

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND FLAVOURINGS (FAF)

48th FAF Panel meeting



11-13 June 2024

09:00-18:00 / 09:00-18:00 / 09:00-13:00

MINUTES (Agreed on 25/06/2024)

Location: EFSA, Parma

Attendees:

- Panel Members:
Gabriele Aquilina, Laurence Castle, Gisela Degen, Karl-Heinz Engel, Paul Fowler, María José Frutos Fernández, Peter Fürst, 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, Valeriu Curtui, Maria Carfi, Consuelo Civitella, Borana Dino, Gabriele Gagliardi, Federica Lodi, Remigio Marano, Carla Martino, Elena Mazzoli, Agnieszka Mech, Salvatore Samuele Multari, Josef Rasinger, Ana Rincon, Laura Ruggeri, Camilla Smeraldi, Alexandra Tard, Sam Vermeiren and Panagiota Zakidou

Methodology and Scientific Support Unit (MESE) Unit: Maria Chiara Astuto, Sara Levorato, Daniela Maurici and Alexis Nathanail
- European Medicines Agency (EMA): Kevin Blake and Francisca van Doesum-Wolters
- European Commission (EC): Katleen Baert
- Hearing Experts¹: Agnes Oomen and Emanuela Corsini (for agenda point 6.2)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair of the FAF Panel welcomed the Participants.
Apologies were received from P. Fowler, for the whole duration of the current meeting.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Panel members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, 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.

¹ As defined in Article 34 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>

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



4. Agreement of the minutes of the 47th FAF Panel Plenary meeting held on 15-16 May 2024.

The minutes of the [47th Panel plenary meeting](#) were agreed by written procedure on 14th May 2024.

5. Report on written procedure

Not applicable

6. Scientific output(s) submitted for discussion/adoption

6.1 Draft opinion on the re-evaluation of shellac (E 904) as a food additive ([EFSA-Q-2011-00705](#)) and on its proposed extension of use in dietary foods for special medical purposes ([EFSA-Q-2020-00327](#))

The draft opinion on the re-evaluation of shellac (E 904) was presented to the members of the Panel.

The Panel discussed the technical part and exposure assessment and endorsed the respective sections of the draft opinion, subject to incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting. The biological and toxicological section was endorsed at the FAF Plenary in March 2024.

Based on the comments received during the current plenary meeting the draft opinion will be further elaborated and will be scheduled for possible further discussion at a forthcoming Plenary meeting.

6.2 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 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. The full text of the opinion will be available in the EFSA Journal.

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

7.1 Scientific Committee

None

7.2 European Commission

None

7.3 Scientific Panel(s) including their Working Groups

None

7.4 EFSA

None



8. Other scientific topics for information and/or discussion

None

9. New mandates

- **New questions received since the 47th FAF Plenary:**

Food Sector	EFSA-Q-Number	Subject	Creation date
FA	EFSA-Q-2024-00303	Application for the extension of use of the food additive sorbitan monostearate (E491)	22/05/2024
FA	EFSA-Q-2024-00325	Application for the authorisation of tamarind seed polysaccharide as a new food additive	03/06/2024

These new application dossiers are under consideration by EFSA. Pending confirmation of the validity of the applications, the scientific assessments will be assigned to the WG Food Additives Applications.

In addition, a mandate requesting a scientific opinion on the safety of glutamic acid (E 620), sodium glutamate (E 621), potassium glutamate (E 622), calcium glutamate (E 623), ammonium glutamate (E 624) and magnesium glutamate and a mandate requesting a scientific opinion on the safety of the food additives chlorophylls (E 140(i)), chlorophyllins (E 140(ii)), copper complexes of chlorophylls (E 141(i)) and copper complexes of chlorophyllin have been received.

- **Valid questions since the 47th FAF Plenary:**

The following mandate has been considered suitable for risk assessment by EFSA since the 47th FAF Plenary meeting.

Food Sector	EFSA-Q-Number	Subject	Validity date
FA	EFSA-Q-2023-00672	Application for the modification of the food additive low-substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose (E 463a)	23/05/2024

The mandate EFSA-Q-2023-00672 will be assigned to the WG Food Additives Applications for the drafting of the scientific opinion.

- **Questions withdrawn since the 47th FAF Plenary:**

The following mandate has been withdrawn since the 47th FAF Plenary meeting.

Food Sector	EFSA-Q-Number	Subject	Withdrawal date
FLAV	2021-00684	Scientific opinion on the safety in use of (1R,4S)-1,3,3-trimethylbicyclo[2.2.1]heptan-2-one (l-Fenchone) as a new flavouring substance	07/06/2024



10. AOB

None