

Parma, 29 August 2017

Note on the establishment of a Standing Working Group on the Re-evaluation of Food Colours of the Scientific Panel on Food Additives and Nutrient Sources Added to Food (ANS) (2017-2018)¹

The Food Ingredients and Packaging (FIP) Unit is requested to manage the administrative and scientific activities of the Standing Working Group on the Re-evaluation of Food Colours. The Food Ingredients and Packaging (FIP) Unit is also requested to organise the meetings of the Standing Working Group and assist in the preparation of the relevant EFSA scientific outputs in line with the tasks delegated to the Standing Working Group.

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 and Member States or on its own initiative², EFSA provides scientific opinions on issues falling under its remit.

The Scientific Panel on Food Additives and Nutrient Sources Added to Food (ANS), which deals with questions on the safety of use of food additives, nutrient sources and other substances deliberately added to food, excluding flavourings and enzymes, confirmed during its 52nd Plenary Meeting (inaugural meeting of the ANS Panel mandate 2014-2017) the need of the following Standing Working Group on the re-evaluation of food additives already permitted in the Union before 20 January 2009 according to the programme laid down in Commission Regulation (EU) No 257/2010³. The Standing Working Group on the Re-evaluation of Food Colours was tasked with the preparation of draft scientific opinions on food colours included in the re-evaluation programme. The Standing working Group is maintained open in order to ensure preparedness in case of requests for scientific assessment following the publication of the adopted opinions.

¹ This document replaces the previous "Mandate of the four Standing Working Groups of the ANS Panel on the re-evaluation of approved food additives" dated of 25 September 2014, which was updated to reflect the renewal of the relevant Panel mandate (2017-2018).

² Regulation (EC) No 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).

³ 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 1333/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on food additives. OJ L 80, 26.3.2010, p. 19.

Terms of reference:

The objectives of the Standing Working Group on the Re-evaluation of Food Colours are to perform the following preparatory work for consideration by the ANS Panel:

- to carry out safety evaluations/risk assessments on food additive falling under the re-evaluation programme,
- to deliver draft scientific opinions on the food additives falling under the re-evaluation programme.

In order to fulfil its objectives, the above-mentioned Standing Working Group shall consist of members with expertise in the following scientific areas: chemistry, food technology, ADME, genotoxicity, general toxicology, genetic/reproductive toxicology and exposure assessment.

Members:

Further to the amendment to Art. 28 of EFSA's Founding Regulation introduced by Commission Regulation (EU) No 2017/228⁴, in July 2017 the Scientific Panel on Food Additives and Nutrient Sources Added to Food (ANS) was renewed in its composition for one year only (2017- 2018). In order to minimise disruption of the work of the Panel, an ex-ante deviation was proposed by the Head of the FIP Unit and agreed by the EFSA Executive Director, allowing continuation of the already established Standing Working Groups of the ANS and CEF Panels for their one-year mandate 2017-2018. During the 75th Plenary Meeting of the Scientific Panel on Food Additives and Nutrient Sources Added to Food (ANS) the Standing Working Group on the Re-evaluation of Food Colours was therefore reconfirmed as established in terms of chairmanship and composition. The composition of the Standing Working Group on Re-evaluation of Food Colours is available on the EFSA website⁵.

Scope in EFSA's work and outsourcing programme:

The Standing Working Group will assess the available and relevant scientific information and data provided to EFSA by Members States and stakeholders, those submitted through the applicants' dossiers, those collected through public calls for data, as well as those collected by EFSA itself (as applicable). As appropriate, EFSA may outsource the collection, collation or analysis of scientific information, through its grant and procurement schemes, in order to support the scientific assessment of the Standing Working Group.

⁴ Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/228 of 9 February 2017 amending Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the names and the areas of competence of the scientific panels of the European Food Safety Authority. OJ L 35, 10.2.2017, p. 10–11.

⁵ <https://ess.efsa.europa.eu/doi/doiweb/doisearch>

Timelines:

Provided the Standing Working Group on the Re-evaluation of Food Colours is not closed earlier, (e.g. as a result of a period of inactivity), then its mandate will terminate 4 months after the inaugural meeting of the subsequent Scientific Panel on Food Additives and Flavourings (FAF) (2018-2021).

Expected deliverables:

Draft EFSA scientific outputs, which will be submitted for consideration and possible adoption by the Scientific Panel on Food Additives and Nutrient Sources Added to Food.

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