



# Guiding principles in the safety assessment of food additives

Parma, 24 November 2017

David Gott

Chair of the Working Groups Applications

# OUTLINE

Re-evaluation versus  
new applications



Data and gaps



An evolving scenario

## **Re-evaluation vs new applications**

# RE-EVALUATION VS NEW APPLICATIONS

Re-evaluation programme  
 Reg. 257/2010

26.5.2010 Official Journal of the European Union  
**COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) No 257/2010**  
 of 25 March 2010  
 setting up a programme for the re-evaluation of approved food additives in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1331/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on food additives (Text with EEA relevance)

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EC) No 1331/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on food additives (1), and in particular Article 12 thereof,

After consulting the European Food Safety Authority,

Whereas:

requested or become otherwise available. As a consequence, those additives do not need to be re-evaluated again.

(4) Taking into account that reviewers have the most recent evaluations they should be re-evaluated the last.

(5) The order of priorities for the re-evaluation of the currently approved food additives should be set on the basis of the following criteria: the time since the last evaluation of a food additive by the EFSA or by ECHA, the availability of new scientific evidence, the extent of use of a food additive in food and the human exposure to the food additive taking also into account the outcome of the Report from the Commission on Dietary Food Additive Intake in the EU (2) of 2001, The report 'Food additives in Europe 2000' (3)

Food additives already permitted **before**

Food additives authorised **after**

31.12.2008 Official Journal of the European Union L 334J  
 REGULATIONS  
 REGULATION (EC) No 1331/2008 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL  
 of 16 December 2008  
 establishing a common authorisation procedure for food additives, food enzymes and food flavourings (Text with EEA relevance)

Common authorisation procedure  
 Reg. 1331/2008

20 Jan 2009

# RE-EVALUATION VS NEW APPLICATIONS

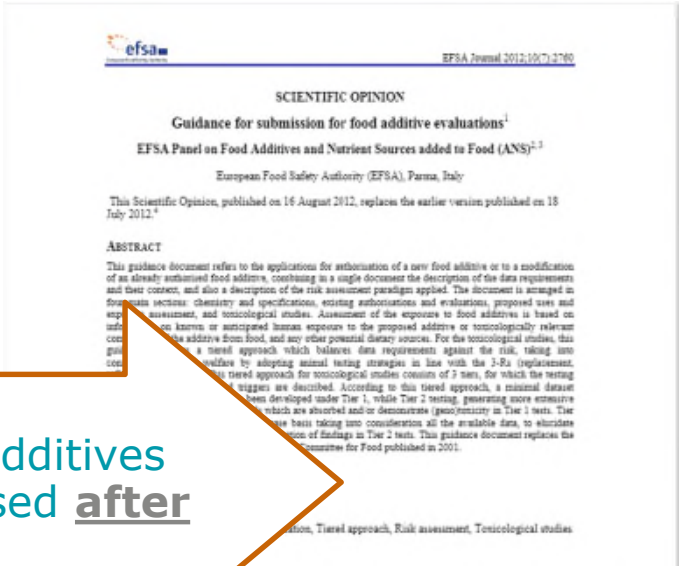
Re-evaluation



Food additives already permitted **before**

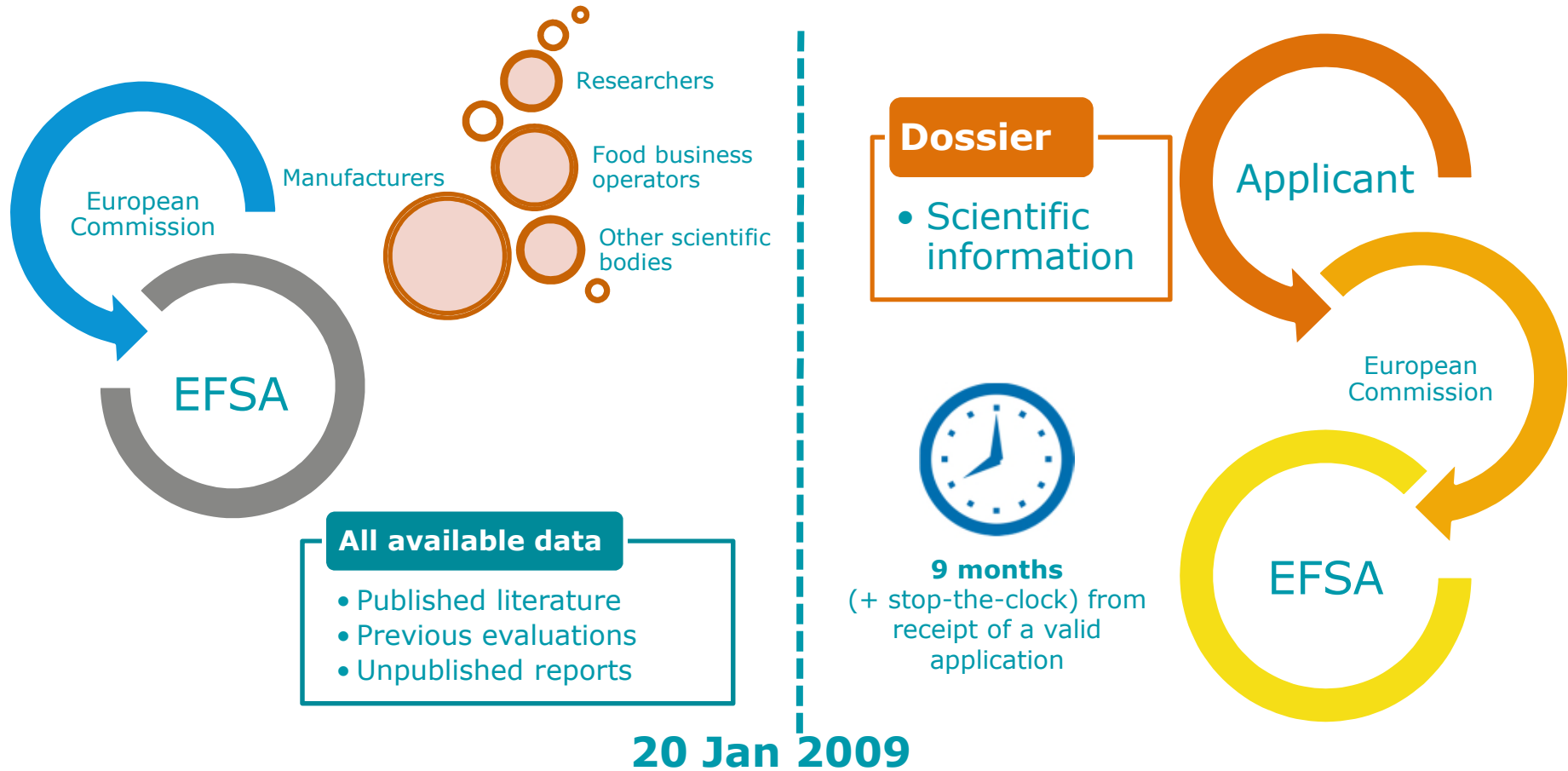
Food additives authorised **after**

20 Jan 2009



New applications

# RE-EVALUATION VS NEW APPLICATIONS



## **Data and gaps**

## SCIENTIFIC ASSESSMENT



In the re-evaluation of food additives the available pieces of the jigsaw are put together

There may be missing pieces, but can we still understand the picture?



## SCIENTIFIC ASSESSMENT

### Technical part

- Identity of the substance
- Specifications
- Analytical results
- Manufacturing process
- Methods of analysis in food
- Stability and fate in food

### Questions

- What is the food additive?
- Are we talking about the same substance that it was assessed at the time of the initial authorisation?
- What are residuals/by products resulting from manufacturing process/storage/interaction with food?

# HAZARD IDENTIFICATION

## SCIENTIFIC ASSESSMENT

Biological and  
toxicological  
data

- ADME (absorption, metabolism, distribution, excretion)
- Genotoxicity (in vitro, in vivo)
- General toxicity (short-term, sub-chronic, chronic, carcinogenicity)
- Reproductive toxicity
- Immunotoxicity
- Other studies

Questions

- What happen to the additive once it is ingested with the diet? Is it absorbed? To what is it metabolised?
- Are adverse effects identified from the available studies?
- If yes: can a dose response be identified?
- If no: true lack of effect or lack of data?
- Are the data available still reliable to today's standards?

# HAZARD CHARACTERISATION

## SCIENTIFIC ASSESSMENT

Dietary  
exposure

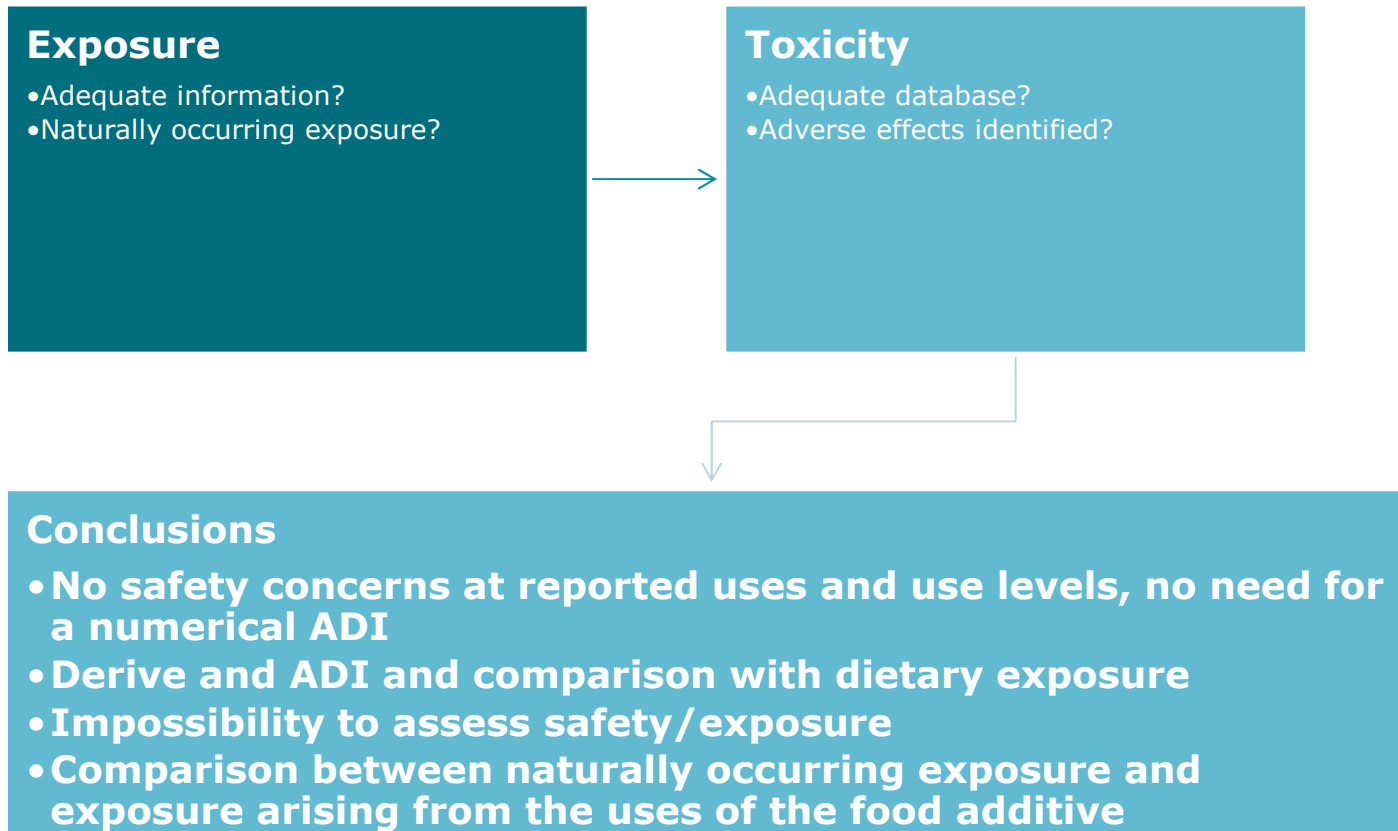
- Maximum permitted levels given in the legislation
- Typical uses and use levels
- Analytical data
- Other sources of exposure

Questions

- How much is the daily intake of the food additive in the EU population?
- Are there groups of the population that are exposed to it more than others?
- Is the additive really used in all the food categories in which it is authorised?
- Which food categories contribute most to the exposure?

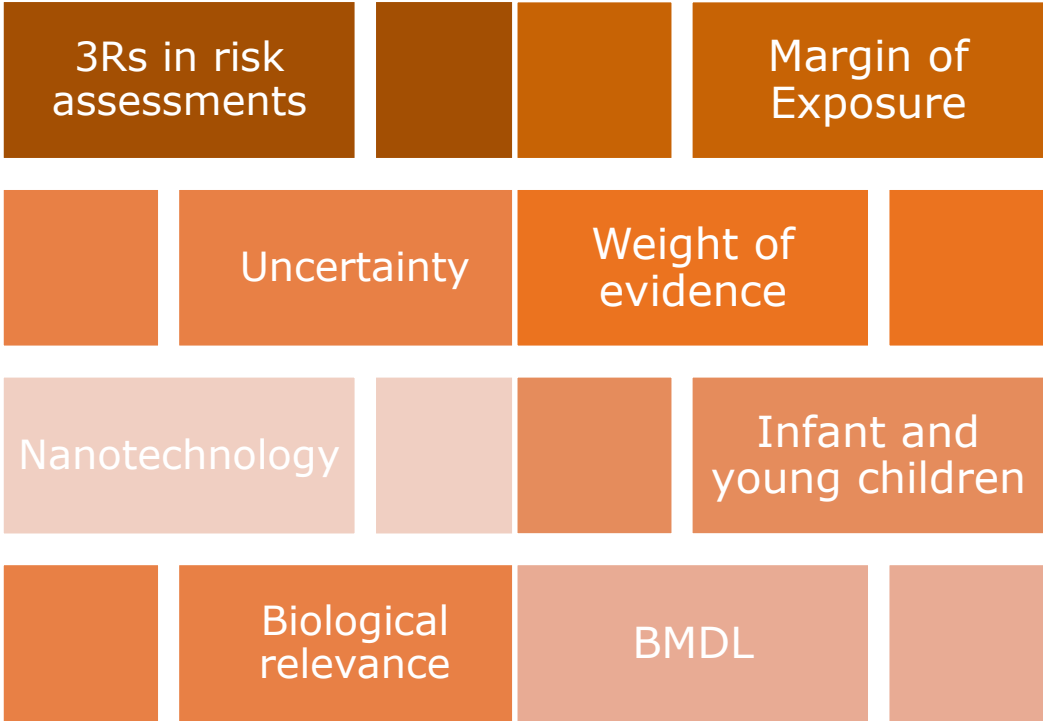
**EXPOSURE  
ASSESSMENT**

## CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK FOR RE-EVALUATION



**An evolving scenario**

# HORIZONTAL ISSUES



## STAY CONNECTED!



### Subscribe to

[www.efsa.europa.eu/en/news/newsletters](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/news/newsletters)

[www.efsa.europa.eu/en/rss](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/rss)



### Engage with careers

[www.efsa.europa.eu/en/engage/careers](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/engage/careers)



### Follow us on Twitter

[@efsa\\_eu](https://twitter.com/efsa_eu)

[@plants\\_efsa](https://twitter.com/plants_efsa)

[@methods\\_efsa](https://twitter.com/methods_efsa)