

EFSA'S RISK ASSESSMENTS IN SUPPORT OF EU FOOD AND FEED LEGISLATION

This Special Session will provide an overview of EFSA's latest risk assessments on persistent organic pollutants, ongoing EU initiatives in the field, and insights into the regulatory framework for halogenated persistent pollutants at EU level. It will address the following topics:

- BFRs in food: outcome of the last EFSA risk assessments on TBBPA, brominated phenols, and emerging and novel BFRs.
- Dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs in food: human dietary exposure assessment and revised EFSA's TWI considering the new 2022 WHO-TEFs.
- EFSA's risk assessments of other persistent contaminants: microplastics, organophosphorous flame retardants, polychlorinated naphthalenes and chlorinated paraffins.
- The EU Member States Initiative Group on PFAS: fostering exchange to navigate regulatory and scientific challenges.
- Risk management of halogenated persistent pollutants at EU level: recent developments and outlook.

The [European Food Safety Authority \(EFSA\)](#) was established in January 2002 as an independent body providing scientific advice and communication on risks associated with the food chain (Regulation (EC) No 178/2002). As a risk assessor, EFSA produces scientific opinions and advice to provide a sound foundation for European policies and legislation and to support the European Commission, European Parliament and EU Member States in taking effective and timely risk management decisions.

Within EFSA, the [Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain \(CONTAM Panel\)](#) provides scientific advice on contaminants and undesirable substances in food and feed such as environmental contaminants, process contaminants, natural toxins, metals, and residues of unauthorised pharmacologically active substances.

The assessment of the human and animal health risk is performed following the risk assessment paradigm: hazard identification, hazard characterisation, exposure assessment, and risk characterisation. EFSA considers toxicological, epidemiological and toxicokinetic studies available in the open literature to characterise what are the critical adverse health effects caused by the contaminants under study. To assess the dietary exposure, food or feed consumption data are combined with occurrence data on the compounds under study in food or feed, and a range of intake/exposure scenario estimates is considered. For humans, dietary exposure estimates cover, as appropriate, all age groups and special population subgroups.