



## Scientific Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain

### Minutes of the 110<sup>th</sup> Plenary meeting

**Audio-web conference, 7-9 July 2020**

**(Agreed on 24 July 2020)**

#### Participants

■ Panel Members:

Margherita Bignami, Laurent Bodin, Kevin Chipman, Jesús Del Mazo, Bettina Grasl-Kraupp, Christer Hogstrand, Ron Hoogenboom, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Carlo Nebbia, Elsa Nielsen, Evangelia Ntzani, Annette Petersen, Salomon Sand, Dieter Schrenk, Tanja Schwerdtle, Christiane Vleminckx and Heather Wallace.

■ Hearing Experts<sup>1</sup>:

Peter Fürst (for Item 6.2.).

■ European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

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

■ EFSA:

BIOCONTAM Unit:

Katleen Baert, Marco Binaglia, Anna Christodoulidou, Federico Cruciani, Ernesto Liebana Criado, Michaela Hempen, Karen Mackay, Luisa Ramos Bordajandi, Hans Steinkellner and Carina Wenger.

DATA Unit:

Francesca Riolo (for Items 6.2. and 6.4.)

■ Others:

Not Applicable.

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<sup>1</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)

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

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Marina Marini (European Commission, DG Health and Food Safety, unit D1) and Veerle Vanheusden (European Commission, DG Health and Food Safety, Unit E2).

## **2. Adoption of agenda**

The agenda was adopted without changes.

## **3. Declarations of Interest**

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence<sup>2</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management<sup>3</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 107<sup>th</sup>, 108<sup>th</sup> and 109<sup>th</sup> Plenary meetings**

The minutes of the 107<sup>th</sup><sup>4</sup>, 108<sup>th</sup><sup>5</sup> and 109<sup>th</sup><sup>6</sup> Plenary meetings held on 26-28 May, 11 June and 17 June 2020, respectively, were agreed by the CONTAM Panel on 29 June 2020.

## **5. Report on written procedures since the 109<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting held on 08.05.2020**

The following new mandates were received from the European Commission and shared with the CONTAM Panel by written procedure:

- Request for an assessment of an application of a detoxification process for compliance with the acceptability criteria provided for in Commission Regulation (EU) 2015/786 of 19 May 2015 (detoxification process of groundnut press cake for aflatoxins by ammoniation) (EFSA-Q-2020-00504)<sup>7</sup>.

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<sup>2</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>4</sup> <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/107th-plenary-meeting-contam-panel>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/108th-plenary-meeting-contam-panel>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/109th-plenary-meeting-contam-panel>

<sup>7</sup> <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2020-00504>

- Request for an assessment of the processing conditions which make the *Ambrosia* spp. unviable (EFSA-Q-2020-00501)<sup>8</sup>.
- Request for a Scientific Opinion on the risks for animal health related to the presence of 5-hydroxymethylfurfural (HMF) in feed for honeybees (EFSA-Q-2020-00510)<sup>9</sup>.
- Request for a Scientific Opinion on the risks for human health related to the presence of grayanotoxins in certain honey (EFSA-Q-2020-00509)<sup>10</sup>.

The CONTAM Secretariat proposed to allocate the first two mandates to the existing WG on Feed detoxification and to set up ad hoc WGs for the third and fourth mandates. The WG Chairs of the latter two mandates will be proposed pending approval by the Panel Chair.

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

### **6.1. Draft opinion on Glycoalkaloids in food and feed (EFSA-Q-2016-00811)<sup>11</sup>**

The Chair of the WG on Glycoalkaloids in food and feed introduced the changes implemented in the draft opinion based on the comments received during the public consultation. The CONTAM Panel adopted the opinion including the proposed changes and endorsed the technical report of the public consultation that will be published together with it. The Chair of the Panel thanked the WG and EFSA staff for their work.

### **6.2. Draft Scientific Opinion on the evaluation of public and animal health risks in case of a delayed post-mortem inspection in ungulates (EFSA-Q-2019-00124)<sup>12</sup>**

The CONTAM Panel assessed in the current mandate those chemical hazards that had been identified in the previous assessments on meat inspection as high and medium potential concerns in the different species relevant for this assessment. Contaminants for which recent risk assessments have shown the presence in food of animal origin at relevant concentrations and identified a concern for public health were also included. In addition, a number of other substances are detected in the framework of the National Residue Control Plans (e.g. corticosteroids). The assessment of these substances is beyond the scope of the current opinion. Therefore, the CONTAM Panel recommends to update the previous meat inspection opinions.

<sup>8</sup> <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2020-00501>

<sup>9</sup> <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2020-00510>

<sup>10</sup> <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2020-00509>

<sup>11</sup> <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2019-00124>

<sup>12</sup> <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2016-00811>

### **6.3. Draft Update of the Scientific Opinion on Hexabromocyclododecanes (HBCDDs) in Food (EFSA-Q-2018-00433)<sup>13</sup>**

The Chair of the WG on Brominated flame retardants in food presented the draft opinion on HBCDDs in food. The Panel discussed the approach for the hazard characterisation proposed by the WG and agreed to it. The Panel discussed whether an additional uncertainty factor to account for deficiencies in the dataset should be applied. There was no consensus among Panel members and after a voting there was a majority in favour of not applying such an additional uncertainty factor but the deficiencies will be highlighted in the uncertainty section of the opinion. The opinion will be presented for possible endorsement for public consultation at the 111<sup>th</sup> CONTAM Panel meeting in September 2020.

### **6.4. Draft opinion on Perfluoroalkyl substances in food (EFSA-Q-2017-00549)<sup>14</sup>**

The Chair of the WG on Perfluoroalkyl substances introduced the changes implemented in the opinion based on the comments received during the public consultation. The CONTAM Panel adopted the opinion including the proposed changes and endorsed the public consultation report that will be published together with it. The Chair of the Panel thanked the WG and EFSA staff for their work.

## **7. Feedback from the Scientific Committee, EFSA, the European Commission**

### **7.1. European Commission**

The European Commission representative gave an update on the activities in relation to the scientific opinions of the CONTAM Panel. Several amendments of current legislation are under discussion with the Member States as an outcome of the CONTAM Panel scientific opinions. In addition, an update was provided on the future mandates in preparation.

### **7.2. Update from CONTAM Panel Working Groups**

- **WG on Glycoalkaloids in food and feed**  
See Item 6.1.
- **WG on Perfluoroalkyl substances in food**  
See Item 6.4.

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<sup>13</sup> <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2018-00433>

<sup>14</sup> <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2017-00549>

- **WG on Brominated flame retardants in food**  
See Item 6.3.
- **WG on Nitrites and nitrates in feed**  
Draft opinion under public consultation
- **WG on Nickel in food**  
Draft opinion under public consultation
- **WG on Scallops**  
The WG Chair informed the Panel that the activity is progressing well.
- **WG on Delayed meat inspection**  
See Item 6.2.

### **7.3. EFSA**

The CONTAM Team Leader informed that additional draft mandates from the European Commission are currently under finalization to be submitted to EFSA. Among the others a draft mandate on risk benefit assessment of fish consumption in relation to the presence of dioxins and dioxin-like polychlorinated biphenyls is currently in preparation. For this it was clarified that the CONTAM Panel will be requested to contribute to the development of the opinion, however the mandate will be likely allocated to the EFSA Scientific Committee.

### **7.4. Scientific Committee and Working groups of interest to the CONTAM Panel**

The Panel Chair reported on the main points discussed at the 99<sup>th</sup> meeting of the EFSA Scientific Committee<sup>15</sup>. In particular, the Scientific Committee endorsed selected sections of the draft guidance on appraising and integrating evidence from epidemiological studies and the statement on EFSA approaches for the Derivation of Health Based Guidance Values (HBGV) for food additives, other regulated products and nutrients. For the Working groups of interest for the CONTAM Panel, updates were given on the activities of the WG on Genotoxicity, the WG on the update of the Benchmark Dose guidance, the WG on Uncertainty, the WG on Epidemiological studies and the WG on Chemical mixtures.

## **8. Any other business**

Not applicable

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<sup>15</sup> <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/99th-plenary-meeting-scientific-committee-open-observers>