



FOOD INGREDIENTS AND PACKAGING UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND FLAVOURINGS (FAF)

MINUTES OF THE 28TH PLENARY MEETING

Held on 30-31 March & 1 April January 2022

Online meeting

(Agreed by written procedure on 19 April 2022)

Participants

■ Panel Members:

Gabriele Aquilina, Laurence Castle, Karl-Heinz Engel, Paul Fowler¹, Maria Jose Frutos Fernandez², Peter Fürst, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Rainer Gürtler, Trine Husøy, Melania Manco, Wim Mennes, Peter Moldeus, Sabina Passamonti, Romina Shah¹, Dina (Ine) Waalkens-Berendsen, 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: Kathleen Baert, Stylianos Kolouris and Jiri Sochor

■ Hearing Experts: Romualdo Benigni, Polly Boon and Joop de Knecht (for agenda item 6.5)

■ EFSA:

FIP Unit: Valeriu Curtui, Maria Carfi, Consuelo Civitella, Antonio Rivas Cornejo, Christina Kyrkou, Marcello Laganaro, Federica Lodi, Carla Martino, Agnieszka Mech, Salvatore Samuele Multari, Ana Maria Rincon, Laura Ruggeri, Camilla Smeraldi, Alkiviadis Stagkos-Georgiadis, Alexandra Tard, Giorgia Vianello

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants in the meeting. Apologies were received from Maria Jose Frutos Fernandez for the 31st of March and from Paul Fowler for the afternoon session of the 31st and for the 1st of April.

¹ Apologies 31st March PM and 1st April

² Apologies 31st March



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 Independence³ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁴, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Panel 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 27th Plenary meeting held on 25 January 2022, as online meeting

The minutes of the 27th FAF Plenary meeting held on 25 January 2022 were agreed by written procedure on 8 February 2022⁵.

5. Report on written procedures since 27th 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 amendment of the specifications for the food additive polyglycerol esters of fatty acids (E 475) (EFSA-Q-2021-00563)

The draft opinion on the amendment of the specifications for the food additive polyglycerol esters of fatty acids (E 475) as a follow-up to its re-evaluation, was presented to the members of the Panel together with the main points for discussion.

The Panel discussed the different parts of the assessment and unanimously adopted the opinion, subject to incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting.

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

6.2. Scientific opinion on the amendment of the specifications for the food additive polyglycerol polyricinoleate (E 476) (EFSA-Q-2021-00559) and on its proposed extension of use in edible ices and emulsified sauces (EFSA-Q-2021-00400)

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁴ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁵ https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2022-02/220125_m.pdf



The draft opinion on the amendment of the specifications for the food additive polyglycerol polyricinoleate (E 476) as a follow-up to its re-evaluation and on its proposed extension of use in edible ices and emulsified sauces, was presented to the members of the Panel together with the main points for discussion.

The Panel discussed the different parts of the assessment and unanimously adopted the opinion, subject to incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting.

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

6.3. Scientific opinion on the safety of the proposed amendment of the specifications for enzymatically produced steviol glycosides (E 960c): Rebaudioside D produced via enzymatic bioconversion of purified stevia leaf extract (EFSA-Q-2020-00520)

The draft opinion on the safety of the proposed amendment of the specifications for enzymatically produced steviol glycosides (E 960c) to cover Rebaudioside D produced via enzymatic bioconversion of purified stevia leaf extract, was presented to the members of the Panel together with the main points for discussion.

The Panel discussed the different parts of the assessment and unanimously adopted the opinion, subject to incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting.

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

SMOKE FLAVOURING

6.4. Scientific opinion on the safety of the new smoke flavouring primary product Prosmoke BW 01 (EFSA-Q-2019-00441)

The draft opinion on the safety of the new smoke flavouring primary product Prosmoke BW 01, was presented to the members of the Panel together with the main points for discussion. The Panel discussed the different parts of the assessment and unanimously adopted the opinion, subject to incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting.

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

FLAVOURING

6.5. Update of EFSA guidance on the data required for the risk assessment of flavourings (EFSA-Q-2021-00289)

Further to the discussion at the previous plenary meeting, the Panel discussed the proposed draft guidance document on the data required for the risk assessment of flavourings.



At the current meeting, the Panel reviewed the different sections of the draft guidance and unanimously endorsed the document, subject to incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting.

The draft guidance will be released for public consultation on the Authority's webpage for a period of eight weeks, i.e., between April and June 2022.

A technical hearing with the relevant stakeholders and interested parties is planned during the public consultation phase as a virtual meeting, aimed at exchanging views on the content of the draft guidance document and to discuss the comments raised during the public consultation. An on-line registration form will be made available on the EFSA website to allow the registration of interested participants.

The draft guidance, revised to take into account the comments received during the public consultation phase, will be presented to the Panel at a forthcoming plenary meeting, with the aim of finalising it by the end of November 2022.

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

The FAF Panel discussed proposals of topics to be included in the work programme of the Scientific Committee for 2022-2024.

The experts of the Panel were invited to complete the survey launched by the Scientific Committee on the possible update of the Guidance on selected default values to be used by the EFSA Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and Units in the absence of actual measured data.

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 received feedback on the outcome of three calls for data related to the re-evaluation of sweeteners that were closed since the last plenary meeting.

- [Call for technical data on saccharin and its sodium, potassium and calcium salts \(E 954\) closed on 22 February 2022](#)
- [Call for technical data on sucralose \(E 955\) closed on 22 February 2022](#)
- [Call for data on genotoxicity data on sweeteners closed on 31 March 2022](#)

An overview of the responses received from the interested parties (IPs) was distributed to the Panel for information.

Responses to the two calls for technical data were received for both saccharins (E 954) and sucralose (E 955), and two IPs have submitted data by the deadline.



With respect to the call for data on genotoxicity, expressions of interests have been received for all the substances included in the call.

The requested data were submitted on time for: acesulfame K (E 950) by one IP; isomalt (E 953) by one IP; lactitol (E 966) by one IP and xylitol (E 967) by three different IPs.

The Panel was informed of a slight delay (until end of April 2022) for the submission of the requested data for neohesperidine DC (E 959).

More delays in the data submission were instead anticipated by IPs expressing an interest in: sodium cyclamate (E 952ii) and the metabolite cyclohexylamine by one IP (until July 2022); neotame (E 961) by one IP (until the end of September 2022); sucralose (E 955) and its degradation/hydrolysis product 1,6-dichloro-1,6-dideoxyfructose by two different IPs (one until July 2022, the other until end of November 2022); isomalt (E 953) by a second IP (until March 2023).

The justifications provided by the IPs for the delays in the submission of the data requested were mainly related to the unavailability of testing facilities, still heavily affected by the COVID-19 pandemic situation.

The WG Sweeteners will now integrate the data received in the ongoing assessments. For what concerns the technical data, the WG Specifications will be asked to support with their assessment.

8.2. EFSA including its Working Groups/Task Forces

The FAF Panel was made aware that, in parallel to the plenary meeting, an EFSA "Stakeholder workshop on small particles and nanoparticles in food" was being held to present to stakeholders and experts involved in the field of nanoscience and nanotechnologies the two recently published EFSA Nano Guidance documents.

Presentations and recording of the workshop will be made available on the EFSA's website⁶.

8.3. European Commission

Nothing to report.

9. New mandates

The Panel was informed of the following new mandate on food additives received since the previous plenary meeting held on 25 January 2022:

- **EC request for scientific advice on laxative effects of erythritol under the currently authorised conditions of use for erythritol used in food in the EU ([EFSA-Q-2022-00219](#))**

The Panel noted that this new mandate will be handled by the existing WG Sweeteners, jointly with the re-evaluation of erythritol (E 968) ([EFSA-Q-2011-00730](#))

⁶ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/stakeholder-workshop-small-particles-and-nanoparticles-food>



In addition, the Panel was informed that the following applications were validated and will be allocated to the WG Flavourings for the drafting of the scientific opinions :

- **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 ([EFSA-Q-2021-00685](#))**
- **Request 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 ([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 ([EFSA-Q-2021-00684](#))**

No new applications were considered withdrawn since the previous plenary meeting held on 25 January 2022.

10. Any Other Business

None.