



FOOD INGREDIENTS AND PACKAGING UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND FLAVOURINGS (FAF)

MINUTES OF THE 5TH PLENARY MEETING

Held on 29-31 January 2019, Parma

(Agreed on 19 February 2019)

Participants

■ Panel Members:

Gabriele Aquilina, Laurence Castle, Karl-Heinz Engel, Maria José Frutos Fernandez, Peter Fürst¹, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Rainer Gürtler², Trine Husøy, Wim Mennes, Peter Moldeus³, Agneta Oskarsson, Ine Waalkens-Berendsen, Detlef Wölflé and Maged Younes

■ Hearing Experts:

Matthew Wright has participated via web-conference, in agenda point 6.1

■ European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

DG SANTE (Health and Food Safety), E2 Food processing technologies and novel foods: Guillermo Cardon

■ EFSA:

FIP Unit: Claudia Roncancio Peña, Maria Carfi, Dimitrios Chrysafidis, Alessandra Giarola, Federica Lodi, Carla Martino, Ana Maria Rincon, Camilla Smeraldi and Alexandra Tard and Giorgia Vianello

BIOCONTAM Unit: Anna Christodoulidou

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

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

¹ Apologies on 31 January 2019

² Apologies on 29 January 2019

³ Has participated by web-conference on 31 January 2019



Due to technical issues with the web-conference system at the EFSA premises Rainer Görtler and Romina Shah had to apologise for not being able to attend in the afternoon of 29 January 2019. Romina Shah did not attend the plenary meeting on 30 and 31 January either.

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 Independence⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁵, 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, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 4th Plenary meeting held on 11-13 December 2018, Parma

The minutes of the 4th Plenary meeting held on 11-13 December 2018 were agreed by written procedure on 10 January 2019⁶.

5. Report on written procedures since 4th Plenary meeting

No scientific outputs were adopted by written procedure since the last plenary meeting.

6. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

6.1. Re-evaluation of Quillaia extract (E 999) as a food additive combined with evaluation of an application for its extension of use as a food additive in 'flavourings' ([EFSA-Q-2011-00731](#); [EFSA-Q-2014-00095](#))

At the previous plenary meeting in December 2018, the Panel could not discuss this draft opinion due to the lack of time.

At the current plenary meeting, the Panel was presented with a revised draft opinion on the re-evaluation of the safety of Quillaia extract (E 999) as a food additive combined with evaluation of an application for its extension of use as a food additive in 'flavourings' 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.

⁴ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁶ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/event/181211-m.pdf>



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

6.2. Opinion on the follow up of the re-evaluation of sorbic acid (E 200) and potassium sorbate (E 202) as food additives ([EFSA-Q-2018-00137](#))

At the previous plenary meeting in December 2018, the Panel had discussed the preliminary conclusions on the assessment of new reproductive and developmental toxicity data provided by interested parties in response to the call launched by the European Commission after the completion of the re-evaluation of sorbic acid (E 200) and potassium sorbate (E 202) as food additives by the ANS Panel in 2015.

In its 2015 opinion the ANS Panel had set a temporary group ADI for this group of additives, expressed as 3 mg sorbic acid/kg bw/day. Based on the new data provided, the Panel was able to establish a new group ADI for sorbic acid (E 200) and potassium sorbate (E 202) of 11 mg sorbic acid/kg bw/day.

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.

The Panel further noted that calcium sorbate (E 203), which had already been excluded from the temporary group ADI set for sorbic acid (E 200) and potassium sorbate (E 202) has now been withdrawn from the Union list of approved food additives because no business operator committed to providing the requested genotoxicity data⁷.

6.3. Safety of ethyl lauroyl arginate (E 243) as a food additive in the light of the new information provided and the proposed extension of use ([EFSA-Q-2018-00119](#))

The FAF Panel was presented with the draft opinion on the proposed changes to the currently permitted use of the food additive ethyl lauroyl arginate (E 243) including proposal for extending its use in several additional food categories. Jointly with exposure assessment to the food additive at the proposed new uses and use levels, the Panel has also considered a new interpretation provided by the applicant of the toxicological data for the food additive, initially evaluated by the former AFC Panel for the setting of the current ADI for this food additive⁸.

The FAF 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 annatto E and exposure to the annatto colouring principles bixin and norbixin (E160b) when used as food additives ([EFSA-Q-2018-00620](#))

The FAF Panel was presented with the preliminary conclusions reached by the Working Group on the follow-up of the re-evaluation of annatto, bixin, norbixin (E 160b) as a food additive. The assessment was limited in scope to the assessment of new genotoxicity data provided by interested parties in response to the call launched by the European Commission

⁷ Commission Regulation (EU) 2018/98 of 22 January 2018 amending Annexes II and III to Regulation (EC) No 1333/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council and the Annex to Commission Regulation (EU) No 231/2012 as regards calcium sorbate (E 203). OJ L 17, 23.1.2018, p. 14–28

⁸ EFSA Panel on Food Additives, Flavourings, Processing Aids and Materials in Contact with Food, 2007. Opinion of the Scientific Panel on food additives, flavourings, processing aids and materials in contact with food (AFC) related to an application on the use of ethyl lauroyl arginate as a food additive. EFSA Journal 2007;5(7):511, 27 pp. doi:10.2903/j.efsa.2007.511



after the completion of the re-evaluation of this food additive by the former ANS Panel in 2016.

In addition, a new exposure assessment for bixin and norbixin on the basis of the new uses and use levels for bixin-based and norbixin-based annatto extracts, in the form of three alternative scenarios has been performed.

The FAF 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. New Mandates

No new mandates were received since the last FAF Plenary meeting.

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

8.1. Scientific Committee and Scientific Panel(s) including their Working Groups

8.1.1. 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](#).

8.1.2. 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](#).

8.1.3. FAF WG on Phosphates

No additional issues were brought to the attention of the FAF Panel further to what is already recorded in the [minutes of the WG](#).

8.1.4. 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](#).

8.1.5. 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](#).

8.1.6. 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](#).

8.1.7. 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](#).

8.1.8. FAF WG on the follow-up of the re-evaluation of sorbic acid and potassium sorbate as food additives

This WG has completed its mandate and therefore will be closed after the publication of the scientific opinion (see agenda point 6.2)

8.1.9. FAF WG on the re-evaluation of Annatto extracts (E 160b)

This WG has completed its mandate and therefore will be closed after the publication of the scientific opinion (see agenda point 6.4)

8.1.10. FAF WG on Specifications of Food Additives

The WG met for the first time on 18 December 2018. No additional issues were brought to the attention of the FAF Panel further to what is already recorded in the [minutes of the WG](#).

8.2. EFSA including its Working Groups/Task Forces

No feedback provided.

8.3. European Commission

No feedback provided.

9. Other scientific topics for information and/or discussion

No other scientific topics were presented for information and/or discussion.

10. Any Other Business

10.1. Presentation “Guidelines for Observers”

In preparation for the coming FAF Panel plenary meeting on 26-28 March 2019, with a session open to observers, the Secretariat presented the relevant EFSA Guidelines.