

4 February 2025

9:00-18:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 4 February 2025

Location: Teleconference

Chair: Laurence Castle

Attendees:

- Panel Members:

Monica Andreassen, Maria Lourdes Bastos, Polly Boon, Laurence Castle, Biagio Fallico, Bettina Grasl-Kraupp, Rex FitzGerald, María José Frutos Fernández, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Rainer Görtler, Eric Houdeau, Marcin Andrzej Kurek, Henrique Louro, Patricia Morales, Sabina Passamonti

- EFSA:

Food Ingredients and Packaging (FIP) Unit: Simona Aprile, Stefania Barmaz, Costanza Bonnici, Valeriu Curtui, Maria Carfi, Consuelo Civitella, Samuele Di Ciano, Borana Dino, Federica Lodi, Carla Martino, Elena Mazzoli, Davide Mesto, Paula Podea, 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 Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management,² 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 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 63rd FAF Panel Plenary meeting held on 10-11 December 2025.

The minutes of the 63rd Panel plenary meeting were agreed on 11 December 2025.

5. Scientific output submitted for discussion/adoption

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



5.1 Scientific opinion on the safety in use of blue galdieria extract as a food additive ([EFSA-Q-2021-00347](#))

The FAF Panel discussed 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. Other scientific topics for information and/or discussion

None

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

The Panel was informed about the EFSA stakeholders meeting on acetaldehyde.³

8. New mandates

- **New questions received since the 63 FAF Plenary:**

The following mandate has been received:

³ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/stakeholders-meeting-acetaldehyde>



Food Sector	EFSA-Q-Number	Subject	Creation date
FA	EFSA-Q-2026-00001	Application for the modification of the food additive Beetroot Red, Betanin (E 162) obtained from a genetically modified <i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i>	5/01/2026
FA	EFSA-Q-2026-00073	Application for the modification of the food additive glycerol esters of wood rosins (E 445)	29/01/2026

The new mandates EFSA-Q-2026-00001 and EFSA-Q-2026-00073 will be assigned to the FAF WG on Food Additives Applications.

- **Valid/accepted questions since the 63 FAF Plenary:**

The following mandate has been accepted for risk assessment by EFSA since the 63rd FAF Plenary meeting.

Food Sector	EFSA-Q-Number	Subject	Validity date
Follow-up FA	EFSA-Q-2026-00067	Request for a scientific opinion from the European Food Safety Authority as regards an updated dietary exposure assessment and amendments to the specifications of the food additives L(+)-tartaric acid (E 334), sodium tartrates (E 335), potassium tartrates (E 336), potassium sodium tartrate (E 337), metatarsaric acid (E 353) and calcium tartrate (E 354)	26/01/2026

The mandate EFSA-Q-2026-00067 will be assigned to the FAF WG on Food Additives Re-evaluation and Follow-up for the drafting of the scientific opinion.

- **Withdrawn questions since the 63 FAF Plenary:**

The Panel was informed that the mandate EFSA-Q-2023-00672 was withdrawn.

Food Sector	EFSA-Q-Number	Subject	Withdrawal date
FA	EFSA-Q-2023-00672	Application for the modification of the food additive low-substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose (E 463a)	02/02/2026

9. Any other business

None

10. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 25-26 March 2026.