

20-22 March 2024

15:00-18:00 / 09:00-18:00 / 09:00-13:00

MINUTES (Agreed on 17 April 2024)

Location: EFSA, Parma

Attendees:

- Panel Members:
Laurence Castle, Gisela Degen, 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, Irene Cattaneo, Sara Levorato
FEEDCO Unit: Hans Steinkellner, Elisa Pettenati
- EC: Kathleen Baert, Stylianos Koulouris

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Wim Mennes, vice chair of the FAF Panel, chaired the present meeting and welcomed the Participants.

Apologies were received from K. H. Engel, P. Fowler and M. Younes for the whole duration of the current meeting, and T. Husoy on 20th March PM and R. Shah on 22nd March 2024.

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 44th FAF Panel Plenary meeting held on 21 February 2024.

The minutes of the [44th Panel plenary meeting](#) were agreed by written procedure on 5th March 2024.

5. Report on written procedure

Not applicable

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

6.1 Draft scientific 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, discussion and conclusion sections.

The opinion was unanimously adopted, subject to the incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting and editorial changes. The full text of the opinion will be available in the EFSA Journal.

6.2 Draft scientific opinion on the application for the authorisation of 2-methyl-1-(2-(5-(p-tolyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl)piperidin-1-yl)butan-1-one as a new food flavouring ([EFSA-Q-2022-00141](#))

The FAF 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. The full text of the opinion will be available in the EFSA Journal.

6.3 Draft opinion on the re-evaluation of guar gum (E 412) 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-2018-00096](#))

The FAF 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. The full text of the opinion will be available in the EFSA Journal.

6.4 Draft opinion on the re-evaluation of carrageenan (E 407) as a food additive in foods for infants below 16 weeks of age and follow-up of the re-evaluation of E 407 and processed Eucheuma seaweed (E 407a) as food additive for uses in foods for all population groups ([EFSA-Q-2018-00270](#); [EFSA-Q-2023-00576](#))

An update on the ongoing assessment and the additional data requested was presented to the FAF Panel. A steering from the Panel on the approach to carry out the safety assessment of these food additives, in particular regarding the content of low molecular weight fraction of carrageenan (molecular weight fraction below 50 kDa), for which a limit of 5% is indicated in the current specifications, and the additional data needed, was requested.

Based on the comments received during the current plenary meeting, the Working Group will continue with the assessment.



6.5 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.

6.6 Draft opinion on the re-evaluation of shellac (E 904) as a food additive ([EFSA-Q-2011-00705](#)) and on its proposed extension of use in dietary foods for special medical purposes ([EFSA-Q-2020-00327](#))

The draft opinion on the re-evaluation of shellac (E 904) was presented to the members of the Panel.

The Panel discussed the biological and toxicological data and endorsed the respective sections of the draft opinion, subject to incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting.

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.

6.7 Self-tasking mandate proposed to EFSA by the FAF Panel for a revision of the 2012 ANS Panel "Food Additive Guidance for submission for food additive evaluations" ([EFSA-Q-2023-00713](#))

This question refers to the self-task mandate of the Panel to update the EFSA 2012 "Guidance for submission for food additive evaluations".

Further to the discussion at the previous plenary meeting, comments received from members of the Panel regarding the tiered approach for ADME, genotoxicity and repeated-dose toxicity testing were discussed.

Based on the comments received during the current plenary meeting the draft document will be further elaborated and will be scheduled for discussion at a forthcoming Plenary meeting.

7. Update on new Mandates

• **New questions received since the 44th FAF Plenary:**

None

• **Valid questions since the 44th FAF Plenary:**

None

• **Questions withdrawn since the 44th FAF Plenary:**

None

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

8.1 Scientific Committee



None

8.2 European Commission

None

8.3 Scientific Panel(s) including their Working Groups

EFSA staff from the FEEDCO Unit presented the recent EFSA CONTAM opinion³ on the Update of the risk assessment of inorganic arsenic in food took place. The FAF Panel discussed how to consider the conclusion of the CONTAM opinion for the assessment of inorganic arsenic as an impurity of food additives and flavouring substances.

EFSA staff from the FEEDCO Unit presented the state of art of the ongoing work on "EFSA Guidance on microorganisms used in the food chain".

9. Other scientific topics

None

10. AOB

None

³ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/8488>



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.