FOOD INGREDIENTS AND PACKAGING UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND FLAVOURINGS (FAF)

MINUTES OF THE 13TH PLENARY MEETING

Held on 24-26 March 2020
Online meeting

14.00-18.00 on 24th March 2020
14.00-18.00 on 25th March 2020
09.00-13.00 on 26th March 2020

(Agreed on 23 April 2020)

Participants

- Panel Members:

  Gabriele Aquilina, Laurence Castle, Karl-Heinz Engel, Maria José Frutos Fernandez, Peter Fürst, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Rainer Gürtler, Melania Manco, Wim Mennes, Peter Moldeus, Sabina Passamonti, Romina Shah[1], Dina (Ine) Waalkens-Berendsen, Detlef Wölfle, Matthew Wright 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, Catherine Evrevin, Milada Schulzova and Jiri Sochor

- EFSA:

  FIP Unit: Claudia Roncancio Peña, Stefania Barmaz, Ana Campos Fernandes, Consuelo Civitella, Esraa Elewa, Galvin Ndip Eyong, Alessandra Giarola, Federica Lodi, Ana Maria Rincon, Camilla Smeraldi, Alexandra Tard and Giorgia Vianello

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

This meeting, originally scheduled as a physical meeting open to observers, was converted into a web-conference to avoid traveling to EFSA in line with the measures established to reduce the risk of coronavirus infection. Because of this change that had happened at a short-notice and the

[1] Apologies on 26 March 2020

technical difficulties in arranging the session open to the observers it was decided to post-pone the session of the plenary meeting open to the observers to a later date, still to be decided.

The Chair welcomed the participants in the meeting. Apologies were received from Paul Fowler and Trine Husøy for the whole length of the meeting.

The Panel welcomed the recently appointed new members Melania Manco, Sabina Passamonti and Matthew Wright. The new Panel members briefly introduced themselves.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Scientific Panel members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[2] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[3], 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 12th Plenary meeting held on 28-30 January 2020, Parma

The minutes of the 12th Plenary meeting held on 28-30 January 2020 were agreed by written procedure on 13 February 2020[4].

5. Report on written procedures since 12th 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. Proposed amendment to the specifications of the food additive steviol glycosides (E 960) (EFSA-Q-2019-00063)

Further to the previous discussion held at the plenary meeting in January 2020, a revised draft scientific opinion on the safety evaluation of the proposed amendment of the specification of the food additive steviol glycosides was presented to the FAF Panel.

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

[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] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/event/2020/12th-plenary-meeting-faf-panel-minutes.pdf

The full opinion will be available on the Authority's webpage.

6.2. Glucosylated steviol glycosides (EFSA-Q-2019-00062)

The draft opinion on the evaluation of glucosylated steviol glycosides as a food additive was presented for the first time to the members of the Panel, along with a presentation on the main points for discussion.

During the assessment a clarification was sought from the European Commission with respect to the safety of enzymes used in the manufacturing process of the food additive. It was confirmed that the scientific opinion on the safety of the food additive should also address the safety of all the enzymes used in the manufacturing process. However, the assessment conducted by the FAF Panel in the frame of the evaluation of a new food additive is independent from the assessment of food enzymes, conducted by the CEP Panel in the frame of Regulation (EC) No 1332/2008.

The Panel considered that additional information should be requested from the applicant in order to complete the assessment. The scientific evaluation will therefore be suspended, awaiting submission of the additional information requested.

6.3. Dimethyl polysiloxane (E900) (EFSA-Q-2011-00703)

The draft opinion on the re-evaluation of dimethyl polysiloxane (E900) as a food additive was presented for the first time to the members of the Panel, along with a presentation on the main points for discussion.

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 provided feedback from the last meeting of the EFSA Scientific Committee which took place on 18-20 February 2020. The following items were flagged to the attention of the Panel as of particular relevance for current and future work:

- A draft statement discussing the recommendations on how EFSA Panels should derive health-based guidance values in a harmonised/consistent manner for food additives and other regulated products that are also nutrients will be presented for first discussion at the next Plenary meeting scheduled on 22-23 April 2020.
- The draft guidance on aneugenicity assessment discussing what is the most appropriate in vivo follow up for substances that are found to be aneugenic in vitro, and how to assess risk to human health for a substance exhibiting aneugenicity. A public consultation on the document has been launched and will remain open until 31st May 2020[5].

[5] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/consultations/call/public-consultation-draft-scientific-committee-guidance-assessment

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**.

7.1.8. FAF WG on Guidance Update 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**.

7.2. EFSA including its Working Groups/Task Forces

7.3. European Commission

The representatives of the European Commission briefly updated the Panel on some of the follow-up activities that have originated as a result of the program for the re-evaluation of food additives set up in Regulation (EC) No 257/2010. Future mandates from the European Commission should cover the assessment of the data submitted in response to the call for data on the permitted food additives iron oxides and hydroxides (E 172)[6] and sulphur dioxide (E 220), sodium sulphite (E 221), sodium bisulphite (E 222), sodium metabisulphite (E 223), potassium metabisulphite (E 224), calcium sulphite (E 226), calcium bisulphite (E 227) and potassium bisulphite (E 228)[7].

[6] https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/safety/docs/fs_food-improvement-agents_reeval_call_20161205_e172_outcome-2.pdf
[7] https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/safety/docs/fs_food-improvement-agents_reeval_call_20161010_e220-e228_outcome-2.pdf

8. New mandates

8.1. Request for a scientific opinion the extension of use for polyvinylpyrrolidone (E 1201) in dietary foods for special medical purposes

This new mandate (M-2020-0042) from the European Commission covers the request for evaluation of an application for a proposed extension of use of polyvinylpyrrolidone (E 1201) in dietary foods for special medical purposes (EFSA-Q-2020-00232) and is under consideration by EFSA.

Pending confirmation of validity of the application, the scientific assessments will be carried out by jointly with the re-evaluation of the food additive polyvinylpyrrolidone (E 1201), currently ongoing with the Panel WG on the re-evaluation of miscellaneous food additives (see agenda item 7.1.2).

8.2. Request for an updated scientific opinion as regards the safety of titanium dioxide (E 171) as a food additive, taking into account all new relevant data and the 2018 EFSA Guidance on nanotechnology

As anticipated during the previous plenary meeting, a new mandate (M-2020-0058) was received from the European Commission, requesting an update of the safety assessment of the food additive titanium dioxide (E 171) to be issued by the FAF Panel by the end of 2020 (EFSA-Q-2020-00262).

The current mandate covers the request for a reassessment of the safety of the food additive titanium dioxide (E 171) taking into account all new relevant data available to EFSA since the completion of its re-evaluation in 2016. These include the data generated by a consortium of interested food business operators in response to the follow-up call launched by the European Commission, once available, as well as any new data retrieved from the published literature and considered to be in line with the data requirements specified in the 2018 EFSA "Guidance on risk assessment of the application of nanoscience and nanotechnologies in the food and feed chain".

The mandate, still under consideration by EFSA, will require extensive collaboration between the FAF Panel and some of the EFSA cross-cutting science Working Groups (e.g. nanotechnologies) and the set-up of a new Working Group of the FAF Panel tasked with the drafting of the scientific output.

9. Other scientific topics for information and/or discussion

None

10. Any Other Business

None