European citizens discard on average 157 kg of packaging per person every year, of which more than two thirds come from food. It is important to find a good balance between the benefits of packaging in terms of food protection and its impact on the environment.

Recent improvements in food production and distribution have led to an increased sophistication of food packaging. A careful evaluation of food contact materials and their interactions with food is needed to ensure consumers’ safety at minimal environmental impact and the Packaging Materials Task Force explores this.

**WHAT’S NEW?**

**WORKSHOPS**
- ‘*In Vitro* Bioassays for Food Contact Materials Safety’, 8-9 November 2018, Brussels, Belgium, discussed the most relevant bioassays, their limitations and relevance in the context of packaging safety.
- Mineral Oil Risk Assessment: Knowledge Gaps and Roadmap’, jointly organised with the Process-Related Compounds and Natural Toxins Task Force on 6-7 February 2019 in Brussels, Belgium. It will address issues related to occurrence, analytical methods and health risks across different sectors.


**ACTIVITIES**

Report Series: Adhesives for Food Packaging Applications **NEW**
This report aims to give an overview over the different types of adhesives used as specific food contact materials in various packaging, and increase the knowledge around adhesives in food contact applications. The reports target the supply chain for food packaging and packed foodstuffs and guide stakeholders in their safe use.

Roles and Applications of *In Vitro* Bioassays in Safety Evaluation of Food Contact Materials
There is an urgent need to better understand the actual safety significance of food contact materials (FCM) as a source of chemical exposure in human. *In vitro* bioassays may play a role in the assessment of complex mixtures of chemicals migrating from FCM. However, none of these have been specifically assessed for their suitability to address the safety of non-intentionally added substances (NIAS). Thus, the expert group will clarify the roles, availability and reliability of bioassays for packaging safety assessment.

7th International Symposium on Food Packaging **NEW**
The ILSI Europe International Symposia on Food Packaging are held every four years and are internationally recognised as scientific fora to discuss the science that ensures the safety and quality of food packaging. The 6th symposium was held in November 2016 emphasizing again the innovations in the area of food packaging. The proceedings were published in October 2017. The 7th Symposium will be organised in November 2020.


All publications commissioned by this task force are available on our website: www.ilsi.eu.

For more information on ILSI Europe’s activities, don’t forget to follow us on Twitter @ILSI_Europe and connect with us on LinkedIn.