

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

Minutes of the 55th Plenary meeting

Held on 10-12 February 2015, Parma (Italy)

(Agreed on 14 04 2015)

Participants

a) Panel Members

Fernando Aguilar, Riccardo Crebelli¹, Alessandro Di Domenico, Birgit Dusemund, Maria José Frutos², Pierre Galtier, David Gott, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Claude Lambré, Jean-Charles Leblanc³, Oliver Lindtner⁴, Peter Moldeus⁵, Pasquale Mosesso, Agneta Oskarsson, Dominique Parent-Massin, Ivan Stankovic, Ine Waalkens-Berendsen, Rudolf Antonius Woutersen, Matthew Wright, Maged Younes

b) Hearing Experts⁶:

- Paul Tobback

c) European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

- Wim Debeuckelaere (DG SANTE E7)

d) EFSA:

- Food Ingredients and Packaging (FIP) Unit: Maria Anastassiadou, Maria Carfi, Anna Christodoulidou, Paolo Colombo, Federica Lodi, Ana Maria Rincon, Claudia Roncancio Peña, Anna Maria Rossi, Camilla Smeraldi, Alexandra Tard, Stavroula Tasiopoulou
- AMU Unit: José Cortinas Abrahantes
- DATA Unit: Davide Arcella, Petra Gergelova
- FEED Unit: Ribo Oriol, Maria Vittoria Vettori

¹ Participated on 10-11 February 2015

² Participated on 11-12 February 2015

³ Participated on 10-11 February 2015

⁴ Participated on 11 February 2015 AM via teleconference

⁵ Participated on 11-12 February 2015

⁶ Participated on 11 February 2015 as defined in Article 11 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

In the absence of the Chair, Alicja Mortensen, the Vice-Chair Ruud Woutersen chaired the meeting and welcomed all participants.

Apologies were received from Alicja Mortensen.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Scientific Committee/Scientific Panel/ Members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes⁷ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest⁸, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest and the Specific Declarations of Interest filled in by the Scientific Panel Members invited for the present meeting. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the ADI or the SDI, please refer to Annex. Oral Declaration of Interest was asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 54th Plenary meeting held on 9-11 December 2014, Parma (Italy)

The minutes of the 54th Plenary meeting held on 9-11 December 2014 were agreed.⁹

5. Report on the written procedures since 54th Plenary meeting

No scientific outputs were adopted by written procedure since the last plenary meeting.

6. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion and possible adoption

6.1 Hydroxypropyl Methylcellulose (E464) ([EFSA-Q-2013-00283](#))

The ANS Panel was requested to provide a scientific opinion on the safety of hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose (E464) in relation to a request for a change of specifications. The main aspects of the opinion were presented by the rapporteur and discussed by the Panel. The need for further clarifications before finalisation was noted. The draft opinion will be revised and scheduled for discussion in a forthcoming Working Group "Applications" meeting.

⁷ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

⁸ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

⁹ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/141209a-m.pdf>

6.2 Sorbic acid (E200) ([EFSA-Q-2011-00438](#)), Potassium sorbate (E202) ([EFSA-Q-2011-00439](#)) and Calcium sorbates (E203) ([EFSA-Q-2011-00440](#))

The draft opinion was presented by the rapporteur. The need for further clarifications before finalization was noted. Final discussion and adoption of the opinion are deferred to an upcoming plenary meeting.

6.3 Ascorbic acid, L-ascorbic acid, 2,3-Didehydro-L-threo-hexono-1,4-lactone, 3-Keto-L-gulofuranolactone (E300) ([EFSA-Q-2011-00470](#)), Sodium ascorbate, Sodium L-ascorbate, 2,3-Didehydro-L-threo-hexono-1, 4-lactone sodium enolate, 3-Keto-L-gulofuranolactone sodium enolate (E301) ([EFSA-Q-2011-00471](#)) and Calcium ascorbate, Calcium salt of 2,3-didehydro-L-threo-hexono-1,4-lactone dihydrate (E302) ([EFSA-Q-2011-00472](#))

The rapporteur introduced the draft opinion on the safety assessment of ascorbic acid and ascorbates (E300-302) to the members of the ANS Panel and presented the main points for discussion. Initial discussion took place on the technical sections and the hazard characterization. The need for further clarifications before finalization was noted. Final discussion and adoption of the opinion are deferred to an upcoming plenary meeting.

6.4 Titanium dioxide (E171) ([EFSA-Q-2011-00348](#))

The draft opinion was presented by the rapporteur to the members of the ANS Panel. The need for further clarifications before finalisation was noted. Final discussion and adoption of the opinion are deferred to an upcoming plenary meeting.

6.5 Erythritol (E968) ([EFSA-Q-2014-00493](#))

The ANS Panel was requested to provide a scientific opinion on the extension of use of erythritol (E968) when used as a food additive in soft beverages. The draft opinion was presented by the rapporteur.

The ANS Panel adopted the opinion subject to incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting.

The opinion is available on the [Authority's webpage](#).

6.6 Guar gum (E412) ([EFSA-Q-2011-00511](#))

Members of the working group on "Gums and other substances from natural sources" presented the draft opinion on guar gum (E412) indicating the latest developments and possible approaches to be considered for the finalisation of the opinion as an example to propose a standard approach for the assessment of gums. Initial discussion on how to conduct the assessment in particular sub-population categories (i.e. infants) took place. Further discussions are deferred to an upcoming plenary meeting.

7. New Mandates

The Head of the FIP unit informed the members of the ANS Panel that no new mandates were received.

8. Feedback from the Scientific Committee/Scientific Panels, EFSA, the European Commission

8.1 Scientific Committee and Scientific Panel including their Working Groups

No meeting of the Scientific Committee was held since the 54th ANS Panel meeting.

8.1.1. ANS SWG on Applications

8.1.2. ANS SWG Re-evaluation of Food Additives other than Gums & Colours

8.1.3. ANS SWG Re-evaluation of Gums and Food Additives from Natural Sources

8.1.4. ANS WG Isoflavones

8.1.5. ANS SWG Re-evaluation of Nitrates - Nitrites

8.1.6. ANS SWG Re-evaluation of Food Colours

The Chair of the aforementioned Working Groups updated the Panel members on the progress made and on next steps.

8.2 EFSA including its Working Groups /Task Forces

The Head of the FIP unit informed the members of the ANS Panel on the proposed Panel representatives in the Scientific Committee Working Groups focused on "biological relevance" and use of the "benchmark dose" approach. A WG on the "use of the weight of evidence in the scientific assessments" is also being defined.

8.3 European Commission

The EC representative reported about a study commissioned in preparation of the development of a common methodology for gathering of information by the Member States on the consumption and use of food additives and flavourings in the European Union.

9. Other scientific topics for information and/or discussion

9.1 EFSA statement on Refined Exposure Assessment for azorubine/ carmoisine (E122) ([EFSA-Q-2012-00885](#))

A staff member of the FIP unit reported the results of the exposure estimates for this food colour. The EFSA statement is available on the [Authority's webpage](#).

9.2 EFSA statement on Refined Exposure Assessment for Ponceau 4R (E124) ([EFSA-Q-2012-00890](#))

A staff member of the FIP unit reported the results of the exposure estimates for this food colour. The EFSA statement will be available on the Authority's webpage.

10. Any Other Business

A staff member of the FIP unit presented to the Panel members the tentative workprogramme 2015-2016 for the re-evaluation of the food additives according to Regulations (EU) No 257/2010.