

# SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND FLAVOURINGS (FAF)

35<sup>th</sup> FAF Panel meeting



10-11 May 2023

09:00-18:00 / 09:00-13:00

MINUTES (Agreed on 30 May 2023)

**Location:** Teleconference

**Attendees:**

○ FAF Panel Members:

Gabriele Aquilina, Laurence Castle, Gisela Degen, Karl-Heinz Engel, Paul Fowler, 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:

DG SANTE (Health and Food Safety), E2 Food processing technologies and novel foods: Katleen Baert, Stylianos Kolouris and Jiri Sochor

○ EFSA:

Food Ingredients and Packaging (FIP) Unit: Stefania Barmaz, Valeriu Curtui, Maria Carfi, Consuelo Civitella, Lorenzo D'Angelo, Gabriele Gagliardi, Christina Kyrkou, Federica Lodi, Carla Martino, Agnieszka Mech, Salvatore Samuele Multari, Vasantha Palaniappan, Ana Maria Rincon, Laura Ruggeri, Camilla Smeraldi, Alexandra Tard, Panagiota Zakidou.

## 1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.  
No Apologies were received.

## 2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

## 3. Declarations of Interest of 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 34<sup>th</sup> FAF Panel meeting held on 21-22 March 2023, in Parma or via web-conference

The minutes of the [34<sup>th</sup> FAF Panel meeting](#) were agreed by written procedure on 4 January 2023.

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<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)



## 5. Report on written procedures since 34<sup>th</sup> 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. Scientific opinion on the safety of the food additive steviol glycosides produced by fermentation using *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* Reb M (E 960) ([EFSA-Q-2021-00357](#))

The draft opinion on the evaluation of the food additive steviol glycosides produced by fermentation using *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* Reb M was presented for the first time to the members of the Panel, along with a presentation on the main points for discussion.

During the discussion, the Panel considered that additional information should be requested from the applicant in order to complete the assessment.

Pending submission of the additional information requested, the draft opinion will be further developed by the Working Group Applications.

### 6.2. Scientific opinion on the renewal of the authorisation of Scansmoke SEF7525 (SF-004) as a smoke flavouring primary product ([EFSA-Q-2022-00421](#))

The draft opinion on the renewal of the authorisation of Scansmoke SEF7525 (SF-004) as a smoke flavouring primary product was presented for the first time to the members of the Panel, along with a presentation on the main points for discussion.

The Panel discussed the preliminary assessment of the technical data, and endorsed the respective sections of the draft opinion, subject to incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting and with the exception of those sections of the draft opinion still to be finalised by the Working Group.

Based on the comments received during the current plenary meeting the draft opinion will be further elaborated by the Working Group and will be scheduled for possible further discussion at a forthcoming Plenary meeting.

### 6.3. Re-evaluation of Sorbitols (E 420) ([EFSA-Q-2011-00644](#); [EFSA-Q-2011-00645](#))

Further to the initial discussion held at the 23rd Panel Plenary meeting in June 2021, the hearing experts and members of the Panel WG on Sweeteners, Riccardo Crebelli and Kevin Chipman, joined the current plenary meeting for this agenda point to address questions from the Panel concerning an updated assessment of the genotoxicity data available for the re-evaluation of the sweetener sorbitols (sorbitol, E 420i and sorbitol syrup, E420ii).

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 sorbitols (E 420 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, 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. 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 sorbitols (E 420i,ii).



#### **6.4. Scientific opinion on the renewal of the authorisation of Fumokomp (SF-009) as a smoke flavouring primary product ([EFSA-Q-2022-00414](#))**

Further to the initial discussion at the previous plenary meeting, the Panel considered the draft opinion on the renewal of the authorisation of Fumokomp (SF-009) as a smoke flavouring primary product.

The Panel discussed the preliminary assessment of the technical data, of the proposed uses and use levels, of the dietary exposure and of the genotoxicity data and endorsed the respective sections of the draft opinion, subject to incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting and with the exception of those sections of the draft opinion still to be finalised by the Working Group.

Based on the comments received during the current plenary meeting the draft opinion will be further elaborated by the Working Group and will be scheduled for possible discussion and adoption at a forthcoming Plenary meeting.

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

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

Not discussed due to lack of time.

### **7.2. FAF Panel Working Groups /Task Forces**

The FAF Panel noted an updated workplan covering the final 12 months of the Panel in its current composition.

Proposed dates for the plenary meetings in 2024 were discussed and agreed, as well as proposals for holding physical meetings in Parma in 2023 and in 2024.

### **7.3. EFSA**

This item was not discussed due to lack of time.

### **7.4. European Commission**

This item was not discussed due to lack of time.

## **8. New mandates**

### **8.1. New questions received since the 34<sup>th</sup> FAF Plenary**

The following new mandate has been received since the 34<sup>th</sup> FAF Plenary meeting.

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Food Sector	EFSA-Q-Number	Subject	Reception date
FLAV	<a href="#">EFSA-Q-2023-00296</a>	Request for the evaluation of the flavouring substance 3a,4,5,7a-tetrahydro-3,6-dimethylbenzofuran-2(3H)-one [FL-no: 10.057] through the Procedure in the Flavouring Group Evaluation 80 Revision 2 (FGE.80Rev2)	26/04/2023

This mandate is the second step of the evaluation procedure triggered by the publication of the scientific opinion on the FGE.217 Rev 3, adopted by the FAF Panel at its plenary meeting in March 2023. The drafting of the scientific output will be assigned to the WG Flavourings.

### 8.2. Valid questions since the 34<sup>th</sup> FAF Plenary:

The following 2 new applications have been validated since the 34<sup>th</sup> FAF Plenary meeting.

Food Sector	EFSA-Q-Number	Subject	Validity date
FLAV	<a href="#">EFSA-Q-2022-00825</a>	Hesperetin dihydrochalcone	23/03/2023
FA	<a href="#">EFSA-Q-2022-00795</a>	Pea fibre concentrate (FIPEA)	12/04/2023

Both applications have been submitted under Regulation (EC) No 1331/2008 (i.e. the Common Authorisation Procedure) and the drafting of the scientific outputs will be assigned to the WG Flavourings and the WG on Food Additives Applications, respectively.

### 8.3. Withdrawn questions since the 34<sup>th</sup> FAF Plenary:

None.

## 9. Other scientific topics for information and/or discussion

This item was not discussed due to lack of time.

## 10. Any other business

None.

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