

## Meeting of the GHI Working Group Food Packaging Materials - Minutes

Date: 25<sup>th</sup>. March 2019, 18-19 hs.

Place: Room Zandvoort – Holiday Inn Leiden, NL.

Chair: Prof. Alejandro Ariosti

Attendants:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Country</b>
Adewale, Obadina	Federal University of Agriculture (Abeokuta)	Nigeria
Ariosti, Alejandro	National Institute of Industrial Technology (INTI) – Plastics Center (Technical Assistance FCMs) (Buenos Aires)	Argentina
Bratsikhin, Andrey	Director of the Life Sciences Institute – North Caucasus Federal University (Stavropol)	Russian Federation
Costa, Rui	Polytechnic Institute of Coimbra	Portugal
Dalla Rosa, Marco	University of Bologna	Italy
Demaegdt, Heidi	Sciensano – Service Trace Elements & Nanomaterials (Brussels) (Belgium National Reference Laboratory)	Belgium
Kagambega, Asseta	University of Ouagadougou – (Lecturer/Researcher in Microbiology)	Burkina Faso
Niksic, Miomir	Department of Industrial Microbiology – Faculty of Agriculture – University of Belgrade	Serbia
Nyanga, Loveness K.	University of Zimbabwe - Institute of Food, Nutrition and Family Sciences (Mount Pleasant, Harare)	Zimbabwe
Parry-Hanson Kunadu, Angela	Department of Nutrition & Food Science - University of Ghana (Accra)	Ghana
Stolk, Maarten	Comet AG (Wünnewil-Flamatt)	Switzerland

Agenda:

1) Welcome and general introduction by A. Ariosti on the formation of this new WG ([www.globalharmonization.net/wg-food-packaging-materials](http://www.globalharmonization.net/wg-food-packaging-materials))

2) Brief self-introduction by the participants (name, affiliation, subject(s) of interest):

<b>Name</b>	<b>Expertise / Subject(s) of interest</b>
Adewale, Obadina	Food processing; how types of food packaging materials affect food shelf-life.
Ariosti, Alejandro	Food packaging technology and interactions with food; migration; food contact materials (FCMs) regulations and standards; harmonization of regulations; food grade recycled plastics.
Bratsikhin, Andrey	Packaging machines and equipment.
Costa, Rui	Food engineering; fish processing; new protein sources; valorization of food waste.

Dalla Rosa, Marco	Food technology; modified atmosphere packaging (MAP) for fresh fruits and vegetables, fresh cuts, and fish; active packaging for shell-eggs; biopolymers (e.g. PLA); antimicrobial and antioxidant active packaging; intelligent packaging; copolyesters with enhanced barrier properties; life cycle analysis (LCA) of multilayer food packaging.
Demaegdt, Heidi	Belgium National Reference Laboratory (NRL) for food, feed and FCMs; migration (ceramics, metals, etc.).
Kagambega, Aseta	Food microbiology.
Niksic, Miomir	Industrial microbiology; MAP for control of pathogens; harmonization of Serbian + EU + international FCMs regulations.
Nyanga, Loveness K.	Product development.
Parry-Hanson Kunadu, Angela	Food microbiology; food shelf-life.
Stolk, Maarten	Inner coatings and varnishes for food packaging; printing inks; food grade recycled plastics.

3) Brief report by A. Ariosti on the “**Stakeholder Workshop on the Evaluation of Food Contact Materials Legislation in the European Union**”, held on 24 September 2018, and where the GHI had a delegate. The Workshop was organized by the EC DG SANTE and the material is available at:

[https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/chemical\\_safety/food\\_contact\\_materials/evaluation\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/chemical_safety/food_contact_materials/evaluation_en)

The key points addressed during the presentations were:

#### EC:

- Different approaches towards risk assessment (RA) in EU Member States (MS)
- Information flow along supply chain (e.g. Declaration of Compliance (DoC))
- Enforcement of FCMs Regulation across MS
- Possible overlap of FCMs Regulation with other EU legislation (e.g. REACH, biocides) and EU policies (e.g. circular economy)
- Lack of standardized methods
- Non-harmonized MS regulations
- Issues with mutual recognition
- Final report by Contractor (ECORYS) by early 2020, after evaluation process.

#### NGOs:

- Specific harmonized measures for all FCMs (4 vs. 13) and periodical review
- Integration of REACH information on chemicals
- Assessment of mixture of chemicals
- Endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) (e.g. BPA)
- Assessment of non-intentionally added substances (NIAS)
- Innovation in terms of safer materials/services, not only in substances
- Balanced representation of stakeholders in the EU expert group on FCMs

#### Industrial Associations:

- Analytical methods and tests (not always available, validation, standardisation, guidelines)
- Very limited access to *in silico* tools for RA
- Lack of pre-submission discussions with EFSA panel
- High barrier for new products development
- Lengthy RA and authorisation process
- Lack of official rules on compliance with Article 3 Regulation (EC) 1935/2004

#### Official Food Control Authority of the Canton of Zürich (KLZH) - Switzerland:

- Lack of European-level working group on enforcement
- High number of substances as potential migrants (estimated 100.000, 10.000 intentionally added, 1000 specifically regulated, less than 100 effectively controlled)
- Lack of resources for FCMs controls
- Lack of knowledge on risk associated with migration from FCM (unknown toxicity and migration behaviour)

The final report by the Contractor (ECORYS) is expected by early 2020, after the evaluation process (2018-2019).

4) Discussion to identify and prioritize subjects of interest about which the WG can work out a proposal to the GHI to launch a position paper (e.g. risk assessment of food contact substances, materials and articles; guidelines on identification and risk assessment of non-intentionally added substances (NIAS); state of harmonization of food packaging regulations and standards).

- **After a brief explanation of the previous issues, A. Ariosti commented that, as several of the participants deal with food microbiology, a subject that may be of interest to study by a sub-group of this WG, is microbiology of food packaging materials and its standardization/regulation. FCMs regulations deal mainly with chemical risks (e.g. migration, corrosion), and microbiological risks associated to food packaging are, in practice, not regulated, and scarcely standardized (mainly by industrial associations).**
- **The follow-up of the ECORYS final report on the implementation of FCMs regulation in the EU is of interest not only for the EU Member States, but also for the countries and blocks that take this regulation as an international reference. It would be important that this WG could study the final report and reach an opinion by consensus to elevate to the GHI board.**

5) Proposals for Co-Chairs positions

([www.globalharmonization.net/sites/default/files/pdf/ghi\\_WorkingGroups\\_Info.pdf](http://www.globalharmonization.net/sites/default/files/pdf/ghi_WorkingGroups_Info.pdf)).

- **Proposals of interested colleagues would be sent to A. Ariosti.**

6) End of meeting and take-home issues:

A. Ariosti solicited the participants to send comments in general and on the highlighted points, and thanked them for their interest in attending the meeting.

Prof. Alejandro Ariosti.

Buenos Aires, 3<sup>rd</sup>. May 2019.