EVIDENCE MANAGEMENT UNIT

# Record of the views expressed at the

## 7th Meeting of the EFSA Discussion Group on Food Chemical Occurrence Data

**Held on 16/09/2020, via Teleconference (TEAMS)**

**Participants**

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

| Organisation | Name |
|---|---|
| BEUC - The European Consumer Organisation | Gemma Trigueros |
| SPIRITS Europe | Mario Gregori |
| EU Speciality Food Ingredients | Joanna Jaskolska |
| FEDIOL - The EU Vegetable Oil and Proteinmeal Industry | Julie Roïz |
| FDE - FoodDrinkEurope | Angeliki Vlachou<br>Rebeca Fernandez |
| FSE - Food Supplements Europe | Patrick Coppens |
| EDA – European Dairy Association | Kinga Adamaszwili<br>Maria Libertini<br>Christian Bruun Kastrup |
| 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

AMFEP – Association of Manufacturers and Formulations of Enzyme Products, Food Service Europe, and CEFIC - European Chemical Industry Council

- **Representatives/observers from the European Food Safety Authority**

Doreen Russell, Saba Giovannacci, Alessandro Delfino, Petra Gergelová and Vaia Mitoula Evidence Management (DATA Unit)

Alexandra Tard and Yi Liu Food Ingredients and Packaging (FIP Unit)

Goran Kumric Engagement and Cooperation (ENCO Unit) – agenda item 2

## 1. Welcome, apologies for absence, adoption of the agenda and how to interact during the meeting using TEAMS

The Chair welcomed the participants to the 7th meeting of the EFSA Stakeholder Discussion Group on Food Chemical Occurrence Data and thanked the group for their continued participation in and support of EFSA data collection activities and in particular those organisations who transmitted analytical data to the Chemical Monitoring Data Collection. Apologies were received from AMFEP, CEFIC, Food Service Europe and the EC. The agenda for the 7th meeting was outlined and adopted.

Saba Giovannacci introduced some of the functionalities of Teams to the participants and explained how best to interact during the meeting.

## 2. Updates from EFSA

Doreen Russell provided an overview of the main data collection developments since the last discussion group meeting. For the first time in 2019, all chemical monitoring data (excluding pesticide residues) was collected in a single data collection using Standard Sample Description version 2 (SSD2). In 2020 pesticide residues was also included. In response to feedback received from some newer data providers who were sending data in SSD2 format for the first time in 2019, EFSA developed several support materials, including videos, conducted a webinar and revised its guidance materials.

The progress made on proactive data publication was shared with the meeting, as was a request received by EFSA for a data collection on food contact materials (FCMs) given that many associations could have members who have data on FCMs. The impact of COVID 19 on EFSA activities and data providers was briefly discussed.

Goran Kumric updated the discussion group on the latest news in relation to stakeholders, indicating that later in 2020 there would be dedicated sessions with the different stakeholder engagement platforms.

## 3. Food Additives

Alexandra Tard provided an update on the status of the food additives re-evaluation programme, the follow-up for those opinions already adopted (foods for infants and young children), dossiers received for new applications and the new mandate on Titanium Dioxide (E 171). The ongoing work on sweeteners including the call for data on the Aspartame was presented together with the progress of the 2020 work on five sweeteners.

The protocol for assessing exposure to sweeteners was introduced; the assessment will include analytical and use level data as well as consumption data from the EFSA Comprehensive European Food Consumption Database. Some assumptions are made; including assumptions for certain food groups provided enough analytical data are available and for brand loyalty; left censored data are not included. A scenario based on maximum permitted levels is used, and for entire food categories it will be assumed that they contain the sweetener unless there are legislative restrictions in place. The protocol includes the provision for sources of uncertainty related to estimates of dietary exposure to be discussed and summarised in each EFSA output.

EFSA further elaborated that Saccharin and Cyclamates are currently in the data cleaning phase and that data providers can expect some emails from EFSA regarding clarifications on their data. SNE asked about the timing for the launching of the Batch 2 call for data on certain food additives in food for infants and young children. This relates to additives for which the scientific opinions for the general population were adopted but infants and young children were not assessed as at the time as the Panel were waiting for the publication of the guidance document of the EFSA Scientific Committee.

## 4. Food Enzyme conversion factors for food enzyme safety assessment

Yi Liu presented an overview of the progress made on food enzyme safety assessment including the number of dossier evaluations completed to date (83 scientific opinions published). She explained that enzyme dietary intake estimations are based on actual food consumption data. Dietary intake cannot be estimated when there is no transfer of residual food enzyme total organic solids (FE-TOS), which is supported by experimental data. The open access food enzyme intake models developed by EFSA for different food processes together with the models in development was shared with the meeting. An overview of the different food processes using enzymes where the assessments are completed, ongoing or to be started was shared with the participants.

An example was provided of the technical factors used in estimating the dietary exposure to the FE-TOS: including the FoodEx matrix and the conversion of the food to its raw commodities (e.g. molasses to sugar beet or sugar cane). Using this example of converting the food to its raw commodities, the speaker explained the meaning of F1, F2 and F3 used in the Excel files in the calls for input data for exposure assessment of food enzymes.

FEDIOL commented on the challenges of providing feedback to the entire call for data by a single association representing the companies potentially using the food enzymes but not having all the information to be provided (such information can be in the hands of the companies using the ingredients obtained via the use of the food enzymes). Therefore, FEDIOL suggested EFSA should

reach out to multiple associations at the same time for efficiency and to receive pertinent feedback.

FEDIOL appreciated the explanation provided on the technical factors, in particular F3, but sought some additional information. FEDIOL asked why F3 is not included in the published calls for data that FEDIOL is working on. EFSA replied that F3 is not always present in the Excel file when it is equivalent to 1. FEDIOL also asked if F3 distinguishes enzyme-treated ingredients from chemical-treated ingredients. EFSA replied that it has no means to make a distinction between chemically treated and enzyme-treated food or food ingredients. F3 counts for the percentage of a FoodEx food category that the enzyme-treated ingredients appeared on food labels and F3 is used to assist in the consideration of less commonly used ingredients, for example the occurrence of non-purified sugar by-products in liquorice candy.

## 5. Chemical contaminants: ongoing mandates and data uses; call for data; new mandates, data needs and IPCHEM

Petra Gergelová, Vaia Mitoula and Alessandro Delfino shared various information and updates concerning chemical contaminants. A description of how dietary exposure assessments are performed using food occurrence and food consumption data in order to undertake the exposure assessment was presented. The list of scientific opinions currently being worked on was provided: namely several opinions on brominated flame retardants, nitrites and nitrates in feed, nickel in food and drinking water and domoic acid and lipophilic toxins in scallops. Other scientific outputs in progress are dietary exposure assessment to inorganic arsenic and dietary exposure to copper. Related to this ongoing work is the need for data of good quality to enable its use in exposure assessments. The high-level data quality checks performed during data cleaning was described and using a specific example, the exclusion of some data during data cleaning was illustrated.

An outline of the main changes to the 2020 continuous call for chemical contaminants occurrence data was shared with the meeting. Data needs and the call for data was elaborated through EFSA providing the details on new contaminant mandates received by EFSA on nitrosamines in food, polychlorinated naphthalenes in food and feed and mineral oil hydrocarbons in food which required some prioritisation of data transmissions in 2021. The contribution of EFSA to open data through the proactive publication of food chemical occurrence data on Zenodo and IPCHEM (Information Platform for Chemical Monitoring Data) was presented.

In the discussion that followed FDE asked when the risk assessment on perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in food would be published. FDE was subsequently informed that it was published on 17 September 2020. FSE asked about combining data on chemical contaminants and food additives in some areas of the EFSA website relating to data collection. EFSA replied that it would look into this but re-stated that chemicals including contaminants and food additives are now consolidated in a single harmonised data collection.

## 6. Any other business – closure of meeting

The Chair thanked the discussion group and the presenters for their input and contributions. She advised that the presentations would be available to the discussion group in Teams in the coming days while the minutes would be shared with the group for their comments prior to publication on the EFSA website. In relation to the call for data on aspartame Alexandra Tard asked if any associations would be sending data to EFSA which a number of the group confirmed they would.

The meeting closed at 12:30 as anticipated in the agenda.

As a post meeting information, EFSA would like to inform the discussion group of new requests received and/or still subject to negotiation with the requester(s).

- Re-evaluation of the risk assessment to phthalates and structurally similar substances and replacement substances from food contact materials (FCMs)
- Risk-benefit assessment of fish consumption in relation to the presence of dioxins (PCDD/Fs) and dioxin-like PCBs
- Update of Upper Levels (UL) for vitamins & minerals