

# SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND FLAVOURINGS (FAF)

## 62nd FAF Panel meeting



18-20 November 2025

9:00-18:00 / 09:00-18:00 / 09:00-13:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 20 November 2025

**Location:** Parma (Italy)

**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

- Hearing Experts<sup>1</sup>:

Riccardo Crebelli and Thorhallur Halldorsson (for agenda point 5.4)

- European Commission:

Stylianos Koulouris, Heidi Moens

- EFSA:

Food Ingredients and Packaging (FIP) Unit: Simona Aprile, Stefania Barmaz, Cristina Croera, Valeriu Curtui, Maria Carfi, Consuelo Civitella, Samuele Di Ciano, Borana Dino, Federica Lodi, Carla Martino, Elena Mazzoli, Agnieszka Mech, Josef Rasinger, Ana Rincon, Laura Ruggeri, Camilla Smeraldi and Alessandra Tosato.

Methodology and Scientific Support (MESE) Unit: Alexandra Tard

## 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<sup>2</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management,<sup>3</sup> EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting and the preparatory meeting listed under agenda item "Preparatory meeting". No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in these meetings have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

## 4. Agreement of the minutes of the 61<sup>st</sup> FAF Panel Plenary meeting held on 22 October 2025.

The minutes of the 61st Panel plenary meeting were agreed on 22 October 2025.

<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>

<sup>2</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>3</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)



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

### 5.1 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](#))

The FAF Panel discussed the draft guidance that was unanimously adopted, subject to the incorporation of changes as agreed during the meeting and editorial changes.

The Panel also discussed the comments submitted by stakeholders during the public consultation and the responses from the FAF Panel explaining how they were taken into account in finalising the guidance. The guidance will be made available in the EFSA Journal, together with the outcome of the public consultation which will be included as an annex to the guidance.

### 5.2 Re-evaluation of E962 Salt of aspartame-acesulfame, 6-methyl-1,2,3-oxathiazine-4(3H)-one-2,2-dioxide salt of L-phenylalanyl-2-methyl-L-aspartic acid ([EFSA-Q-2011-00727](#))

The Panel discussed the exposure assessment for aspartame from the use of the salt of aspartame-acesulfame (E 962) and aspartame (E 951). The corresponding section was endorsed, subject to the incorporation of the changes suggested during the meeting.

### 5.3 Application for the modification of the food additive enzymatically produced steviol glycosides (E 960c) ([EFSA-Q-2023-00749](#))

The opinion was discussed and 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.

### 5.4 Re-evaluation of E955 Sucralose, 1,6-Dichloro-1,6-dideoxy-b-D-fructofuranosyl-4-chloro-4-deoxy-a-D-galactopyranoside ([EFSA-Q-2011-00724](#)) and safety of the proposed extension of use for sucralose (E 955) in energy-reduced or without added sugar fine bakery wares ([EFSA-Q-2021-00375](#))

Sections presenting the biological and toxicological data used for the assessment were discussed and endorsed, subject to the incorporation of the changes suggested during the meeting.

The Panel also discussed the hazard characterisation and identification of a reference point. Based on the comments received, the finalisation of the re-evaluation of this food additives is expected at the forthcoming FAF Panel meeting.

### 5.5 Application for the authorisation of pectin rich extract from *Coffea arabica* as a new food additive ([EFSA-2022-00486](#))

The FAF Panel discussed some sections of the draft opinion. Improvements based on the comments provided by the participants were noted. Subject to these revisions an updated draft opinion will be presented at a forthcoming Panel meeting.

## 6. Other scientific topics for information and/or discussion

### 6.1 Request for the safety evaluation of the flavouring substance Acetaldehyde [FL No. 05.001] concerning genotoxicity ([EFSA-2025-00509](#))



The mandate received from the European Commission regarding the evaluation of the flavouring substance acetaldehyde [FL-no: 05.001] in relation to genotoxicity was presented to the Panel. The advice received from the Scientific Committee Working Group (WG) on Genotoxicity<sup>4</sup> and of the FAF Panel WG Flavourings<sup>5</sup> concerning the possible need for requesting data in order to progress with the scientific assessment of the genotoxicity of the substance was also presented. After hearing the advice of the two scientific working groups, the Panel agreed that there is no need to request additional data by means of a public call and decided to proceed with the scientific assessment based on the available data.

## 7. Feedback from the Scientific Committee/ Scientific Panels/EFSA/ EC

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

No Scientific Committee meeting has taken place since the last FAF Panel meeting.

### 7.2 European Commission

None

### 7.3 FAF Panel Working Groups

A meeting of the FAF Working Group (WG) on Flavourings 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 Additive Applications 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 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](#).

### 7.4 EFSA

None

## 8. New mandates

- **New questions received since the 61 FAF Plenary:**

None

- **Valid/accepted questions since the 61 FAF Plenary:**

None

- **Withdrawn questions since the 61 FAF Plenary:**

None

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2025-02/minutes-wg-genotoxicity.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/wgs/food-ingredients-and-packaging/wg\\_flavouringsFAF.pdf](https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/wgs/food-ingredients-and-packaging/wg_flavouringsFAF.pdf)



## 9. Any other business

### 9.1 Errata in opinion on the Re-evaluation of argon (E 938) and helium (E 939) as food additives

The Panel adopted on 25 September 2024 the opinion on the Re-evaluation of argon (E 938) and helium (E 939) as food additives ([EFSA-Q-2011-00712](#), [EFSA-Q-2011-00713](#)). After publication, information submitted in response to the EFSA call for data was identified as having been inadvertently overlooked during the preparation of the scientific output. The scientific opinion was revised to incorporate the missing information, which however did not alter the conclusions, and an updated opinion will be republished.

### 9.2 Errata in opinion on the Re-evaluation of oxygen (E 948) and hydrogen (E 949) as food additives

The Panel adopted on 9 July 2025 the opinion on the Re-evaluation of oxygen (E 948) and hydrogen (E 949) as food additives ([EFSA-Q-2011-00719](#), [EFSA-Q-2011-00720](#)). After publication, information submitted in response to the EFSA call for data was identified as having been inadvertently overlooked during the preparation of the scientific output. The scientific opinion was revised to incorporate the missing information, which however did not alter the conclusions, and an updated opinion will be republished.

## 10. Preparatory meeting

Since the last 61st Plenary meeting, a preparatory meeting chaired by EFSA staff was held as follows:

### 10.1 Preparatory meeting on 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](#)), 10 November 2025

#### 10.1a Attendees

Panel members: Maria Bastos and Ursula Gundert-Remy

Hearing Experts<sup>6</sup>: Andrea Terron, Gisela Degen and Emma Di Consiglio

#### 10.1b Discussion point

Section '5.4.4 In vitro absorption study' of the draft food additive guidance was discussed.

## 11. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 10-11 December 2025.

<sup>6</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>