

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

Minutes of the 60th Plenary meeting

Held on 17-19 November 2015, Parma (Italy)

(Agreed on 08 December 2015)

Participants

a) Panel Members

Fernando Aguilar,¹ Riccardo Crebelli,² Alessandro Di Domenico, Birgit Dusemund, Maria José Frutos, Pierre Galtier, David Gott, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Claude Lambré, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Oliver Lindtner, Peter Moldeus, Alicja Mortensen, Pasquale Mosesso, Agneta Oskarsson, Dominique Parent-Massin, Ivan Stankovic, Ine Waalkens-Berendsen, Rudolf Antonius Woutersen, Matthew Wright,³ Maged Younes

b) European Commission representatives:

- Andreia Alvarez Porto (DG SANTE E7)

c) EFSA:

- Food Ingredients and Packaging (FIP) Unit: Dario Battacchi, Anna Christodoulidou, Paolo Colombo, Juho Lemmetyinen, Federica Lodi, Claudia Roncancio Peña, Camilla Smeraldi, Alexandra Tard, Stavroula Tasiopoulou

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed all participants.

¹ Participated on 17 November p.m., 18 and 19 November 2015

² Participated on 18 and 19 November 2015

³ Participated via teleconference

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 Processes⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest,⁵ EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest and the Specific Declarations of Interest filled in by the Scientific Panel Members invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 59th Plenary meeting held on 27-29 October 2015, Parma (Italy)

The minutes of the 59th Plenary meeting held on 27-29 October 2015 were agreed.⁶

5. Report on the written procedures since the 59th 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 Request for EFSA's opinion regarding a proposed amendment of the specifications of the food additive Steviol Glycosides (E 960) ([EFSA-Q-2014-00002](#))

The rapporteur introduced the draft opinion on the safety assessment of the proposed change in the specifications for steviol glycosides (E 960) to the members of the ANS Panel and presented the main points for discussion.

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

The full opinion is available on the [Authority's webpage](#).

6.2 Re-evaluation of E 242 Dimethyl dicarbonate ([EFSA-Q-2011-00459](#))

The rapporteur introduced the draft opinion on the safety assessment of dimethyl dicarbonate (E 242) to the members of the ANS Panel and presented the main points for discussion.

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

⁴ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

⁵ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

⁶ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/event/151027-m.pdf>

The full opinion is available on the [Authority's webpage](#).

6.3 Re-evaluation of E 172 Iron oxides and hydroxides ([EFSA-Q-2011-00347](#))

The rapporteur introduced the draft opinion on the safety assessment of iron oxides and hydroxides (E 172) to the members of the ANS Panel and presented the main points for discussion.

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

The full opinion is available on the [Authority's webpage](#).

6.4 Re-evaluation of E 162 Beetroot red ([EFSA-Q-2011-00350](#))

The rapporteur introduced the draft opinion on the safety assessment of beetroot red (E 162) to the members of the ANS Panel and presented the main points for discussion.

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

The full opinion is available on the [Authority's webpage](#).

6.5 Re-evaluation of E 175 Gold ([EFSA-Q-2011-00345](#))

The rapporteur introduced the draft opinion on the safety assessment of gold (E 175) to the members of the ANS Panel and presented the main points for discussion.

Initial discussion took place on the different sections in the opinion. The Panel made some comments regarding specifications and exposure assessment, that will be considered before finalization of the opinion. Final discussion and adoption of the opinion are deferred to an upcoming Plenary meeting.

6.6 Re-evaluation of E 160c Paprika extract, capsanthin, capsorubin ([EFSA-Q-2011-00353](#))

The rapporteur introduced the draft opinion on the safety assessment of paprika extract, capsanthin, capsorubin (E 160c) to the members of the ANS Panel and presented the main points for discussion.

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

The full opinion is available on the [Authority's webpage](#).

6.7 Re-evaluation of E 174 Silver ([EFSA-Q-2011-00346](#))

The main points for discussion were presented by the Rapporteurs to the members of the ANS Panel. The need for further clarifications was noted. Final discussion and adoption of the opinion are deferred to an upcoming Plenary meeting.

7. New Mandates

7.1 New mandates received since the previous meeting

This topic was not discussed because of lack of time.

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

8.1 Scientific Committee and Scientific Panel including their Working Groups

This topic was not discussed because of lack of time.

8.1.1. ANS SWG on Applications

8.1.2 ANS SWG Re-evaluation of Nitrates – Nitrites

8.1.3 ANS SWG Re-evaluation of Food Colours

8.1.4 ANS SWG Re-evaluation of Gums and Food Additives from Natural Sources

8.1.5 ANS SWG Re-evaluation of Food Additives other than Gums & Colours

The Chairs of the aforementioned Working Groups updated the Panel members on the progress made and on the next steps.

In particular, the Chair of the WG Applications drew the attention of the Panel to an aspect that might affect the future re-evaluation of all the sweeteners. The WG acknowledged recent publications showing that in case of change in sweetness, interactions with sweet taste receptors in the intestine with consequent release of hormones and secondary messengers may occur. The consequence of these interactions between sweeteners and receptors and the response triggered are currently poorly understood and whether or not this may represent a risk is an uncertainty to be possibly considered in the evaluation of all sweeteners.

8.2 EFSA including its Working Groups /Task Forces

A staff member of the AMU (Assessment and Methodological Support) Unit updated the Panel on PROMETHEUS activities and on the next steps concerning the involvement of Panel experts.

8.3 European Commission

The European Commission representative reported about the following:

- the follow-up actions to EFSA scientific opinions recently adopted concerning the extension of use of selected food additives (state of play at the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (SCoPAFF))

9. Other scientific topics for information and/or discussion

None

10. Any Other Business

Having identified the need for a new Standing Working Group (SWG) that will be tasked to work on the preparation of draft opinions on starches, celluloses and pectins, the Chair of the Panel proposed the following chair and vice chair of the SWG:

Ruud Woutersen (chair) and David Gott (vice-chair)

In addition, in order to provide the specific expertise across different WGs and Panels (ANS and CEF (Food Contact Materials, Enzymes, Flavourings and Processing Aids)) for the assessment of exposure, it is also proposed to establish a new Working Group able to advise in relation to outstanding exposure assessment issues arising during the preparation of EFSA scientific outputs and to provide guidance and establish/update the exposure assessment methodologies to be applied:

Jean Charles Leblanc is proposed to act as a chair of the SWG.

The WG chairs and the vice-chair agreed with their nomination.