

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND FLAVOURINGS (FAF)

47th FAF Panel meeting



15-16 May 2024

14:00-18:00 / 09:00-18:00

MINUTES (Agreed on 28 May 2024)

Location: Teleconference

Attendees:

- Panel Members:
Gabriele Aquilina, Laurence Castle, Gisela Degen, María José Frutos Fernández, Paul Fowler, 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, Irene Cattaneo, Sara Levorato, Alexis Nathanail
Nutrition and Food Innovation (NIF): Reinhilde Schoonjans
Team Coordinated Communications (COM): Francesca Matteucci
- European Medicines Agency (EMA): Corinne De Vries, Francisca van Doesum-Wolters, Susanne Brendler-Schwaab,
- European Commission (EC): Katleen Baert
- Hearing Experts¹: Riccardo Crebelli (for agenda point 6.2 and 6.3)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair of the FAF Panel welcomed the Participants.

Apologies were received from P. Fuerst, 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

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



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 46th FAF Panel Plenary meeting held on 29-30 April 2024.

The minutes of the [46th 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 scientific opinion on the safety in use of soy leghemoglobin from genetically modified *Pichia pastoris* yeast as a food additive ([EFSA-Q-2022-00031](#))

Further to the discussion at the previous plenary meeting, a revised draft opinion was presented to the members of the Panel.

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.

6.2 Draft scientific opinion on 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 received feedback from the EFSA cross-cutting (CC) Working Group on Genotoxicity on the preliminary conclusions that are being drawn on the basis of the available evidence from data submitted to EFSA by interested business operators and retrieved from the published literature. Based on the comments received during the current plenary meeting the draft text will be further elaborated by the CC Working Group.

The preliminary outcome of the safety assessment of silicon dioxide (E 551) in food for infants below 16 weeks of age was also presented to the Panel.

Furthermore, the approach for the conclusions on the safety of the food additive based on the available data was also discussed.

Based on the comments received the draft opinion will be further elaborated by the Working Groups and will be scheduled for possible further discussion at a forthcoming Plenary meeting.

6.3 Re-evaluation of saccharin (E954(i)) ([EFSA-Q-2011-00736](#)), sodium saccharin (E954(ii)) ([EFSA-Q-2011-00737](#)), calcium saccharin (E954(iii)) ([EFSA-Q-2011-00738](#)) and potassium saccharin (E954(iv)) ([EFSA-Q-2011-00739](#))

The ADME and genotoxicity assessment of the food additives saccharin and its sodium, potassium and calcium salts was discussed.

The comments provided by the participants to the presented sections were annotated for the possible finalisation of the assessment in a forthcoming Plenary meeting.



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

In December 2023 the experts of the EFSA Scientific Panels and of the Scientific Committee were invited to respond to a survey. The questions investigated the scientific and organisational support provided by EFSA and the expert's engagement in working with EFSA. The main findings of the survey, as well as the specific results for the FAF Panel were presented and discussed. The Panel agreed that the survey results overall were very satisfactory. The results of the survey will be used as input for lessons learnt and follow-up actions for the new Panel 2024-2029.

8. Other scientific topics for information and/or discussion

- 8.1 Draft call for data on calcium disodium EDTA (E 385) (EFSA-Q-2011-00598; EFSA-Q-2011-00631; EFSA-Q-2011-00632; EFSA-Q-2011-00633; EFSA-Q-2011-00634; EFSA-Q-2011-00635)**
- 8.2 Draft call for data on fumaric acid (E 297) and succinic acid (E 363) (EFSA-Q-2011-00599; EFSA-Q-2011-00641)**
- 8.3 Draft call for data on calcium disodium EDTA (E 385) (EFSA-Q-2011-00683)**

Following on from discussions held at previous plenary meetings on the backlog of food additives that remain to be re-evaluated, the FAF Panel discussed the draft text of three calls for data aimed at collecting any documented information that could support the re-evaluation of the food additives identified above. The draft calls for data outline a possible strategy for the re-evaluation of these food additives and the related information sought from interested parties/business operators. The draft calls for data will be further developed by the FIP Unit taking into account the comments received from the Panel members and will be published on the EFSA's website in the forthcoming weeks.

9. New mandates

- **New questions received since the 44th FAF Plenary:**



Food Sector	EFSA-Q-Number	Subject	Creation date
FA	EFSA-Q-2024-00293	Application for the modification of the food additive rebaudioside M E960c(ii)	06.05.2024

This new application for the modification of the food additive rebaudioside M E960c(ii) is under consideration by EFSA. Pending confirmation of the validity of the application, the scientific assessment will be assigned to the WG Food Additives Applications.

- **Valid questions since the 46th FAF Plenary:**

None

- **Questions withdrawn since the 46th FAF Plenary:**

None

10. AOB

None