SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND FLAVOURINGS (FAF)

69th FAF Panel meeting

13-15 October 2026
14:00-18:00/9:00-16:00/9:00-13:00
MINUTES - Agreed on 17 September 2026

EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY

Location: Parma (Italy)

Chair: Laurence Castle

Attendees:

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

- EFSA:
  Food Ingredients and Packaging (FIP) Unit: Fabio Alfieri, Simona Aprile, Stefania Barmaz, Costanza Bonnici, Valeriu Curtui, Maria Carfi, Samuele Di Ciano, Borana Dino, Federica Lodi, Carla Martino, Elena Mazzoli, Francesca Mercogliano, Davide Mesto, Paula Podea, Josef Rasinger, Ana Rincon and Camilla Smeraldi.

  Methodology and Scientific Support (MESE) Unit: Elisa Aiassa, Alexandra Tard

  Biological Hazards, Animal Health and Welfare (BIOHAW) Unit: Winy Messes

  Corporate Services (CORSER) Unit: Marco Lannutti, Cristiana Ventura

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[1] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management,[2] 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 Panel members at the beginning of the meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 68th Panel plenary meeting held on 17 September 2026.

The minutes of the 68th Panel plenary meeting were agreed on 17 September 2026.

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 polyphenol-rich extract as a food additive (EFSA-Q-2020-00358)

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.

5.2 Scientific opinion as regards an updated dietary exposure assessment and amendments to the specifications of the food additives phosphoric acid – phosphates – di-, tri- and polyphosphates(E 338–341, E 343, E 450–452) (EFSA-Q-2025-00362)

The FAF Panel discussed the new dietary exposure assessment for phosphates, based on data submitted in response to the European Commission call for data and analytical data submitted by Member States in response to EFSA's open calls for data on food additives in food and beverages.

6. Other scientific topics for information and/or discussion

6.1 Application for the authorisation of the bacteriophage Listex P100 (Phageguard L) as a new food additive (EFSA-Q-2026-00172)

The Panel was informed of the status of the assessment of bacteriophage Listex P100 (PhageGuard L) as a new food additive, for which additional data have been requested. The assessment is linked to another mandate under the remit of the EFSA Panel on Biological Hazards (BIOHAZ) concerning the authorisation of the use of Listex P100 (PhageGuard L) on foods of animal origin (EFSA-Q-2024-00551).

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

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

The Panel was informed about the items discussed at the latest Scientific Committee meeting on 23-24 September 2026[3] and activities related to the Scientific Committee Working Groups.

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**.

[3] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/132nd-plenary-meeting-scientific-committee

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 new platform for managing EFSA meetings and events was presented to the Panel.

In line with EFSA SOP003 'Procedure for Cross-Cutting and Sector-Specific Guidance Documents', the Panel evaluated the status of its guidance documents and that were implemented more than five years ago (see list below). The purpose was to determine whether these documents should be updated.

In conducting this exercise, the Panel took into account the ongoing revision of relevant cross-cutting guidance documents that may have implications for FAF sector-specific guidance. The outcome of the discussion and the agreed follow-up actions are summarised below.

- Statement on the Safety Evaluation of Smoke Flavourings Primary Products: Interpretation of the Margin of Safety[4]

In view of the ongoing revision of the cross-cutting EFSA Guidance on the Margin of Exposure (MoE) by the MESE Unit (EFSA-Q-2025-00491), the Panel agreed to retain the current Statement and to re-evaluate its status in June 2028, following the publication of the revised cross-cutting guidance.

- Statement on a conceptual framework for the risk assessment of certain food additives re-evaluated under Commission Regulation (EU) No 257/2010[5]

Given that the re-evaluation of food additives under Commission Regulation (EU) No 257/2010 is still ongoing, the Panel agreed to retain the current guidance document until completion of the re-evaluation programme. Should the re-evaluation programme still be ongoing at the time of the next scheduled review in five years, the Panel will reconsider the timing and scope of any further evaluation of the status of the Statement.

- Approach followed for the refined exposure assessment as part of the safety assessment of food additives under re-evaluation[6]

The Panel acknowledged that the Revised protocol for assessing exposure to sweeteners as part of their safety assessment under the food additives re-evaluation programme[7] and the Guidance on the scientific data requirements for an application for authorisation of a food additive[8] introduce new elements relevant to refining exposure assessments in the context of the re-evaluation of food additives under Commission Regulation (EU) No 257/2010. However, in view of the current workload, the Panel agreed to retain the current document and to consider a possible update in one year.

- Scientific Guidance for the preparation of applications on smoke flavouring primary products[9]

Given the ongoing revision of the cross-cutting EFSA Guidance on Genotoxicity by the MESE Unit (EFSA-Q-2025-00166) and considering that the FAF guidance is closely aligned with the principles and approaches set out in that cross-cutting guidance, the Panel agreed to retain the current guidance and to re-evaluate its status in December 2027, following the publication of the revised EFSA Guidance on Genotoxicity.

[4] https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.2903/j.efsa.2009.1325
[5] https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.2903/j.efsa.2014.3697
[6] https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.2903/j.efsa.2017.5042
[7] https://zenodo.org/records/13912094
[8] https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.2903/j.efsa.2026.9778
[9] https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.2903/j.efsa.2021.6435

8. New mandates

- **New questions received since the 68th FAF Plenary:**

The following mandates have been received:

Food Sector	EFSA-Q-Number	Subject	Creation date
FA	EFSA-Q-2026-00523	Application for the authorisation of spirulina extract as a new food additive	25.09.2026
FA	EFSA-Q-2026-00528	Application for the authorisation of talarene as a new food additive	28.09.2026
FA	EFSA-Q-2026-00544	Application for the authorisation of honey truffle sweet protein as a new food additive	02.10.2026

The new mandates EFSA-Q-2026-00523, EFSA-Q-2026-00528 and EFSA-Q-2026-00544 will be assigned to the FAF WG on Food Additives Applications.

- **Valid/accepted questions since the 68th FAF Plenary:**

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

Food Sector	EFSA-Q-Number	Subject	Validity date
FA	EFSA-Q-2026-00325	Application for the authorisation of water-soluble rosemary extract as a new food additive	23.09.2026

The new mandate EFSA-Q-2026-00325 will be assigned to the FAF WG on Food Additives Applications for the drafting of the scientific opinion.

- **Withdrawn questions since the 68th FAF Plenary:**

The following mandates have been withdrawn since the last FAF Plenary meeting.

Food Sector	EFSA-Q-Number	Subject	Withdrawal date
FA	EFSA-Q-2022-00378	Application for the authorisation of rice bran extract as a new food additive	02.10.2026
FA	EFSA-Q-2022-00379	Application for the authorisation of ground rice hull as a new food additive	02.10.2026

9. Any other business

None

10. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 16-17 November 2026 online.