

# Scientific Panel on Food Additives and Nutrient Sources added to Food (ANS)

## Minutes of the 79th Plenary meeting

Held on 30 January - 1 February, Parma (Italy)

(Agreed on 02 March 2018)

### Participants

#### ■ Panel Members:

Peter Aggett, Fernando Aguilar, Riccardo Crebelli, Birgit Dusemund, Maria José Frutos Fernandez, Pierre Galtier, David Gott, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Gunter Georg Kuhnle, Claude Lambré, Jean-Charles Leblanc<sup>1</sup>, Inger Therese Lillegaard, Peter Moldeus, Alicja Mortensen, Agneta Oskarsson, Ivan Stankovic, Ine Waalkens-Berendsen, Matthew Wright, and Maged Younes

#### ■ Hearing Experts:

Paul Tobback for agenda item 6.2.

#### ■ European Commission representatives:

DG SANTE (Health and Food Safety), E2 Food processing technologies and novel foods: Andreia Alvarez Porto

#### ■ EFSA:

FIP Unit: Claudia Roncancio Peña, Anna Christodoulidou, Alessandra Giarola, Federica Lodi, Fabiola Pizzo, Ana Maria Rincon, Camilla Smeraldi, Alexandra Tard, Eleonora Alquati

FEED Unit: Jaime Aguilera

DATA Unit: Davide Arcella, Claudia Cascio

### 1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed all participants.

Apologies were received from Metka Filipic and Ruud Woutersen for the whole meeting and from Jean-Charles Leblanc on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018 (PM).

Gunter Georg Kuhnle did not participate in agenda point 6.4 due to a Conflict of Interest.

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<sup>1</sup> Participated by web-conference

being identified for the agenda item.

## **2. Adoption of agenda**

The agenda was adopted without any changes.

## **3. Declarations of Interest of Scientific Panel Members**

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes<sup>2</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest<sup>3</sup>, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest and the Specific Declarations of Interest filled in by the Panel Members invited for the present meeting.

For further details on the outcome of the screening of the ADoI or the SDoI, please refer to Annex I. Oral Declaration of Interest was asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

## **4. Agreement of the minutes of the 78<sup>th</sup> Plenary meeting held on 21-23 November 2017, Parma (Italy) - Meeting open to Observers**

The minutes of the 78<sup>th</sup> Plenary meeting held on 21-23 November 2017 were agreed by written procedure on 18 December 2017<sup>4</sup>.

## **5. Report on the written procedures since 78<sup>th</sup> Plenary meeting**

No scientific outputs were adopted by written procedure since the last plenary meeting.

## **6. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion and possible adoption**

### **6.1. Re-evaluation of carrageenan (E 407) and processed Eucheuma seaweed (E 407a) ([EFSA-Q-2011-00508](#); [EFSA-Q-2011-00509](#))**

The draft opinion on the re-evaluation of the permitted food additives carrageenan (E 407) and processed Eucheuma seaweed (E 407a) was presented to the members of the ANS Panel together with the main points for discussion. The Panel was informed about updated information on the technical part of the scientific opinion, which was submitted by interested parties shortly before the current meeting and that would require additional elaboration by the Working Group (WG).

The draft opinion will be further elaborated by the WG following the recommendations received from the ANS Panel.

The revised draft opinion will be scheduled for discussion and possible adoption at the next plenary meeting.

### **6.2. Re-evaluation of salts of fatty acids (E 470a; E 470b) ([EFSA-Q-2011-00555](#); [EFSA-Q-2011-00556](#))**

The draft opinion on the re-evaluation of the permitted food additives salts of fatty acids (E 470a; E 470b) was presented to the members of the ANS Panel together with the main points for discussion.

The ANS Panel discussed the different parts of the assessment and unanimously adopted the opinion, subject to incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencypolicy.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/event/171121-m\\_0.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/event/171121-m_0.pdf)

The full opinion is available on the Authority's webpage<sup>5</sup>.

### **6.3. Safety in use of glucosylated steviol glycosides as a food additive ([EFSA-Q-2017-00247](#))**

The draft opinion on the safety in use of glucosylated steviol glycosides as a new food additive was presented to the members of the ANS Panel together with the main points for discussion.

The ANS Panel discussed the different parts of the assessment and unanimously adopted the opinion, subject to incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting.

The full opinion is available on the Authority's webpage<sup>6</sup>.

### **6.4. Safety of green tea catechins ([EFSA-Q-2016-00627](#))**

The Rapporteur for the scientific opinion on the safety evaluation of green tea catechins, performed under the framework of Article 8 of Regulation (EC) No1925/2006, presented the ANS Panel with the preliminary conclusions reached by the WG and highlighted the sections of the draft opinion which would warrant further elaboration.

The ANS Panel discussed the different parts of the assessment already developed by the WG, and provided comments and suggestions for further elaboration by the WG at a forthcoming meeting.

The revised draft opinion will be scheduled for discussion and possible adoption at the next plenary meeting.

## **7. New Mandates**

The Secretariat updated the members of the ANS Panel on the new mandates received since the last plenary meeting.

As anticipated during the previous plenary meetings, EFSA has now officially received a new mandate from the EC aiming to address all the data gaps specified in the recommendations made in its scientific opinions on the re-evaluation of the safety of food additives permitted in food category 13.1 (food for infants and young children) of Annex II to Regulation EC 1333/2008, as part of EFSA's work in completing its risk assessments concerning the use of food additives in food for infants below 12 weeks of age.

The Panel was of the opinion that an ad hoc WG of the Panel should complete the risk assessments concerning the use of food additives in food for infants below 12 weeks of age, for which the risk assessment has been finalised for other uses, by implementing the requirements of the EFSA Scientific Committee Guidance on the risk assessment of substances present in food intended for infants below 16 weeks of age. As requested by EC the WG will also evaluate missing data which prevented the completion of the risk assessment of the opinions for other uses. In addition the WG will assist other WGs in the re-evaluation of food additives in foods for this particular age group to be evaluated from 2018 on.

The Chair of the Panel appointed Dr Alicja Mortensen as Chair of the Working Group.

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<sup>5</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/5180>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/5181>

### 7.1. New questions since the previous meeting

The following new mandates have been received since the last Plenary meeting, still under consideration:

Food Sector	EFSA-Q-Number	Subject	Reception date
ADD	EFSA-Q-2017-00827	Request for a scientific opinion from the European Food Safety Authority regarding a proposed amendment of the specifications of the food additive Tartaric acid (E 334)	04/12/2017
NS	EFSA-Q-2018-00066	Commission request for a scientific opinion on magnesium citrate malate added for nutritional purposes to food supplements	30/01/2018

### 7.2. Valid questions since the previous meeting

The following questions have been considered valid for the start of the assessment since the last Plenary meeting:

Food Sector	EFSA-Q-Number	Subject	Valid on
NS	EFSA-Q-2017-00696	Request for a new scientific opinion on Ferric Sodium EDTA	29/11/2017

This question was assigned to the Working Group applications.

### 7.3. Withdrawn questions since the previous meeting

No applications have been withdrawn since the last ANS Plenary meeting.

## 8. Feedback from the Scientific Committee/Scientific Panels, EFSA, the European Commission

### 8.1. Scientific Panel(s) including their Working Groups

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

The Panel members were reminded of the ongoing public consultation on the draft EFSA guidance on the risk assessment of the application of nanoscience and nanotechnologies in the food and feed chain: Part 1, human and animal health, open until 4th March 2018.

The Panel members were informed about the outcome of the public consultation on the draft guidance on characterisation of microorganisms used as feed additives or as production organisms. The FEEDAP Panel is updating this guidance document to take into account the comments received, and aims to finalise this guidance by end of February 2018.

### 8.2. EFSA including its Working Groups /Task Forces

The Chairs of the ANS Panel Working Groups and EFSA scientific secretariat provided feedback from their latest meetings:

#### 8.2.1. ANS Panel SWG Applications

In addition to what already recorded in the [minutes of the WG](#), the Chair of the WG sought advice from the ANS Panel with respect to data required to complete the assessment of an application for amending

specifications of the food additive steviol glycosides (E 960). Based on the feedback received, a letter requesting additional information will be sent to the applicant and the assessment will be put on hold.

#### 8.2.2. Re-evaluation of Gums and Food Additives from Natural Sources 2017-2018

No specific issue was brought to the attention of the Panel in addition to what already recorded in the [minutes of the WG](#).

#### 8.2.3. ANS Panel SWG on the Re-evaluation of Food Additives other than Gums and Colours

No specific issue was brought to the attention of the Panel in addition to what already recorded in the [minutes of the WG](#).

#### 8.2.4. Re-evaluation of other Miscellaneous Food Additives with 2018 deadline

In addition to what already recorded in the [minutes of the WG](#), the vice-chair of the WG sought advice from the ANS Panel with respect to a possible approach to be followed for the re-evaluation of sulphates and chlorides, both group of substances being natural components of the diet and the body. Reference was made to the approach previously devised by the SCF<sup>7</sup> and a discussion followed on whether these principles could still hold valid.

#### 8.2.5. ANS Panel ad hoc WG on the Re-evaluation of Phosphates

In addition to what already recorded in the [minutes of the WG](#), the Chair of the WG sought advice from the ANS Panel with respect to the derivation of different HBGV for different age groups considered in the assessment.

#### 8.2.6. ANS Panel SWG Procedures under Article 8 of Regulation (EC) No 1925/2006

In addition to what already recorded in the [minutes of the WG](#), the Chair sought agreement from the Panel on requesting an extension of the deadline until the end of June 2018 for completing the safety assessment of monacolins in red yeast rice. Preliminary conclusions from the WG will be brought to the ANS Panel for discussion at the coming plenary meeting in March 2018.

#### 8.2.7. ANS Panel WG Exposure Assessment

No specific issue was brought to the attention of the Panel in addition to what already recorded in the [minutes of the WG](#).

#### 8.2.8. ANS Panel *ad hoc* WG on the Guidance on Nutrient Sources

The Panel was reminded that the [public consultation](#) on the draft guidance was launched on 15 December 2017.

### 8.3. European Commission

The EC representative informed the ANS Panel about possibly upcoming new mandates on the food additives lecithins, indigo carmine and ethyl lauroyl arginate.

The Panel was also informed about an upcoming WG meeting of the governmental experts from Member States during which EFSA staff will have the opportunity to present a tentative work programme for the re-evaluation of food additives for 2018

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<sup>7</sup> [SCF \(Scientific Committee for Food\), 1991. Reports of the Scientific Committee for Food, Twenty-fifth series. 1-13](#)

and beyond and answer enquires from the Member States on the adopted opinions on glutamic acid and glutamates (E 620-625), and nitrites and nitrates (E 249-252).

**9. Other scientific topics for information and/or discussion**

**10. Any Other Business**

None.

## Annex I

### **Interests and actions resulting from the screening of Annual Declarations of Interest (ADoI) or Specific Declarations of Interest (SDoI)**

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** In his SDoI filled for the present meeting Mr Gunter Georg Kuhnle declared the following interest: A research project 100% funded by food industry on substances under evaluation by the Panel (agenda item 6.4). In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes<sup>8</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest<sup>9</sup>, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, the interest above was deemed to represent a Conflict of Interest.

This results in exclusion of the expert from any discussion, voting or other processing of item 6.4 by the concerned scientific group.

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<sup>8</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>