



**MINUTES OF THE 4<sup>TH</sup> PLENARY MEETING  
OF THE SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON FOOD ADDITIVES, FLAVOURINGS,  
PROCESSING AIDS AND MATERIALS IN CONTACT WITH FOOD  
Held in Brussels on 9 to 10 December 2003**

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OF THE SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON  
FOOD ADDITIVES, FLAVOURINGS, PROCESSING AIDS  
AND MATERIALS IN CONTACT WITH FOOD (AFC)  
Held in Brussels on 9 to 10 December 2003**

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**PARTICIPANTS**

Panel Members:

Robert Anton; Susan Barlow (chair); Dimitrios Boskou; Riccardo Crebelli; Wolfgang Dekant; Karl-Heinz Engel; Stephen Forsythe; Werner Grunow (2<sup>nd</sup> vice chair); John Christian Larsen (1<sup>st</sup> vice chair); Catherine Leclercq; Wim C. Mennes; Maria Rosaria Milana; Ivonne Rietjens; Kjetil Svensson; Paul Tobback; Fidel Toldrá

Experts

Jørn Gry (1<sup>st</sup> day); Alicja Mortensen; Andreu Palou (2<sup>nd</sup> day)

Apologies

Laurence Castle;

EFSA

Torben Hallas-Møller (scientific co-ordinator of AFC Panel), Dimitrios Spyropoulos (assistant scientific co-ordinator of AFC Panel), Hanne Pedersen (administrative secretary of AFC Panel),

Commission

Taina Säteri; Helen Lee (item 8); Basil Mathioudakis (item 8); Annette Schäfer (2<sup>nd</sup> day) (DG Health and Consumer Protection)

**1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were noted.

**2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

The agenda was adopted.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 3<sup>RD</sup> PLENARY MEETING ON 30 SEPTEMBER- 1 OCTOBER 2003**

Action points were noted.

## 5. GENERAL INFORMATION FROM EFSA

The members were informed that in the beginning of 2004 the AFC secretariat will be reinforced with an administrative secretary and a detached national expert.

A new call for expression of interest for membership of some Panels, including AFC, will be published shortly ([http://www.efsa.eu.int/science\\_en.html](http://www.efsa.eu.int/science_en.html)).

## 6. FOLLOW UP FROM SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18-19 NOVEMBER

The members were informed of the main items discussed at the meeting of the Scientific Committee held since AFC last met in October.

The Contaminants Panel has expressed a wish to assess the possible health risks of dietary exposure to perfluorinated octane sulphonates (PFOS) as a self-tasking issue. A close collaboration with the AFC Panel is foreseen as it has received a request to approve a PFOS for use in food contact materials.

The chair presented the EFSA Media Handling Guidelines for the Scientific Committee and Panels. Members were urged to take note of them in any interactions they might have with the media. These guidelines will be published.

There was a small presentation from AFC Panel members attending the first meetings of the newly established SC working groups on genotoxic and carcinogenic substances and on exposure. A working paper on 'non nutritional substances' in the European diet had been discussed, but any decision on the establishment of a working group was deferred, pending a discussion with the Advisory Forum.

Further details can be found in the minutes from the SC meeting:

[http://www.efsa.eu.int/pdf/minutes\\_sci\\_04\\_adopted\\_en.pdf](http://www.efsa.eu.int/pdf/minutes_sci_04_adopted_en.pdf)

## 7. SOME SUBSTANCES USED IN FOOD CONTACT MATERIALS

### 2<sup>nd</sup> list of substances for food contact materials

The draft opinion on the following substances was adopted with some changes to the text and subject to final adoption by written procedure before publication:

Ref. No.:	16955
Name of the substance:	Ethylene carbonate
Classified in list:	3: accepted with certain restrictions
Ref. No.:	21370
Name of the substance:	Methacrylic acid, 2-sulphoethyl ester
Classified in list:	4A: accepted providing the substance cannot be detected in food
Ref. No.:	35760
Name of the substance:	Antimony trioxide
Classified in list:	3: accepted providing migration does not exceed 0.04 mg/kg of food (as Sb)
Ref. No.:	38505

Name of the substance: cis-endo-bicyclo[2.2.1]heptane-2,3-dicarboxylic acid, disodium salt  
Classified in list: 3: accepted providing migration does not exceed 5 mg/kg food

Ref. No.: 76415  
Name of the substance: Pimelic acid, calcium salt  
Classified in list: 3: accepted with no special restriction

The full opinion can be seen on [http://www.efsa.eu.int/p\\_foodadd\\_en.html](http://www.efsa.eu.int/p_foodadd_en.html)

## **8. SOME SUBSTANCES USED AS NUTRIENT SOURCES**

### **8.1. Creatine monohydrate**

The draft opinion was discussed at some length and finally referred back to the working group.

### **8.2. Calcium sulphate**

The draft opinion was discussed and changes were introduced. The AFC Panel concluded that calcium sulphate as a source of calcium for use in foods for particular nutritional uses is not of concern from the safety point of view.

During the meeting the Panel received a petition through the European Commission to evaluate also the acceptability of calcium sulphate in foods covered by the Commission proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the addition of vitamins and minerals and of certain other substances to foods published on 10 November 2003 (reference COM (2003) 671 final 2003/0262 (COD)) ([http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/sfp/df/df\\_ff\\_reg1\\_en.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/sfp/df/df_ff_reg1_en.pdf))

The Panel, however, found that time would not allow a full evaluation of this additional request at this meeting, and rather than delay the already agreed opinion, it decided to refer the new question to the Additives working group.

The full opinion can be seen on [http://www.efsa.eu.int/p\\_foodadd\\_en.html](http://www.efsa.eu.int/p_foodadd_en.html).

### **8.3. N-Acetyl-L-methionine**

The draft opinion was discussed and changes were introduced. The AFC Panel concluded that N-acetyl-L-methionine as a source of L-methionine for use in foods for special medical purposes in children over one year of age and adults is not of concern from the safety point of view.

The full opinion can be seen on [http://www.efsa.eu.int/p\\_foodadd\\_en.html](http://www.efsa.eu.int/p_foodadd_en.html).

### **8.4. N-Acetyl-L-cysteine**

The draft opinion was discussed and changes were introduced. On the basis of the potential side effects, the Panel concluded that the requested general use of N-Acetyl-L-cysteine (NAC) for replacement of L-cysteine in foods for particular nutritional uses is not acceptable.

The Panel is aware of the use of NAC in foods for special medical purposes (FSMPs). The Panel noted that under the current Community legislation FSMPs should be used under medical supervision. The supervising physician will be in a position to weigh up any risks and benefits to the patient. Given these considerations, the Panel concluded that the inclusion of NAC in the list of substances permitted for FSMPs is acceptable.

The full opinion can be seen on [http://www.efsa.eu.int/p\\_foodadd\\_en.html](http://www.efsa.eu.int/p_foodadd_en.html).

## **9. SOME FLAVOURINGS**

The Panel was introduced to the general scheme for the evaluation of chemically-related groups of flavouring substances and to the draft opinion on the flavouring group 3: acetals of branched- and straight-chain aliphatic saturated primary alcohols and branched- and straight-chain saturated aldehydes, and an orthoester of formic acid from chemical groups 1 and 2 (FGE.03).

Time did not allow for a detailed discussion, so the adoption of the opinion was deferred to the next meeting.

## **10. OTHER ITEMS WITHIN THE REMIT OF THE PANEL**

### **10.1. Semicarbazide**

EFSA has been asked by the European Commission to investigate all aspects of semicarbazide formation in food besides the problem of the migration from gaskets for glass jars and bottles into foods the Panel has previously dealt with. One possible source has recently been identified as arising from the treatment of foods and food ingredients with hypochlorite. This means that the issue will remain within the remit of the AFC Panel, but goes beyond the food contact area. It was therefore decided to create a new working group within the Panel. As also sources more related to the remit of the Contaminants Panel must be considered it was decided to ask this Panel to appoint members to the working group.

The Commission informed the Panel that it was expected that the Standing Committee on the food chain and animal health meeting in the same week would adopt a proposal to phase out the use of azodicarbonamide (the precursor of semicarbazide in gaskets) for use in materials in contact with food.

The Panel noted that EFSA had received a letter from the Joint Industry Group on semicarbazide, informing that it hoped to have results from the trials on an alternative to azodicarbonamide in gaskets by early 2004. The results of an *in vivo* genotoxicity study (mouse liver UDS test) commissioned by the industry should also be available early in 2004.

### **10.2. Nitrite and nitrate in meat products**

The Panel was informed about the outcome of the discussions on nitrite and nitrate in meat products in the Biological Hazards Panel. The draft opinion was adopted by the Biological Hazards Panel by written procedure:

([http://www.efsa.eu.int/pdf/biohazard/opinion\\_biohaz\\_04\\_en.pdf](http://www.efsa.eu.int/pdf/biohazard/opinion_biohaz_04_en.pdf)). It is to be stressed that this opinion only deals with the microbiological aspects; the toxicological risks concerning the intake of nitrite and nitrate as such as well as the risk from preformed nitrosamines are considered to be adequately covered by the previous opinions of the Scientific Committee

on Food (SCF) on this matter (26<sup>th</sup> report series:  
[http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/sc/scf/reports/scf\\_reports\\_26.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/sc/scf/reports/scf_reports_26.pdf) and 38th report series:  
[http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/sc/scf/reports/scf\\_reports\\_38.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/sc/scf/reports/scf_reports_38.pdf))

## **11. WORKING PROGRAMME**

The Scientific work plan for EFSA has been discussed by the Management Board in its December meeting and can be seen on  
[http://www.efsa.eu.int/pdf/mboard\\_meeting\\_011\\_doc3a\\_en.pdf](http://www.efsa.eu.int/pdf/mboard_meeting_011_doc3a_en.pdf)

Other tasks recently received, but not included in the published work plan are:

5-methylfolate, calcium salt as a nutrient source of folate.

The following substances, not included in the published working plan, have been requested for use in food contact materials:

Ref. No	Chemical name
15730	Dicyclopentadiene
21540	1,4-Methano-1,4,4a,9a-tetrahydro-9H-fluorene
25063	Tetracyclo[4.4.0.1 <sup>2.5</sup> .1 <sup>7.10</sup> ]dodeca-3-ene
21970	Methylmethacrylamide
25540	Trimellitic acid
25550	Trimellitic anhydride
47500	N,N'-Dicyclohexyl-2,6-naphthalene dicarboxamide
62280	Isobutylene-butene copolymer
72081/10	Petroleum Hydrocarbon Resins (hydrogenated)
77850	Polyethyleneglycol-30-dipolyhydroxystearate
93760	Tri-n-butyl acetyl citrate (ATBC)
95995	Zeolites (silver content not more than 4%) (old submission)

## **12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

## **13. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES**

The minutes were adopted on 23 January 2004 by written procedure.