

# SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN

## Minutes of the 134<sup>th</sup> Plenary meeting



11-13 July 2023

13:30-18:00 / 09:00-18:00 / 09:00-13:00

MINUTES – Agreed on 27 July 2023

**Location:** Parma

**Attendees:**

■ **Panel Members:**

In person:

Margherita Bignami, Laurent Bodin, Kevin Chipman, Bettina Grasl-Kraupp, Christer Hogstrand<sup>1</sup>, Ron Hoogenboom, Carlo Nebbia<sup>2</sup>, Elsa Nielsen, Evangelia Ntzani, Salomon Sand, Dieter Schrenk, Heather Wallace.

Online:

Jesús Del Mazo, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Carlo Nebbia, Annette Petersen, Tanja Schwerdtle<sup>3</sup>, Christiane Vleminckx.

■ **Hearing Experts<sup>4</sup>:**

Lars Barregård (for Item 6.1)

■ **European Commission and/or Member States representatives:**

In person:

Frans Verstraete (European Commission, DG Health and Food Safety, Unit E2)

Online:

Ivana Poustkova (European Commission, DG Health and Food Safety, Unit E2)

■ **EFSA:**

**FEEDCO Unit:**

Maria Anastassiadou, Federico Cruciani, Chantra Eskes, Mary Gilsean, Matteo Innocenti, Eirini Kouloura, Luisa Ramos Bordajandi, Elena Rovesti, Hans Steinkellner, Tuuli Tauriainen, Magdalena Wagner, Ben Whitty

**MESE Unit:**

Jose Cortiñas Abrahantes (for Item 6.1), Petra Gergelova (for Item 6.2), José Angel Gómez Ruiz (for Item 6.3)

**PREV Unit:**

Marco Binaglia (for Item 6.3)

■ **Observers:**

<sup>1</sup> Absent on 13 July 2023 from 10.30 CET onwards.

<sup>2</sup> Participated online on 13 July 2023.

<sup>3</sup> Absent on 12 July 2023 from 11.30 to 13.00 CET and from 16.30 CET onwards.

<sup>4</sup> As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/expertselection.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/expertselection.pdf)



Not applicable

■ **Others:**

Thomas Tietz (for Item 6.3)<sup>5</sup>

## **1. Welcome and apologies for absence**

The Chair welcomed the participants to this Plenary meeting. Apologies were received from Veerle Vanheusden (European Commission).

## **2. Adoption of agenda**

The agenda was adopted without changes.

## **3. Declarations of Interest**

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence<sup>6</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management<sup>7</sup>, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Panel members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

## **4. Agreement of the minutes of the 133<sup>rd</sup> Plenary meeting held on 30 May and 9 June 2023**

The minutes of the 133<sup>rd</sup> Plenary meeting held on 30 May and 9 June 2023 were agreed by written procedure on 4 July 2023<sup>8</sup>.

## **5. Report on written procedures since the 133<sup>rd</sup> Plenary meeting held on 30 May and 9 June 2023**

None.

## **6. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion and possible adoption**

### **6.1. Draft Opinion on the update of the risk assessment of inorganic arsenic in food (EFSA-Q-2021-00250)<sup>9</sup>**

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<sup>5</sup> GP/EFSA/BIOCONTAM/2021/01.

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/policy\\_independence.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf)

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[http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/competing\\_interest\\_management\\_17.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/it/events/133rd-plenary-meeting-contam-panel>

<sup>9</sup> <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2021-00250>



The Chair of the WG on Arsenic presented the draft Opinion for discussion and endorsement for public consultation. A presentation of the uncertainty analysis was given in which the major elements of the analysis were introduced. The CONTAM Panel discussed the alternative views on the approach proposed for hazard and risk assessment, and agreed to incorporate them within the uncertainty section. The following sections were discussed and endorsed with minor amendments: Risk characterisation, Uncertainty analysis, Conclusions, Recommendations, Abstract and Summary. The Panel then endorsed the entire draft Opinion for public consultation pending minor consistency checks.

### **6.2. Draft Opinion on the risk for human and animal health related to the presence of Polychlorinated Naphthalenes in food and feed (EFSA-Q-2020-00663)<sup>10</sup>**

The Chair of the WG on PCNs in feed and food gave an overview of the progress of the work for this mandate. The sections under Data and Methodologies related to Feed consumption data and Animal dietary exposure assessment were discussed, as well as the main sections on Toxicity in experimental animals, Observations in humans, Adverse effects in food-producing and non-food-producing animals, Levels in humans and Exposure for infants through breastfeeding. These sections were endorsed by the CONTAM Panel with minor amendments. In addition, the animal dietary exposure calculations and WG proposals for human and animal risk assessment were presented and discussed. The WG will consider the feedback and comments received by the Panel to continue with the development of the risk assessment.

### **6.3. Draft Opinion on the update of the risk assessment of Mineral Oil hydrocarbons in food (EFSA-Q-2020-00664)<sup>11</sup>**

The Chair of the WG on Mineral oil hydrocarbons in food presented the draft Opinion for discussion and possible adoption. The CONTAM Panel discussed the comments received during the public consultation of the draft Opinion and addressed them in the text, as appropriate, and individually in the respective annex. The Panel adopted the Opinion pending minor consistency checks. The Panel thanked the WG and EFSA staff for their work.

### **6.4. Draft Opinion on the risk for animal health and transfer from feed to food of animal origin related to the presence of Ochratoxin A in feed (EFSA-Q-2021-00699)<sup>12</sup>**

The Chair of the WG and EFSA WG coordinator presented the activities carried out to date on the mandate by the WG on OTA in feed. The sections on Toxicokinetics, Transfer from feed to food of animal origin and on Adverse effects and Mode of action were discussed. The CONTAM Panel provided minor comments and endorsed the sections presented. The WG will address the comments and will continue with the development of the risk assessment.

### **6.5. Draft Opinion on the risk for animal health related to the presence of Ergot alkaloids in feed (EFSA-Q-2021-00697)<sup>13</sup>**

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<sup>10</sup> <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2020-00663>

<sup>11</sup> <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2020-00664>

<sup>12</sup> <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2021-00699>

<sup>13</sup> <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2021-00697>



The Chair of the WG and the EFSA WG coordinator provided an update on the progress of the mandate by the WG on Ergot alkaloids in feed. The section on Adverse effects in several food-producing and non-food producing animal species was discussed. The CONTAM Panel provided comments that will be taken into account by the WG to continue with the development of the risk assessment.

## **7. Feedback from the Scientific Committee/Scientific Panels, CONTAM Working Groups, EFSA, and the European Commission**

### **7.1. European Commission**

The European Commission representatives gave an update on the follow-up activities in relation to the scientific Opinions of the CONTAM Panel. Several legislative measures are under discussion with the Member States as an outcome of the CONTAM Panel scientific Opinions.

### **7.2. Updates from CONTAM Panel Working groups**

This item was postponed to the next Plenary meeting.

### **7.3. Updates from EFSA**

The CONTAM Panel members were informed about upcoming events of interest such as the '13th Global Summit on Regulatory Science (GSR23)' to be held on 27-28 September 2023<sup>14</sup> and the 'International Conference on Using Epidemiological Studies in Health Risk Assessments: Relevance, Reliability and Causality' to be held on 9-10 November 2023<sup>15</sup>.

The next CONTAM Plenary meeting will be held 26-28 September 2023 as an online meeting.

### **7.4. Updates from the Scientific Committee and its Working Groups of interest to the CONTAM Panel**

The CONTAM Panel Chair reported on matters important for the work of the Panel that were discussed at the last meetings of the EFSA Scientific Committee held on 28-29 June 2023. Due to time constraints, no specific updates were provided related to the Scientific Committee Working Groups of interest for the CONTAM Panel.

## **8. Any other business**

Not applicable.

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<sup>14</sup> <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/13th-global-summit-regulatory-science-qsr23>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.bfr-akademie.de/english/events/epistud2023.html>