FOOD INGREDIENTS AND PACKAGING UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND FLAVOURINGS (FAF)

MINUTES OF THE 10TH PLENARY MEETING

Held on 12-14 November 2019, Parma

(Agreed on 4 December 2019)

Participants

- Panel Members:

  Gabriele Aquilina, Laurence Castle, Karl-Heinz Engel, Paul Fowler, Maria José Frutos Fernandez, Peter Fürst, Rainer Gürtler, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Trine Husøy[1], Wim Mennes, Agneta Oskarsson, Romina Shah[2], Ine Waalkens-Berendsen, Detlef Wölfle and Maged Younes

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

  DG SANTE (Health and Food Safety), E2 Food processing technologies and novel foods: Guillermo Cardon and Miguel-Angel Granero Rosell (via web-conference)

- EFSA:

  FIP Unit: Claudia Roncancio Peña, Stefania Barmaz, Maria Carfi, Esraa Elewa, Brian Flynn, Alessandra Giarola, Federica Lodi, Carla Martino, Ana Maria Rincon, Camilla Smeraldi[3], Alexandra Tard and Giorgia Vianello

  DATA Unit: Petra Gergelova

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants in the meeting. Apologies were received from Peter Moldeus for the whole length of the meeting.

2. Adoption of agenda

[1] Apologies on 14 November 2019
[2] Participated by web-conference on 12 and 13 November 2019 PM
[3] Participated by web-conference

The agenda was adopted by including an additional agenda item; see point 6.7.

3. Declarations of Interest of Scientific Panel members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[4] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[5], EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group 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.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 9th Plenary meeting held on 24-26 September 2019, Parma

The minutes of the 9th Plenary meeting held on 24-26 September 2019 were agreed by written procedure on 16 October 2019[6].

5. Report on written procedures since 9th Plenary meeting

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

6. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

FOOD ADDITIVES

6.1. Scientific opinion on the safety in use of Monk fruit extract/Luo han guo (LHG) extract as a food additive (EFSA-Q-2017-00527)

The 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 will be available on the Authority's webpage.

6.2. Re-evaluation of acacia gum (E 414) as a food additive in foods for infants below 16 weeks of age (EFSA-Q-2018-00525)

The 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 will be available on the Authority's webpage.

6.3. Re-evaluation of hydrogenated poly-1 decene (E 907) (EFSA-Q-2011-00707)

At the current meeting, the FAF Panel was presented for the first time with the draft scientific opinion on hydrogenated poly-1 decene (E 907) as a food additive. The Panel discussed the different parts of the assessment on the safety of hydrogenated poly-1-decene. In particular,

[4] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

[5] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

[6] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/event/190924-m.pdf

the Panel noted that hydrogenated poly-1-decene (E 907) belongs to the chemical family of mineral oil hydrocarbons (MOH) which has been previously subject of an evaluation by the EFSA CONTAM Panel in 2012[7]. The Panel was informed that EFSA was currently engaged in a rapid risk assessment on the possible risk for public health due to the contamination of infant formula and follow-on formula by mineral oil aromatic hydrocarbons (MOAH)[8] in response to a request from the European Commission. Although hydrogenated poly-1-decene does not belong to MOAH family, the Panel considered appropriate to postpone adoption of the scientific opinion on the re-evaluation of hydrogenated poly-1 decene (E 907) as a food additive until after the Working Group had the opportunity to review the outcome of the ongoing rapid risk assessment.

Therefore, on the basis of the comments received during the current plenary meeting the draft opinion will be further elaborated by the Working Group and will be tabled for possible adoption at a forthcoming Plenary meeting.

6.4. Re-evaluation of stearyl tartrate (E 483) (EFSA-Q-2011-00570)

This item was not discussed due to lack of time. Panel members were invited to distribute their comments in writing since the draft opinion will be scheduled for discussion and possible adoption at a future plenary meeting.

6.5. Outcome of the public consultation on the draft protocol for hazard identification and characterisation: Sorbitols (E 420 i,ii); Mannitol (E 421 i, ii); Acesulfame K (E 950); Isomalt (E 953); Sucralose (E 955); Thaumatin (E 957); Neohesperidine DC (E 959); salt of aspartame-acesulfame (E 962); Lactitol (E 966); Xylitol (E 967); Erythritol (E 968); Cyclamates (E 952 i, ii, iii); Saccharin Na, Ca, K (E 954 i, ii, iii, iv); Neotame (E 961); Maltitol (E 965 i, ii) (EFSA-Q-2011-00644; EFSA-Q-2011-00645); (EFSA-Q-2011-00646; EFSA-Q-011-00647); (EFSA-Q-2011-00721); (EFSA-Q-2011-00723); (EFSA-Q-2011-00724); (EFSA-Q-2011-00725); (EFSA-Q-2011-00726); (EFSA-Q-2011-00727); (EFSA-Q-2011-00728); (EFSA-Q-2011-00729); (EFSA-Q-2011-00730); (EFSA-Q-2011-00733; EFSA-Q-2011-00734; EFSA-Q-2011-00735); (EFSA-Q-2011-00736; EFSA-Q-2011-00737; EFSA-Q-2011-00738; EFSA-Q-2011-00739); (EFSA-Q-2011-00740) (EFSA-Q-2011-00755; EFSA-Q-2017-00490)

The Panel discussed the revisions made on the protocol for the assessment of hazard identification and characterisation of the sweeteners, according to the comments received during the public consultation, and unanimously endorsed the protocol for its implementation.

The Panel also discussed the technical report on the outcome of the public consultation on this protocol, which addressed the comments received during the public consultation, and unanimously endorsed the document, subject to incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting.

Both documents will be available on the Authority's webpage.

[7] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/2704

[8] Post-meeting note: the rapid assessment was published on the EFSA website on 21 November 2019. http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/supporting/pub/en-1741

6.6. Proposed amendment of the specifications of the food additive Lecithins (E 322) and a proposed use in Cocoa and Chocolate products (EFSA-Q-2018-00415)

At the current meeting, the Panel was presented for the first time with a preliminary evaluation of an application on oat lecithin as a new source of lecithins to be used as a food additive.

On the basis of the comments received during the current plenary meeting the draft opinion will be further elaborated by the Working Group and will be tabled for possible adoption at a forthcoming Plenary meeting.

6.7. Scientific opinion on the follow-up from the re-evaluation of starch sodium octenyl succinate (E 1450) as a food additive, including use in foods for infants below 16 weeks of age (EFSA-Q-2018-00102)

At its previous plenary meeting held in September 2019, the FAF Panel had adopted the scientific opinion on the follow-up from the re-evaluation of starch sodium octenyl succinate (E 1450) as a food additive, including use in foods for infants below 16 weeks of age. During the pre-notification period prior to the publication of the adopted output, EFSA received comments from the European Commission with respect to the need to better address the safety of the food additive in the food category 13.1.5.2(Dietary foods for babies and young children for special medical purposes as defined in Directive 1999/21/EC). In accordance with the applicable EFSA's standard operating procedure, the comments were reviewed, the publication of the adopted scientific opinion was put on hold and the opinion was tabled for discussion at the current FAF plenary meeting. Having regard to the above comments, the Panel agreed to the withdrawal of the scientific opinion previously adopted on 25 September 2019. The Panel also agreed that the scientific opinion should be further elaborated by the Working Group on the re-evaluation of food additives permitted in foods for infants below 16 weeks of age. A revised draft opinion will be tabled for possible adoption at a forthcoming Plenary meeting.

FLAVOURINGS

6.8. FGE.61 Rev 2 (EFSA-Q-2018-00841; EFSA-Q-2018-00842; EFSA-Q-2018-00843)

The 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 will be available on the Authority's webpage.

6.9. FGE.71 Rev 1 (EFSA-Q-2018-00863; EFSA-Q-2018-00864; EFSA-Q-2018-00865; EFSA-Q-2018-00866; EFSA-Q-2018-00867; EFSA-Q-2018-00868; EFSA-Q-2018-00869; EFSA-Q-2018-00870; EFSA-Q-2018-00871; EFSA-Q-2018-00872; EFSA-Q-2018-00873; EFSA-Q-2018-00874; EFSA-Q-2018-00875; EFSA-Q-2018-00876; EFSA-Q-2018-00877; EFSA-Q-2018-00878; EFSA-Q-2018-00879; EFSA-Q-2018-00880; EFSA-Q-2018-00881; EFSA-Q-2018-00882; EFSA-Q-2018-00883; EFSA-Q-2018-00884; EFSA-Q-2018-00885; EFSA-Q-2018-00886; EFSA-Q-2018-00887; EFSA-Q-2018-00888; EFSA-Q-2018-00889; EFSA-Q-2018-00890; EFSA-Q-2018-00891; EFSA-Q-2018-00892)

The 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 will be available on the Authority's webpage.

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

7.1. Scientific Committee and Scientific Panel(s) including their Working Groups

The Chair informed the Panel that no meetings of the EFSA Scientific Committee were held since the last plenary meeting of the FAF Panel. The next EFSA Scientific Committee meeting is scheduled on 4-5 December 2019, feedback will be provided at the upcoming FAF Plenary meeting in December 2019.

7.1.1. FAF WG Food Additives Applications

No additional issues were brought to the attention of the FAF Panel further to what is already recorded in the **minutes of the WG**.

7.1.2. FAF WG on the re-evaluation of miscellaneous food additives

No additional issues were brought to the attention of the FAF Panel further to what is already recorded in the **minutes of the WG**.

7.1.3. FAF WG on the re-evaluation of food additives permitted in foods for infants below 16 weeks of age

No additional issues were brought to the attention of the FAF Panel further to what is already recorded in the **minutes of the WG**.

7.1.4. FAF WG on the re-evaluation of remaining food additives other than colours and sweeteners

No additional issues were brought to the attention of the FAF Panel further to what is already recorded in the **minutes of the WG**.

7.1.5. FAF WG on Sweeteners

No additional issues were brought to the attention of the FAF Panel further to what is already recorded in the **minutes of the WG**.

7.1.6. FAF WG on Flavourings

No additional issues were brought to the attention of the FAF Panel further to what is already recorded in the **minutes of the WG**.

7.1.7. FAF WG on Specifications of Food Additives

No additional issues were brought to the attention of the FAF Panel further to what is already recorded in the **minutes of the WG**.

7.2. EFSA including its Working Groups/Task Forces

The Panel was informed of an ongoing assessment of ECHA on sulfur dioxide in the context of its evaluation as a biocide product. The initial application for approval is still in progress, Germany being the evaluating competent authority for this process. The Panel was reminded that sulfur dioxide (E 220) has previously been re-evaluated by the former ANS Panel in 2016, together with sodium sulfite (E 221), sodium bisulfite (E 222), sodium metabisulfite (E 223),

potassium metabisulfite (E 224), calcium sulfite (E 226), calcium bisulfite (E 227) and potassium bisulfite (E 228) as food additives.[9]

EFSA and ECHA are in close contact and the Panel will be kept informed of any relevant development.

7.3. European Commission

No information from the representatives of the European Commission was presented at the current plenary.

8. New mandates

8.1. Update of EFSA guidance on the assessment of smoke flavourings

As anticipated during the previous plenary meeting in September 2019, EFSA has officially received a new mandate (M-2019-0196) from the European Commission requesting an update of EFSA guidance on the assessment of smoke flavourings (EFSA-Q-2019-00687).

The Panel confirmed the need for setting up a new Working Group, chaired by Prof. Karl-Heinz Engel, and tasked with the preparation of the updated guidance. The deadline for the completion of this new mandate is 25 March 2021.

9. Other scientific topics for information and/or discussion

No other scientific topics were presented for information and/or discussion.

10. Any Other Business

None.

[9] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/4438