

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND FLAVOURINGS (FAF)

44th FAF Panel meeting



21 February 2024

09:00-18:00

MINUTES (Agreed on 5 March 2024)

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, Valeriu Curtui, Maria Carfi, Consuelo Civitella, Borana Dino, Gabriele Gagliardi, Federica Lodi, Remigio Marano, 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, Sara Levorato and Daniela Maurici

Nutrition and Food Innovation (NIF) Unit: Andrea Germini, Georges Kass, Annamaria Rossi and Ermolaos Ververis

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair of the FAF Panel welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from T. Husoy for the whole duration of the current meeting and from I Waalkens for the whole duration of the morning session and part of the afternoon session.

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.

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 43rd FAF Panel Plenary meeting held on 31 January 2024.

The minutes of the [43rd Panel plenary meeting](#) were agreed by written procedure on 16th February 2024.

5. Report on written procedure

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](#))

Further to the discussion at the previous plenary meeting, a revised draft opinion was presented to the members of the Panel.

The Panel continued the discussion on the biological and toxicological data, the application of the Procedure and the assessment of acute, combined and cumulative exposure 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 43rd FAF Plenary:**

None

- **Valid questions since the 43rd FAF Plenary: 2**

Food Sector	EFSA-Q-Number	Subject	Validity date
FA	2023-00903	Application for the authorisation of natural propionate ferment as a new food additive.	16.02.2024



FA	2023-00546	Application for the modification of the food additive rebaudioside M from stevia leaves	16.02.2024
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8. Feedback from the Scientific Committee/ Scientific Panels/EFSA/ EC

8.1 Scientific Committee

The FAF Panel was informed that the following scientific outputs were endorsed by the SC at its last meeting held on 5-6 February 2024 and will be published for public consultation:

- Draft guidance on risk benefit assessment (EFSA-Q-2022-00211)
- Draft guidance on Epidemiological studies (EFSA-Q-2019-00200).

8.2 European Commission

None

8.3 Scientific Panel(s) including their Working Groups

8.3.1 Update of the Guidance on the preparation and submission of an application for authorisation of a novel food in the context of Regulation (EU) 2015/2283 (EFSA-Q-2023-00442)

The FAF Panel was consulted by the NIF Unit of EFSA, supporting the EFSA Scientific Panel on Nutrition, Novel Foods and Food Allergens (NDA) on their ongoing update of the Guidance on the preparation and submission of an application for authorisation of a novel food in the context of Regulation (EU) 2015/2283. This ongoing work is related to the self-task mandate initiated by the FAF Panel for updating the 2012 ANS Panel guidance applicable to the evaluation of food additives.

The outline of the draft guidance released for [public consultation](#) on 15 February 2024 was presented to the FAF Panel and Panel members were invited to provide comments.

In parallel, an exercise will be conducted to identify elements and/or approaches common to the 2012 ANS Panel guidance currently under revision and the 2022 FAF Panel guidance on flavourings that could benefit from an alignment across the different sectors.

8.3.2 FAF Panel WG Specifications/WG Miscellaneous

The Panel received brief feedback from WG Specifications and WG Miscellaneous with respect to the ongoing re-evaluation of shellac (E 904) that is awaiting a final set of data before being finalised for discussion and possible adoption at a forthcoming Plenary meeting, possibly in the first half of 2024.

9. Other scientific topics

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

The Panel received an update from EFSA on the responses received to the following three calls for data published in June 2023 and closing at the end of March 2024 for the submission of uses and use levels:

- Call for data for the re-evaluation of ribonucleotides (E 626-635) as food additives



- Call for data for the re-evaluation of gluconic acid (E 574) and related food additives (E 575-579)
- Call for data for the re-evaluation of food additives in gaseous form

All the three calls above had an intermediate deadline at the end of December 2023 for the submission of relevant information in line with the strategy for their re-evaluation defined by the FAF Panel at its [34th plenary meeting](#) in March 2023.

The Panel was informed that the information sought from interested parties with respect to the manufacturing process and related specifications was received only for a limited number of the food additives included in the calls. A further update will be provided after the closure of the call for data on uses and use levels.

Having looked at the substances that remain to be re-evaluated, the Panel was also consulted on the next group of food additives for which targeted calls for data could be prepared. In consideration of the overall workload of the Panel, the following food additives were identified as potential candidates for the next calls for data to be prepared:

- Malic acid and Malates (E 296; 350-352) (EFSA-Q-2011-00598; EFSA-Q-2011-00631; EFSA-Q-2011-00632; EFSA-Q-2011-00633; EFSA-Q-2011-00634; EFSA-Q-2011-00635)
- Fumaric acid (E 297) (EFSA-Q-2011-00599)
- Succinic acid (E 363) (EFSA-Q-2011-00641)
- Calcium disodium EDTA (E 385) (EFSA-Q-2011-00643)

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.