ) as the leading Panel. However the request includes the assessment of chemical risks related to the possible formation of process contaminants, and therefore EFSA proposed that a member of the CONTAM Panel will contribute to the preparation of the Scientific opinion and the relevant sections will be endorsed by the CONTAM Panel. The CONTAM Panel welcomed the approach and agreed to nominate the member of the Panel who will join the WG by written procedure.

7.4. Scientific Committee and Working groups of interest to the CONTAM Panel

The agenda item was deferred to the next meeting due to time constraints.

8. Any other business

Not applicable.