



FOOD INGREDIENTS AND PACKAGING UNIT

## SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND FLAVOURINGS (FAF)

### MINUTES OF THE 33<sup>rd</sup> PLENARY MEETING

**Held on 13 December 2022, Teleconference  
(Agreed by written procedure on 4 January 2023)**

#### Participants

■ Panel Members:

Gabriele Aquilina, Laurence Castle, Gisela Degen, Karl-Heinz Engel, Maria Jose Frutos Fernandez, Peter Fürst, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Rainer Gürtler, Trine Husøy, Melania Manco, Wim Mennes, Peter Moldeus, Sabina Passamonti, Romina Shah, Dina (Ine) Waalkens-Berendsen and Matthew Wright, 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

■ EFSA:

FIP Unit: Stefania Barmaz, Valeriu Curtui, Maria Carfi, Consuelo Civitella, Lorenzo D'Angelo, Christina Kyrkou, Federica Lodi, Carla Martino, Agnieszka Mech, Salvatore Samuele Multari, Vasantha Palaniappan, Ana Maria Rincon, Laura Ruggeri, Camilla Smeraldi, Alkiviadis Stagkos-Georgiadis, Alexandra Tard.

■ Hearing Expert:

Riccardo Crebelli for agenda item 6.2 and agenda item 8.1.1

#### 1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants in this web meeting.

Apologies were received from Paul Fowler on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2022 from 09h00 to 14h30.

#### 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>1</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management<sup>2</sup>, 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, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

#### **4. Agreement of the minutes of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Plenary meeting held on 8-9 November 2022, as online meeting**

The minutes of the 32<sup>nd</sup> FAF Plenary meeting held on 8-9 November 2022 were agreed by written procedure on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022<sup>3</sup>.

#### **5. Report on written procedures since 32<sup>nd</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 the re-evaluation of locust bean gum (E 410) as food additive in foods for infants below 16 weeks of age and follow-up of their re-evaluation as food additive for uses in foods for all population groups. (EFSA-Q-2018-00095)**

Further to the previous discussion held at the 29<sup>th</sup> Panel plenary meeting in May 2022, the revised draft opinion on the re-evaluation of locust bean gum (E 410) as a food additive in foods for infants below 16 weeks of age and follow-up of its re-evaluation as a food additive for uses in foods for all population groups, 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 suggested during the meeting.

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

###### **6.2. Scientific opinion on the re-evaluation of maltitol (E 965 i, ii) (EFSA-Q-2011-00755; EFSA-Q-2017-00490)**

Further to the initial discussion held at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Panel Plenary meeting in June 2021, the hearing expert and member of the Panel WG on Sweeteners, Riccardo Crebelli, joined the current plenary meeting for this agenda point to address questions from the Panel concerning

<sup>1</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>2</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>3</sup> <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2022-12/081122-m.pdf>



an updated assessment of the genotoxicity data available for the re-evaluation of the sweetener maltitols (E 965i,ii).

The preliminary assessment of the available genotoxicity data had not highlighted the need for additional data and the dataset was considered adequate with respect to current standards, as previously discussed by the FAF Panel. However, following a full assessment of the reliability and relevance of the available genotoxicity studies for maltitols (E 965 i,ii), performed according to the criteria stipulated in the protocol on hazard identification and characterisation of the sweeteners and the approach for assessing genotoxicity studies, the need for additional genotoxicity data has been identified.

In particular, the lack of a fully reliable *in vitro* micronucleus test, as requested by the 2012 ANS Panel guidance for submission for food additive evaluations, was noted. This data gap was not covered by the available *in vivo* studies (micronucleus or chromosome aberration assays), which were evaluated by the Sweeteners WG as inconclusive due to the lack of demonstration of exposure of the target cells to the test chemical.

Thus, as a follow-up to this meeting, the Panel agreed to launch an additional open call for data to invite interested business operators and other interested parties to submit the requested information to fill the data gaps identified during the re-evaluation of maltitols (E 965i,ii). In particular, a new *in vitro* micronucleus (MN) assay according to OECD guidelines will be requested for the completion of the *in vitro* basic test battery, in accordance with the current guidelines.

## FOOD FLAVOURINGS

### **6.3. Scientific opinion on FGE.21 Rev6 (EFSA-Q-2014-00680;-681)**

At the current plenary meeting the FAF Panel was presented for the first time with a draft scientific opinion on Flavouring Group Evaluation 21, Revision 6 (FGE.21 Rev6): thiazoles, thiophenes, thiazoline and thienyl derivatives from chemical groups 29 and 30.

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

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

### **6.4. Scientific opinion on FGE.76 Rev2 (EFSA-Q-2014-00675;-676;-677;-678-679;-682;-683)**

Further to the initial discussion held at the previous plenary meeting in November 2022, the revised draft opinion on FGE.76Rev2 (Consideration of sulphur-containing heterocyclic compounds, evaluated by JECFA, structurally related to thiazoles, thiophenes, thiazoline and thienyl derivatives from chemical group 29 and miscellaneous substances from chemical group 30 evaluated by EFSA in FGE.21Rev5), 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 suggested during the meeting.



The full 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

Nothing to report.

#### 8.1.1. FAF Panel Working Groups

In addition to what was already included in the minutes of the [FAF Panel WG meetings](#), the Panel received an update from:

- WG Sweeteners: the Hearing Expert Riccardo Crebelli was asked by the Panel to provide a progress update on the ongoing assessment of the data provided by the interested business operators and other interested parties in response to earlier calls for data on genotoxicity published by EFSA.
- WG Flavourings: the view of the Panel was sought with respect to the possible approach to be followed for the risk assessment of PAHs contained in the smoke flavourings products currently under assessment for their renewal. This topic was brought to the attention of the Panel also for its potential relevance to the new mandate on vegetable carbon (E 153) (see agenda item 9).

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

#### 8.2.1. Feedback from the EFSA Emerging Risk Identification system

This agenda item was not discussed due to lack of time and will be scheduled again at a forthcoming plenary meeting.

### 8.3. European Commission

Agenda item not discussed due to lack of time.

## 9. New mandates

The Panel was informed of the following new application dossiers/mandates received since the last plenary meeting in November 2022 and still under validation/acceptance:



### **Food additives:**

- **Pea fibre concentrate (FIPPEA) [EFSA-Q-2022-00795](#)**

This new application for the proposed use of pea fibre concentrate as a new food additive is under consideration by EFSA. Pending confirmation of the validity of the application, the scientific assessment will be carried out by the WG Food Additives Applications.

### **Food flavourings:**

- **Hesperetin dihydrochalcone [EFSA-Q-2022-00825](#)**

This new application for the proposed use of hesperetin dihydrochalcone as a new food flavouring is under consideration by EFSA. Pending confirmation of the validity of the application, the scientific assessment will be carried out by the WG Flavourings.

The Panel was informed of the following new application dossiers/mandates considered valid/accepted since the last plenary meeting.

### **Food additives:**

- **Request for a scientific opinion from the European Food Safety Authority as regards the specifications of the food additive vegetable carbon (E 153) [EFSA-Q-2022-00830](#)**

As presented at the previous plenary meeting, this new mandate from the European Commission has been allocated to the WG Specifications for the assessment of the data submitted by the interested business operators in response to the call issued by the European Commission in December 2020 to follow-up on the earlier ANS Panel opinion on the re-evaluation of vegetable carbon (E 153).

### **Smoke flavourings:**

- **Full transfer of the holding authorization of smoke flavouring primary product "SF-007" [EFSA-Q-2022-00832](#)**

This mandate (M-2022-00200) from a Member State refers to a request for the full transfer of the holding authorization of smoke flavouring primary product "SF-007". Since this request concerns only the change of administrative data, an opinion of the Panel is not needed.

## **10. Any Other Business**

None