



European Food Safety Authority

Parma, 12 March 2007
EFSA/CONTAM/597

MINUTES OF THE 20TH PLENARY MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN (CONTAM) HELD ON 23 TO 25 JANUARY 2007 IN PARMA

(Adopted by written procedure on 12 March 2007)

PARTICIPANTS

Panel Members:

Jan Alexander¹, Diane Benford, Jean-Pierre Cravedi, Eugenia Dogliotti, Maria Luisa Fernández-Cruz, Peter Fürst, Philippe Greandjean¹, Jadwiga Gzyl, Gerhard Heinemeyer, Niklas Johansson, Antonio Mutti, Josef Schlatter (chair), Rolaf van Leeuwen (vice-chair), Carlos van Peteghem¹, Andrew Cockburn², Corrado Galli, Johanna Fink-Gremmels (vice-chair)¹, and Philippe Verger.

Ad-hoc experts

Piet Wester³

EFSA

Billy Amzal (Scientific officer, Assessment Methodology Unit), Ulla Bertelsen (Scientific officer, CONTAM Unit), Jean-Lou Dorne (Scientific officer, CONTAM Unit), Stefan Fabiansson (Acting Head of Unit Data Collection and Exposure Assessment), Claudia Heppner (Head of Unit Contaminants/Scientific Co-ordinator CONTAM Panel), Pia Fallström-Mujkic (Administrative Assistant CONTAM Unit), Carola Sondermann (Senior Press officer Communication Unit).

European Commission

Frans Verstraete (DG Health and Consumer Protection), Michael Walsh (DG Health and Consumer Protection)

1. WELCOME

The chair welcomed the members of the CONTAM Panel to the 20th plenary meeting. Jean-Lou Dorne, toxicologist, was introduced as he recently joined the EFSA Unit on Contaminants.

¹ Only present on 24 to 25 January 2007

² Only present on 23 to 24 January 2007

³ Only present on 24 January 2007

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Guðjón Atli Auðunsson and Alessandro di Domenico.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The proposed agenda was adopted.

4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No members of the CONTAM Panel or the *ad hoc* expert declared any interests related to the items on the agenda of the 20th CONTAM plenary meeting.

5. AFLATOXINS IN ALMONDS, HAZELNUT AND PISTACHIOS. DRAFT OPINION

The chair of the Working group (WG) introduced the draft opinion on aflatoxins. The Panel adopted the opinion subject to incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting. The chair of the Panel expressed his appreciation for this opinion, particular for the huge amount of data, which were handled, and thanked the members of the WG and EFSA staff for preparing this opinion in a very short time.

6. CARRY-OVER OF SALINOMYCIN INTO NON-TARGET ANIMAL FEED. DRAFT OPINION.

The chair of the WG introduced the draft opinion on the carry-over of salinomycin into non-target animal feed. It was pointed out that in total eleven opinions for various coccidiostats are being prepared by the WG. The overall structure of these opinions are the same and the purpose of presenting two of these opinion to the 20th Panel meeting (see also item 7) was to receive feedback on the overall strategy taken by the CONTAM Panel members. It is foreseen that this opinion will be presented for adoption at the next CONTAM plenary meeting in April 2007. At the upcoming CONTAM plenary meetings in April and June 2007 all eleven opinions will be presented for adoption. The members of the Panel provided guidance on the overall structure for these opinions.

7. CARRY-OVER OF NARASIN INTO NON-TARGET ANIMAL FEED. DRAFT OPINION

The chair of the WG introduced the draft opinion on the carry-over of narasin into non-target animal feed. This opinion belongs to a set of eleven opinions on coccidiostats and the purpose for presenting this opinion is outlined under item 6. It is foreseen that this opinion will be presented for adoption at the next CONTAM plenary meeting in April 2007.

8. PYRROLIZIDINE ALKALOIDS AS UNDESIRABLE SUBSTANCES IN ANIMAL FEED. DRAFT OPINION

The chair of the WG introduced the draft opinion on pyrrolizidine alkaloids as undesirable substances in animal feed. The Panel adopted the opinion subject to incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting. The chair of the Panel expressed his appreciation for this opinion, and thanked the members of the WG for their work.

9. MATTERS ARISING SINCE THE PREVIOUS MEETING

9.1. PROCEDURE OF THE CONTAM PANEL FOR HANDLING URGENT QUESTIONS

The Executive Director of EFSA has requested the Scientific Panels to have procedures in place for handling urgent questions. The Scientific Co-ordinator presented a draft proposal. The proposal was endorsed without any changes by the members of the CONTAM Panel.

9.2. FEEDBACK ON THE MINUTES FROM THE 19TH CONTAM PANEL MEETING RELATED TO ITEM 11 *CAMELINA SATIVA*

The Scientific Co-ordinator informed the Panel members that the Finnish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry asked for some explanations related to item 11 of the minutes from the 19th CONTAM Panel meeting. In particular “to clarify on the basis of the known scientific information if *Camelina sativa* (*Camelina sativa* cake) which may contain glucosinolates, has to be considered as a higher risk feed material than rape seed cakes which can be used as feed material provided that the maximum content of volatile mustard oil (expressed as allyl-isothiocyanate) does not exceed 4000 mg/kg relative to a feedingstuff with a moisture content of 12 %”.

Currently *Camelina sativa* is listed in Annex 1 in Directive 2002/32⁴, and is only allowed to be present in animal feed in trace amounts which can not be quantified. The members of the CONTAM Panel noted that in general the adverse effects of *Brassica* species have been attributed to glucosinolates (and erucic acid) and the risk associated with the presence of glucosinolates in food and feed material is generally related to the amount or concentration of isothiocyanate present and formed. *Camelina sativa*, however, contains entirely different glucosinolates (EU project; DG VI FIL 3, Contract no AIR3 CT94 2178). For example, in *Camelina sativa* the main seed glucosinolates have long aliphatic side chains, e.g. (R)-9-Methylsulfinylnonylglucosinolate and (R)-10-Methylsulfinyldecylglucosinolate. The toxicity of these compounds is at present unknown, as they do not occur in the commonly investigated *Brassica* crops. Furthermore, the reported concentrations of total glucosinolates in cultivars of *Camelina sativa* so far analysed were in general

⁴ OJ L 140, 30.5.2002, p.10-21

higher (up to 2 times) as compared to the concentration in double low rape seed. A detailed review on this issue is part of the forthcoming opinion on glucosinolates as undesirable substances in animal feeds, which will be discussed by the CONTAM Panel during the next meeting.

AGENDA ITEMS 10 TO 13.6

Items 10 to 13.7 of the agenda were not discussed due to lack of time.

13.7 UPDATE ON THE COLLECTION OF ETHYL CARBAMATE OCCURRENCE DATA

The Scientific officer of the EFSA Data Collection and Exposure Unit presented a summary of the occurrence data on ethyl carbamate, which were received after the call for data was closed on 15 December 2006. These data will form the basis of the exposure assessment for ethyl carbamate. A draft opinion addressing the risks to human health related to the presence of ethyl carbamate in foods and beverages, in particular alcoholic beverages is aimed to be presented to CONTAM plenary meeting in June 2007.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no items raised.