



Parma, 13 January 2006  
EFSA/CONTAM/372

## MINUTES OF THE 14TH PLENARY MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN (CONTAM) HELD ON 7 TO 9 NOVEMBER 2005 IN PARMA

(ADOPTED BY WRITTEN PROCEDURE ON 30 DECEMBER 2005)

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### PARTICIPANTS

#### *Panel Members:*

Jan Alexander, Herman Autrup, Denis Bard, Diane Benford, Angelo Carere, Lucio Guido Costa, Jean-Pierre Cravedi, Alessandro di Domenico, Roberto Fellini, John Gilbert, Philippe Grandjean, Niklas Johansson, Jirí Ruprich, Josef Schlatter (chair), Agneta Oskarsson, Philippe Verger (vice-chair)<sup>1</sup>

#### *EFSA*

Ulla Bertelsen (assistant scientific co-ordinator CONTAM Panel), Tlaitmass Bounou (administrative matters CONTAM Panel), Claudia Heppner (scientific co-ordinator CONTAM Panel), Helen Kinghan (scientific editor)

#### *European Commission*

Frans Verstraete (DG Health and Consumer Protection), Lucia Pena Alberdi (DG Health and Consumer Protection)

#### *Ad hoc experts:*

Peter Fürst, John-Christian Larsen<sup>2</sup>,

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### 1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The chair of the Panel opened the meeting and welcomed the participants for the first meeting of the CONTAM Panel in Parma. Diane Benford was particular welcomed in her function as a new member of the CONTAM Panel following her appointment by the Management Board in September 2005. Apologies for absence were received from following CONTAM members: Johanna Fink-Gremmels, Dieter Schrenk, Greet Schoeters, and Rolaf van Leeuwen.

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<sup>1</sup> Only present on 8 to 9 November 2005

<sup>2</sup> Only present on 7 to 8 November 2005

## **2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

The proposed agenda was adopted without modifications.

## **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No specific interests were declared by the members of the CONTAM Panel.

## **4. Non dioxin-like polychlorinated biphenyls (NDL-PCB). Draft opinion**

A member of the working group (WG) on NDL-PCB introduced the draft opinion on NDL-PCB in feed and food. The Panel adopted this opinion subject to incorporation of changes as suggested during the discussions. The chair of the Panel expressed his great appreciation for this opinion to the WG, and thanked the two members of the WG for their attendance of the CONTAM plenary meeting.

## **5. MATTERS ARISING SINCE THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

No matters have arisen since the previous meeting.

## **6. FEEDBACK FROM THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE (SC)**

The chair reported back from the previous Scientific Committee meetings held in September and October 2005. The minutes of these meetings can be found on the EFSA web page<sup>3,4</sup>.

## **7. GENERAL INFORMATION FROM EFSA**

The scientific co-ordinator informed the Panel on the following items:

### *Membership in Scientific Committee/Panel at EFSA*

The Members of the Panel were informed that a new call for expressions of interest in membership of the Scientific Committee and Scientific Panels of the EFSA will be published in the Official Journal of the European Community on 22.11.2005 (C 289A) as well as the EFSA web page<sup>5</sup>. The CONTAM members were invited to consider their reapplication as well as to inform the scientific community about this call. The call will be open until 7 January 2006.

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<sup>3</sup> [http://www.efsa.eu.int/science/sc\\_committee/sc\\_meetings/1132/sc\\_minutes\\_14thplenmeet1.pdf](http://www.efsa.eu.int/science/sc_committee/sc_meetings/1132/sc_minutes_14thplenmeet1.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.efsa.eu.int/science/sc\\_committee/sc\\_meetings/1180/sc\\_minutes\\_15th\\_plenmeet1.pdf](http://www.efsa.eu.int/science/sc_committee/sc_meetings/1180/sc_minutes_15th_plenmeet1.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.efsa.eu.int/opportunities/general\\_advice/catindex\\_en.html](http://www.efsa.eu.int/opportunities/general_advice/catindex_en.html)

### *Furan*

The scientific co-ordinator informed the Panel that Table 1 (levels of furan in various food categories) of the report on furan<sup>6</sup> has recently been updated. The update was necessary as EFSA had been informed that the food category “beer” contains some data where levels of furan were not measured in beer as consumed, but in ingredients which were used for beer production. The Panel appreciated this update, but pointed out that in case non-editorial updates are necessary, this should be present and discussed at Panel meetings.

Furthermore, the experts were informed that most likely in the first quarter of 2006 a joint workshop on furan will be organised by EFSA/European Commission/Joint Research Center.

### *Stakeholder meeting*

The CONTAM Panel members were informed that a stakeholder platform meeting will be held in Parma on 9 to 10 November 2005, and the chair of the CONTAM Panel will attend this meeting.

## **8. GENERAL INFORMATION FROM THE COMMISSION**

The Service within the Commission responsible for legislation introduced Lucia Pena Alberdi responsible for relationships with EFSA, particular for matters of the CONTAM Panel. Mrs Pena Alberdi will temporarily replace Almut Bitterhof due to her maternity leave. The Commission has not yet made a final decision how the vacant post of Martin Slayne will be filled. In the meantime Mr Verstraete will additionally deal with matters on industrial and environmental contaminants.

Measures related to dioxin-like polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) will be adopted by the Commission at the end of 2005. Finland and Sweden have asked for a derogation without a time limit, however as this is legally not possible, a five year derogation, this means until December 2011, will be granted.

Within the Directive 2002/32/EC related to undesirable substances in animal feed, the Commission is in the process to update the Annex of this directive for fluorine, lead, cadmium and camphechlor based on the respective EFSA opinions. Also revised measures (orientation values) related to mycotoxins such as zearalenone, ochratoxin A, fumonisins, and deoxynivalenol in feed should be finalised by the end of this year.

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<sup>6</sup> [http://www.efsa.eu.int/science/contam/contam\\_documents/760\\_en.html](http://www.efsa.eu.int/science/contam/contam_documents/760_en.html)

## **9. WORK PROGRAMME**

### **9.1. Official requests to EFSA received from the European Commission**

No new requests were received by EFSA which fall within the mandate of the CONTAM Panel.

The chair informed the Panel that the EC Scientific Committee on Health and Environmental Risks (SCHER) has received a request from the Commission to carry out an overall risk assessment on organotins including exposure from food and non-food sources. The CONTAM Panel has recently conducted a risk assessment on organotins in food<sup>7</sup>. In the terms of reference to SCHER it was mentioned that the EFSA risk assessment as well as the respective work which was carried out by the WG on food contact material of the Panel on food additives, flavourings, processing aids and materials in contact with food (AFC) should be taken into account.

### **9.2. Update on undesirable substances in animal feed (section: persistent organic pollutants)**

The chair of the WG informed the Panel that besides the opinions on aldrin/dieldrin and endrin which will be discussed during this plenary meeting, the work for the remaining opinions on hexachlorobenzene and DDT is progressing very well. In case members hold any relevant occurrence data on these latter substances the Secretariat would appreciate to receive such data.

### **9.3. Update on undesirable substances in animal feed (section: natural plant products)**

The assistant scientific co-coordinator informed the Panel that the WG had a second meeting in October 2005 and a forthcoming meeting in December. First draft opinions might be discussed at the next plenary meeting. It was pointed out that an expert on gossypol is still needed, and the Secretariat is welcoming suggestions.

### **9.4. Establishment of a new WG: undesirable substances in animal feed – section coccidiostats**

The scientific co-ordinator informed the Panel that the Secretariat is in the process of establishing a new WG on coccidiostats. Many *ad-hoc* experts will come from the FEEDAP Panel, as due to their authorisation work within the FEEDAP Panel, they have excellent expertise in this area. The WG will most likely have their first WG meeting in the first quarter of 2006.

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<sup>7</sup> [http://www.efsa.eu.int/science/contam/contam\\_opinions/658\\_en.html](http://www.efsa.eu.int/science/contam/contam_opinions/658_en.html)

## **9.5. Update on PFOS**

The chair of the WG informed the Panel that at their last WG meeting which took place in September, the section on occurrence and exposure of PFOS in food was intensively discussed. It was pointed out, that not many occurrence data in food, particular from Europe, are available. This situation has some implication for the risk characterisation. However, the WG is confident that the opinion will be submitted for discussion at the next CONTAM Panel meeting.

## **9.6. Update on hormone data**

The scientific co-ordinator informed the Panel that the call for data on in third countries legally used growth promoting hormones in bovines closed on 4 November 2005. Not many data were submitted to EFSA. The Secretariat will establish a WG on hormones to review the submitted data and to discuss the next steps.

## **9.7. Discussions on brominated flame retardants**

The scientific co-ordinator informed the Panel that the Commission have asked the Panel to advice which chemical compounds within the group of brominated flame retardants are present in feed and food and could be included in a monitoring programme. Due to time constraints the Panel agreed to have a separate meeting discussing this matter, and present a proposal to the next CONTAM Panel meeting. Therefore, members were invited to inform the Secretariat in case they want to participate in this working group.

## **10. Aldrin/dieldrin as undesirable substances in feed. Draft opinion**

The chair of the WG introduced the draft opinion on aldrin/dieldrin as undesirable substances in animal feed. The Panel adopted this opinion subject to incorporation of changes as suggested during the discussions. The chair of the Panel expressed his appreciation for this opinion to the WG.

## **11. Endrin as undesirable substances in feed. Draft opinion**

The chair of the WG introduced the draft opinion on endrin as undesirable substances in animal feed. The Panel adopted this opinion subject to incorporation of changes as suggested during the discussions. The chair of the Panel expressed his appreciation for this opinion to the WG.

**12. CONTAM Plenary meeting dates 2006**

The original meeting date for June 2006 (27 to 29) was moved to 12 to 14 June 2006 as there was an overlap with the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) meeting.

**13. Any other business**

There was no any other business.