

5-7 December 2023

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

MINUTES (Agreed on 22 December 2023)

Location: Teleconference

Attendees:

- CEP Panel Members:
José Manuel Barat Baviera, Claudia Bolognesi, Andrew Chesson, Pier Sandro Cocconcelli, David Gott, Konrad Grob, Claude Lambré (Chair for 5th and 6th December), Evgenia Lampi, Marcel Mengelers, Alicja Mortensen (chair for 7th December), Gilles Rivière, Inger-Lise Steffensen, Henk Van Loveren, Laurence Vernis and Holger Zorn
- European Commission:
Bastiaan Schupp, Catherine Evrein
- EFSA:
Food Ingredients and Packaging (FIP) Unit: Jaime Aguilera, Magdalena Andryszkiewicz, Eric Barthélémy, Daniele Cavanna, Marianna Ciccone, Gian Luca Colombo, Daniele Comandella, Ana Criado, Valeriu-Georghe Curtui, Julia Fontan Vela, Arianna Gallo, Ana Gomes, Natalia Kovalkovicova, Alexandros Lioupis, Yi Liu, Simone Lunardi, Remigio Marano, Eleonora Marini, Silvia Peluso, Sandra Rainieri, Laura Sanmartín, Elisa Savini, Vasiliki Sfika, Emmanouil Tsochatzis, Katharina Volk

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Christina Tlustos - whole meeting; Henk Van Loveren from the 6th December morning until the 7th December; Pier Sandro Cocconcelli on 5th December from 9:00 to 11:00 and 6th December from 11:00 to 12:00 and the 7th December from 09:00 to 11:00; Claude Lambré on 7th December.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Panel members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², 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.

¹ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



4. Agreement of the minutes of the 39th CEP Panel meeting held on 24-26 October 2023 via web-conference

The minutes of the [39th CEP Panel meeting](#) were agreed by written procedure on 14th November 2023.

5. Report on written procedures since 39th Plenary meeting

None.

6. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion and possible adoption

6.1. Scientific guidance on the criteria for the evaluation of post-consumer mechanical PET recycling processes intended to be used for manufacture of materials and articles in contact with food ([EFSA-Q-2023-00351](#))

The CEP Panel discussed all parts of the draft Guidance. The Guidance was unanimously endorsed for target consultation to Member States, subject to the incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting and editorial changes.

6.2. Maltogenic amylase from a genetically modified strain of *Bacillus subtilis* strain BABSC ([EFSA-Q-2017-00546](#))

The CEP Panel discussed all parts of the draft opinion. The opinion was unanimously adopted, subject to the incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting and editorial changes.

6.3. Transglutaminase from the non-genetically modified *Streptomyces mobaraensis* strain M2020197 ([EFSA-Q-2021-00651](#))

The CEP Panel discussed all parts of the draft opinion. The opinion was unanimously adopted, subject to the incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting and editorial changes.

6.4. Leucyl aminopeptidase from the *Aspergillus oryzae* strain AE-MB ([EFSA-Q-2014-00114](#))

The CEP Panel discussed all parts of the draft opinion. The opinion was unanimously adopted, subject to the incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting and editorial changes.

6.5. Bromelain from *Ananas comosus* II ([EFSA-Q-2023-00001](#))

The CEP Panel discussed all parts of the draft opinion. The opinion was unanimously endorsed. The adoption will take place after EFSA has completed the public consultation and reached a decision on the confidentiality requests formulated by the applicant.

6.6. Leucyl aminopeptidase from non-GM *Aspergillus oryzae* strain NZYM-EX ([EFSA-Q-2015-00373](#))

The CEP Panel discussed all parts of the draft opinion. The opinion was unanimously adopted, subject to the incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting and editorial changes.

6.7. Safety evaluation of an extension of use of the food enzyme containing cellulase, endo-1,3(4)- β -glucanase and endo-1,4- β -xylanase from the non-genetically modified *Trichoderma reesei* strain AR-256 ([EFSA-Q-2023-00386](#))

The CEP Panel discussed all parts of the draft opinion. The opinion was unanimously adopted, subject to the incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting and editorial changes.



6.8. Mucorpepsin from *Rhizomucor miehei* strain FRO - data package DSM Food Specialties BV ([EFSA-Q-2023-00017](#))

The CEP Panel discussed all parts of the draft opinion. The opinion was unanimously adopted, subject to the incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting and editorial changes.

6.9. 3-Phytase from *Aspergillus niger* strain NPH ([EFSA-Q-2022-00193](#))

The CEP Panel discussed all parts of the draft opinion. The opinion was unanimously adopted, subject to the incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting and editorial changes.

6.10. Phosphoinositide phospholipase C from the genetically modified *Pseudomonas fluorescens* strain PIC ([EFSA-Q-2021-00654](#))

The CEP Panel discussed all parts of the draft opinion. The opinion was unanimously adopted, subject to the incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting and editorial changes.

6.11. Beta-galactosidase from *Papiliotrema terrestris* AE-BLC ([EFSA-Q-2022-00190](#))

The CEP Panel discussed all parts of the draft opinion. The opinion was unanimously adopted, subject to the incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting and editorial changes.

6.12. Endo-1,4- β -xylanase from the genetically modified *Bacillus velezensis* strain AR-112 ([EFSA-Q-2022-00194](#))

The CEP Panel discussed all parts of the draft opinion. The opinion was unanimously adopted, subject to the incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting and editorial changes.

6.13. Recycling process Reciclar (EREMA Basic) ([EFSA-Q-2022-00286](#))

The CEP Panel discussed all parts of the draft opinion. The opinion was unanimously adopted, subject to the incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting and editorial changes.

6.14. Recycling process Novatex (Vacurema Basic) ([EFSA-Q-2022-00267](#))

The CEP Panel discussed all parts of the draft opinion. The opinion was unanimously adopted, subject to the incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting and editorial changes.

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

7.1 Scientific Committee

7.1.1 Workprogram of the Scientific Committee

The CEP Panel was presented with the workprogram for 2024: the guidance on the margin of exposure will be revised; work will continue to develop guidance documents on read across, on risk benefit assessment and on appraising and integrating evidence from epidemiological studies for use in EFSA's scientific assessments. It was also explained the process used by the Scientific Committee to develop, review or update cross-cutting guidance documents that are relevant to several EFSA panels.

7.1.2 WG of the Scientific Committee on biomarkers of effect

The CEP Panel was informed about the on-going work to develop a guidance on the use of biomarkers of effect in regulatory risk assessment of chemicals. The project timeline and phases were explained.

7.2 European Commission



None.

7.3 Update from CEP Panel Working groups

7.3.1. 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](#).

7.3.2. 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](#).

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

No additional issues were brought to the attention of the CEP Panel further to what is already recorded in the [minutes of the WG](#).

7.3.4. CEP WG on Enzymes

The CEP Panel was introduced to the Food Enzyme Intake Module (FEIM) via a live demo. This web-based tool will be released to the public for testing. The registration for interest will be open in EFSA website no later than February 2024.

No additional issues were brought to the attention of the CEP Panel. The progress on dossier evaluation is recorded in the [minutes of the WG](#).

7.3.5. CEP WG on Bacillus AMR

This WG was newly established in November 2023. The objective is to establish a catalogue of AMR genes in *Bacillus* spp. with a bioinformatic tool, which implements the criteria established by the BIOHAZ panel for QPS qualification on 'acquired antimicrobial resistance genes'. The deliverable is planned no later than June 2024. The progress of the work is recorded in the [minutes of the WG](#).

7.4 Updates from EFSA

7.4.1 QPS qualification on 'acquired antimicrobial resistance genes'

The CEP Panel was informed about the recent publication of a Statement on "how to interpret the QPS qualification on 'acquired antimicrobial resistance genes'" by the BIOHAZ Panel. The principles and criteria for guiding the EFSA risk assessment of AMR genes were explained.

7.4.2 Guidance on microorganism characterisation

A new mandate was presented to the CEP Panel in relation to the risk assessment of microorganisms that are used in the food chain for different purposes. The assessments are linked to requests for authorisation of the products under the applicable Regulations; the products evaluated may contain the microorganism, be prepared from, or obtained with the microorganism, and the microorganisms can be genetically modified or not. EFSA considers it necessary to have one scientific guidance document detailing the requirements for the risk assessment of microorganisms that could be applied across sectors. As the Scientific Committee plays a major role in harmonising practices across areas, it was proposed that the Scientific Committee prepares a guidance document on the risk assessment of microorganisms used in the food chain to be applied across sectors. The Scientific Committee agreed on the proposal and a self-task will be prepared. At this regard, it is intended that the WG on microbiology from the FEEDAP Panel with experts from other Panels will prepare the draft



guidance for the consideration of the relevant EFSA Panels and finally for the endorsement and adoption by the Scientific Committee.

8. AoB

The CEP Panel celebrated its achievements in 2023.