

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND FLAVOURINGS (FAF)

MINUTES OF THE 20TH PLENARY MEETING¹

Held on 19 & 25 February 2021
Online meeting

09:00-17:45 on 19th February 2021
09:00-17:45 on 25th February 2021

(Agreed by written procedure on 17 March 2021)

Participants

■ Panel Members:

Gabriele Aquilina, Laurence Castle, Karl-Heinz Engel², Paul Fowler, Maria José Frutos Fernandez, Peter Fürst, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Rainer Gürtler, Trine Husøy³, Melania Manco, Wim Mennes⁴, Peter Moldeus, Sabina Passamonti, Romina Shah⁵, Dina (Ine) Waalkens-Berendsen, Detlef Wölfe, Matthew Wright and Maged Younes

■ Hearing Experts⁶:

Emanuela Corsini, and Francesco Cubadda participated on 25th February in the agenda item 6.1

■ Observers on behalf of the European Medicines Agency (EMA): Dominique Masset and Stefano Ponzano

■ European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

¹ Please be aware that EFSA's Register of Questions is unavailable from 21 January until mid-February. The temporary suspension of the tool is necessary to allow us to implement the launch of our new OpenEFSA portal. We apologise for the inconvenience. Further information is available [here](#)

² Apologies on 19 February PM

³ Participated on 19 February AM

⁴ Apologies on 19 February

⁵ Participated on 19 February PM and 25 February PM

⁶ As defined in Article 15 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/expertselection.pdf



DG SANTE (Health and Food Safety), E2 Food processing technologies and novel foods:
Guillermo Cardon

■ EFSA:

FIP Unit: Claudia Roncancio Peña, Stefania Barmaz, Ana Campos Fernandes, Maria Carfi, Consuelo Civitella, Esraa Elewa, Galvin Ndip Eyong, Alessandra Giarola, Federica Lodi, Carla Martino, Ana Maria Rincon, Camilla Smeraldi, Alexandra Tard and Giorgia Vianello

COM Team Strategic Communications: Anthony Smith

SCER Team New Approaches in Risk Assessment: José Tarazona

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants in the meeting.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Scientific Panel members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁷ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁸, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 19th Plenary meeting held on 26-28 January 2021, as online meeting

The minutes of the 19th Plenary meeting held on 26-28 January 2021 were agreed by written procedure on 12 February 2021⁹.

5. Report on written procedures since 19th Plenary meeting

No scientific outputs were adopted by written procedure since the last plenary meeting.

6. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

⁷ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁸ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁹ [19th-plenary-meeting-faf-panel-minutes.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)



FOOD ADDITIVES

6.1. Assessment of titanium dioxide (E 171) as a food additive (EFSA-Q-2020- 00262)

Further to the discussion held at the previous plenary meeting, the Panel was presented with an updated draft opinion.

At the current plenary, the Panel received feedback from the Cross-cutting WG Genotoxicity, tasked with the assessment of the available genotoxicity data, and continued the discussion on the sections of the scientific opinion that had been further elaborated since the previous presentation of the draft opinion to the Panel; namely those on background information, description of toxicological studies retrieved from the literature search covering the period January 2015-November 2020 and exposure.

The hearing experts and members of the FAF WG on Titanium dioxide (E 171), Francesco Cubadda and Emanuela Corsini joined the current plenary meeting to address questions from the Panel concerning the criteria for implementing the provisions of the EFSA Guidance on nanotechnology (EFSA Scientific Committee, 2018) to the interpretation of the results from the toxicological studies and on some of the immunotoxicity results reported in some of the studies considered for the assessment, respectively.

A revised draft opinion will be scheduled for discussion and possible adoption at the next plenary meeting.

7. Feedback from the Scientific Committee/Scientific Panels, EFSA, the European Commission

This item and related sub-items were not discussed due to lack of time.

8. New mandates

This item was not discussed due to lack of time.

9. Other scientific topics for information and/or discussion

None

10. Any Other Business

None