



FOOD INGREDIENTS AND PACKAGING UNIT

# SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND FLAVOURINGS (FAF)

## MINUTES OF THE 14<sup>TH</sup> PLENARY MEETING

**Held on 12-14 May 2020  
Online meeting**

**14.00-18.00 on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

**10.00-18.00 on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

**09.00-13.00 on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

**(Agreed by written procedure on 3rd June 2020)**

### Participants

■ Panel Members:

Gabriele Aquilina, Laurence Castle, Karl-Heinz Engel, Paul Fowler, Maria José Frutos Fernandez, Peter Fürst, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Rainer Gürtler, Trine Husøy, Melania Manco, Wim Mennes, Peter Moldeus, Sabina Passamonti, Romina Shah<sup>1</sup>, 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<sup>2</sup> and Miguel-Angel Granero Rosell<sup>3</sup>

■ EFSA:

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

COMMS Unit: Maria Tejero Martín

### 1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants in the meeting. No apologies were received.

<sup>1</sup> Participated on 12<sup>th</sup> May and 13<sup>th</sup> May PM 2020. Apologies on 13<sup>th</sup> May AM and 14<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

<sup>2</sup> Participated on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> May 2020

<sup>3</sup> Participated on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2020



## 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<sup>4</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management<sup>5</sup>, 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 13th Plenary meeting held on 24-26 March 2020, Parma

The minutes of the 13th Plenary meeting held on 24-26 March 2020 were agreed by written procedure on 23 April 2020<sup>6</sup>.

## 5. Report on written procedures since 13th 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. Re-evaluation of aluminium silicates (E554-555) ([EFSA-Q-2016-00409](#); [EFSA-Q-2016-00410](#))

The draft opinion on the re-evaluation of aluminium silicates (E554-555) as food additives 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.

#### 6.2. Re-evaluation of starch sodium octenyl succinate (E 1450) as a food additive in foods for infants below 16 weeks of age ([EFSA-Q-2018-00102](#))

Following the withdrawal of the adoption of the opinion during the 10<sup>th</sup> Plenary meeting on 12-14 November 2019, and further to the discussion held at the 11<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting in December 2019, the FAF Panel was presented with a revised draft scientific opinion on the follow-up to

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/policy\\_independence.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/competing\\_interest\\_management\\_17.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/event/2020/13th-plenary-meeting-faf-panel-minutes.pdf>



the re-evaluation of starch sodium octenyl succinate (E 1450) as a food additive and covering also its use in foods for infants below 16 weeks of age.

At the current plenary meeting, the Panel provided additional comments to the draft opinion that will require further elaboration of the text. On the basis of the comments received during the current plenary meeting the draft opinion will be further elaborated by the Working Group on the re-evaluation of food additives permitted in foods for infants below 16 weeks of age and will be tabled for possible adoption at a forthcoming Plenary meeting.

### **6.3. Re-evaluation of fatty acid esters of ascorbyl palmitate (E 304i) as a food additive in foods for infants below 16 weeks of age ([EFSA-Q-2018-00089](#))**

The draft opinion on the re-evaluation of fatty acid esters of ascorbyl palmitate (E 304i) as a food additive in foods for infants below 16 weeks of age 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.

## **FLAVOURINGS**

### **6.4. FGE.91 Rev3 ([EFSA-Q-2018-00839](#); [EFSA-Q-2018-00840](#); [EFSA-Q-2020-00015](#); [EFSA-Q-2020-00016](#); [EFSA-Q-2020-00017](#); [EFSA-Q-2020-00018](#); [EFSA-Q-2020-00019](#); [EFSA-Q-2020-00020](#); [EFSA-Q-2020-00021](#); [EFSA-Q-2020-00022](#); [EFSA-Q-2020-00023](#); [EFSA-Q-2020-00266](#))**

The draft opinion on FGE.91 Rev3 was presented for the first time to the members of the Panel together with 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.

### **6.5. Guidance on smoke flavourings ([EFSA-Q-2019-00687](#))**

The Panel was presented for the first time with the preliminary approaches and key principles for the assessment developed by the Working Group tasked with the drafting of this updated scientific guidance for smoke flavourings primary products. The structure of the new guidance was presented to the Panel together with the proposed approaches so far developed for the different sections of the scientific document currently under preparation (i.e. technical data, exposure, genotoxicity, toxicity, environmental safety, uncertainty). At the current plenary meeting, the Panel provided initial comments to the approach that will require further elaboration of the text by the Working Group. A first draft document will be tabled for discussion at a forthcoming Plenary meeting, with the aim of finalising a draft to be released for public consultation in September-October 2020.



## 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 most recent meeting of the EFSA Scientific Committee which took place on 22-23 April 2020. The ongoing development of a draft statement on EFSA approaches for the Derivation of Health Based Guidance Values (HBGV) for food additives, other regulated products and nutrients was flagged for the attention of the Panel as of particular relevance for current and future work. To this end some Panel members were selected to review the draft document and provide feedback to the Scientific Committee Working Group ahead of the finalisation of the document and of its release for public consultation.

### 7.2. Working Groups of the FAF Panel

This item was not discussed due to lack of time.

### 7.3. European Commission

This item was not discussed due to lack of time.

## 8. New mandates

### 8.1. 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 (EFSA-Q-2020-00262)

As anticipated during the previous plenary meetings, EFSA has now officially accepted the new mandate received from the EC with a deadline of 31 December 2020, pending submission of the data from the Extended One Generation Reproductive Toxicity Study by the interested food business operators in June 2020. The mandate will also cover the assessment of any relevant information published since the adoption of the scientific opinion on the re-evaluation of the food additive E 171 in 2016. The assessment will require extensive cooperation with the two EFSA Scientific Committee Cross Cutting Working Groups on Nano and on Genotoxicity.

The Panel agreed with the establishment of a new WG of the Panel, tasked with the preparation of this scientific opinion.

The Chair of the Panel appointed Prof Matthew Wright as Chair of this new Working Group.

### 8.2. Request for a scientific opinion on the extension of use for shellac (E 904) in dietary foods for special medical purposes

This new mandate (M-2020-0070) from the European Commission covers the request for evaluation of an application for a proposed extension of use of shellac (E 904) in dietary foods for special medical purposes (EFSA-Q-2020-00327) and is under consideration by EFSA.

Pending confirmation of the validity of the application, the scientific assessment will be carried out jointly with the re-evaluation of the food additive shellac (E 904), currently ongoing with the Panel WG on the re-evaluation of miscellaneous food additives.



### **8.3. Request to perform a risk assessment and to provide a scientific opinion on the safety in use of polyphenol-rich extract as a food additive**

This new mandate (M-2020-0082) from the European Commission covers the request for evaluation of an application for the proposed new food additive polyphenol-rich extract as a food additive (EFSA-Q-2020-00358) and is under consideration by EFSA.

Pending confirmation of the validity of the application, the scientific assessment will be carried out by the Panel WG Food Additives Applications.

### **8.4. Request to perform a risk assessment and to provide a scientific opinion on the safety in use of D- $\alpha$ -tocopheryl polyethylene glycol-1000 succinate as a food additive**

This new mandate (M-2020-0083) from the European Commission covers the request for evaluation of an application for the proposed new food additive D- $\alpha$ -tocopheryl polyethylene glycol-1000 (EFSA-Q-2020-00360) and is under consideration by EFSA.

Pending confirmation of the validity of the application, the scientific assessment will be carried out by the Panel WG Food Additives Applications.

## **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