FOOD INGREDIENTS AND PACKAGING UNIT

Scientific Panel on Food Contact Materials, Enzymes and Processing Aids (CEP)

MINUTES OF THE 27th PLENARY MEETING

Held on 22-24 March 2022, by Teleconference

(Agreed on 12/04/2022)[1]

Participants

- Panel Members:

  José Manuel Barat Baviera, Claudia Bolognesi, Andrew Chesson, Pier Sandro Cocconcelli, Riccardo Crebelli, David Michael Gott, Konrad Grob, Claude Lambré (Chair), Evgenia Lampi, Marcel Mengelers, Alicja Mortensen, Gilles Rivière, Inger-Lise Steffensen, Christina Tlustos, Henk Van Loveren, Laurence Vernis and Holger Zorn

- Hearing experts: Laurence Castle[2]; Panagiotis Skandamis[3]

- Observers:

  European Commission: Greta Borg, J. Briggs[2], Catherine Evrevin[4]

  EMA[5]: Stefano Ponzano, Leon van Aerts

- EFSA:

  Food Ingredients and Packaging (FIP) Unit: Jaime Aguilera, Magdalena Andryszkiewicz, Eric Barthélémy, Matilde Benedettini, Valeriu Curtui, Chantra Eskes, Cristina Fernandez Fraguas, Natalia Kovalkovicova, Yi Liu, Alexis Lioupis, Carla Martino, Sandra Rainieri, Helen Regina, Alexandra Tard and Katharina Volk

  Methodology and Scientific Support (MESE) Unit: Claudia Cascio[2], Giulio di Piazza[2], Marios Georgiadis[2], Irene Munoz[2]

  Pesticide Peer review Unit (PREV) Unit[6]: Juan Parra Morte and Martina Panzarea

- ECHA[2]:

  Evelin Fabjan, Letizia Polci, Stefano Frattini, Niko Hellsten, Vessela Vitcheva

1 Adopted by written procedure
2 For agenda items 6.1 to 6.3
3 For agenda item 6.15
4 For agenda items 6.8 to 6.14
5 For agenda item 7.2
6 For agenda item 9

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1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants in the meeting. Cristina Fernandez Fraguas, newcomer in the Enzymes Team of the FIP Unit, introduced herself. Apologies were received from: Christina Tlustos for the entire Plenary, Evgenia Lampi on 22nd from 9h to 12h50, Pier Sandro Cocconcelli on 22nd from 9h to 13h30, Marcel Mengelers on 23rd from 13h15 to 13h30, Henk Van Loveren on 24th from 10h30 to 11h15, Holger Zorn on 24th from 13h30 to 17h45 and Pier Sandro Cocconcelli on 24th from 17h to 17h45.

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[7] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[8], 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, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 26th Plenary meeting held on 26-27 January 2022

The minutes of the 26th Plenary meeting held on 26-27 January 2022 were agreed by written procedure on 8th February 2022[9].

5. Report on written procedures since 26th Plenary meeting

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

6. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion and possible adoption

6.1. Phthalates task 1: Identification and prioritisation for risk assessment of phthalates, structurally similar substances and replacement substances potentially used as plasticisers in materials and articles intended to come into contact with food (EFSA-Q-2020-00725)

[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] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2021-09/210914-m.pdf

The draft opinion on identification and prioritisation for risk assessment of phthalates, structurally similar substances and replacement substances potentially used as plasticisers in FCMs was presented to the members of the CEP Panel together with the main points for discussion. The draft opinion was unanimously adopted by the Panel subject to incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting.

6.2. Phthalates task 2a: Protocol for the exposure assessment as part of the safety assessment of phthalates, structurally similar substances and replacement substances potentially used as plasticisers in materials and articles intended to come into contact with food (EFSA-Q-2021-00592)

The draft protocol for the exposure assessment as part of the safety assessment of phthalates, structurally similar substances and replacement substances potentially used as plasticisers in FCMs was presented to the members of the CEP Panel together with the main points for discussion. The draft protocol was unanimously endorsed by the Panel subject to incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting.

6.3. Phthalates task 2b: Protocol for the hazard assessment as part of the safety assessment of phthalates, structurally similar substances and replacement substances potentially used as plasticisers in materials and articles intended to come into contact with food (EFSA-Q-2021-00593)

The following parts of the draft protocol for the hazard assessment as part of the safety assessment of phthalates, structurally similar substances and replacement substances potentially used as plasticisers in materials and articles intended to come into contact with food was presented to the members of the CEP Panel together with the main points for discussion: 1. Introduction, 2. Problem formulation, 3. Methods for answering questions and sub-questions, 5. Method for performing hazard characterisation and 7. Plans for updating the protocol. The following section/sub-sections were endorsed by the Panel subject to incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting: 1. Introduction, 2.1 Objectives of the hazard assessment, 2.3 Identification of the assessment questions and sub-questions, 3.3 Study selection process, 3.6.1 External validity, 5. Identification of the assessment questions and sub-questions, 7. Plans for updating the protocol.

6.4. Recycling process Utsumi (EREMA Basic technology) (EFSA-Q-2020-00624)

The draft opinion on the safety assessment of the recycling process Utsumi (EREMA Basic technology) was presented to the members of the CEP Panel together with the main points for discussion. The CEP Panel discussed the different parts of the risk assessment and unanimously adopted the opinion, subject to incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting.

6.5. Recycling process INTCO MALAYSIA SDN BHD (EREMA Basic technology) (EFSA-Q-2021-00005)

The draft opinion on the safety assessment of the recycling process INTCO MALAYSIA SDN BHD (EREMA Basic technology) was presented to the members of the CEP Panel together with the main points for discussion. The CEP Panel discussed the different parts of the risk assessment and unanimously adopted the opinion, subject to incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting.

6.6. Recycling process Zibo Containers recycling process (VACUREMA® Basic - EREMA Basic) (EFSA-Q-2021-00001)

The draft opinion on the safety assessment of the recycling process Zibo Containers (VACUREMA® Basic - EREMA Basic) was presented to the members of the CEP Panel together with the main points for discussion. The CEP Panel discussed the different parts of the risk assessment and unanimously adopted the opinion, subject to incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting.

6.7. Recycling process NAN YA PLASTICS Corporation recycling process (VACUREMA Basic) (EFSA-Q-2021-00085)

The draft opinion on the safety assessment of the recycling process NAN YA PLASTICS Corporation (VACUREMA Basic) was presented to the members of the CEP Panel together with the main points for discussion. The CEP Panel discussed the different parts of the risk assessment and unanimously adopted the opinion, subject to incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting.

6.8. Food enzyme pectin lyase from the genetically modified *Aspergillus luchuensis* strain FLOSC (EFSA-Q-2015-00130)

The draft opinion on the safety assessment of the food enzyme pectin lyase from the genetically modified *Aspergillus luchuensis* strain FLOSC was presented to the members of the CEP Panel together with the main points for discussion. The CEP Panel discussed the different parts of the risk assessment and unanimously adopted the opinion, subject to incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting.

6.9. Food enzyme dextranase from *Collariella gracilis* strain AE-DX (EFSA-Q-2015-00685)

The draft opinion on the safety assessment of the food enzyme dextranase from *Collariella gracilis* strain AE-DX was presented to the members of the CEP Panel together with the main points for discussion. The CEP Panel discussed the different parts of the risk assessment and unanimously adopted the opinion, subject to incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting.

6.10. Food enzyme catalase from porcine liver (EFSA-Q-2016-00101)

The draft opinion on the safety assessment of the food enzyme catalase from porcine liver was presented to the members of the CEP Panel together with the main points for discussion. The CEP Panel discussed the different parts of the risk assessment and unanimously adopted the opinion, subject to incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting.

6.11. Food enzyme polygalacturonase from a genetically modified *Aspergillus luchuensis* (strain FLYSC) (EFSA-Q-2015-00086)

The draft opinion on safety assessment of the food enzyme polygalacturonase from a genetically modified *Aspergillus luchuensis* strain FLYSC was presented to the members of the CEP Panel together with the main points for discussion. The CEP Panel discussed the different parts of the risk assessment and unanimously adopted the opinion, subject to incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting.

6.12. Food enzyme pancreatin from porcine pancreas (EFSA-Q-2017-00042)

The draft opinion on safety assessment of the food enzyme pancreatin from porcine pancreas was presented to the members of the CEP Panel together with the main points for discussion. The CEP Panel discussed the different parts of the risk assessment and unanimously adopted the opinion, subject to incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting.

6.13. Food enzyme α-glucosidase from *Aspergillus niger* (strain AE-TGU) (EFSA-Q-2014-00800)

The draft opinion on safety assessment of the food enzyme α-glucosidase from *Aspergillus niger* strain AE-TGU was presented to the members of the CEP Panel together with the main points for discussion. The CEP Panel discussed the different parts of the risk assessment and unanimously adopted the opinion, subject to incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting.

6.14. Food enzyme mannanase from the genetically modified *Aspergillus niger* strain NZYM-NM (EFSA-Q-2021-00123)

The draft opinion on safety assessment of the food enzyme mannanase from the genetically modified *Aspergillus niger* strain NZYM-NM was presented to the members of the CEP Panel together with the main points for discussion. The CEP Panel discussed the different parts of the risk assessment and unanimously adopted the opinion, subject to incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting.

6.15. Evaluation of the safety and efficacy of lactic acid to reduce microbiological surface contamination on carcasses from wild game and small stock (EFSA-Q-2020-00541)

The draft opinion on the evaluation of the safety and efficacy of lactic acid to reduce microbiological surface contamination on carcasses from wild game and small stock was presented to the members of the CEP Panel together with the main points for discussion. The CEP Panel discussed the different parts of the risk assessment and unanimously adopted the opinion, subject to incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting.

6.16. Recycling process SGR (VACUNITE - EREMA basic and Polymetrix SSP V-leaN technology) (EFSA-Q-2020-00129)

The draft opinion on safety assessment of the recycling process SGR (VACUNITE - EREMA basic and Polymetrix SSP V-leaN technology) was presented to the members of the CEP Panel together with the main points for discussion. The CEP Panel discussed the different parts of the risk assessment and unanimously adopted the opinion, subject to incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting.

6.17. Recycling process RCS Plastics (VACUNITE - EREMA basic and Polymetrix SSP V-leaN technology) (EFSA-Q-2020-00560)

The draft opinion on safety assessment of the recycling process RCS Plastics (VACUNITE - EREMA basic and Polymetrix SSP V-leaN technology) was presented to the members of the CEP Panel together with the main points for discussion. The CEP Panel discussed the different parts of the risk assessment and unanimously adopted the opinion, subject to incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting.

6.18. Recycling process World PET Plastic (VACUNITE - EREMA basic and Polymetrix SSP V-leaN technology) (EFSA-Q-2020-00657)

The draft opinion on safety assessment of the recycling process World PET Plastic (VACUNITE - EREMA basic and Polymetrix SSP V-leaN technology) was presented to the members of the CEP Panel together with the main points for discussion. The CEP Panel discussed the different parts of the risk assessment and unanimously adopted the opinion, subject to incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting.

6.19. Recycling process PET Verpackungen Deutschland (EREMA basic and Polymetrix SSP leaN technology) (EFSA-Q-2020-00418)

The draft opinion on safety assessment of the recycling process PET Verpackungen Deutschland (EREMA basic and Polymetrix SSP leaN technology) was presented to the members of the CEP Panel together with the main points for discussion. The CEP Panel discussed the different parts of the risk assessment and unanimously adopted the opinion, subject to incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting.

6.20. Recycling process 3R recycling process (NGR LSP) (EFSA-Q-2021-00080)

The draft opinion on safety assessment of the recycling process 3R recycling process (NGR LSP) was presented to the members of the CEP Panel together with the main points for discussion. The CEP Panel discussed the different parts of the risk assessment and unanimously adopted the opinion, subject to incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting.

6.21. Recycling process rPET InWaste (NGR technology) (EFSA-Q-2020-00526)

The draft opinion on safety assessment of the food recycling process rPET InWaste (NGR technology) was presented to the members of the CEP Panel together with the main points for discussion. The CEP Panel discussed the different parts of the risk assessment and unanimously adopted the opinion, subject to incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting.

6.22. Recycling process Wellman Neufchâteau Recyclage - WNR (NGR technology) (EFSA-Q-2020-00628)

The draft opinion on safety assessment of the food recycling process Wellman Neufchâteau Recyclage - WNR (NGR technology) was presented to the members of the CEP Panel together with the main points for discussion. The CEP Panel discussed the different parts of the risk assessment and unanimously adopted the opinion, subject to incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting.

6.23. Recycling process Indorama Ventures Recycling Verdun_IVRV (NGR technology) (EFSA-Q-2021-00177)

The draft opinion on safety assessment of the food recycling process Indorama Ventures Recycling Verdun_IVRV (NGR technology) was presented to the members of the CEP Panel together with the main points for discussion. The CEP Panel discussed the different parts of the risk assessment and unanimously adopted the opinion, subject to incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting.

6.24. Recycling process Roxane Nord (EREMA Basic and Polymetrix SSP VLeaN) (EFSA-Q-2021-00167)

The draft opinion on safety assessment of the recycling process Roxane Nord (EREMA Basic and Polymetrix SSP VLeaN) was presented to the members of the CEP Panel together with the main points for discussion. The CEP Panel discussed the different parts of the risk assessment and unanimously adopted the opinion, subject to incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting.

6.25. Correction of the Food enzymes guidance (EFSA-Q-2020-00477)

The food enzymes guidance was presented to the members of the CEP Panel for a correction related to the set of bacterial strains recommended to test the possible antibacterial activity of food enzymes of microbial origin. Specifically, the possibility of employing the set recommended by the European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (EUCAST) was included. This is because one of the strains of the set originally recommended in the guidance (as from the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives, JECFA) is no longer available. The correction includes adding the references to the relevant documents from EUCAST and JECFA where the sets of bacterial strains are described. The CEP Panel discussed the part to be corrected and unanimously agreed to update the adopted the opinion.

7. Feedback from the Scientific Committee/Panel(s), EFSA, European Commission

7.1. Scientific Committee/Panel(s) including their Working Groups

The Chair reported the main points discussed during the 107th Scientific Committee Plenary, held on 9-10th February 2022. The Panel also discussed proposals from CEP Panel members on possible topics for the 2022-2024 work program of the Scientific Committee and agreed to propose three topics.

7.2. CEP Panel Working Groups /Task Forces

7.2.1. CEP WG on Food Contact Materials

No additional issues were brought to the attention of the CEP Panel further to what is already recorded in the **minutes of the WG**.

7.2.2. CEP WG on Recycling Plastic

No additional issues were brought to the attention of the CEP Panel further to what is already recorded in the **minutes of the WG**.

7.2.3. CEP WG on Enzymes

No additional issues were brought to the attention of the CEP Panel further to what is already recorded in the **minutes of the WG**.

7.2.4. CEP WG on BPA re-evaluation

The Chair of the WG presented to the Panel members the outcome of the public consultation on the draft opinion and illustrated the possible future steps. No additional issues were brought to the attention of the CEP Panel further to what is already recorded in the **minutes of the WG**.

7.2.5. CEP WG on preparation for re-evaluation of phthalates, structurally similar substances and replacement substances

No additional issues were brought to the attention of the CEP Panel further to what is already recorded in the **minutes of the WG**.

7.2.6. CEP WG on the evaluation of substances used to reduce microbial contamination from products of animal origin

The CEP Panel adopted at this Plenary meeting the opinion on the evaluation of the safety and efficacy of lactic acid to reduce microbiological surface contamination on carcasses from wild game and small stock (EFSA-Q-2020-00541) (item 6.15). Since no other applications have been submitted so far, the WG will be put on-hold.

7.3. EFSA

The achievements of the CEP Panel in 2021 and the 2022 work program were presented. The Panel was also informed on the changes of EFSA staff involved in the Panel coordination. The next Plenary meeting will be held on 17-19 May 2022.

7.4. European Commission

None

8. New mandates

8.1. New questions received since the 26th CEP Plenary

The following 17 new mandates have been received since the 26th CEP Plenary meeting.

Food Sector	EFSA-Q-Number	Subject	Reception date
ENZ	EFSA-Q-2022-00189	Endo-1,4-ß-xylanase from *B.subtilis* (XAN)	04/03/2022
ENZ	EFSA-Q-2022-00190	Beta-galactosidase from *Papiliotrema terrestris* AE-BLC	04/03/2022
ENZ	EFSA-Q-2022-00193	3-Phytase from *Aspergillus niger* strain NPH	07/03/2022
ENZ	EFSA-Q-2022-00194	endo-1,4-*β-xylanase* from a Bacillus velezensis	07/03/2022
REC	EFSA-Q-2022-00039	StyrenicsCircularSolutions_Gneuss3	03/02/2022
REC	EFSA-Q-2022-00074	Steinbeis PolyVert GmbH_VACUNITE® (EREMA Vacurema® Basic + Polymetrix SSP V-LeaN)	09/02/2022
REC	EFSA-Q-2022-00090	Loreco Plast Recyclage S.A.S._VACUNITE® (EREMA Vacurema® Basic + Polymetrix SSP V-LeaN)	16/02/2022
REC	EFSA-Q-2022-00099	Langgeng_deCON	15/02/2022
REC	EFSA-Q-2022-00133	CPE_VACUNITE® (EREMA Vacurema® Basic + Polymetrix SSP V-LeaN)	21/02/2022
REC	EFSA-Q-2022-00162	Plastrec_Polymetrix	25/02/2022
REC	EFSA-Q-2022-00163	Zhejiang Huafei Recycling Resources Co., Ltd._VACUNITE® (EREMA Vacurema® Basic + Polymetrix SSP V-LeaN)	24/02/2022
REC	EFSA-Q-2022-00181	RE–PETKunststoffrecycling_Gneuss4	04/03/2022
REC	EFSA-Q-2022-00187	ISKO_Gneuss4	04/03/2022
REC	EFSA-Q-2022-00188	Envicco Limited_EREMA VACUREMA® Basic + Bühler/Polymetrix SSP LeaN	04/03/2022
REC	EFSA-Q-2022-00191	Alef Recycling_Starlinger iV+	07/03/2022
REC	EFSA-Q-2022-00197	Intco Malaysia Sdn. Bhd._VACUNITE® (EREMA Vacurema® Basic + Polymetrix SSP V-LeaN)	09/03/2022
REC	EFSA-Q-2022-00202	ineos-styrolution_twin screw degassing extrusion	11/03/2022

8.2. Valid questions since the 26th CEP Plenary:

The following 10 new mandates have been validated since the 26th CEP Plenary meeting.

Food Sector	EFSA-Q-Number	Subject	Reception date
REC	EFSA-Q-2021-00268	Poly Recycling AG_Vacurema Basic	14/02/2022
REC	EFSA-Q-2021-00411	Craemer_Erema HDPE regrind pro plus refresher	18/03/2022
REC	EFSA-Q-2021-00479	Plastipak Iberia_(VACUNITE)	22/02/2022

REC	EFSA-Q-2021-00575	4PET's recycling BV_EREMA Basic technology	04/03/2022
REC	EFSA-Q-2021-00626	Duy Tan Plastic Recycling_Starlinger iV+	11/03/2022
REC	EFSA-Q-2021-00637	Derchia D.C. Plastics_Starlinger deCON	16/03/2022
REC	EFSA-Q-2021-00686	EcoBlue_PET direct iV+	23/02/2022
REC	EFSA-Q-2021-00784	Renovapet_Vacunite (EREMA VACUREMA BASIC + Polymetrix SSP VLEAN)	01/03/2022
REC	EFSA-Q-2021-00786	Basatli_Starlinger iV+	23/03/2022
REC	EFSA-Q-2021-00158	Poly Recycling AG recycling process (VACUREMA(r) Advanced) to produce recycled plastic for food contact uses	10/02/2022

8.3. Withdrawn questions since the 26th CEP Plenary:

None.

9. Other scientific topics for information and/or discussion

The EFSA scientific opinion of the Scientific Panel on Plant Protection Products and their Residues (PPR Panel) on testing and Interpretation of Comparative *in vitro* metabolism studies (2021) was presented to the CEP Panel.

10. Any Other business

None.