SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND FLAVOURINGS (FAF)

41st FAF Panel meeting

14 - 15 November 2023
14:00-18:00 / 09:00-18:00
Minutes (Agreed on 6 December 2023)

Location: Teleconference

Attendees:

- Panel Members:
  Laurence Castle, Gisela Degen, Karl-Heinz Engel, María José Frutos Fernández, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Rainer Gürtler, Trine Husoy, Melania Manco, Wim Mennes, Peter Moldeus, Sabina Passamonti, Romina Shah, Dina (Ine) Waalkens-Berendsen, Matthew Wright and Maged Younes
- EFSA: Food Ingredients and Packaging (FIP) Unit: Stefania Barmaz, Dino Borana, Valeriu Curtui, Maria Carfi, Consuelo Civitella, Gabriele Gagliardi, Federica Lodi, Carla Martino, Elena Mazzoli, Agnieszka Mech, Salvatore Samuele Multari, Vasantha Palaniappan, Josef Rasinger, Ana Rincon, Laura Ruggeri, Camilla Smeraldi, Alexandra Tard, Sam Vermeiren and Panagiota Zakidou
- Hearing Experts[1]:
  Maria Dusinska, from CC WG Genotoxicity

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.
Apologies were received from Karl-Heinz Engel and Paul Fowler for the whole duration of the plenary and from Trine Husoy on 15th November 2023.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Panel members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management, 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 40th FAF Panel Plenary meeting open to Observers held on 24-26 October 2023, in Parma.

The minutes of the 40th Panel plenary meeting were agreed during this meeting on 14th November 2023.

5. Report on written procedure

Not applicable

[1] 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. Scientific output(s) submitted for discussion/adoption

6.1 Draft opinion on the application for use of oligonucleotides as a new food additive (EFSA-Q-2020-00518)

The FAF Panel discussed all parts of the draft opinion. The opinion was unanimously adopted, subject to the incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting and editorial changes.

6.2 Draft opinion on the re-evaluation of shellac (E 904) (EFSA-Q-2011-00705) and on its proposed extension of use in dietary foods for special medical purposes (EFSA-Q-2020-00327)

The advice from the Panel was sought with respect to the approach to be followed for the safety assessment of an impurity identified in the food additive shellac (E 904), currently undergoing re-evaluation under Regulation (EU) No 257/2010.

The approach that has been followed by the Panel for the assessment of impurities, foresees the comparison between the calculated potential exposure to the impurity (resulting from the exposure to the food additive) and a reference point/HBGV identified for the given impurity. In this specific case, different reference point/HBGV values were identified for the impurity in question, based on different existing assessments conducted by several scientific bodies.

The Panel discussed the different options and provided its advice on the approach for this impurity, which will be followed for the drafting of the scientific opinion.

6.3 Draft opinion on the re-evaluation of silicon dioxide (E 551) as a food additive in foods for infants below 16 weeks of age and follow-up of its re-evaluation as food additive for uses in foods for all population groups (EFSA-Q-2018-00526)

The Panel was presented with an update on the ongoing assessment of silicon dioxide (E 551) aimed at following up the re-evaluation completed by the ANS Panel in 2017. Information was provided on the background to this mandate, the terms of reference and their interpretation and how the assessment is being conducted in cooperation with the relevant Working Groups of the FAF Panel (WG Specification; WG Follow-up Tox; WG Infants and Young Children) and the cross-cutting Working Groups established under the EFSA Scientific Committee (WG Nanotechnologies and WG Genotoxicity).

The preliminary assessment of the technical data submitted by the IBOs was presented. Based on the data provided on the characterisation of the different amorphous silicon dioxide materials used as food additive E 551 and in the light of the applicable 2021 EFSA Guidance on Particle-TR[2], the safety assessment of E 551 requires assessment at the nanoscale following the principles of the EFSA Guidance on Nano-RA[3]. The ongoing assessment will consider, in addition to the toxicological data already evaluated in the re-evaluation of the food additive in 2018, the toxicological data provided by interested business operators and scientific evidence retrieved from the published literature. The methodology applied to the

[2] Guidance on technical requirements for regulated food and feed product applications to establish the presence of small particles including nanoparticles https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2021.6769

[3] Guidance on risk assessment of nanomaterials to be applied in the food and feed chain: human and animal health. https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2021.6768

appraisal of the relevance and reliability of the data was presented to the Panel alongside the proposed Table of Content of the draft opinion.

The Chair of the WG Follow-up Tox introduced the preliminary assessment of the available *in vivo* data on ADME and sought steering from the Panel with respect to the preliminary conclusions on the oral absorption, distribution and on the potential for accumulation.

In addition, the progress made by the EFSA cross-cutting Working Group on Genotoxicity was also presented to the Panel.

As the assessment is still progressing, another update will be scheduled at an upcoming plenary meeting in early 2024.

7. Update on new Mandates

No new mandates received since the last plenary

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

9.1 Scientific Committee

No plenary meetings of the Scientific Committee were held since the last FAF plenary meeting.

9.2 European Commission

None

9.3 Scientific Panel(s) including their Working Groups

The Panel received feedback from the WG Applications on the ongoing application for the proposed new food additive Jagua (genipin-glycine) blue (EFSA-Q-2021-00231). The need for additional data has been identified by the Working Group, in addition to an earlier request already sent to the applicant.

9. Any other business

None