

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN

CONTAM Panel Plenary meeting



4 – 6 June 2024

13:30-18:00 / 09:00-18:00 / 9:00-13.00

MINUTES - Agreed on 21 June 2024

Location: EFSA (Parma)

Attendees:

○ Panel Members:

On-site: Margherita Bignami, Laurent Bodin, James Kevin Chipman, Jesús Del Mazo, Bettina Grasl-Kraupp¹, Laurentius (Ron) Hoogenboom, Carlo Nebbia², Elsa Nielsen, Annette Petersen, Dieter Schrenk (Chair), Heather Wallace

Online: Christer Hogstrand³, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Evangelia Ntzani, Salomon Sand, Tanja Schwerdtle⁴, Christiane Vleminckx

○ Hearing Experts⁵:

Federico Cruciani, Andy Hart⁶

○ European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

EC: Frans Verstraete, Veerle Vanheusden (DG-SANTE)

○ EFSA:

FEEDCO_CONTAM: Maria Anastassiadou, Mst Tazmin Akhter, Rumbidzai Changwa, Anna Christodoulidou, Chantra Eskes, Mary Gilsean (HoU), Elena Gkimprizi, Eirini Kouloura, Marianna Kujawa, Mariano Lopez Romano, Luisa Ramos Bordajandi, Anamarija Romac, Elena Rovesti, Hans Steinkellner, Tuuli Tauriainen, Alexios Zormpas.

FEEDCO_FEEDAP: Matteo Innocenti

○ Others:

MESE_Analysis: Francesca Riolo, Jose Ángel Gómez Ruiz

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Panel members

¹ Absent on Day 3.

² Absent on Day 3.

³ Absent on Day 2 afternoon session.

⁴ Absent on Day 2 afternoon session.

⁵ 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/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

⁶ Participated online on Day 2 afternoon session.



In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁷ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁸, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group 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 142nd CONTAM Panel Plenary meeting held on 13 May 2024, teleconference

The minutes of the 142nd Panel plenary meeting were agreed by written procedure on 27 May 2024.

5. Report on written procedure

None.

6. Scientific output(s) submitted for discussion/adoption

6.1 Draft Scientific Statement on animal exposure assessment for CONTAM and FEEDAP Opinions. ([EFSA-Q-2023-00406](#))

EFSA staff presented a Statement from the FEEDAP Panel elaborated by the FEEDAP Animal Nutrition WG and representatives from the CONTAM Panel. The Statement provides an update of the diets used for the calculation of dietary animal exposure assessment for contaminants in feed materials in alignment with current practices. The Statement was endorsed by the CONTAM Panel and brought to the FEEDAP Panel for adoption on 6th June 2024.

6.2 Draft Opinion on small organoarsenic species in food ([EFSA-Q-2021-00496](#))

The Chair of the WG on Arsenic reported that following the last Plenary meeting minor updates were made in the draft Opinion in response to the written comments received during the public consultation. The CONTAM Panel then discussed these updates and the replies to the comments and adopted the Opinion. The CONTAM Panel thanked the WG members and involved EFSA staff for their work.

6.3 Draft Opinion on the update of the risk assessment on tetrabromobisphenol A (TBBPA) and its derivatives in food ([EFSA-Q-2018-00434](#))

The Chair of the WG on BFRs in food presented the comments received during the Public Consultation of the draft Opinion. The CONTAM Panel discussed the draft replies to the written comments and changes introduced into the draft Opinion in response to these comments. The Panel adopted the Opinion. The CONTAM Panel thanked the WG members and involved EFSA staff for their work.

6.4 Draft Opinion on the update of the risk assessment on brominated phenols and their derivatives in food. ([EFSA-Q-2018-00435](#))

⁷ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁸ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



The Chair of the WG on BFRs in food presented the draft Opinion on the update of the risk assessment of brominated phenols and their derivatives in food for discussion and possible endorsement for public consultation. The CONTAM Panel went through all the sections of the draft Opinion to see how previous comments had been addressed, and discussed the new sections presented, i.e. Uncertainty analysis, Conclusions, Recommendations, Summary and Abstract. The Panel endorsed the draft Opinion for public consultation. Once the changes requested by the Panel will be implemented, the public consultation will be launched.

6.5 Draft Opinion on the update of the Opinion on perchlorate in food (EFSA-Q-2024-00168)

The Chair of the WG on perchlorate provided an update on the work performed for the mandate on perchlorate in food. EFSA staff provided a brief presentation and illustrated the Protocol which was presented to the Panel for endorsement. Following a fruitful discussion on various aspects of the Protocol, the document was endorsed by the Panel pending modification based on the comments received.

7. Feedback from the Scientific Committee/ Scientific Panels/EFSA/ EC

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 Scientific Panel(s) including their Working Groups

- **WG on BFRs in food⁹**

See Item 6.3. and 6.4. The WG Chair informed that the WG BFRs will start the development of the update of the risk assessment on 'novel and emerging BFRs in food' published in 2012.

- **WG on Feed detoxification processes¹⁰**

None

- **WG on Arsenic in food¹¹**

The Chair of the WG reported that the draft Opinion on complex organoarsenic species was progressing well and that a WG meeting was scheduled for the next day. It is planned to present the draft Opinion for discussion and endorsement of selected sections at upcoming Plenary meetings.

- **WG on Animal exposure assessment (FEEDAP Panel Animal Nutrition WG)**

See Item 6.1.

⁹ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/wgs/chemical-contaminants/wg-BFRs.pdf>

¹⁰ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/wgs/chemical-contaminants/contamwg-feeddetoxification.pdf>

¹¹ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2021-10/wg-arsenic-in-food.pdf>



- **WG on Lectins¹²**

The Chair of the WG informed about the discussions held during the 2nd WG Lectins, the progress of the draft Opinion and the draft Protocol for this mandate, which is planned to be discussed at upcoming Plenary meetings.

- **WG on BEA genotoxicity¹³**

The Chair of the WG presented an overview of the relevant studies available and the structure and content of the draft Opinion. It is planned to present the draft Opinion for discussion and first reading at upcoming Plenary meetings.

- **WG on Perchlorate update¹⁴**

See item 6.4.

- **WG Δ^8 -THC¹⁵**

The Chair of the WG updated the Panel on the discussions held during the 2nd WG on Δ^8 -THC and on the progress of the draft Opinion and on the draft Protocol for this mandate.

- **WG Dioxins update¹⁶**

The Chair of the WG informed about the discussions held during the 1st WG Dioxins update, and the progress of the draft Protocol for this mandate, which is planned to be discussed at upcoming Plenary meetings.

7.3 Scientific Committee

The CONTAM Panel Chair reported on matters important for the work of the Panel that were discussed at the last meeting of the EFSA Scientific Committee held 29-30 May 2024.

For the Working Groups of interest to the CONTAM Panel, updates were provided on the activities of the Cross-cutting WGs on Genotoxicity, on Uncertainty, on Benchmark dose, Biomarkers of effects, appraisal of Epidemiological studies, Update of the risk-benefit assessment Guidance, and on Fluoride.

7.4 EFSA

The outcome of the 2023-2024 Experts Feedback Survey was presented and discussed with the Panel. The CONTAM Panel was also informed of the fact that the Initiative Group on PFASs created in the framework of the EFSA Advisory Forum, has now been established as an EFSA focal point tailor made activity.

¹² <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2024-04/wg-lectins-in-food.pdf>

¹³ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2024-04/wg-genotoxicity-of-beauvericin.pdf>

¹⁴ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2024-04/wg-minutes-contam-perchlorate-in-food.pdf>

¹⁵ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2024-04/wg-delta8thc.pdf>

¹⁶ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2024-06/wg-dioxins-update.pdf>



8. Any other business

None.

9. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 21 and 27 June 2024, via teleconference.