

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND FLAVOURINGS (FAF) 50th FAF Panel Plenary meeting



2-4 July 2024

14:30-18:00 / 09:00-18:00 / 09:00-13:00

MINUTES (Agreed on 19th July 2024)

Location: EFSA, Parma

Chair: Laurence Castle

Attendees:

- Panel Members:
Monica Andreassen, Gabriele Aquilina, Maria Lourdes Bastos, Polly Boon, Laurence Castle, Biagio Fallico, Rex FitzGerald, María José Frutos Fernández, Bettina Grasl-Kraupp, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Rainer Gürtler, Eric Houdeau, Marcin Andrzej Kurek, Henriqueta Louro, Patricia Morales, Sabina Passamon
- EFSA:
Food Ingredients and Packaging (FIP) Unit: Stefania Barmaz, Valeriu Curtui, Maria Carfi, Consuelo Civitella, Borana Dino, 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: Lucian Farcacal
- European Commission (EC): Katleen Baert, Jiri Sochor

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Panel Coordinator 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 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.

4. Tour de table for introducing the members

The Panel members were invited to give a short introduction to their scientific background and specific areas of expertise. This was followed by an introduction of the EFSA staff supporting the work of the Panel.

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



5. Agreement of the minutes of the 49th Panel plenary meeting held on 25 June 2024

The minutes of the [49th Panel plenary meeting](#) were agreed by written procedure on 12 July 2024.

6. Report on written procedure

Not applicable

7. Work program of the FAF Panel 2024-2029

EFSA staff introduced the different areas of work under the remit of the FAF Panel and the prioritisation taking into account the timelines of the different regulatory procedures falling under the remit of the FAF Panel. The difference between the re-evaluation programme of food additives and the assessment of new application dossiers was presented.

The current work programme of the Panel resulting from the ongoing evaluation of new application dossiers, for food additives and flavourings, was indicated as well as for the re-evaluation of food additives. Information on the assessment of flavourings to be evaluated through the procedure was also presented.

8. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion and possible adoption

8.1 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](#))

EFSA staff presented an overview of the requirements of the different Guidance documents relevant to the areas of work under the remit of the FAF Panel. Information on the general approach for the assessment of the technical, biological and toxicological data and calculation of the dietary exposure was provided.

General information on the status of the revision of the Guidance on Food Additives was presented as well as the expected timelines for its finalisation.

A draft document will be presented for discussion at a forthcoming FAF Panel meeting.

8.2 Draft opinion on the safety in use of curdlan as a food additive ([EFSA-Q-2017-00024](#))

The FAF Panel discussed the sections related to the technical data, exposure assessment and toxicological data of the draft opinion on the safety assessment of curdlan proposed as a new food additive.

The Panel also discussed and agreed on the approach for the conclusions on the safety of the proposed food additive based on the available data. Due to time constraints, a deliberation on the discussion and conclusion sections was not possible.

Based on the comments provided by the members, a draft document will be presented for possible adoption by written procedure.

8.3 Flavouring Group Evaluation 80, Revision 2 (FGE.80Rev2): consideration of alicyclic, alicyclic-fused and aromatic-fused ring lactones evaluated by the



JECFA (61st and 82nd meetings) structurally related to an aromatic lactone evaluated in FGE.27" ([EFSA-Q-2023-00296](#))

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.

8.4 Re-evaluation of saccharin (E954(i)) ([EFSA-Q-2011-00736](#)), sodium saccharin (E954(ii)) ([EFSA-Q-2011-00737](#)), calcium saccharin (E954(iii)) ([EFSA-Q-2011-00738](#)) and potassium saccharin (E954(iv)) ([EFSA-Q-2011-00739](#))

Due to time constraints, this item was not discussed. FAF Panel members were requested to provide comments on the draft document scheduled for discussion at the meeting, and a revised draft will be presented at a forthcoming FAF Panel meeting.

9. Election of Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Panel

The election of the Chair and the two Vice-Chairs took place following the guidelines laid down in the EFSA implementing rule of the Management Board concerning the establishment and operations of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and of their Working Groups.³

Laurence Castle was elected as Chair of the FAF Panel and Polly Boon and Ursula Gundert-Remy were elected as Vice-Chairs of the FAF Panel.

10. Feedback from the Scientific Committee/Scientific Panels/FAF Working Groups/EFSA/European Commission

10.17. Scientific Committee

None

10.18. European Commission

None

10.19. FAF Panel Working Groups

As a follow-up to topic under agenda item No 7, EFSA Staff presented the current distribution of the workload of the Panel across the already established Working Groups (WGs) and made proposals for revising some of them.

With the adoption of the scientific opinion on shellac (E 904) at the previous FAF Panel plenary meeting, the mandate of the WG on Re-evaluation of miscellaneous food additives has been completed and therefore this WG will be closed after the publication of the scientific output.

As a general principle, it was proposed to ensure continuity with the work carried out by the WGs already established, i.e. the WG on Food Additives Applications, WG on Flavourings and WG on Sweeteners, all of them referring to multiple mandates, and therefore it was agreed to reconfirm

³ https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2022-10/paneloperation_0.pdf



these WGs. Their composition will require some update in terms of the members and the areas of expertise needed.

Ongoing mandates related to the re-evaluation of food additives and follow-up of the re-evaluation will be allocated to a new WG, to be established in accordance with the applicable procedure (EFSA SOP_006) and resulting from the merger of the existing WGs currently dealing with food additives re-evaluation (Follow-up Tox, Specifications of food additives, Re-evaluation of food additives permitted in foods for infants below 16 weeks of age).

The Chairs of the FAF WGs will be appointed following consultation between the Chair of the FAF Panel and the FIP Head of Unit.

10.20. EFSA

None

11. Other scientific topics for information and/or discussion

None

12. New mandates

- **New questions received since the 49th FAF Plenary:**

Food Sector	EFSA-Q-Number	Subject	Creation date
FA	2024-00415	Application for the modification of the food additive E960c(i) to add Rebaudioside D	25-Jun-2024
FA	2024-00416	Application for the modification of the food additive E960c(i) to add Rebaudioside E	25-Jun-2024

Two new application dossiers on the modification of the food additive E960c(i) to add Rebaudioside D and on the modification of the food additive E960c(i) to add Rebaudioside E are under consideration by EFSA. Pending confirmation of the validity of these applications, the scientific assessments will be assigned to the FAF WG Food Additives Applications.

- **Valid questions since the 49th FAF Plenary:**

None

- **Questions withdrawn since the 49th FAF Plenary:**

None

13. AoB

None
