

Parma, 25th September 2014

MANDATE OF THE STANDING WORKING GROUP ON ENZYMES OF THE PANEL ON FOOD CONTACT MATERIALS, ENZYMES, FLAVOURINGS AND PROCESSING AIDS

Title of the charter “safety evaluation of food enzymes” (FIP-09): Operational activities of the Panel on Food Contact Materials, Enzymes, Flavourings and Processing Aids Standing Working Group on Food Enzymes¹ (September 2014-June 2017)

In accordance with Title II of the Executive Director Decision concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panel and external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work², the external scientific experts providing the required expertise could be invited on:

- *an ad hoc basis for a single meeting or for the duration of the work on a specific mandate or project, or*
- *on a longer term when the required expertise is needed for more than one mandate or project.*

When a working group of experts is required for more than one mandate, it is called a Standing Working Group.

The FIP Unit is requested to manage and support the administrative and scientific activities of the Standing Working Group on Food Contact Materials. The FIP Unit will organise the meetings of the Standing Working Group and assist in the preparation of scientific outputs in agreement with the respective mandates addressed by the Standing Working Group. The Head of Unit will ensure coordination with work programs of other units so that when Working Groups of other Panels/Scientific Committee assess overlapping substances or organisms the Standing Working Group is provided with applicable information and data from other Panels/Scientific Committee.

¹ A Standing Working Group is a Working Group of experts created on the basis of a decision of the corresponding scientific Panel, designed to coordinate discussions and provide scientific contributions on specific related mandate(s), for a set period of time within the three years mandate of the Panel.

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

MANDATE OF THE STANDING WORKING GROUP ON ENZYMES

Background:

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) is the keystone of European Union risk assessment regarding food and feed safety, animal health and welfare, nutrition, plant protection and plant health. In close collaboration with national authorities and in open consultation with its stakeholders, EFSA provides independent and transparent scientific advice and clear communication on existing and emerging risks associated with the food chain. On request from the European Commission, European Parliament or Member States or on its own initiative³, EFSA provides scientific opinions on issues falling under its remit.

The Panel on Food Contact Materials, Enzymes, Flavourings and Processing Aids (CEF), which deals with questions on the safety of use of materials in contact with food, enzymes, flavourings and processing aids, confirmed during its 48th Panel Plenary Meeting (inaugural meeting of the CEF Panel mandate 2014-2017) the need of a Standing Working Group (SWG) on Food enzymes related to the evaluations of applications under Commission Regulation (EU) No 234/2011 of 10 March 2011 implementing Regulation (EC) No 1331/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a common authorisation procedure for food additives, food enzymes and food flavourings⁴, and Regulation (EC) No 1332/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on food enzymes and amending Council Directive 83/417/EEC, Council Regulation (EC) No 1493/1999, Directive 2000/13/EC, Council Directive 2001/112/EC and Regulation (EC) No 258/97⁵.

Terms of reference:

The objectives of the Standing Working Group on Food enzymes is to perform the following preparatory work for consideration by the CEF Panel:

- To carry out risk assessments related to food enzymes as required under the applicable European Regulations (see above)
- To deliver draft scientific opinions on the food enzymes examined.

In order to fulfil its objectives, the above mentioned Standing Working Group should consist of members with expertise in the following scientific areas: food technology, chemistry, biotechnology, general toxicology, genotoxicity, sub-chronic toxicity, exposure assessment, genetically modified organisms. Additional expertise might be required for specific applications/mandates. Upon request from EFSA, hearing experts might be invited to meetings of the Standing Working Group to clarify outstanding issues.

Scope in EFSA's work and outsourcing programme: The Standing Working Group will assess the available relevant scientific information and data provided to EFSA by Members States and stakeholders, as well as those submitted through the applicants' dossiers or through public calls for data. As appropriate, EFSA will outsource collation or analysis of scientific information in order to support the scientific assessment of the Standing Working Group.

³ Regulation (EC) N°178/2002 of the European Parliament and the Council of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety. OJ, L 31, 1.2.2002, p. 1-24.

⁴ OJ L 64, 11.3.2011, p. 15-24

⁵ OJ L 354, 31.12.2008, p. 7-15

IT impact: No

Timeline: At the onset of a new Panel mandate (during an inaugural meeting) there is a need to confirm the continued need for all ongoing Working Groups. There is also a need for the Panel Chair to appoint a chair and vice-Chairs of all Working Groups. It is the task of a newly appointed or re-confirmed Chair of a Standing Working Group in collaboration with the respective Head of Unit to select members of the Working Group following the procedure as laid down in the Executive Director Decision 2014⁶.

Scheduled Standing WG meetings in the 3 months period following the inaugural meeting will be conducted by experts selected during the previous Panel mandate.

Expected deliverables (e.g. scientific output, scientific article):

Scientific contribution(s), which will be submitted for consideration to and possible adoption by the CEF Panel.

Declarations of interests for external experts (only if applicable):

The Decision of the Executive Director implementing EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes regarding Declarations of Interests^{7,8} will be followed while setting up and operating this Standing Working Group.

⁶ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

⁷ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules.pdf> (applicable until 29 September 2014)

⁸ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf> (applicable as of 30 September 2014)