

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND FLAVOURINGS (FAF)

43rd FAF Panel meeting



31 January 2024

09:00-18:00

MINUTES (Agreed on 16 February 2023)

Location: Teleconference

Attendees:

- Panel Members:
Laurence Castle, Gisela Degen, Karl-Heinz Engel, María José Frutos Fernández, Peter Fürst, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Rainer Gürtler, Trine Husoy, Melania Manco, Wim Mennes, Peter Moldeus, Sabina Passamonti, Romina Shah, Dina (Ine) Waalkens-Berendsen, Matthew Wright and Maged Younes
 - EFSA: Food Ingredients and Packaging (FIP) Unit: Stefania Barmaz, Dino Borana, Valeriu Curtui, Maria Carfi, Consuelo Civitella, Gabriele Gagliardi, Federica Lodi, Carla Martino, Elena Mazzoli, Agnieszka Mech, Salvatore Samuele Multari, Josef Rasinger, Ana Rincon, Laura Ruggeri, Camilla Smeraldi, Alexandra Tard, Sam Vermeiren and Panagiota Zakidou
- Methodology and Scientific Support Unit (MESE) Unit: Maria Chiara Astuto, Irene Cattaneo, Sara Levorato and Alexis Nathaniel

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair of the FAF Panel welcomed the participants. No apologies were received for the current meeting.

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.

Certain interests were declared orally by the members before the beginning of the meeting. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Oral Declaration(s) of Interest made at the beginning of the meeting, please refer to the Annex.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 42nd FAF Panel Plenary meeting held on 12 December 2023.

The minutes of the [42nd Panel plenary meeting](#) were agreed by written procedure on 22nd December 2023.

5. Report on written procedure

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



Not applicable

6. Scientific output(s) submitted for discussion/adoption

6.1 Draft opinion on the evaluation of the new flavouring substance Naringenin (CAS: 480-41-1) ([EFSA-Q-2017-00001](#))

The draft opinion on the evaluation of the new flavouring substance Naringenin (CAS: 480-41-1) was presented for the first time to the members of the Panel.

The Panel discussed the preliminary assessment of the technical data, the exposure assessment, and parts of the biological and toxicological 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 Flavourings.

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.

6.2 Draft opinion on the re-evaluation of silicon dioxide (E 551) as a food additive in foods for infants below 16 weeks of age and follow-up of its re-evaluation as food additive for uses in foods for all population groups ([EFSA-Q-2018-00526](#))

An update on the ongoing assessment was presented to the FAF Panel alongside some points for discussion arising from the different activities that took place at the level of the several Working Groups involved in the preparation of this scientific output since the last plenary meeting.

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

7. Update on new Mandates

- New questions received since the 41st FAF Plenary:**

Food Sector	EFSA-Q-Number	Subject	Creation date
FA	2023-00903	Application for the authorisation of natural propionate ferment as a new food additive	21.12.2023
FA	2023-00904	Application for the authorisation of fibre extracted from whitebutton mushrooms (<i>Agaricus bisporus</i>) as a new food additive	21.12.2023

- Valid questions since the 41st FAF Plenary:**

Food Sector	EFSA-Q-Number	Subject	Validity date
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FA	2023-00594	Application for the extension of use of the food additive steviol glycosides	18.01.2024
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- **Withdrawn questions since the 41st FAF Plenary:**

None

8. Feedback from the Scientific Committee/ Scientific Panels/EFSA/ EC

8.1 Scientific Committee

None

8.2 European Commission

The Panel was reminded that the EC SCCS (Scientific Committee on Consumer Safety) has published a [Preliminary Scientific Advice on Titanium dioxide \(TiO₂\)](#). The document is open for comments until 6 February 2024.

8.3 Scientific Panel(s) including their Working Groups

Draft Scientific opinion of the EFSA Scientific Panel on Nutrition, Novel Foods and Food Allergens (NDA) on the revision of the Tolerable Upper Intake Level (UL) for Vitamin A and β -Carotene (EFSA-Q-2021-00365/EFSA-Q-2021-00372)

The FAF Panel was consulted by the NDA Panel on the draft scientific opinion on the revision of the ULs for Vitamin A and β -Carotene, ahead of its endorsement for public consultation. The draft NDA Panel opinion is in fact related to the food additive.

8.1.1 CONTAM Panel "[Update of the risk assessment of inorganic arsenic in food](#)"

The FAF Panel was informed of the publication of the scientific opinion of the CONTAM Panel on the risk assessment of inorganic arsenic in food. The Panel took note of the latest conclusions and agreed to implement a revised wording for the risk assessment of toxic elements present as impurities in the upcoming opinions on food additives and flavourings.

8.1.2 Preparatory meeting of FAF Panel and FAF WG Sweeteners discussion at WG Sweeteners on the genotoxicity assessment of the two sweeteners neotame (E 961) and sucralose (E 955).

The FAF Panel received an update from a preparatory meeting and the latest meeting of the WG Sweeteners on the ongoing assessment of the genotoxicity data on sucralose (E 955) and neotame (E 961) provided to EFSA for the re-evaluation of the safety of these two food additives. Preparation of the two draft opinions is still ongoing at the level of the Working Group.

8.1.3 FAF WG specifications

The FAF Panel was informed that the follow-up assessment on the food additive silver (E 174) had been put on hold, awaiting submission of additional data requested by the WG Specifications. However, the data requested have not been provided by the extended deadline and despite a reminder being sent to the IBO. In the absence of these data, the WG will resume its assessment and will finalise the opinion based on the information available.



9. Other scientific topics

9.1 Food additives re-evaluation under Regulation (EU) No 257/2010

The following agenda items could not be discussed due to lack of time.

- 9.1.1 Call for data for the re-evaluation of gluconic acid (E 574) and related food additives (E 575-579). (EFSA-Q-2011-00684; EFSA-Q-2011-00685; EFSA-Q-2011-00686; EFSA-Q-2011-00687; EFSA-Q-2011-00688; EFSA-Q-2011-00689).**
- 9.1.2 Call for data for the re-evaluation of ribonucleotides (E 626-635) (EFSA-Q-2011-00691; EFSA-Q-2011-00692; EFSA-Q-2011-00693; EFSA-Q-2011-00694; EFSA-Q-2011-00695; EFSA-Q-2011-00696; EFSA-Q-2011-00697; EFSA-Q-2011-00698; EFSA-Q-2011-00699; EFSA-Q-2011-00700).**
- 9.1.3 Call for data for the re-evaluation of food additives in gaseous form: carbon dioxide (E 290) (EFSA-Q-2011-00597); argon (E 938) (EFSA-Q-2011-00712); helium (E 939) (EFSA-Q-2011-00713); nitrogen (E 941) (EFSA-Q-2011-00714); nitrous oxide (E 942) (EFSA-Q-2011-00715); butane (E 943a) (EFSA-Q-2011-00716); isobutane (E 943b) (EFSA-Q-2011-00717); propane (E 944) (EFSA-Q-2011-00718); oxygen (E 948) (EFSA-Q-2011-00719); hydrogen (E 949) (EFSA-Q-2011-00720).**

10. AOB

None



ANNEX

With regard to this meeting, Prof Maria Jose Frutos declared the following interest with respect to agenda item 6.1: the expert took part in the JECFA evaluation of the flavouring agent naringenin in 2020. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, the interest above was not deemed to represent a Conflict of Interest for the expert concerned.

With respect to agenda item 8.3 and more specifically, on the consultation on the draft NDA Panel scientific opinion on the Tolerable Upper Intake Level of Vitamin A and β -Carotene, Dr Rainer Gürtler declared the following interest: the expert took part in the JECFA evaluation of the food additive β -carotene in 2019. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management and considering the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, the interest above was not deemed to represent a Conflict of Interest for the expert concerned.