

# SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND FLAVOURINGS (FAF)

## 55<sup>th</sup> FAF Panel meeting



28 - 30 January 2025

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

MINUTES (Agreed on 30/01/2025)

**Location:** Teleconference

**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 Passamonti

- EFSA:

Food Ingredients and Packaging (FIP) Unit: Stefania Barmaz, Valeriu Curtui, Maria Carfi, Consuelo Civitella, Borana Dino, Salma Elreedy, Gabriele Gagliardi, Pauline Le Gall, Federica Lodi, Carla Martino, Elena Mazzoli, Agnieszka Mech, Concepcion Medrano, Salvatore Samuele Multari, Josef Rasinger, Ana Rincon, Laura Ruggeri, Camilla Smeraldi, Alexandra Tard, and Panagiota Zakidou

Methodology and Scientific Support Unit (MESE) Unit: Jose Angel Gomez Ruiz, Francesca Riolo

Integrated Data (iDATA) Unit: Alicia Gimenez Linares

Feed and Contaminants (FEEDCO) Unit: Erini Kouloura

- European Commission (EC): Stylianos Koulouris, Heidi Moens, Ivana Poutkova, Jiri Sochor

- Hearing Experts<sup>1</sup>: Kevin Chipman (for agenda point 6.3)

## 1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair of the FAF Panel welcomed the Participants.

## 2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

## 3. Declarations of Interest of Panel members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group 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.

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<sup>1</sup> As defined in Article 34 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>



Certain interests were declared orally by a member before the beginning of the meeting. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Oral Declaration of Interest made at the beginning of the meeting, please see Annex I.

#### **4. Agreement of the minutes of the 54<sup>th</sup> FAF Panel Plenary meeting held on 16-17 December 2024.**

The minutes of the 54th Panel plenary meeting were agreed on 17th December 2024.

#### **5. Report on written procedure**

None.

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

##### **6.1 Application for the authorisation of pea fibre concentrate (FIPEA) as a new food additive (EFSA-Q-2022-00795)**

The FAF Panel discussed all parts of the draft opinion. The opinion was unanimously adopted, subject to the incorporation of changes as agreed during the meeting and editorial changes. The full text of the opinion will be available in the EFSA Journal.

##### **6.2 Re-evaluation of pullulan (E 1204) (EFSA-Q-2021-00278) and scientific opinion on the proposed extension of use of pullulan (E 1204) to several food categories (EFSA-Q-2020-00517)**

The FAF Panel discussed all parts of the draft opinion. The opinion was unanimously adopted, subject to the incorporation of changes as agreed during the meeting and editorial changes. The full text of the opinion will be available in the EFSA Journal.

##### **6.3 Re-evaluation of acesulfame K (E 950) (EFSA-Q-2011-00721)**

The Panel discussed the technical part, ADME and genotoxicity section 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 and will be scheduled for possible further discussion at a forthcoming Plenary meeting.

##### **6.4 Re-evaluation of neotame (E 961) (EFSA-Q-2011-00740)**

The Panel discussed the technical part and exposure section 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 and will be scheduled for possible further discussion at a forthcoming Plenary meeting.

#### **7. Other scientific topics for information and/or discussion**

##### **7.1 Draft opinion on pectin rich extract from *Coffea arabica* (EFSA-Q-2022-00486)**



The Panel was consulted regarding the additional data received on this application dossier and taking into account the advice from the Panel, the FAF WG on Application on Food additive will proceed with the assessment.

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

### **8.1 Scientific Committee/Panel(s) including their Working Groups**

The Panel was informed about the items discussed at the latest Scientific Committee meeting and activities related to the Scientific Committee Working Groups.

### **8.2 European Commission**

The European Commission (EC) informed the Panel of some concerns raised by some EU Member States with respect to adverse effects related to high glycerol content in slush ice concentrate<sup>2,3</sup>. The Panel was made aware of an assessment by the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) that will be published soon on the BfR website. The EC anticipated the possibility of sending a mandate to EFSA to request scientific advice on this issue.

### **8.3 FAF Panel Working Groups**

Meetings of the FAF WG on Food Additive Applications took place since the last FAF plenary meeting and an issue was brought to the attention of the Panel (see section 7.1) further to what is already recorded in the [minutes of the WG](#).

Meetings of the FAF WG on Sweeteners took place since the last FAF plenary meeting and no issues were brought to the attention of the Panel further to what is already recorded in the [minutes of the WG](#).

Meetings of the FAF WG on Food Additives Re-evaluation and Follow-up took place since the last FAF plenary meeting and no issues were brought to the attention of the Panel further to what is already recorded in the [minutes of the WG](#).

### **8.4 EFSA**

The Panel was informed on the ongoing activities related to the implementation of the monitoring of food additives and food flavourings in accordance with Article 27 of Regulation (EC) No 1333/2008 and Article 20 of Regulation (EC) No 1334/2008, respectively.

The monitoring programme will start in 2025 with a pilot aimed at collecting occurrence data (analytical data, use levels, presence data) on the three food additives Green S (E 142), Tartrazine (E 102), Ponceau 4R, Cochineal Red A (E 124) and on the two flavourings caffeine (FI-No 16.016) and pulegone (substance listed in Annex III of Regulation (EU) No 1334/2008), selected by the European Commission and the Member States. The report from the first pilot phase will be issued in 2026.

## **9. New mandates**

<sup>2</sup> <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/rasff-window/screen/notification/733143>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.fsai.ie/consumer-advice/food-safety-and-hygiene/advice-for-consumers-regarding-consumption-of-slus>



- **New questions received since the 54 FAF Plenary:**

Food Sector	EFSA-Q-Number	Subject	Creation date
FA	EFSA-Q-2025-00007	Application for the authorisation of monk fruit extract as a new food additive	8/01/2025

The new application dossier is under consideration by EFSA. Pending confirmation of the validity of the application, the scientific assessment will be assigned to the WG Food Additives Applications.

- **Valid/accepted questions since the 54 FAF Plenary:**

None

- **Withdrawn questions since the 54 FAF Plenary:**

None

## 10. Any other business

None

## 11. Preparatory meetings

None

## 12. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 5-6 March 2025 via teleconference.

### Annex I

#### Interests and actions resulting from the Oral Declaration of Interest done at the beginning of the meeting

With regard to this meeting, Rainer Gürtler declared the following interest: concerning agenda item 8.2, the expert declared that he drafted the report of the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) on the risk assessment of glycerol in slush ice drinks that will be published on the BfR website. The expert also declared being involved, as part of his current employment with the BfR, in the activities conducted by the institution with respect to the monitoring programme for food additives and flavourings, discussed in agenda item 8.3

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence<sup>4</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management<sup>5</sup>, 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.

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/policy\\_independence.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/competing\\_interest\\_management\\_17.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf)