

Parma, 25th September 2014

MANDATE OF THE FOUR STANDING WORKING GROUPS OF THE ANS PANEL ON THE RE-EVALUATION OF APPROVED FOOD ADDITIVES

Title of the charter “safety evaluation of food additives falling under the re-evaluation programme” (FIP-06_A): Operational activities of the Panel on Food Additives and Nutrient Sources added to Food¹ (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 Food Ingredients and Packaging (FIP) Unit is requested to manage and support the administrative and scientific activities of the following four Standing Working Groups on the re-evaluation of food additives:

- 1) Standing Working Group on the re-evaluation of food colours,**
- 2) Standing Working Group on the re-evaluation of gums and other substances from natural sources,**
- 3) Standing Working Group on the re-evaluation of food additives other than gums and colours,**
- 4) Standing Working Group on the re-evaluation of nitrites and nitrates.**

The FIP Unit will organise the meetings of the four Standing Working Groups and assist in the preparation of scientific outputs in agreement with the respective mandate addressed by the four Standing Working Groups. 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 respective 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>

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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 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 Panel Plenary Meeting (inaugural meeting of the ANS Panel mandate 2014-2017) the need of the following four Standing Working Groups 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 257/2010⁴:

- 1) **Standing Working Group on the re-evaluation of food colours**
- 2) **Standing Working Group on the re-evaluation of gums and other substances from natural sources**
- 3) **Standing Working Group on the re-evaluation of food additives other than gums and colours**
- 4) **Standing Working Group on the re-evaluation of nitrites and nitrates**

- 1) The **Standing Working Group on the re-evaluation of food colours** is tasked to prepare draft scientific opinions included in the re-evaluation programme giving priority to the following substances:

Cochineal, carminic acid, carmines (E120), Chlorophylls (E140i), Chlorophyllins (E140ii), Chlorophyll copper complex (E141i), Chlorophyllins copper complex (E141ii), Annatto, bixin, norbixin (E160b), Paprika extract, capsanthin, capsorubin (E160c), Beetroot red (E162), Titanium dioxide (E171), Iron oxides and hydroxides (E172), Silver (E174), Gold (E175) and Tocopherols (E306-309).

- 2) The **Standing Working Group on the re-evaluation of gums and other substances from natural sources** is tasked to prepare draft scientific opinions included in the re-evaluation programme giving priority to the following substances:

lecithins (E322), alginic acid and alginates (E400-405), agar (E406), carrageenan (E407), processed eucheuma seaweed (E407a), Locust bean gum (E410), Guar gum (E412), Tragacanth (E413), Acacia gum (E414), Xanthan gum (E415), Karaya gum (E416), Tara gum (E417), Gellan gum (E418), Konjac gum and konjac glucomannan (E425i-ii), soybean hemicellulose (E426), glycerol ester of wood rosin (E445), pectins (E440i-ii), B-cyclodextrin (E459), microcrystalline and powdered celluloses (E460i and ii), modified celluloses (E461-469), thermally oxidised soya bean oil interacted with mono- and diglycerides

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 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.

of fatty acids (E479b), and starches (E1404, 1410, 1452, 1451, 1450, 1442, 1440, 1422, 1420, 1414, 1413, 1412, 1410, 1404).

- 3) The **Standing Working Group on the re-evaluation of food additives other than gums and colours** is tasked to prepare draft scientific opinions included in the re-evaluation programme giving priority to the following substances:

Sorbic acid- sorbates (E200-203), benzoic acid – benzoates (E210-213), sulphur dioxide and sulphites (E220-228), dimethyl dicarbonate (E242), ascorbic acid and ascorbates (E300-302), ascorbyl palmitate and stearate (E304i-ii), octyl and dodecyl gallate (E311-312), erythorbic acid- erythorbates (E315-316), glycerol (E422), ammonium phosphatides (E442), sucrose acetate isobutirate (E444), β -cyclodextrine (E459), salts of fatty acids (E470a-b), mono and diglycerides of fatty acids (E471-2a-f), polyglycerol esters of fatty acid (E475), polyglycerol polyricinoleate (E476), propane ester of fatty acids (E477), stearyl tartrate (E483), sorbitans (E491-495), silicon dioxide (E551), glutamic acid and glutamates (E620-625), and oxidized polyethylene wax (E914)

- 4) The **Standing Working Group on the re-evaluation of nitrites and nitrates** is tasked to prepare draft scientific opinions included in the re-evaluation programme on the following substances:

Nitrates (E 251-E 252) and nitrites (E 249-E 250).

Terms of reference:

The objectives of the four Standing Working Groups on re-evaluation of food additives is to perform the following preparatory work for consideration by the ANS Panel:

1. To carry out safety evaluations/risk assessments on food additive falling under the re-evaluation programme;
2. To deliver draft scientific opinions on the food additives falling under the re-evaluation programme;

In order to fulfil its objectives, the four above mentioned Standing Working Groups should consist of members with expertise in the following scientific areas: chemistry, food technology, ADME, genotoxicity, general toxicology, reproductive toxicology and exposure assessment. For some Standing Working Groups in addition expertise in immunotoxicity and nutrition is needed.

Scope in EFSA's work and outsourcing programme: The four Standing Working Groups will assess the available relevant scientific information provided to EFSA by stakeholders and Member States through public calls for data and additional literature that became available since the latest evaluation. As appropriate, EFSA will outsource searches, collection and collation of scientific information in order to support the scientific assessment of the four Standing Working Groups.

IT impact: No

Timeline: At the onset of a new Panel mandate (during an inaugural meeting) the Panel defines and/or confirm the mandates of its Working Groups. The Panel Chair appoints the 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 2014⁵.

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

Scientific contributions, which will be submitted for consideration to and possible adoption by the ANS 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^{6,7} will be followed while setting up and operating this Standing Working Group.

⁵ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

⁶ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules.pdf> (applicable until 29 September 2014)

⁷ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf> (applicable as of 30 September 2014)