

Minutes of the Stakeholders meeting on the draft scientific opinion on the risks to human health related to the presence of perfluoroalkyl substances in food

Held on 12 March 2020

(Agreed on 08 April 2020)

Background

On 30 January 2020, the EFSA Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain (CONTAM Panel) endorsed its draft scientific opinion on the risks to human health related to the presence of perfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) in food (EFSA-Q-2017-00549) for public consultation.

The draft opinion includes a re-evaluation of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) following the previous opinion published in 2018 (<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/it/efsajournal/pub/5194>) and proposes a mixture approach to focus on the most relevant PFASs for human bioaccumulation.

The 8-week Public Consultation was launched from 24 February until 20 April 2020 (<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/consultations/call/public-consultation-draft-scientific-opinion-risks-human-health>).

As part of the public consultation process, EFSA held a meeting with stakeholders and other relevant parties to gather feedback on the draft opinion. This event took place on 12 March 2020. Initially the event was planned as a physical meeting to be held in Brussels; however, the meeting format was converted to an online webinar, due to travel restrictions in relation to the coronavirus situation.

Welcome and introduction to the meeting

The participants were welcomed by the Chair of the meeting, and CONTAM Panel Chair, Dieter Schrenk

Background of the Request

EFSA provided an outline of the previous EFSA assessments on PFASs in food, together with a brief introduction to the current draft opinion.

EFSA CONTAM Panel PFAS in Food opinion - Overview of Assessment:

Four presentations covering different parts of the assessment were given by members of the EFSA CONTAM WG on PFASs in food, as follows:

- 1) Line S. Haug presented details from the sections on *Dietary Exposure* and *Biomonitoring*.
- 2) Helle K Knutsen presented the parts of the assessment in relation to *Experimental Animal toxicity*, *Mode of Action* and *Mixture approach*.
- 3) Tanja Schwerdtle (WG Chair) presented *Human observations* and *Critical effects*.
- 4) Ron Hoogenboom (WG vice-Chair) presented details from the sections on *Dose response assessment & PBPK modelling*, *Health-Based Guidance Value derivation*, *Risk Characterisation*, *Uncertainties* and *Recommendations*.

Question session

During the presentations from the EFSA WG members, the participants were invited to submit their comments and questions in writing via the Stakeholders meeting webinar tool. The EFSA WG experts provided oral responses to the questions during the afternoon session of the meeting.

As this meeting was held as part of the public consultation for the draft opinion, the comments and questions submitted during the Stakeholders meeting are not presented here. Stakeholders were invited to submit any questions via the public consultation tool, open until 20 April 2020. A Technical report will be prepared which will provide an overview of the questions received during the public consultation, together with responses from the EFSA CONTAM Panel and its WG on PFASs in food.

List of stakeholders

The list of stakeholders is provided in Appendix A.

Agenda

The agenda is provided in Appendix B.

Appendix A: List of Stakeholders

Online Stakeholder meeting on the draft CONTAM Panel Scientific opinion on perfluoroalkyl substances in food | 12th March 2020

Name of employer	Country of employment
3M	United States
AkzoNobel	United Kingdom
Alber & Geiger	Belgium
Cambre Associates	Belgium
Cargill	Belgium
CCERT Ltd	United Kingdom
CHEM Trust	United Kingdom
Daikin Chemical Europe GmbH	Germany
European Association of Chemical Distributors (Fecc)	Belgium
European Commission (EC)	
European Food Law	Belgium
Flemish Institute for Technological Research (VITO)	Belgium
General Mills Inc	Switzerland
German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR)	Germany
Global Organization for EPA and DHA Omega-3s (GOED)	United States
Hamburg Ministry of Health and Consumer Protection (retired)	Germany
Institut de Investigació Sanitària Pere Virgili (IISPV)	Spain
Istituto Superiore di sanità (ISS)	Italy
Latvia University of Life Sciences & Technologies	Latvia
Nestlé SA	Switzerland
Nestlé Research	Switzerland
Norwegian Environment Agency	Norway
Norwegian Institute of Public Health	Norway
Rijksinstituut voor Volksgezondheid en Milieu (RIVM)	Netherlands
Solvay	Belgium
Solvay Specialty Polymers (Solvay)	Italy
State Agency for Nature, Environment and Consumer Protection, North Rhine-Westphalia	Germany
Swedish National Food Agency (Swedish NFA)	Sweden
University of Kaiserslautern	Germany
University of Potsdam	Germany
U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)	Belgium
U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)	United States
Wageningen Food Safety Research	Netherlands

NOTE: four participants attended in their personal capacity, however, for data protection reasons, only employer names are given and the names of individual participants have not been disclosed.

Appendix B: Agenda

Online Stakeholder meeting on the draft CONTAM Panel Scientific opinion on perfluoroalkyl substances in food | 12th March 2020

Chair: Dieter Schrenk (EFSA CONTAM Panel Chair)		
10:00-10:10	Welcome and introduction to the meeting (10')	Chair
10:10-10:20	Background of the Request (10')	Marco Binaglia/Karen Mackay EFSA
10:20-12:20	EFSA CONTAM Panel PFAS in Food opinion - Overview of Assessment: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1) Dietary Exposure and Biomonitoring (30')</i> <i>2) Experimental Animal toxicity, Mode of Action, Mixture approach (30')</i> <i>3) Human observations, Critical effects, (30')</i> <i>4) Dose response assessment & PBPK modelling, HBGV derivation, Risk Characterisation, Uncertainties, Recommendations (30')</i> 	Line S. Haug, PFAS WG member Helle K. Knutsen PFAS WG member Tanja Schwerdtle, PFAS WG Chair Ron Hoogenboom PFAS WG vice Chair
10:20-12:30	Submission of questions via online meeting tool <i>-Responses to questions will be provided during the session after the lunch break.</i>	Registered participants
12:20-14:30	Lunch break	
14:30-15:45	Response to questions (75') <i>-Responses to questions submitted via the online meeting tool during the morning session.</i>	EFSA experts
15:45-16:00	Concluding remarks (15')	Chair
16:00	Close of meeting	Chair