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

Minutes of the 76th Plenary meeting

Held on 26-28 September 2017, Parma (Italy)

(Agreed on 17 October 2017)

Participants

- Panel Members:

  Peter Aggett, Fernando Aguilar[1], Riccardo Crebelli, Birgit Dusemund, Metka Filipic[2], Maria José Frutos Fernandez, Pierre Galtier, David Gott, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Gunter Georg Kuhnle[3], Claude Lambré[4], Jean-Charles Leblanc[5], Inger Therese Lillegaard, Peter Moldeus[6], Alicja Mortensen, Agneta Oskarsson, Ivan Stankovic, Ine Waalkens-Berendsen[2], Rudolf Antonius Woutersen, Matthew Wright, and Maged Younes

- Hearing Experts:

  Agenda item 6.1: Dimitrios Chrysafidis

  Agenda item 9.1: Pasquale Mosesso

- European Commission representatives:

  DG SANTE (Health and Food Safety), E2 Food processing technologies and novel foods: Jiri Sochor

- EFSA:

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

  DATA Unit: Zsuzsanna Horvath

  RISKCOM Unit: Bernd Elzer

[1] Participated via web conference
[2] Apologies on 28 September 2017
[3] Apologies on 26 September 2017
[4] Apologies on 27 September 2017 (a.m.), participated via web conference on 27 September 2017 (p.m.) and on 28 September 2017
[5] Participated via web conference 26 September 2017 (a.m), 27 September 2017 (a.m.), and on 28 September 2017. Apologies on 26 September 2017 (p.m.) and 27 September 2017 (p.m.)
[6] Apologies on 26 September 2017 (a.m.)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed all participants.

Gunter Georg Kuhnle did not participate in agenda point 6.4 due to a Conflict of Interest being identified for the agenda item.

Birgit Dusemund did not participate in agenda point 9.1 due to a Conflict of Interest 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[7] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest[8], EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest and the Specific Declarations of Interest filled in by the Panel Members invited for the present meeting.

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 75th Plenary meeting held on 05-06 July 2017, Parma (Italy)

The minutes of the 75th Plenary meeting held on 05-06 July were agreed by written procedure on 20 July 2017[9].

5. Report on the written procedures since 75th 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 celluloses: microcrystalline cellulose (460i); powdered cellulose (E 460ii), methyl cellulose (E 461), ethyl cellulose (E 462), hydroxypropyl cellulose (E 463), hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose (E 464), ethyl methyl cellulose (E 465), sodium carboxy methyl cellulose (E 466), crosslinked sodium carboxy methyl cellulose (E 468), enzymatically hydrolysed carboxymethyl cellulose (E 469) (EFSA-Q-2011-00545; EFSA-Q-2011-00546; EFSA-Q-2011-00547; EFSA-Q-2011-00548; EFSA-Q-2011-00549; EFSA-Q-2011-00550; EFSA-Q-2011-00551; EFSA-Q-2011-00552; EFSA-Q-2011-00553; EFSA-Q-2011-00554)

The draft opinion on the re-evaluation of celluloses (E 460(i); E 460(ii); E 461-466; E 468-469) 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 risk 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] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf
[8] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf
[9] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/170705-0

6.2. Re-evaluation of alginic acid and its salts (E 400-404) (EFSA-Q-2011-00501; EFSA-Q-2011-00502; EFSA-Q-2011-00503; EFSA-Q-2011-00504; EFSA-Q-2011-00505)

The draft opinion on the re-evaluation of alginic acid and its salts (E 400-404) 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 risk 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 mono- and diglycerides of fatty acids (E 471) (EFSA-Q-2011-00557)

The draft opinion on the re-evaluation of mono- and diglycerides of fatty acids (E 471) 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 risk 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.

6.4. Safety of green tea catechins (EFSA-Q-2016-00627)

The draft opinion on safety of green catechins was presented to the members of the ANS Panel together with the main points for discussion.

The draft opinion will be further elaborated by the WG following the recommendations from the ANS Panel. More time is needed to finalise the assessment and accordingly a request for extension of the deadline will be sent to the European Commission.

6.5. Safety of nisin (E 234) as a food additive in the light of new toxicological data and the proposed extension of use (EFSA-Q-2017-00097)

The draft opinion on the evaluation of new toxicological data on nisin (E 234) and the proposed extension of use was presented to the members of the ANS Panel together with the main points for discussion.
The ANS Panel suggested some revisions of the opinion before it can be presented for discussion and possible adoption at the next plenary meeting.

6.6. Extension of use of lycopene (E 160d) to certain meat preparations, meat products and fruit and vegetable preparations (EFSA-Q-2017-00098)

This agenda item could not be discussed due to lack of time. The draft opinion will be scheduled for discussion and possible adoption at a forthcoming plenary meeting.

7. New Mandates

The Secretariat informed the members of the ANS Panel that information was received in response to a non-suitability letter issued for the following application:

- M-2017-0121: Request for EFSA to perform a risk assessment and to provide a 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 mandate is currently under consideration by the Application Desk (APDESK) Unit of EFSA.

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

8.1. Scientific Committee and Scientific Panel including their Working Groups

The Scientific Committee Plenary was held on 13-14 September 2017. The Chair provided feedback on the main issues discussed.

The Chair also informed the Panel about the latest guidance documents adopted by the Scientific Committee and published after the last plenary meeting, namely:

- Guidance on the assessment of the biological relevance of data in scientific assessments
- Guidance on the use of the weight of evidence approach in scientific assessments

The two documents are available on the Authority's webpage.

8.2. The Chairs of the Working Groups of the ANS Panel provided brief feedback on their ongoing activities.

The Head of the FIP Unit informed the Panel about new challenges in the future, regarding a decrease in budget that will be available in 2018 for the organisation of meetings. The EFSA Units are therefore requested to optimise the use of available resources.

9. Other scientific topics for information and/or discussion

9.1. Scientific opinion on the safety of hydroxyanthracene derivatives (EFSA-Q-2016-00562)

Preliminary conclusions on the safety evaluation of hydroxyanthracene derivatives were presented to the members of the ANS Panel together with the main points for discussion.

Based on the advice received from the Panel, the draft opinion will be further elaborated by the Working Group before it is scheduled for discussion and possible adoption at the next plenary meeting.

10. Any Other Business

The Panel was informed that the next meeting will take place in Amsterdam on 23-24 October 2017.

Annex

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

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: In her SDoI Dr Birgit Dusemund declared the following interest: In June 2014, on behalf of the Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR), finalisation of an unpublished report on the safety evaluation of "whole *Aloe arborescens* leaves" as food supplements. This included an evaluation of hydroxyanthracene derivatives as the main components of this botanical. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes[10] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest[11], 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 9.1 by the concerned scientific group.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: In his SDoI 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[10] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest[11], 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.

[10] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf
[11] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf