

Parma, 19 December 2007
EFSA/CONTAM/697

**MINUTES OF THE 24TH PLENARY MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON
CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN (CONTAM) HELD ON 26 TO 28
NOVEMBER 2007 IN PARMA**

Adopted by written procedure on 19 December 2007

PARTICIPANTS

Panel Members:

Jan Alexander, Diane Benford, Andrew Cockburn, Jean-Pierre Cravedi, Alessandro di Domenico¹, María Luisa Fernández-Cruz, Johanna Fink-Gremmels (vice-chair), Peter Fürst, Philippe Grandjean², Jadwiga Gzyl, Gerhard Heinemeyer, Niklas Johansson, Antonio Mutti, Josef Schlatter (chair), Rolaf van Leeuwen (vice-chair), and Carlos van Peteghem¹.

EFSA

Valeria Bernazzali (Administrative Assistant, Unit on Contaminants), Ulla Bertelsen (Senior Officer, Unit on Contaminants), Jean-Lou Dorne (Senior Officer, Unit on Contaminants), Mari Eskola (Scientific 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), Riitta Maijala (Head of Risk Assessment Department)

European Commission

Frans Verstraete (DG Health and Consumer Protection)

1. WELCOME

The CONTAM chair, Josef Schlatter welcomed the members of the CONTAM Panel to the 24th plenary meeting. Mari Eskola, scientific officer was introduced. Mari Eskola joined the EFSA CONTAM unit on 1 October 2007. Riitta Maijala, Head of Risk Assessment Department, also joined EFSA on 1 October 2007 and was partly present at the CONTAM plenary meeting.

¹ Only present on 27 to 28 November 2007

² Only present on 26 to 27 November 2007

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from following members of the CONTAM Panel Guðjón Atli Auðunsson, Eugenia Dogliotti, Corrado Galli and Philippe Verger as well as from Almut Bitterhof, Michael Walsh and Ari Horman from the European Commission.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The proposed agenda was adopted.

4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No interests were declared by the members of the CONTAM Panel related to items on the agenda of the 24th CONTAM plenary meeting.

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

The chair of the WG presented the revisions made to the draft opinion on carry-over of salinomycin into non-target animal feed (question number: EFSA-Q-2005-220C) 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 to the WG.

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

The chair of the WG presented the draft opinion on carry-over of monensin sodium into non-target animal feed (question number: EFSA-Q-2005-220D). 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 to the WG.

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

The chair of the WG presented the draft opinion on carry-over of semduramicin sodium into non-target animal feed (question number: EFSA-Q-2005-220E). 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 to the WG.

8. CARRY-OVER OF MADURAMICIN INTO NON-TARGET ANIMAL FEED. DRAFT OPINION

The chair of the WG presented the draft opinion on carry-over of maduramicin into non-target animal feed (question number: EFSA-Q-2005-220F). 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 to the WG.

9. GLUCOSINOLATES AS UNDESIRABLE SUBSTANCES IN ANIMAL FEED. DRAFT OPINION

The chair of the WG presented the draft opinion on glucosinolates as undesirable substances in animal feed (question number: EFSA-Q-2003-061). 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 to the WG.

10. NITRATE IN VEGETABLES. DRAFT OPINION

The chair of the WG presented the draft opinion on nitrate in vegetables (question number: EFSA-Q-2006-174). The members of the CONTAM Panel appreciated the current draft version, but proposed modifications in the risk/benefit characterisation, the section on balancing risk and benefits, as well as some rearrangement in the risk characterisation part. The opinion will be re-submitted for possible adoption to the next CONTAM panel meeting (19-21 February 2008). The Service within the European Commission (EC) responsible for legislation on food safety indicated that the delay of the adoption of the opinion would be acceptable.

11. DISCUSSIONS ON HANDLING OF UNCERTAINTIES IN DIETARY EXPOSURE ASSESSMENT IN CONTAM OPINIONS

The members of the CONTAM Panel discussed how to address uncertainties in the future CONTAM opinions following the guidance of the EFSA's Scientific Committee on uncertainties in the dietary exposure assessment adopted in December 2006³. The CONTAM Panel agreed to add in the future new opinions, if needed, a brief uncertainty analysis related to the exposure assessment. Such an

³Available at URL:

[http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/Scientific Opinion/sc_op_uncertainty%20exp_en.4.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/Scientific%20Opinion/sc_op_uncertainty%20exp_en.4.pdf)

analysis will not be carried out for the hazard assessment because this area is still under development (e.g. in the Scientific Committee (SC) WG on benchmark dose modelling). However, the CONTAM Panel will continue, as already done earlier, to transparently outline the rationale for the selection of a pivotal study, the application of uncertainty factors etc. The future CONTAM opinions will also contain information what kind of databases for literature search were used.

12. MARINE BIOTOXINS IN SHELLFISH: OKADAIC ACID AND ANALOGUES. DRAFT OPINION

The chair of the WG presented the draft opinion on marine biotoxins in shellfish: okadaic acid and analogues (question number: EFSA-Q-2006-065A). 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 to the WG.

13. FEEDBACK FROM THE SC MEETING

Due to lack of time this item was not discussed.

14. FEEDBACK FROM EFSA

The Secretariat outlined briefly the achievements of the CONTAM Panel and the CONTAM unit in 2007 as well as provided an outlook on the work programme for 2008.

15. GENERAL INFORMATION FROM THE COMMISSION SERVICES ON MATTERS RELATING TO CONTAM

The Service within the EC responsible for legislation on food safety asked a question raised by the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health - section animal nutrition whether the Panel did consider the issue of antimicrobial resistance in the opinions on coccidiostats as undesirable substance in non-target animal feed. The members of the CONTAM Panel noted that the FEEDAP Panel did consider this issue in the opinions on coccidiostats for target animals and hence this issue was not included in the mandate given to the CONTAM Panel.

The CONTAM Panel was also informed by the Commission that the French Agence Française de Sécurité Sanitaire des Aliments (AFSSA) has carried out a national risk assessment on non dioxin-like polychlorinated biphenyls (NDL-PCB). Once an English translation is available the CONTAM Panel may be asked to comment on this national risk assessment. Due to lack of time no further update in the area of contaminants were made by the EC.

Agenda item 16 and 16.1 to 16.8 were not discussed at the 24th Panel meeting due to lack of time.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The chair of the CONTAM Panel thanked the Panel members as well as the CONTAM unit for all their hard work in 2007 and conveyed seasonal greetings to the experts, EFSA staff and their families.