



FOOD INGREDIENTS AND PACKAGING UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND FLAVOURINGS (FAF)

MINUTES OF THE 21ST PLENARY MEETING

**Held on 23-25 March 2021
Online meeting**

**09:00-17:30 on 23rd March 2021
09:00-17:30 on 24th March 2021
09:00-13:00 on 25th March 2021**

(Agreed by written procedure on 19 April 2021)

Participants

■ Panel Members:

Gabriele Aquilina, Laurence Castle¹, Karl-Heinz Engel, Paul Fowler, Maria José Frutos Fernandez, Peter Fürst, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Rainer Gürtler, Trine Husøy, Melania Manco, Wim Mennes, Peter Moldeus, Sabina Passamonti, Romina Shah², Dina (Ine) Waalkens-Berendsen, Detlef Wölflé, Matthew Wright and Maged Younes

■ Hearing Experts³:

Bruno Teste representing the French Agency for Food, Environmental and occupational Health & Safety (ANSES) participated on 24th March AM in the agenda item 6.1

■ Observers on behalf of the European Medicines Agency (EMA):

Corinne De Vries, Dominique Masset and Stefano Ponzano

■ European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

¹ Partial attendance on 24 March PM

² Participated on 23 March PM

³ 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, Catherine Evrevin and Jiri Sochor

■ 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

SCER Team Scientific Committee: Rositsa Serafimova

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 Independence⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁵, 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 20th Plenary meeting held on 19th and 25th 2021, as online meeting

The minutes of the 20th Plenary meeting held on 19th and 25th March 2021 were agreed by written procedure on 17th March 2021⁶.

5. Report on written procedures since 20th Plenary meeting

Since the previous plenary meeting, the following scientific outputs were adopted by the Panel by written procedure, taking place from 12th until 19th March 2021.

⁴ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁵

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

⁶ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/20th-plenary-meeting-faf-panel>



- Erratum to the opinion on the re-evaluation of lecithins (E 322) as food additive. An updated version will be available on the Authority's webpage.
- Editorial change to [Guidance for submission for food additive evaluation](#). A new version of the guidance was published on 26 March 2021, replacing the previous one and applicable for applications submitted as of 27 March 2021. For applications submitted until 26th March 2021, the former version of the guidance applies.

6. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

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 on the updated safety assessment of the food additive titanium dioxide (E171). The FAF Panel discussed the different parts of the document and unanimously adopted the opinion, subject to incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting.

The final adopted opinion will be available on the Authority's webpage.

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

The Panel was informed of the following mandates received from the European Commission since the 19th Plenary meeting held in January:

- Request for EFSA to perform a risk assessment and to provide a scientific opinion on the safety of a proposed amendment of the specifications of the food additive xylitol (E 967) - [EFSA-Q-2021-00078](#)
- Request for an updated scientific opinion from the European Food Safety Authority as regards the safety of sulphur dioxide (E 220), sodium sulphite (E 221), sodium bisulphite (E 222), sodium metabisulphite (E 223), potassium metabisulphite (E 224), calcium sulphite (E 226), calcium bisulphite (E 227) and potassium bisulphite (E 228) as food additives - [EFSA-Q-2021-00110](#)
- Request for an updated scientific opinion from the European Food Safety Authority as regards the safety of iron oxides and hydroxides (E 172) as food additives - [EFSA-Q-2021-00178](#) (to be available in Open.EFSA soon)



- Request for a scientific opinion from the European Food Safety Authority as regards the safety of indigotine, indigo carmine (E 132) containing not less than 85% total colouring matters, calculated as the sodium salt, as a food additive, as well as on the specifications for E 132 – [EFSA-Q-2021-00180](#) (to be available in Open.EFSA soon)

The mandates were not discussed due to lack of time.

9. Other scientific topics for information and/or discussion

None

10. Any Other Business

None