

Parma, 8 December 2007
EFSA/CONTAM/693

**MINUTES OF THE 23RD PLENARY MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON
CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN (CONTAM) HELD ON 18 TO 20
SEPTEMBER 2007 IN PARMA**

Adopted by written procedure on 7 December 2007

PARTICIPANTS

Panel Members:

Jan Alexander¹, Guðjón Atli Auðunsson, Diane Benford, Andrew Cockburn, Jean-Pierre Cravedi, Eugenia Dogliotti, Alessandro di Domenico, Maria Luisa Fernández-Cruz, Peter Fürst, Corrado Galli, Philippe Grandjean, Jadwiga Gzyl, Gerhard Heinemeyer², Niklas Johansson, Antonio Mutti, Josef Schlatter (chair), Rolaf van Leeuwen (vice-chair), and Carlos van Peteghem, and Philippe Verger¹.

Ad hoc Expert:

Pim de Voogt³

EFSA

Valeria Bernazzali (Administrative Assistant, Unit on Contaminants), Ulla Bertelsen (Senior Officer, Unit on Contaminants), Jean-Lou Dorne (Senior Officer, Unit on Contaminants), Stefan Fabiansson (Head of Unit on Data Collection and Exposure), Annalisa Fiori (Administrative Assistant, Unit on Contaminants), Claudia Heppner (Head of Unit on Contaminants).

European Commission

Almut Bitterhof (DG Health and Consumer Protection)³, and Frans Verstraete (DG Health and Consumer Protection)¹.

1. WELCOME

The CONTAM chair, Josef Schlatter, attended the Scientific Committee (SC) meeting in the morning. Therefore, the vice-chair, Rolaf van Leeuwen, welcomed

¹ Only present on 19 to 20 September 2007

² Only present on 18 to 19 September 2007

³ Only present on 19 September 2007

the members of the CONTAM Panel to the 23rd plenary meeting. The vice-chair chaired the 23rd Panel meeting on the first day.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Johanna Fink-Gremmels (vice-chair).

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The proposed agenda was adopted.

4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The following members declared an interest for agenda item 11. Philippe Verger who was a member of the Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA), and Josef Schlatter who was a member of the JECFA participating in the preparation of the working paper on ethyl carbamate for the 64th meeting of JECFA. Diane Benford and Rolaf van Leeuwen who were WHO temporary advisor at the 64th meeting of JECFA. The Panel agreed that the above mentioned members can fully participate in discussions on ethyl carbamate in food and beverages.

5. CARRY OVER OF LASALOCID INTO NON-TARGET ANIMAL FEED. DRAFT OPINION

The CONTAM Secretariat presented the revisions made to the draft opinion on carry-over of lasalocid into non-target animal feed (question number: EFSA-Q-2005-220B) requested by the Panel members during its 22nd CONTAM plenary meeting. The CONTAM Panel adopted the opinion subject to incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting. The vice-chair of the CONTAM Panel expressed his appreciation for the work to the WG.

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

The opinion on carry-over of salinomycin into non-target animal feed (question number: EFSA-Q-2005-220C) was not discussed due to lack of time. This opinion will be discussed at the 24th CONTAM Panel meeting.

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

The CONTAM Secretariat presented the revisions made to the draft opinion on carry-over of narasin into non-target animal feed (question number: EFSA-Q-2005-220A) requested by the Panel members during its 22nd CONTAM plenary meeting. The CONTAM Panel adopted the opinion subject to incorporation of changes as

suggested during the meeting. The vice-chair of the CONTAM Panel expressed his appreciation for the work to the WG.

8. OFFICIAL REQUESTS TO EFSA FOR CONTAM PANEL

EFSA has received following four new requests which fall within the mandate of the CONTAM Panel: 1) Request for a scientific opinion on polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in food (EFSA-Q-2007-136) by the European Commission; 2) Request for a scientific opinion on lead in food (EFSA-Q-2007-137) by the European Commission; 3) Request for a scientific opinion on cadmium in food (EFSA-Q-2007-138) by the European Commission; 4) Request for a scientific opinion on uranium in foodstuff (EFSA-Q-2007-135) by Germany (Bundesinstitut für Risikobewertung).

The CONTAM Panel proposed minor changes to the terms of reference (TOR) for the requests on lead and cadmium and noted the very tight deadlines for the request on cadmium (June 2008) as well as for the request on PAHs (March 2008). The CONTAM Panel established two working groups (WG): one on heavy metals in food which will deal with the lead and cadmium request, and a second one on PAHs in food. Panel members were invited to contact the Secretariat in case they wish to participate in one of these new WGs.

The CONTAM Panel requested further clarification with regard to the TOR for the uranium request. The members of the CONTAM Panel pointed out that this request can only be addressed by the Panel from a toxicological and not from a radiological property point of view. The Secretariat was asked to further clarify the TOR with Germany.

9. CONTAM PANEL MEETING DATES FOR 2008

For 2008 the CONTAM Panel has set the following dates for plenary meetings in Parma: 19-21 February, 9-11 April, 9-10 June (Brussels, if possible), 9-11 September, and 17-19 November. Due to expected heavy agendas the plenary meetings will generally start at 8.30 the first day and finish at 13.00 the last day. This allows the Panel to meet for 2.5 days.

10. PERFLUOROCTANE SULFONATE (PFOS) AND PERFLUOROCTANOIC ACID (PFOA) AND THEIR SALTS. DRAFT OPINION.

The chair of the WG introduced the revisions made to the draft opinion on PFOS/A requested by the Panel members during its 21st CONTAM plenary meeting. The members of the CONTAM Panel discussed the proposed changes and agreed to derive a health based guidance value for PFOS. The Panel proposed further revisions to the risk characterisation of PFOA, particular to outline transparently the

key study which was chosen to possibly also derive a health based guidance value for PFOA.

11. ETHYL CARBAMATE IN FOOD AND BEVERAGES. DRAFT OPINION.

EFSA staff introduced the revisions to the draft opinion on ethyl carbamate in food and beverages requested by the Panel members during its 22nd CONTAM plenary meeting. The CONTAM Panel adopted the opinion subject to incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting. The chair of the CONTAM Panel expressed his appreciation for the work as this opinion was entirely drafted by EFSA staff.

12. CHLORDANE AS UNDESIRABLE SUBSTANCE IN ANIMAL FEED.

The members of the CONTAM Panel exchanged briefly the main views on the draft opinion on chlordane as undesirable substance in animal feed. Overall, it was noted that this draft opinion was in a very good stage. However, due to lack of time it was agreed to have a written procedure for possible adoption.

13. PUBLIC HEALTH RISK INVOLVED IN THE HUMAN CONSUMPTION OF REPTILE MEAT. DRAFT OPINION OF THE BIOHAZ PANEL. CONTAM CO-ADOPTION.

The draft opinion on public health risk involved in the human consumption of reptile meat is dealt with by the BIOHAZ Panel. A WG under the BIOHAZ Panel was established with the participation of an expert from the CONTAM Panel. The chapters of the draft opinion relating to chemical contaminants were discussed by the members of the CONTAM Panel. The CONTAM Panel adopted these chapters subject to incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting. The Secretariat informed the BIOHAZ Secretariat on this outcome. The BIOHAZ Panel will discuss the BIOHAZ chapters of the opinion at its Panel meeting in October 2007.

Agenda item 14 to 17, except for 14.1, have not been discussed at the 23rd CONTAM Panel meeting due to lack of time.

14.1 SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE WG EMERGING RISK

The chair of the CONTAM Panel reported that during the last plenary meeting of the Scientific Committee the chairs were asked that each Panel should provide a nomination for a contact person in each Panel regarding emerging risks. The Panel proposed Claudia Heppner who accepted this task. Panel members are invited to provide feedback regarding emerging risk to her.

18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.