

# SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND FLAVOURINGS (FAF)

## MINUTES OF THE 26<sup>TH</sup> PLENARY MEETING

**Held on 15 December 2021  
09.00-15.00**

**Online meeting**

**(Agreed by written procedure on 10 January 2022)**

### Participants

■ Panel Members:

Gabriele Aquilina, Laurence Castle, Karl-Heinz Engel, Paul Fowler<sup>1</sup>, Maria José Frutos Fernandez, Peter Fürst, Ursula Gundert-Remy<sup>2</sup>, Rainer Gürtler, Trine Husøy, Melania Manco, Wim Mennes, Peter Moldeus, Sabina Passamonti, Dina (Ine) Waalkens-Berendsen, Detlef Wölfe, Matthew Wright and Maged Younes

■ European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

DG SANTE (Health and Food Safety), E2 Food processing technologies and novel foods:  
Catherine Evreвин and Jiri Sochor

■ EFSA:

FIP Unit: Claudia Roncancio Peña, Jaime Aguilera Entrena, Maria Carfi, Consuelo Civitella, Antonio Rivas Cornejo, Christina Kyrkou, Marcello Laganaro, Federica Lodi, Carla Martino, Ana Maria Rincon, Camilla Smeraldi, Alkiviadis Stagkos, Alexandra Tard, Giorgia Vianello

SCER Unit: Reinhilde Schoonjans

Nutri Unit: Valeriu-Gheorghe Curtui

### 1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants in the meeting. Apologies were received from Romina Shah. The Panel was informed that this would be the last plenary meeting for the Panel member Detlef Wölfe, further to his decision to resign from the role after the current plenary meeting. The Panel expressed its deep appreciation for his contribution over the past years.

<sup>1</sup> Apologies PM session

<sup>2</sup> Apologies PM session



## 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 Independence<sup>3</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management<sup>4</sup>, 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 25<sup>th</sup> Plenary meeting held on 10 November 2021, as online meeting

The minutes of the 25<sup>th</sup> FAF Plenary meeting held on 10 November 2021 were agreed by written procedure on 29 November 2021<sup>5</sup>.

## 5. Report on written procedures since 25<sup>th</sup> Plenary meeting

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

## 6. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

### FOOD ADDITIVES

#### 6.1. Scientific opinion on the safety in use of glucosylated steviol glycosides as a food additive ([EFSA-Q-2019-00062](#))

Further to the previous discussion held at the 13<sup>th</sup> FAF Plenary meeting in March 2020, the Panel was presented with a revised draft opinion on the safety in use of glucosylated steviol glycosides as a new food additive. Assessment of this new food additive had been placed on hold pending the finalisation of the evaluation of the related food enzyme cyclomaltodextrin glucanotransferase derived from *Geobacillus stearothermophilus*<sup>6</sup>, completed by the EFSA Scientific Panel on Food Contact Materials, Enzymes and Processing Aids (CEP) in November 2021.

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.

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/policy\\_independence.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/competing\\_interest\\_management\\_17.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> [211110\\_m.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)

<sup>6</sup> <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2015-00230>



## FLAVOURINGS

### **6.2. Scientific Opinion on Flavouring Group Evaluation 63, Revision 4 (FGE.63Rev4): consideration of aliphatic secondary saturated and unsaturated alcohols, ketones and related esters evaluated by JECFA (59th and 69th meetings) structurally related to flavouring substances evaluated by EFSA in FGE.07Rev6 ([EFSA-Q-2019-00401](#); [EFSA-Q-2019-00453](#); [EFSA-Q-2019-00454](#); [EFSA-Q-2019-00455](#); [EFSA-Q-2019-00456](#); [EFSA-Q-2019-00458](#); [EFSA-Q-2019-00460](#); [EFSA-Q-2019-00463](#); [EFSA-Q-2019-00464](#); [EFSA-Q-2019-00465](#); [EFSA-Q-2019-00475](#); [EFSA-Q-2019-00476](#); [EFSA-Q-2019-00477](#); [EFSA-Q-2019-00478](#))**

The Panel was presented with the draft opinion on Flavouring Group Evaluation 63, Revision 4 (FGE.63Rev4): consideration of aliphatic secondary saturated and unsaturated alcohols, ketones and related esters evaluated by JECFA (59th and 69th meetings) structurally related to flavouring substances evaluated by EFSA in FGE.07Rev6. This scientific opinion is closely related to FGE.07 Rev6 (these FGEs contain structurally related substances), also on the agenda of the current plenary meeting (see agenda item 6.3) and covers the second step of the flavouring evaluation procedure for 14  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated aliphatic secondary alcohols and ketones ([FL-no: 02.102; 02.193; 07.044; 07.048; 07.082; 07.104; 07.105; 07.106; 07.107; 07.121; 07.139; 07.177; 07.188 and 07.244]), which were cleared for genotoxicity in FGE.204Rev1. The current revision comprises a total of 43 substances: 29 substances already evaluated in previous revisions plus the present evaluation of the 14 newly added flavouring substances. 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.

### **6.3. Scientific Opinion on Flavouring Group Evaluation 7, Revision 6 (FGE.07Rev6): saturated and unsaturated aliphatic secondary alcohols, ketones and esters of secondary alcohols and saturated linear or branched-chain carboxylic acids from chemical group 5 ([EFSA-Q-2021-00289](#); [EFSA-Q-2019-00451](#))**

The Panel was presented with the draft opinion on Flavouring Group Evaluation 7, Revision 6 (FGE.07Rev6): saturated and unsaturated aliphatic secondary alcohols, ketones and esters of secondary alcohols and saturated linear or branched-chain carboxylic acids from chemical group 5. This scientific opinion is closely related to FGE.63 Rev4, also on the agenda of the current plenary meeting (see agenda item 6.2) and covers the second step of the flavouring evaluation procedure for two  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated aliphatic ketones, [FL-no: 07.187] and [FL-no: 07.261] cleared for genotoxicity in FGE.204Rev1 and FGE.201Rev2, respectively. The current revision comprises a total of 55 substances: 53 substances already evaluated in previous revisions plus the present evaluation of the two newly added flavouring substances. 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. Other scientific topics for information and/or discussion



No other scientific topics for information and/or discussion.

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

### 8.1. Scientific Committee and Scientific Panel(s) including their Working Groups

No meetings of the EFSA Scientific Committee were held since the last plenary meeting.

#### 8.1.1. FAF Panel Working Groups

In addition to what is already recorded in the minutes of the existing FAF Panel WG meetings:

- the FAF Panel WG on Specifications sought guidance from the FAF Panel with respect to the method for the measurement of impurities in some food additives. A short presentation to introduce the topic was given by the Chair of the WG. The view of the Panel will be taken into account by the WG.
- The FAF Panel WG on Sulphur Dioxide-Sulphites (E220-228) provided a progress update on the ongoing assessment on the follow-up to the re-evaluation of these food additives and on a technical hearing with ECHA and BfR representatives. A short presentation to introduce the topic was given by the Chair of the WG. The Panel was informed that at the ECHA RAC-59 Plenary meeting on 22-26 November 2021, a decision was taken with respect to the classification of sulphur dioxide<sup>7</sup>. The WG will continue the assessment of the available data and an update will be provided to the Panel at a forthcoming meeting.

### 8.2. EFSA including its Working Groups/Task Forces

Valeriu Curtui, currently Head of the EFSA NUTRI Unit and who will be the new Head of the FIP Unit from 1st January 2022, introduced himself to the Panel.

### 8.3. European Commission

The Panel was informed of a draft mandate from the European Commission for a request under Regulation (EC) No 1331/2008, related to an ongoing request for EFSA to perform a risk assessment and to provide a scientific opinion on the safety in use of soy leghemoglobin from genetically modified *Pichia pastoris* yeast as a food additive<sup>8</sup>, currently assigned to the EFSA GMO Unit. The Panel was presented with information on the regulatory background to these two related mandates and on the possible cross-cutting areas of the two assessments.

## 9. New mandates

The Panel was informed of the following new applications received since the previous plenary meeting held in November 2021:

<sup>7</sup> [https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/17090/rac59\\_final+minutes\\_en.pdf/2f350729-0880-57da-9a1e-b812d24df808?t=1639990293786](https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/17090/rac59_final+minutes_en.pdf/2f350729-0880-57da-9a1e-b812d24df808?t=1639990293786)

<sup>8</sup> <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2019-00651>



- **Request for EFSA to perform a safety assessment and provide a scientific opinion on the safety in use of L-Menthol-β-D-glucoside as a new flavouring**

Pending confirmation of the validity of the application, the WG Flavourings will be tasked with the scientific assessment and the drafting of the scientific outputs ([EFSA-Q-2021-00683](#)).

- **Request for EFSA to perform a safety assessment and provide a scientific opinion on the safety in use of (1R,4S)-1,3,3-trimethylbicyclo[2.2.1]heptan-2-one (l-Fenchone) as a new flavouring substance**

Pending confirmation of the validity of the application, the WG Flavourings will be tasked with the scientific assessment and the drafting of the scientific outputs ([EFSA-Q-2021-00684](#)).

- **Request for EFSA to perform a safety assessment and provide a scientific opinion on the safety in use of 3-[3-(2-isopropyl-5-methyl-cyclohexyl)-ureido]-butyric acid ethyl ester as a new flavouring substance**

Pending confirmation of the validity of the application, the WG Flavourings will be tasked with the scientific assessment and the drafting of the scientific outputs ([EFSA-Q-2021-00685](#)).

The Panel was informed of the following new applications considered valid since the previous plenary meeting held in November 2021:

- **Request for EFSA to perform a risk assessment and to provide a scientific opinion on the safety in use of blue galdieria extract as a food additive**

Since the last plenary meeting, this application was considered valid by APDESK on 11/11/2021 and the scientific assessment is currently in progress ([EFSA-Q-2021-00347](#)).

The WG Food Additives Applications is tasked with the drafting of the scientific opinion.

- **Request for EFSA to provide a scientific opinion on the safety of a proposed amendment to the specifications of the food additive steviol glycosides (E 960): new production process using genetically modified *Saccharomyces cerevisiae***

Since the last plenary meeting, this application was considered valid by APDESK on 29/11/2021 and the scientific assessment is currently in progress ([EFSA-Q-2021-00357](#)).

The WG Food Additives Applications is tasked with the drafting of the scientific opinion.

- **Request for EFSA to perform a risk assessment and to provide a scientific opinion on the safety in use of jagua (genipin-glycine) blue as a food additive**

Since the last plenary meeting, this application was considered valid by APDESK on 06/12/2021 and the scientific assessment is currently in progress ([EFSA-Q-2021-00231](#)).

The WG Food Additives Applications is tasked with the drafting of the scientific opinion.

## 10. Any Other Business

None.