

Scientific Panel on Food Additives and Nutrient Sources added to Food (ANS)

**Minutes of the 47th plenary meeting
Held on 27-28 11 2013, Brussels, Belgium**

(agreed on 4 12 2013)

Participants

• **Panel Members:**

- Fernando Aguilar, Riccardo Crebelli, Birgit Dusemund, Pierre Galtier, David Gott (Vice-Chair), Ursula Gundert-Remy, Jürgen König, Claude Lambré (Vice-Chair), Jean-Charles Leblanc, Alicja Mortensen (Chair), Pasquale Mosesso, Dominique Parent-Massin, Agneta Oskarsson, Ivan Stankovic, Paul Tobback, Ine Waalkens-Berendsen, Ruud Woutersen, and Matthew Wright

• **European Commission:**

- Wim Debeuckelaere, Jiri Sochor (DG SANCO, E3) and Marina Marini (DG SANCO, 03)

• **EFSA:**

- Food Ingredients and Packaging (FIP) Unit: Maria Carfi, Claudia Heppner¹, Georges Kass

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair of the ANS Panel, welcomed all participants. Apologies for absence were received from Martin Rose, a member of the ANS Panel.

2. Adoption of agenda

The draft agenda was first adopted without modifications.

¹ Participated only on 28 November 2013

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes² and the Decision of the Executive Director implementing this Policy regarding Declarations of Interests³, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest and the Specific Declaration of interest filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement minutes 46th ANS Panel meeting (6-7 November 2013)

The minutes of the 46th plenary meeting were agreed on 28th November 2013. The minutes will be available on the Authority's webpage.⁴

5. Report on written procedures since 47th Plenary meeting

No outputs were adopted by written procedure since the previous meeting.

6. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion and possible adoption

The Chair of the ANS Panel expressed her appreciation for the work on the scientific outputs discussed at this meeting, to the Working Groups (WGs) on aspartame, food additives and nutrient sources B and to the EFSA staff members involved in each WG.

6.1 Draft opinion on Aspartame (E 951) ([EFSA-Q-2011-00406](#))

The Chair introduced the draft opinion and revision of different sections has been made. The following sections of the text were discussed: Abstract, Summary, Epidemiological study on artificially sweetened drinks and allergy, Discussion of methanol toxicity database, other Studies on DKP, risk characterisation, uncertainties, inconsistencies and data gaps, Annex K. The ANS Panel adopted the opinion subject to incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting.

The full [opinion](#) will be available on the Authority's webpage.

6.2 Draft opinion on β -Apo-carotenal (E160e) ([EFSA-Q-2012-01001](#))

The rapporteur introduced the draft opinion to the ANS Panel summarising the key aspects of the opinion.

The Panel discussed the opinion related to the toxicological evaluation of the draft risk assessment on β -Apo-carotenal. The Panel could not finalise its discussion related to the exposure assessment and proposed to discuss and possibly finalise this draft opinion during the 48th ANS Panel meeting which will be held from 3 to 5 December 2013.

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencypolicy.pdf>

³ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/131106a-m.pdf>

7. New mandates

No new mandates falling within the remit of the ANS Panel were received since the last ANS Panel meeting. The members of the ANS Panel were informed that the data related to an application on a food additive: gaseous chlorine dioxide ([EFSA-Q-2012-00748](#)) was considered suitable to perform a scientific risk assessment by EFSA. The WG food additives and nutrient sources A was tasked to prepare the draft opinion and present to the ANS Panel for possible adoption within the next 9 month. In addition, the data related to an application on organic silicon, monomethylsilanetriol used as a source of silicon in the manufacture of food supplements concerning novel foods and novel food ingredients and following the outcome of the novel food assessment the evaluation of this compound as a source of silicon and on the bioavailability of silicon from this source ([EFSA-Q-2013-00874](#)) was considered suitable to perform a scientific risk assessment by EFSA. The WG food additives and nutrient sources B was tasked to prepare the draft opinion and present to the ANS Panel for possible adoption within the next 9 month.

8. Feedback from the Scientific Committee/the Scientific Panel, Working Groups, EFSA, the European Commission

8.1 Scientific Committee

A meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC) was held on 13-14 November 2013 in Parma. The Panel was informed that the opinion on Qualified Presumption of Safety (QPS) approach for botanicals was not adopted and will be presented for possible adoption during the next extraordinary meeting of the SC which will take place on 17.12.2013. In addition, the SC discussed the use of benchmark dose approach for quantal data in the safety assessment of chemicals in the light of the opinion of the SC on benchmark dose modelling issued in 2009⁵ and different approaches taken by the Scientific Panels of EFSA. The SC received also an update on the work of the Plant Health Panel, the EFSA draft report on the use of emerging methodologies e.g. Omics in the risk assessment carried out by EFSA, and received an update on the draft opinion on carvone. In addition, the members of the SC were informed by EFSA on EFSA's draft multiannual program on international scientific co-operation, and new format of scientific opinions.

8.2 Working Groups

8.2.1 Working Group A on Food additives and nutrient sources

No meetings of Working Group A were held since the last plenary.

8.2.2 Working Group B on Food additives and nutrient sources

No meetings of Working Group B were held since the last plenary.

8.2.3 Working Group Exposure Assessment

A meeting of WG Exposure was held on 20 November 2013. The following draft exposure assessments were discussed: β -Apo-carotenal (E160e), Sorbates (E 200-203), Steviol Glycosides (E960), Brown HT (E 155).

⁵ Available at URL: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/doc/1150.pdf>

8.2.4 SC Working Groups of interest to ANS Panel

- SC WG on QPS

The feedback of the SC meeting in relation with the draft opinion on qualified presumption of safety (QPS) approach for botanicals was shared with the members of the SC WG. In addition, the ANS Panel was informed, once the opinion on QPS approach for botanicals is adopted, the decision tree for QPS approach will be presented to each Scientific Panel of EFSA.

- The ANS chair reported that the members of the SC possibly would support the setting up of a WG under a scientific Panel related to sweet taste receptors. It was proposed that the draft background document which was prepared by a member of the ANS Panel should be distributed to the ANS Panel in the near future.

8.3 EFSA

The Head of the FIP Unit informed the members of the ANS Panel on the following topics:

- The 50th meeting of the members of the Advisory Forum (AF) will be held on 5.12.2013 in Parma. Items on the draft agenda are e.g. 50th meeting anniversary working towards a common EU risk assessment agenda: achievements so far a planning for the next 5 years; the GMO panel and its network will be present, an update on Network activities in the area of chemical occurrence data, food consumption data and the EU menu will be given. On the 6th of December joint session with AF communication WG will be held in connection with the AF meeting.
- The resignation of the director of communications, Anne-Laure Gassin as of 15.12.2013 as she will join DG Sanco. Alessia Vecchio, will act as acting director of communications and keeping her current position as Head of Unit (HoU) Human Capital Management.
- Different training courses for Panel members in the area of risk assessment and systematic review will be offered in 2014. The HoU kindly invited the members of the ANS Panel to enter their expression of interest into an overview planning table for 2014 training courses which will be prepared by the unit. In addition, the members were asked to put the functional mailbox of the unit into copy when ANS Panel members subscribe to the training courses.
- The first meeting of the discussion group (DG) on food chemical occurrence data under the EFSA consultative platform took place on 19.11.2013 in Brussels. The DG was established to engage and share information with stakeholders, interested parties and industry associations related to practical aspects and challenges regarding stakeholder's provision of chemical occurrence data and usage data, with a particular focus on food additives and contaminants. Minutes of this meeting will be published on the Authority's webpage, where a dedicated area has been created: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/stakeholders/scg.htm>.
- Related to the ongoing ANS/CEF Panels renewal (mandate 2014-2017) 6 and following the completion of the external evaluation review, the next step is the

⁶ More details see under URL <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

evaluation of the annual declaration of interests (ADOI) of candidates, above the cut off value. After receiving the feedback on candidates with approved ADOI from the members of Advisory Forum by March 2014, the process will be concluded by the possible appointment of candidates for ANS/CEF Panels and candidates on the reserve list by the Management Board in March 2014. The process is currently on track in relation with the proposed timetable.

8.4 European Commission

No information was provided by the European Commission.

9. Other scientific topics for information and/or discussions

9.1 Aspartame ([EFSA-Q-2013-00881](#)) – Technical report

The technical report of EFSA comprising an overview of the comments received during the web-based public consultation on the draft opinion on aspartame, which took place from 8 January to 15 February 2013, and providing details how these comments were tackled in the finalisation of the aspartame opinion was shortly discussed: the unit was invited to confirm to the members of the ANS Panel at its next meeting whether this document needs to be endorsed by the ANS Panel or not.

10. Any Other Business

The Panel was informed that the two reports mentioned below have recently been brought to the attention of EFSA after the closing date of the public consultation on the draft aspartame opinion, which is generally considered the cut-off period to take into account new scientific literature:

- toxicological review on methanol (noncancer) by Environmental Protection Agency (EPA 2013)
- scientific considerations by Gift et al. (2013) evaluating cancer bioassays conducted by the Ramazzini Institute.

The Panel considered it useful to issue a statement related to these two publications and their possible impact on the adopted aspartame opinion. The statement will be presented for possible adoption during the 48th ANS Panel meeting which will be held from 3 to 5 December 2013.