
FIP UNIT

**Scientific Panel on Food Additives and Nutrient Sources Added to Food (ANS)
FIP Unit**

Minutes of the 26th meeting of the Working Group on Aspartame

Held on 7th – 8th October 2013, Berlin

Agreed on 6th November 2013

Participants

- **Working Group Experts:**
 - Fernando Aguilar, David Gott, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Claude Lambré (Chair on 2nd day), Alicja Mortensen (Chair on 1st day), Andy Smith, Beate Ulbrich, Ine Waalkens- Berendsen, Matthew Wright (2nd day)
- **Hearing Experts:**
 - Ruud Woutersen
- **EFSA:**
 - FIP Unit: Maria Carfi, Georges Kass

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from: David Coggon, Jean-Charles Leblanc and Pasquale Mosesso.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director implementing this Policy regarding

¹ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

Declarations of Interests², EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest and the Specific Declaration of interest) filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 25th (30th September – 1st October 2013, Parma) Working Group meeting

The minutes were agreed during the meeting and they will be published on the EFSA website: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/fip/fipwgs.htm>

5. Scientific topics for discussion

5.1 Public consultation on the draft scientific opinion on the re-evaluation of aspartame (E951) as a food additive (EFSA-Q-2011-00406)

Some comments received during the public consultation were further discussed and the text of the draft opinion was updated where appropriate.

In particular the following sections of the opinion were discussed:

1. Human studies of aspartame
2. Discussion of aspartame toxicity database
3. Discussion of methanol toxicity database
4. PKU data
5. Mode of action

5.2 Preparation of an EFSA report to address comments received during the public consultation (EFSA-Q-2012-00881)

The draft technical report was briefly discussed and revised.

6. AOB

The report by Gift et al. (2013) “Scientific considerations for evaluating cancer bioassays conducted by the Ramazzini Institute” was discussed.

7. Next meeting

This was the last meeting of the WG on aspartame.

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

FIP UNIT

**Scientific Panel on Food Additives and Nutrient Sources Added to Food (ANS)
FIP Unit**

Minutes of the 25th meeting of the Working Group on Aspartame

Held on 30th September – 1st October 2013, Parma

Agreed on 7 October 2013

Participants

- **Working Group Experts:**
 - David Gott, Claude Lambré, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Alicja Mortensen (Chair), Beate Ulbrich, Ine Waalkens- Berendsen, Matthew Wright
 - Fernando Aguilar, Andy Smith(1st day) by teleconference

- **Hearing Experts:**
 - Ruud Woutersen

- **EFSA:**
 - FIP Unit: Maria Carfi, Georges Kass

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from: David Coggon, Ursula Gundert-Remy and Pasquale Mosesso.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director implementing this Policy regarding Declarations of Interests², EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest and the Specific Declaration of interest) filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 24th (2nd – 3rd September 2013, Brussels) Working Group meeting

The minutes were agreed by written procedure and they are published on the EFSA website: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/fip/fipwgs.htm>

5. Scientific topics for discussion

5.1 Public consultation on the draft scientific opinion on the re-evaluation of aspartame (E951) as a food additive (EFSA-Q-2011-00406)

Some comments received during the public consultation were further discussed and the text of the draft opinion was updated where appropriate.

In particular the following sections of the opinion were discussed:

1. Exposure to methanol
2. Human studies of aspartame
3. Discussion of aspartame toxicity database
4. Discussion of methanol toxicity database
5. PKU data
6. Mode of action

5.2 Preparation of an EFSA report to address comments received during the public consultation (EFSA-Q-2012-00881)

The draft technical report was briefly discussed.

6. AOB

None.

7. Next meeting

The next WG meeting will be on 7th – 8th October 2013 in Berlin.

¹ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

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

FIP UNIT

**Scientific Panel on Food Additives and Nutrient Sources Added to Food (ANS)
FIP Unit**

Minutes of the 24th meeting of the Working Group on Aspartame

Held on 2nd – 3rd September 2013, Brussels

Agreed on 12th September 2013

Participants

- **Working Group Experts:**
 - Fernando Aguilar (1st day), David Gott, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Claude Lambré, Alicja Mortensen (Chair), Andy Smith, Beate Ulbrich, Ine Waalkens-Berendsen, Matthew Wright, Pasquale Mosesso (1st day)
- **Hearing Experts:**
 - Ruud Woutersen
- **EFSA:**
 - FIP Unit: Maria Carfi, Georges Kass, Claudia Heppner

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from: Jean-Charles Leblanc and David Coggon.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director implementing this Policy regarding

¹ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

Declarations of Interests², EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest and the Specific Declaration of interest) filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 23rd (10th – 11th June 2013, Brussels) Working Group meeting

The minutes were agreed during the meeting and they will be published on the EFSA website: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/fip/fipwgs.htm>

5. Scientific topics for discussion

5.1 Public consultation on the draft scientific opinion on the re-evaluation of aspartame (E951) as a food additive (EFSA-Q-2011-00406)

Some comments received during the public consultation were further discussed and the text of the draft opinion was updated where appropriate.

In particular the following sections of the opinion were discussed:

1. Additional studies on short-term and subchronic toxicity
2. Miscellaneous studies of aspartame
3. Discussion on aspartame toxicity database
4. Discussion of methanol toxicity database
5. Mode of action
6. Dose-response modelling of plasma phenylalanine levels following aspartame administration
7. Risk characterisation

5.2 Preparation of an EFSA report to address comments received during the public consultation (EFSA-Q-2012-00881)

The draft technical report was not discussed due to lack of time.

6. AOB

None.

7. Next meeting

The next WG meeting will be on 30th September -1st October 2013 in Parma.

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

FIP UNIT

**Scientific Panel on Food Additives and Nutrient Sources Added to Food (ANS)
FIP Unit**

Minutes of the 23rd meeting of the Working Group on Aspartame

Held on 10th – 11th June 2013, Brussels

Agreed on 2nd September 2013

Participants

- **Working Group Experts:**
 - David Gott, Claude Lambré, Alicja Mortensen (Chair), Andy Smith, Beate Ulbrich, Ine Waalkens- Berendsen, Matthew Wright
 - Fernando Aguilar, David Coggon (by teleconference)

- **Hearing Experts:**
 - None present

- **EFSA:**
 - FIP Unit: Maria Carfi, Georges Kass

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from: Wilfried Bursch, Pasquale Mosesso, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Jean-Charles Leblanc, and Ruud Woutersen.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director implementing this Policy regarding

¹ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

Declarations of Interests², EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest and the Specific Declaration of interest) filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 22nd (13rd – 14th May 2013, Parma) and 20th (WEB/TELE-conference 25th March 2013) Working Group meetings

The minutes were agreed during the meeting and they will be published on the EFSA website: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/fip/fipwgs.htm>

5. Scientific topics for discussion

5.1 Public consultation on the draft scientific opinion on the re-evaluation of aspartame (E951) as a food additive (EFSA-Q-2011-00406)

Some comments received during the public consultation were further discussed and the text of both the draft opinion and the draft technical report were updated where appropriate.

In particular the following sections of the opinion were discussed:

1. Miscellaneous studies of aspartame
2. Epidemiological studies
3. Developmental toxicity of methanol
4. Allergenicity of aspartame
5. Chronic toxicity and carcinogenicity of aspartame
6. Effects of aspartame on seizures

5.2 Preparation of an EFSA report to address comments received during the public consultation (EFSA-Q-2012-00881)

The draft technical report containing the comments already addressed in previous meetings was presented and discussed. The text was amended and the updated version will be presented at the next WG meeting in September.

6. AOB

None.

7. Next meeting

The next WG meeting will be on 2nd -3rd September 2013 in Brussels.

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

FIP UNIT

**Scientific Panel on Food Additives and Nutrient Sources Added to Food (ANS)
FIP Unit**

Minutes of the 22nd meeting of the Working Group on Aspartame

Held on 13rd – 14th May 2013, Parma

Agreed on 10 June 2013

Participants

- **Working Group Experts:**
 - David Gott, Claude Lambré, Alicja Mortensen (Chair), Pasquale Mosesso, Ine Waalkens- Berendsen, Matthew Wright

- **Hearing Experts:**
 - Ruud Woutersen (2nd day)

- **EFSA:**
 - FIP Unit: Maria Carfi, Georges Kass

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Fernando Aguilar, Wilfried Bursch, David Coggon, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Andy Smith, and Beate Ulbrich.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director implementing this Policy regarding

¹ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

Declarations of Interests², EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest and the Specific Declaration of interest) filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 21st Working Group meeting held on 10th – 11th April 2013, Brussels.

The minutes were agreed during the meeting and they will be published on the EFSA website: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/fip/fipwgs.htm>

5. Scientific topics for discussion

5.1 Public consultation on the draft scientific opinion on the re-evaluation of aspartame (E951) as a food additive (EFSA-Q-2011-00406)

Some comments received during the public consultation were further discussed and the text of both the draft opinion and the draft technical report was updated where appropriate.

In particular the following issues were discussed:

- Quality of the studies on aspartame
- Toxicokinetics of aspartame
- Clarification of mode of action and mechanism of action
- Case studies and intolerance reactions

5.2 Preparation of an EFSA report to address comments received during the public consultation (EFSA-Q-2012-00881)

The draft technical report containing the comments already addressed in previous meetings was presented and discussed, the text was amended. An updated version will be discussed at the next WG meeting.

6. Next meeting

The next WG meeting will be on 10th -11th June in Brussels.

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

FIP UNIT

**Scientific Panel on Food Additives and Nutrient Sources Added to Food (ANS)
FIP Unit**

Minutes of the 21st meeting of the Working Group on Aspartame

Held on 10th – 11th April 2013, Brussels

Agreed on 14 May 2013

Participants

- **Working Group Experts:**
 - Fernando Aguilar, David Gott, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Claude Lambré, Jean-Charles Leblanc (1st day), Alicja Mortensen (Chair), Andy Smith, Beate Ulbrich, Ine Waalkens- Berendsen, Matthew Wright (2nd day)

- **Hearing Experts:**
 - Ruud Woutersen

- **European Commission:**
 - Wim Debeuckelaere, Charlotte Banfield (DG SANCO)

- **EFSA:**
 - FIP Unit: Maria Carfi, Georges Kass

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Wilfried Bursch, David Coggon and Pasquale Mosesso.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director implementing this Policy regarding Declarations of Interests², EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest and the Specific Declaration of interest) filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 19th Working Group meeting held on 4th – 6th March 2013, Parma.

The minutes were agreed during the meeting and they will be published on the EFSA website: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/fip/fipwgs.htm>

5. Scientific topics for discussion

5.1 Public consultation on the draft scientific opinion on the re-evaluation of aspartame (E951) as a food additive (EFSA-Q-2011-00406)

The comments on exposure have been summarised and the proposed replies have been discussed. The text was revised and it will be included in the draft technical report. Where necessary the text of the draft opinion was modified.

5.2 Preparation of an EFSA report to address comments received during the public consultation (EFSA-Q-2012-00881)

The draft technical report containing the comments already addressed in the previous meeting (19th Aspartame WG) was presented, but it was not reviewed by the WG due to lack of time.

6. AOB

6.1 Follow-up meeting on the web-based Public Consultation on Aspartame, 9th April 2013, Brussels.

It was indicated that the meeting was useful to better understand the criticisms highlighted in the comments received during the public consultation.

7. Next meeting

The next WG meeting will be on 13 May in Parma.

¹ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

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

FIP UNIT

Scientific Panel on Food Additives and Nutrient Sources Added to Food (ANS) /FIP Unit

Minutes of the 20th meeting of the Working Group on Aspartame

WEB/TELE-conference 25th March 2013

Agreed on 10 June 2013

Participants

- **Working Group Experts:**
 - David Gott, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Claude Lambré, Alicja Mortensen (Chair), Pasquale Mosesso, Ine Waalkens- Berendsen,

- **EFSA:**
 - FIP Unit: Maria Carfi, Georges Kass

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Fernando Aguilar, Wilfried Bursch, David Coggon, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Andy Smith, Beate Ulbrich, Matthew Wright, Ruud Woutersen.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director implementing this Policy regarding Declarations of Interests², EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest and the Specific Declaration of interest) filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of

¹ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

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

interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 19th Working Group meeting held on 4th – 6th March 2013, Parma.

The discussion on minutes was postponed at the next meeting (10-11 April 2013).

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

5.1 Public consultation on the draft scientific opinion on the re-evaluation of aspartame (E951) as a food additive (EFSA-Q-2011-00406).

IARC 2012 evaluation of formaldehyde

The meeting discussion focused on formaldehyde and the implication of its risk assessment on the aspartame opinion.

6. Next meeting

The next WG meeting will be on 10-11 April in Brussels.

FIP UNIT

Scientific Panel on Food Additives and Nutrient Sources Added to Food (ANS) /FIP Unit

Minutes of the 19th meeting of the Working Group on Aspartame

Held on 4th – 6th March 2013, Parma

Agreed on 10 April 2013

Participants

- **Working Group Experts:**
 - David Gott, Claude Lambré, Jean-Charles Leblanc (1st and 2nd day), Alicja Mortensen (Chair), Pasquale Mosesso, Andy Smith (3rd day), Beate Ulbrich, Ine Waalkens- Berendsen, Matthew Wright

- **Hearing Experts:**
 - Ruud Woutersen

- **EFSA:**
 - FIP Unit: Maria Carfi, Georges Kass

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Fernando Aguilar, Wilfried Bursch, David Coggon, Ursula Gundert-Remy.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director implementing this Policy regarding

¹ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

Declarations of Interests², EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest and the Specific Declaration of interest) filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 18th Working Group meeting held on 12 – 13 December 2012, Parma.

The minutes were agreed by written procedure on 19th December 2012 and published on the EFSA website on 10th January 2013.

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

5.1 Public consultation on the draft scientific opinion on the re-evaluation of aspartame (E951) as a food additive (EFSA-Q-2011-00406)

The comments received during the public consultation (from 8th January to 15th February) were generally presented. Comments were grouped according to the main topics: science, methanol and formaldehyde toxicity, exposure, science/political, editorial, political, administrative, not relevant for the opinion.

5.2 Preparation of an EFSA report to address comments received during the public consultation (EFSA-Q-2012-00881)

It was suggested to prepare one reply for similar comments, covering each issue and to make changes in the draft opinion if necessary.

6. Next meeting

The next WG meeting will be on 10-11 April 2013 in Brussels.

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

Parma, 13 December 2012

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND NUTRIENT SOURCES ADDED TO FOOD

Minutes of the 18th meeting of the Working Group on Aspartame

Parma, 12-13 December 2012

EFSA/Unit/FIP

Agreed by the WG on 19 December 2012

Participants

| | |
|-------------|---|
| WG Experts: | Fernando Aguilar (phone, 12.12.12 AM), Claude Lambré (Vice-Chair), David Gott (from 12.12.12 PM) |
| Apologies: | Wilfried Bursch, David Coggon, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Alicja Mortensen (Chair), Pasquale Mosesso, Andy Smith, Beate Ulbrich, Matthew Wright |
| EFSA: | George Kass, Federica Lodi, Natalie Thatcher |

1. Welcome and apologies

The Vice-Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies for absences were noted (as cited above).

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Declarations of Interests, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest (ADoI) filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Information from the Chair

None.

5. Information from EFSA

None.

6. Scientific Opinion on the re-evaluation of aspartame (E951) as a food additive

Issues identified in the sections previously discussed in the last three Plenary meetings were revised. Clarifications and improvements were suggested. Based on the outline agreed at the

last Plenary (4-6 December), a discussion on the Risk characterization and conclusions took place and a draft was prepared for the next Plenary (19-20 December).

7. Organisation of the work

A discussion took place and decision taken on the next steps for the progress on the draft opinion for the next Plenary (19-20 December).

8. Any other business

None.

Parma, 29 November 2012

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND NUTRIENT SOURCES ADDED TO FOOD

Minutes of the 17th meeting of the Working Group on Aspartame

Parma/Web-conference, 29 November 2012

EFSA/Unit/FIP

Agreed by the WG on 13 December 2012

Participants

WG Experts: Fernando Aguilar, Claude Lambré (Vice-Chair, AM), David Gott, Alicja Mortensen (Chair)

Apologies: Wilfried Bursch, David Coggon, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Pasquale Mosesso, Andy Smith, Beate Ulbrich, Matthew Wright

EFSA: Maria Carfi, Federica Lodi, Natalie Thatcher

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies for absences were noted (as cited above).

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Declarations of Interests, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest (ADoI) filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Information from the Chair

None.

5. Information from EFSA

None.

6. Scientific Opinion on the re-evaluation of aspartame (E951) as a food additive

The Human studies and other studies on aspartame as well as phenylalanine and aspartic acid toxicity were discussed. Clarifications and improvements were suggested. A discussion on the PKU data and Mode of Action took place.

7. Organisation of the work

A discussion took place on the next steps required for the progress on the draft opinion for the next Plenary (4-6 December).

8. Any other business

None.

Parma, 6 November 2012

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND NUTRIENT SOURCES ADDED TO FOOD

Minutes of the 16th meeting of the Working Group on Aspartame

Parma, 6 November 2012

EFSA/Unit/FIP

Agreed by the WG on 29 November 2012

Participants

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| WG Experts: | Claude Lambré (Vice-Chair), David Gott, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Alicja Mortensen (Chair) |
| Hearing expert: | Pierre Galtier (PM) |
| Apologies: | Fernando Aguilar, Wilfried Bursch, David Coggon, John Duffus, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Pasquale Mosesso, Andy Smith, Beate Ulbrich, Matthew Wright |
| EFSA: | Maria Carfi, Georges Kass, Federica Lodi, Natalie Thatcher |

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies for absences were noted (as cited above).

2. Adoption of agenda

The following changes were annotated: "Discussion of the Technical part" under item 6 was removed from the agenda. The agenda was adopted.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Declarations of Interests, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest (ADoI) filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Information from the Chair

None.

5. Information from EFSA

None.

6. Scientific Opinion on the re-evaluation of aspartame (E951) as a food additive

The Reproductive and Developmental toxicity section as well as the ADME section of the draft opinion were discussed. Clarifications and improvements were suggested. A preliminary discussion on the kinetics modeling and MOA took place.

7. Organisation of the work

A discussion took place on the next steps required for the progress on the draft opinion for the next Plenary (13-15 November).

8. Any other business

None.

Parma, 23 October 2012

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND NUTRIENT SOURCES ADDED TO FOOD

Minutes of the 15th meeting of the Working Group on Aspartame

Parma, 23 October 2012

EFSA/Unit/FIP

Agreed by the WG on 29 November 2012

Participants

WG Experts: Fernando Aguilar (on the phone), Claude Lambré (Vice-Chair), Alicja Mortensen (Chair)

Apologies: Wilfried Bursch, David Coggon, John Duffus, David Gott, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Pasquale Mosesso, Andy Smith, Beate Ulbrich, Matthew Wright

EFSA: Georges Kass, Natalie Thatcher

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies for absences were noted (as cited above).

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Declarations of Interests, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest (ADoI) filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Information from the Chair

None.

5. Information from EFSA

None.

6. Scientific Opinion on the re-evaluation of aspartame (E951) as a food additive

The draft opinion was discussed. Clarifications and improvements were suggested. A discussion took place on the next steps required for the preparation of the draft opinion.

7. Organisation of the work

A discussion took place on the next steps required for the progress on the draft opinion.

8. Any other business

None.

Parma, 12 October 2012

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND NUTRIENT SOURCES ADDED TO FOOD

Minutes of the 14th meeting of the Working Group on Aspartame

Web-conference, 12 October 2012

EFSA/Unit/FIP

Agreed by the WG on 21 November 2012

Participants

WG Experts: Fernando Aguilar, David Coggon, David Gott, Claude Lambré (Vice-Chair), Alicja Mortensen (Chair)

Apologies: Wilfried Bursch, John Duffus, Edeltraut Garbe, Ursula Gundert-Remy, David Harrison, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Pasquale Mosesso, Andy Smith, Beate Ulbrich, Matthew Wright

EFSA: Georges Kass, Federica Lodi, Natalie Thatcher

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies for absences were noted (as cited above).

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Declarations of Interests, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest (ADoI) filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Information from the Chair

None.

5. Information from EFSA

None.

6. Scientific Opinion on the re-evaluation of aspartame (E951) as a food additive

The recent epidemiological study by Englund-Ögge et al. (2012) was discussed by the WG and further clarifications and improvements were suggested. A discussion on the comparison between this study and the previous study by Halldorrsson et al. (2010), and on the overall conclusion, took place.

7. Organisation of the work

A discussion took place on the next steps required for the progress on the draft opinion.

8. Any other business

None.

Parma, 1-2 October 2012

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND NUTRIENT SOURCES ADDED TO FOOD

Minutes of the 13th meeting of the Working Group on Aspartame

Parma, 1-2 October 2012

EFSA/Unit/FIP

Agreed by the WG on 21 November 2012

Participants

WG Experts: Fernando Aguilar (1 October; phone), David Gott (1 October, PM; 2 October all day), Claude Lambré (Vice-Chair), Alicja Mortensen (Chair)

Apologies: Fernando Aguilar (2 October); Wilfried Bursch, David Coggon, John Duffus, Edeltraut Garbe, Ursula Gundert-Remy, David Harrison, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Pasquale Mosesso, Andy Smith, Beate Ulbrich, Matthew Wright

EFSA: Maria Carfi (2 October, AM), Georges Kass, Federica Lodi, Natalie Thatcher (1 October, PM; 2 October all day)

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies for absences were noted (as listed above).

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Declarations of Interests, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest (ADoI) filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Information from the Chair

None.

5. Information from EFSA

None.

6. Scientific Opinion on the re-evaluation of aspartame (E951) as a food additive

The draft opinion was discussed. Clarifications and improvements were suggested. A discussion took place on the next steps required for the preparation of the draft opinion. An external scientific report had been commissioned by EFSA to support the Working Group to summarise a number of biological and toxicological studies on aspartame. EFSA informed the Working Group about the intention to publish this external scientific report. The Working Group was concerned that because of the incomplete database available at the time of drafting, the external scientific report is only an incomplete description of the overall information available to the Working Group. The scientific opinion on aspartame will contain a discussion of all the information and the complete database available, and as such the Working Group expressed concern that the two documents may not appear consistent.

7. Organisation of the work

A discussion took place on the next steps required for the progress on the draft opinion. Different meetings and a work plan have been planned. It was noted that due to the increase in work load additional EFSA resources will be necessary.

8. Any other business

None.

Parma, 1 October 2012

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND NUTRIENT SOURCES ADDED TO FOOD

Minutes of the 12th meeting of the Working Group on Aspartame

Parma, 11th September 2012

EFSA / Unit /FIP

Agreed by the WG on 1 October 2012

Participants

WG Experts: Fernando Aguilar (phone), David Gott, Claude Lambré (Vice-Chair), Alicja Mortensen (Chair)

Apologies: Wilfried Bursch, David Coggon, John Duffus, Edeltraut Garbe, Ursula Gundert-Remy, David Harrison, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Pasquale Mosesso, Andy Smith, Beate Ulbrich, Matthew Wright

EFSA: Georges Kass, Federica Lodi

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies for absences were noted.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Declarations of Interests, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest (ADoI) filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Information from the Chair

None.

5. Information from EFSA

None.

6. Scientific Opinion on the re-evaluation of aspartame (E951) as a food additive

An updated Powerpoint presentation on the key aspects of the aspartame hazard identification and characterisation to be presented to the Panel was presented.

A discussion on some new issues introduced took place. Clarifications and improvements were suggested.

7. Organisation of the work

A discussion took place on the next steps required for the progress on the draft opinion.

8. Any other business

None.

9. Next meetings dates

1-2 October 2012

Parma, 24 September 2012

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND NUTRIENT SOURCES ADDED TO FOOD

Minutes of the 11th meeting of the Working Group on Aspartame

Parma, 5 September 2012

EFSA / Unit /FIP

Agreed by the WG on 24 September 2012

Participants

WG Experts: Fernando Aguilar (phone), David Gott, Claude Lambré (Vice-Chair), Alicja Mortensen (Chair)

Apologies: Wilfried Bursch, David Coggon, John Duffus, Edeltraut Garbe, Ursula Gundert-Remy, David Harrison, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Pasquale Mosesso, Andy Smith, Beate Ulbrich, Matthew Wright

EFSA: Georges Kass, Federica Lodi

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies for absences were noted.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Declarations of Interests, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest (ADoI) filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Information from the Chair

The Chair summarised the progress of the work performed on the draft opinion.

5. Information from EFSA

None.

6. Scientific Opinion on the re-evaluation of aspartame (E951) as a food additive

An overview of the draft opinion was presented and a general discussion took place on the main key issues.

A Powerpoint presentation on the key aspects of the aspartame hazard identification and characterisation was presented and a discussion took place. Clarifications and improvements were suggested.

7. Organisation of the work

A discussion took place on the next steps required for the preparation of the draft opinion for the next Plenary meeting (11-13 September).

8. Any other business

None.

9. Next meeting days

11 September 2012

Parma, 22nd June 2012

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND NUTRIENT SOURCES ADDED TO FOOD

Minutes of the 10th meeting of the Working Group on Aspartame

Milan, 22nd June 2012

EFSA / Unit /FIP

Participants

WG Experts: David Harrison, Claude Lambré (Vice-Chair), Jean-Charles Leblanc (afternoon only); Alicja Mortensen (Chair), Pasquale Mosesso, Andy Smith, Matthew Wright.

Hearing experts: David Gott (phone), Ine Waalkens-Berendsen

Apologies: Wilfried Bursch, John Duffus , Ursula Gundert-Remy

EFSA: Georges Kass, Hugues Kenigswald, Federica Lodi

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies for absences were noted.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Declarations of Interests, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest (ADoI) filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Information from the Chair

The Chair summarised the outcome of the discussion at the last WG aspartame (5th June) on the possible point of departure (PoD) for derivation of the ADI. The Chair also informed the WG on the discussion at the last Plenary meeting (5-7 June) on the genotoxicity, chronic toxicity/carcinogenicity and reproductive/developmental toxicity studies.

5. Information from EFSA

The WG was informed on the discussion at the last Plenary meeting (5-7 June) on the degradation product diketopiperazine (DKP) and the need to address more in details some issues.

6. Discussion with the hearing experts

The hearing experts informed the WG members on their views on the unpublished reproductive and developmental toxicity studies and a discussion took place.

7. Scientific Opinion on the re-evaluation of aspartame (E951) as a food additive

J.C. Leblanc introduced the revised exposure section.

The draft opinion was discussed. Clarifications and improvements were suggested. A discussion took place on the next steps required for the preparation of the draft opinion.

8. Organisation of the work

A discussion took place on the next steps required for the preparation of the draft opinion for the July Plenary meeting (2-4th July).

9. Any other business

None.

Parma, 5th June 2012

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND NUTRIENT SOURCES ADDED TO FOOD

Minutes of the 9th meeting of the Working Group on Aspartame

(Parma/Web-conference), 5th June 2012

EFSA / Unit /FIP

Participants

WG Experts: Wilfried Bursch (on line), John Duffus (on line), Ursula Gundert-Remy, Claude Lambré (Vice-Chair), Alicja Mortensen (Chair), Andy Smith (on line), Matthew Wright.

Apologies: David Coggon, Edeltraut Garbe, David Harrison, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Pasquale Mosesso

EFSA: Georges Kass, Federica Lodi

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies for absences were noted.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Declarations of Interests, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest (ADoI) filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Information from the Chair

None.

5. Information from EFSA

None.

6. Scientific Opinion on the re-evaluation of aspartame (E951) as a food additive

A discussion on the chronic toxicity/carcinogenicity and reproductive and developmental toxicity studies took place.

7. Organisation of the work

A brief discussion took place on the next steps required for the preparation of the draft opinion.

8. Any other business

None

9. Next meeting date

The next WG Aspartame meeting will take place on the 22nd June 2012 (Milan).

Parma, 25th May 2012

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND NUTRIENT SOURCES ADDED TO FOOD

Minutes of the 8th meeting of the Working Group on Aspartame

Web-conference, 25th May 2012

EFSA / Unit /FIP

Participants

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| WG Experts: | Claude Lambré (Vice-Chair), Alicja Mortensen (Chair), Pasquale Mosesso, Andy Smith, Matthew Wright. |
| Apologies: | Wilfried Bursch, John Duffus, Ursula Gundert-Remy, David Harrison, Jean-Charles Leblanc. |
| Observer (e.g. EC): | Alice Schoenauer Sebag |
| EFSA: | Georges Kass, Federica Lodi |

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies for absences were noted. Alice Schoenauer Sebag, who is currently working on food additives at the DG Health and Consumer with Jiri Sochor and Wim Debeuckelaere, briefly introduced herself.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Declarations of Interests, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest (ADoI) filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Information from the Chair

None.

5. Information from EFSA

George Kass informed the WG members on the progress of the drafting of the opinion in view of the first discussion at the Panel in June.

6. Scientific Opinion on the re-evaluation of aspartame (E951) as a food additive (EFSA-Q-2011-00406).

A summary on the key chronic toxicity/carcinogenicity and reproductive and developmental toxicity studies was prepared and a discussion took place.

7. Organisation of the work

A brief discussion took place on the next steps required for the preparation of the draft opinion.

8. Any other business

None

9. Next meeting date

The next WG Aspartame meeting will take place on the 22nd June 2012 (Milan).

Parma, 24th May 2012

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND NUTRIENT SOURCES ADDED TO FOOD

Minutes of the 7th meeting of the Working Group on Aspartame

Web-conference, 24th May 2012

EFSA / Unit /FIP

Participants

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| WG Experts: | David Coggon, Edeltraut Garbe, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Claude Lambré (Vice-Chair), Alicja Mortensen (Chair), Pasquale Mosesso, Andy Smith, Matthew Wright. |
| Apologies: | Wilfried Bursch; John Duffus; David Harrison; Jean-Charles Leblanc |
| Observers (eg.EC): | Jiri Sochor, Alice Schoenauer Sebag |
| EFSA: | Georges Kass, Federica Lodi |

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies for absences were noted. The Chair briefly introduced the two WG members, experts in epidemiology, Prof. David Coggon and Prof Edeltraut Garbe. All participants briefly introduced themselves.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Declarations of Interests, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest (ADoI) filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Information from the Chair

The Chair informed the WG members on the progress of the drafting of the opinion in view of the first discussion at the Panel in June, and reminded the WG members about the very tight time schedule and extensive working plan. The Chair also thanked all the WG members for the work performed on the draft opinion so far and invited them to provide any further comments to the Rapporteur.

5. Information from EFSA

None

6. Scientific Opinion on the re-evaluation of aspartame (E951) as a food additive (EFSA-Q-2011-00406).

The epidemiological studies by Halldorsson et al. (2010) and four of the epidemiological studies mentioned in the EFSA National Expert Report (2010), published after the SCF evaluation (2002) were discussed by the WG and further clarifications and improvements were suggested.

7. Organisation of the work

A brief discussion took place on the next steps required for the preparation of the draft opinion.

8. Any other business

None

9. Next meeting date

The next WG Aspartame meeting will take place on the 25th May 2012 (Web-conference).

Parma, 14th May 2012

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND NUTRIENT SOURCES ADDED TO FOOD

Minutes of the 6th meeting of the Working Group on Aspartame

Web-conference, 14th May 2012

EFSA / Unit /FIP

Participants

WG Experts: Wilfried Bursch, Ursula Gundert-Remy, David Harrison, Claude Lambré (Vice-Chair), Alicja Mortensen (Chair), Pasquale Mosesso, Matthew Wright.

Apologies: David Coggon; John Duffus; Edeltraut Garbe; Jean-Charles Leblanc; Andy Smith

EFSA: Georges Kass, Federica Lodi

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies for absences were noted.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Declarations of Interests, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest (ADoI) filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Information from the Chair

None.

5. Information from EFSA

G. Kass briefly informed the WG members on the progress of the drafting of the opinion.

6. Scientific Opinion on the re-evaluation of aspartame (E951) as a food additive (EFSA-Q-2011-00406).

The genotoxicity section of the draft opinion was discussed by the WG and further clarifications and improvements were suggested.

7. Organisation of the work

A brief discussion took place on the next steps required for the preparation of the draft opinion.

8. Any other business

None

9. Next meeting date

The next WG Aspartame meeting will take place on the 24th May 2012 (Web-conference).

Parma, 9th May 2012

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND NUTRIENT SOURCES ADDED TO FOOD

Minutes of the 5th meeting of the Working Group on Aspartame

Amsterdam, 9th May 2012

EFSA / Unit /FIP

Participants

WG Experts: Wilfried Bursch, John Duffus, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Alicja Mortensen (Chair), Pasquale Mosesso, Andy Smith, Matthew Wright.

Apologies: David Harrison, Claude Lambré (Vice-Chair)

EFSA: Georges Kass, Hugues Kenigswald, Federica Lodi

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Adoption of the minutes of the 4th meeting of the WG Aspartame

The minutes were adopted with the annotated changes.

4. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Declarations of Interests, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest (ADoI) filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the beginning of this meeting.

5. Information from the Chair

The WG members were informed on the progress of the draft opinion and on the organisation of the work in view of the preliminary discussion at the Plenary in June. The WG members were also reminded about the tight time schedule.

6. Information from EFSA

G. Kass informed the WG members on the progress of the project by the contractor regarding the submission of the last two deliverables. The WG members were also informed on the response received from two applicants on the manufacturing process of aspartame and on the request of clarification regarding one of the study report submitted.

7. Scientific Opinion on the re-evaluation of aspartame (E951) as a food additive (EFSA-Q-2011-00406).

Jean-Charles Leblanc introduced the new text of the exposure section of the draft opinion and a discussion took place.

The draft opinion was discussed by the WG and further clarifications and improvements were suggested.

8. Organisation of the work

A brief discussion took place on the next steps required for the preparation of the draft opinion.

9. Any other business

None

10. Next meeting date

The next WG Aspartame meeting will take place on the 14th May 2012 (Web-conference).

Parma, 9 May 2012

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND NUTRIENT SOURCES ADDED TO FOOD

DRAFT Minutes of the 4th meeting of the Working Group on Aspartame

Amsterdam, 26-27 April 2012

EFSA / Unit /FIP

Participants

| | |
|------------------|--|
| WG Experts | Wilfried Bursch, John Duffus, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Claude Lambré (Vice-Chair, 27 th April), Alicja Mortensen (Chair), Pasquale Mosesso, Andy Smith, Matthew Wright. |
| Hearing Experts: | Ruud A. Woutersen and Ine Waalkens-Berendsen (26 th April). |
| Apologies: | Claude Lambré (Vice-Chair, 26 th April); David Harrison and Jean-Charles Leblanc (both 26 th and 27 th April) |
| EFSA: | Federica Lodi, Georges Kass, Hugues Kenigswald, Natalie Thatcher (26 th April) |

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed the participants. The Chair briefly introduced the two experts (Rudolf A. Woutersen and Ine Waalkens-Berendsen) who were invited as hearing experts to support the working group with their expertise in histopathology and reproductive and developmental toxicity, respectively. The Chair briefly introduced Natalie Thatcher. Apologies for absences were noted.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Adoption of the minutes of the 3rd meeting of the WG Aspartame

The minutes were adopted without changes.

4. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Declarations of Interests, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest (ADoI) filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the beginning of this meeting.

5. Information from the Chair

The WG members were informed on the progress of the draft opinion mainly regarding the ADME section, the reproductive and developmental toxicity section, the epidemiological studies, and additional text based on the contractor's documents.

6. Information from EFSA

G. Kass briefly informed the WG members on the progress of the project by the contractor and on the discussion of the Technical part of the draft opinion at the WG Chemistry (teleconference, 20th April 2012).

7. Scientific Opinion on the re-evaluation of aspartame (E951) as a food additive (EFSA-Q-2011-00406).

The two hearing experts briefly informed the WG members on their views on the unpublished long term/carcinogenicity (by Rudolf. Woutersen) and reproductive and developmental toxicity (by Ine Waalkens-Berendsen) studies. A discussion took place.

Wilfried Bursch gave a brief overview on the progress of the work on the Genotoxicity section and a discussion on how to restructure the section took place. This section will be discussed again on the 14th May (teleconference).

A brief discussion on how to present the toxicity studies on DKP (previously evaluated by JECFA and SCF) and the validity and reliability of the studies took place.

The WG members were also informed of the publication of the full report of the Pathology Working Group of the NTP on the Ramazzini Study on methanol.

The draft opinion was discussed by the WG and further clarifications and improvements were suggested.

8. Organisation of the work

A brief discussion took place on the next steps required for the preparation of the draft opinion.

9. Any other business

None

10. Next meeting date

The next WG Aspartame meeting will take place on the 9th May 2012 in Milan.

Parma, 14 March 2012

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND NUTRIENT SOURCES ADDED TO FOOD

Minutes of the 3rd meeting of the Working Group on Aspartame

Amsterdam, 14 March 2012

EFSA / Unit /FIP

Participants

WG Experts Wilfried Bursch, Ursula Gundert-Remy, David Harrison, Claude Lambré (Vice-Chair), Jean-Charles Leblanc, Alicja Mortensen (Chair), Pasquale Mosesso, Matthew Wright.

Apologies: John Duffus, Andy Smith

EFSA: Federica Lodi, Georges Kass, Hugues Kenigswald

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies for absences were noted.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Adoption of the minutes of the 2nd meeting of the WG Aspartame

The minutes were adopted without changes.

4. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Declarations of Interests, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest (ADoI) filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the beginning of this meeting.

5. Information from the Chair

The WG members were informed on the invitation of two experts in epidemiology (Prof Coggon and Prof Garbe) in order to evaluate recent epidemiological studies on aspartame.

In addition, the Chair informed the WG members that two Panel members (R.A. Woutersen and I. Waalkens-Berendsen) will be invited as hearing experts to support the working group with their expertise in histopathology and reproductive and developmental toxicity, respectively.

6. Information from EFSA

H. Kenigswald briefly introduced himself to the WG members.

The WG members were also informed on the progress of the project by the contractor.

7. Scientific Opinion on the re-evaluation of aspartame (E951) as a food additive (EFSA-Q-2011-00406).

The exposure rapporteur briefly informed the WG members on the progress of the exposure assessment of both aspartame and methanol.

The draft opinion was discussed by the WG and further clarifications and improvements were suggested.

8. Organisation of the work

A brief discussion took place on the next steps required for the preparation of the draft opinion.

9. Any other business

None

10. Next meeting date

The next WG Aspartame meeting will take place on the 27th April 2012 in Amsterdam.

Parma, 21 February 2012

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND NUTRIENT SOURCES ADDED TO FOOD

Minutes of the 2nd meeting of the Working Group on Aspartame

Amsterdam, 21 February 2012

EFSA / Unit /FIP

Participants

WG Experts Wilfried Bursch, John Duffus, Ursula Gundert-Remy, David Harrison, Claude Lambré (Vice-Chair), Alicja Mortensen (Chair), Pasquale Mosesso, Andy Smith, Matthew Wright.

Apologies: Jean-Charles Leblanc

EFSA: Georges Kass and Federica Lodi

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed the participants and briefly introduced David Harrison. Apologies for absences were noted.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Adoption of the minutes of the 1st meeting of the WG Aspartame

The minutes were adopted without changes.

4. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Declarations of Interests, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest (ADoI) filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the beginning of this meeting.

5. Information from the Chair

None

6. Information from EFSA

G. Kass briefly informed the WG members on the resignation of Ivonne Rietjens from the ANS Panel at end February 2012 and immediately from the WG Aspartame.

The WG members were also informed on the outcome of the ANS Panel discussion on aspartame during the last Plenary meeting (16 February 2012).

7. Scientific Opinion on the re-evaluation of aspartame (E951) as a food additive

The draft opinion was presented and the major issues introduced. The draft opinion was discussed by the WG and further clarifications and improvements were suggested.

8. Supplementary document on the current knowledge about sweet taste receptors implications in the safety assessment of aspartame (artificial sweeteners)

C. Lambre presented the document and a brief discussion took place.

9. Organisation of the work

A brief discussion took place on the next steps required for the preparation of the draft opinion.

10. Any other business

None

11. Next meeting date

The next WG Aspartame meeting will take place on the 14th March 2012 in Amsterdam.

Parma, 21 February 2012

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND NUTRIENT SOURCES ADDED TO FOOD

Minutes of the 1st meeting of the Working Group on Aspartame

Amsterdam, 19 January 2012

EFSA/FIP/WG Aspartame

(adopted by the WG on 21 February 2012)

Participants

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| WG Experts | Wilfried Bursch, John Duffus, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Claude Lambré, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Alicja Mortensen (Chair), Pasquale Mosesso, Ivonne Rietjens, Andy Smith, Matthew Wright. |
| Observers (eg.EC) | Wim Debeuckelaere |
| EFSA: | Georges Kass, Federica Lodi |

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed the participants. All participants briefly introduced themselves.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Declarations of Interests, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest (ADoI) and/or Specific Declaration of interest (SDoI) filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Information from the Chair

None

5. Information from EFSA

G. Kass briefly informed the WG members on the outcome of the public call for data on aspartame and on the progress of the procurement contract on the review of data on aspartame and preparation of a summary document.

6. Scientific Opinion on the re-evaluation of aspartame (E951) as a food additive

The draft opinion was presented and the major issues introduced. The draft opinion was discussed by the WG and further clarifications and improvements were suggested.

7. Organisation of the work

A brief discussion took place on the next steps required for the preparation of the draft opinion.

8. Any other business

None

Next meeting dates

21 February 2012

14 March 2012