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**CONTAM UNIT**

Parma, 29 October 2012

**SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN**

**Minutes of the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Working Group on Mercury in food**

**Teleweb conference, 29 October 2012**

**EFSA/CONTAM unit/ Mercury in food**

**Agreed by the WG on 12 November 2012**

**Participants**

WG Experts Diane Benford, Ingvar Bergdahl, Thierry Guérin, Helle Knutsen (chair), Martin Rose, Tanja Schwerdtle, Susan Barlow, Ivonne Rietjens (vice-chair) and Lars Rylander

Hearing Experts /

Observers (eg.EC) /

EFSA: Katleen Baert, Petra Gergelova,

**1. Welcome and apologies**

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Almut Bitterhof and Michael Schümann.

**2. Adoption of agenda**

The agenda was adopted without changes.

**3. Declarations of interest**

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Declarations of Interests, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest (ADoI) and/or Specific Declaration of interest (SDoI) filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the beginning of this meeting.

**4. Discussions**

The Working Group (WG) discussed the draft opinion on mercury and methylmercury in food (EFSA-Q-2011-00923) regarding derivation of health-based guidance values, risk characterisation, uncertainties, conclusions and uncertainties. Further revisions were proposed to the chapters of the scientific output.

**5. Next meeting date**

No further meeting is foreseen.

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**CONTAM UNIT**

London, 19 October 2012

**SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN**

**Minutes of the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Working Group on Mercury in food**

**London, 17-19 October 2012**

**EFSA/CONTAM unit/ Mercury in food**

**Agreed by the WG on 19 October 2012**

**Participants**

WG Experts Diane Benford, Ingvar Bergdahl, Thierry Guérin, Helle Knutsen (chair), Martin Rose, Tanja Schwerdtle, Susan Barlow, Michael Schumann, Ivonne Rietjens (vice-chair) and Lars Rylander

Hearing Experts /

Observers (eg.EC) /

EFSA: Katleen Baert, Petra Gergelova,

**1. Welcome and apologies**

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Almut Bitterhof.

**2. Adoption of agenda**

The agenda was adopted without changes.

**3. Declarations of interest**

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Declarations of Interests, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest (ADoI) and/or Specific Declaration of interest (SDoI) filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the beginning of this meeting.

**4. Discussions**

The Working Group (WG) discussed the draft opinion on mercury and methylmercury in food (EFSA-Q-2011-00923) regarding occurrence, exposure, toxicology, epidemiology, conclusions and uncertainties. Further revisions were proposed to the chapters of the scientific output.

**5. Next meeting date**

Date for the next meeting: 29 October (teleweb)

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**CONTAM UNIT**

Parma, 14 September 2012

**SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN**

**Minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Working Group on Mercury in food**

**Teleweb conference, 14 September 2012**

**EFSA/CONTAM unit/ Mercury in food**

**Agreed by the WG on 24 September 2012**

**Participants**

WG Experts Susan Barlow, Diane Benford, Helle Knutsen (chair), Lars Rylander, Michael Schümann and Tanja Schwerdtle

Hearing Experts /

Observers (eg.EC)

EFSA: Katleen Baert

**1. Welcome and apologies**

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Ingvar Bergdahl, Almut Bitterhof and Ivonne Rietjens.

**2. Adoption of agenda**

The agenda was adopted without changes.

**3. Declarations of interest**

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Declarations of Interests, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest (ADoI) and/or Specific Declaration of interest (SDoI) filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the beginning of this meeting.

**4. Discussions**

The Working Group (WG) discussed the draft opinion on mercury and methylmercury in food (EFSA-Q-2011-00923) regarding toxicity and epidemiology, and conclusions. Further revisions were proposed to the chapters of the scientific output.

**5. Next meeting date**

Date for the next meeting: 17-19 October (London)

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**CONTAM UNIT**

Parma, 10 September 2012

**SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN**

**Minutes of the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Working Group on Mercury in food**

**Teleweb conference, 10 September 2012**

**EFSA/CONTAM unit/ Mercury in food**

**Agreed by the WG on 10 September 2012**

**Participants**

WG Experts                      Diane Benford, Thierry Guérin, Helle Knutsen (chair), Martin Rose, Michael Schümann

Hearing Experts                /

Observers (eg.EC)

EFSA:                              Katleen Baert, Petra Gergelova.

**1. Welcome and apologies**

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Susan Barlow, Ingvar Bergdahl, Almut Bitterhof, Ivonne Rietjens, Lars Rylander and Tanja Schwerdtle

**2. Adoption of agenda**

The agenda was adopted without changes.

**3. Declarations of interest**

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Declarations of Interests, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest (ADoI) and/or Specific Declaration of interest (SDoI) filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the beginning of this meeting.

**4. Discussions**

The Working Group (WG) discussed the draft opinion on mercury and methylmercury in food (EFSA-Q-2011-00923) regarding occurrence, exposure, risk characterisation and conclusions. Further revisions were proposed to the chapters of the scientific output.

**5. Next meeting date**

Date for the next meeting: 14 September (by teleweb)

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CONTAM UNIT

Brussels, 5 July 2012

**SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN**

**Minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Working Group on Mercury in food**

**Brussels, 4-5 July 2012**

**EFSA/CONTAM unit/ Mercury in food**

**Agreed by the WG on 5 July 2012**

**Participants**

WG Experts	Diane Benford, Ingvar Bergdahl <sup>1</sup> , Thierry Guérin, Helle Knutsen (chair), Martin Rose (vice-chair) and Tanja Schwerdtle
Hearing Experts	André Aubert
Observers (eg.EC)	Almut Bitterhof <sup>2</sup>
EFSA:	Katleen Baert, Petra Gergelova, Stefan Fabiansson <sup>3</sup>

**1. Welcome and apologies**

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Susan Barlow, Michael Schümann and Jean-Charles Leblanc.

**2. Adoption of agenda**

The agenda was adopted without changes.

**3. Declarations of interest**

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Declarations of Interests, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest (ADoI) and/or Specific Declaration of interest (SDoI) filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the beginning of this meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> Not present on 4 July in the morning

<sup>2</sup> Present on 4 July in the morning

<sup>3</sup> Not present on 5 July in the morning

#### **4. Discussions**

The Working Group (WG) discussed the draft opinion on mercury and methylmercury in food (EFSA-Q-2011-00923) regarding introduction, methods of analysis, occurrence, exposure, toxicology and epidemiology, including a presentation given by a hearing expert on heart rate variability. Further revisions were proposed to the chapters of the scientific output.

#### **5. Next meeting date**

Date for the next meeting: 10 September (teleweb)

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CONTAM UNIT

Parma, 6 June 2012

**SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN**

**Minutes of the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Working Group on Mercury in food**

**Parma, 31 May-1 June 2012**

**EFSA/CONTAM unit/ Mercury in food**

**Agreed by the WG on 12 June 2012**

**Participants**

WG Experts	Susan Barlow, Diane Benford <sup>1</sup> , Ingvar Bergdahl, Thierry Guérin, Helle Knutsen (chair), Martin Rose (vice-chair), Jean-Charles Leblanc, Tanja Schwerdtle and Michael Schümann
Hearing Experts	/
Observers (eg.EC)	/
EFSA:	Katleen Baert, Petra Gergelova, Stefan Fabiansson <sup>2</sup>

**1. Welcome and apologies**

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Almut Bitterhof.

**2. Adoption of agenda**

The agenda was adopted without changes.

**3. Declarations of interest**

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Declarations of Interests, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest (ADoI) and/or Specific Declaration of interest (SDoI) filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the beginning of this meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> Present on 31 May in the morning and 1 June in the afternoon

<sup>2</sup> Present on 31 May

#### **4. Discussions**

The Working Group (WG) discussed the draft opinion on mercury and methylmercury in food (EFSA-Q-2011-00923) regarding occurrence, exposure, toxicology and epidemiology. Further revisions were proposed to the chapters of the scientific output.

#### **5. Next meeting date**

Date for the next meeting: 4-5 July (Brussels)

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**CONTAM UNIT**

Parma, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2012

**SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN**

**Minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Working Group on Mercury in food**

**Teleweb conference, 11 May 2012**

**EFSA/CONTAM unit/ Mercury in food**

**Agreed by the WG on 11 May 2012**

**Participants**

WG Experts	Diane Benford, Helle Knutsen (chair), Ingvar Bergdahl, Michael Schümann, Tanja Schwerdtle
Hearing Experts	/
Observers (eg.EC)	/
EFSA:	Katleen Baert

**1. Welcome and apologies**

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Almut Bitterhof and Sue Barlow.

**2. Adoption of agenda**

The agenda was adopted without changes.

**3. Declarations of interest**

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Declarations of Interests, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest (ADoI) and/or Specific Declaration of interest (SDoI) filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the beginning of this meeting.

**4. Discussions**

The Working Group (WG) discussed the draft opinion on mercury and methylmercury in food (EFSA-Q-2011-00923) regarding epidemiology. Further revisions were proposed to the chapters of the scientific output.

**5. Next meeting date**

Date for the next meeting: 31 May- 1 June (Parma)

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CONTAM UNIT

Parma, 7<sup>th</sup> May 2012

**SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN**

**Minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Working Group on Mercury in food**

**Teleweb conference, 7 May 2012**

**EFSA/CONTAM unit/ Mercury in food**

**Agreed by the WG on 14 May 2012**

**Participants**

WG Experts	Diane Benford, Thierry Guérin, Helle Knutsen (chair), Martin Rose (vice-chair), Jean-Charles Leblanc
Hearing Experts	/
Observers (eg.EC)	Almut Bitterhof
EFSA:	Katleen Baert, Petra Gergelova, Stefan Fabiansson.

**1. Welcome and apologies**

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

**2. Adoption of agenda**

The agenda was adopted without changes.

**3. Declarations of interest**

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Declarations of Interests, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest (ADoI) and/or Specific Declaration of interest (SDoI) filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the beginning of this meeting.

**4. Discussions**

The Working Group (WG) discussed the draft opinion on mercury and methylmercury in food (EFSA-Q-2011-00923) regarding occurrence, consumption and exposure. Further revisions were proposed to the chapters of the scientific output.

**5. Next meeting date**

Date for the next meeting: 11 May (by teleweb)

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**CONTAM UNIT**

Paris, 30<sup>th</sup> March 2012

**SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN**

**Minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Working Group on Mercury in food**

**Paris, 29-30 March 2012**

**EFSA/CONTAM unit/ Mercury in food**

**Agreed by the WG on 30 March 2012**

**Participants**

WG Experts	Susan Barlow, Diane Benford, Ingvar Bergdahl, Thierry Guérin, Helle Knutsen (chair), Martin Rose (vice-chair), Jean-Charles Leblanc, Tanja Schwerdtle
Hearing Experts	/
Observers (eg.EC)	/
EFSA:	Katleen Baert, Petra Gergelova.

**1. Welcome and apologies**

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Michael Schümann and Almut Bitterhof.

**2. Adoption of agenda**

The agenda was adopted without changes.

**3. Declarations of interest**

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Declarations of Interests, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest (ADoI) and/or Specific Declaration of interest (SDoI) filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the beginning of this meeting.

**4. Discussions**

The Working Group (WG) discussed the occurrence, consumption, exposure, toxicology and epidemiology (EFSA-Q-2011-00923). Further revisions were proposed to the chapters of the scientific output.

**5. Next meeting date**

Date for the next meeting: 7 and 11 May (by teleweb)

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**CONTAM UNIT**

Brussels, 24<sup>th</sup> February 2012

**SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN**

**Minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Working Group on Mercury in food**

**Brussels, 23-24 February 2012**

**EFSA/CONTAM unit/ Mercury in food**

**Agreed by the WG on 24 February 2012**

**Participants**

WG Experts Susan Barlow, Diane Benford, Ingvar Bergdahl, Thierry Guérin, Helle Knutsen (chair), Martin Rose (vice-chair), Michael Schümann, Tanja Schwerdtle

Hearing Experts /

Observers (eg.EC) Almut Bitterhof<sup>1</sup>

EFSA: Katleen Baert, Stefan Fabiansson, Petra Gergelova.

**1. Welcome and apologies**

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Jean-Charles Leblanc.

**2. Adoption of agenda**

The agenda was adopted without changes.

**3. Declarations of interest**

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Declarations of Interests, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest (ADoI) and/or Specific Declaration of interest (SDoI) filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the beginning of this meeting.

**4. Discussions**

The Working Group (WG) discussed the introduction, chemistry, legislation, methods of analysis, occurrence, consumption, toxicology and epidemiology (EFSA-Q-2011-00923).

**5. Next meeting date**

Date for the next meeting: 29 and 30 March

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<sup>1</sup> Present on 23 February in the morning

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**CONTAM UNIT**

Parma, 12<sup>th</sup> December 2011

**SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN**

**Minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Working Group on Mercury in food**

**Phone-conference, 12 December 2011**

**EFSA/CONTAM unit/ Mercury in food**

**Agreed by the WG on 19 December 2011**

**Participants**

WG Experts	Susan Barlow, Diane Benford, Ingvar Bergdahl, Thierry Guérin, Helle Knutsen (chair), Martin Rose (vice-chair), Michael Schümann, Tanja Schwerdtle
Hearing Experts	/
Observers (eg.EC)	/
EFSA:	Katleen Baert, Stefano Cappé, Petra Gergelova, Nicklas Gustavsson

**1. Welcome and apologies**

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Almut Bitterhof

**2. Adoption of agenda**

The agenda was adopted without changes.

**3. Declarations of interest**

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Declarations of Interests, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest (ADoI) and/or Specific Declaration of interest (SDoI) filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the beginning of this meeting.

**4. Discussions**

The Working Group (WG) discussed the terms of reference and the table of content of the draft opinion on mercury and methyl mercury in food (EFSA-Q-2011-00923). The tasks were divided among the WG members to draft the chapters of this scientific opinion.

**5. Next meeting date**

Date for the next meeting: 23 and 24 February