

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

Minutes of the 69th Plenary meeting

Held on 5-8 December 2016, Parma (Italy)

(Agreed on 3 January 2017)

Participants

a) Panel Members

Fernando Aguilar,¹ Riccardo Crebelli,² Alessandro Di Domenico, Birgit Dusemund, Maria José Frutos, Pierre Galtier, David Gott, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Claude Lambré,³ Jean-Charles Leblanc, Peter Moldeus, Alicja Mortensen, Pasquale Mosesso, Agneta Oskarsson, Dominique Parent-Massin, Ivan Stankovic, Ine Waalkens-Berendsen,⁴ Rudolf Antonius Woutersen, Matthew Wright, and Maged Younes.

b) Hearing experts⁵

Cristina Fortes,⁶ Piet Van Den Brandt.⁶

c) European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

Jiri Sochor (DG SANTE E2)

d) EFSA:

- AMU (Assessment and Methodological Support) Unit: Ana Garcia, José Cortinas Abrahantes
- COMMS (Risk Communication) Unit: Bernd Elzer
- FIP (Food Ingredients and Packaging) Unit: Anna Christodoulidou, Paolo Colombo, Federica Lodi, Adamantia Papaioannou, Ana Maria Rincon, Claudia Roncancio Peña, Fabiola Pizzo, Camilla Smeraldi, Alexandra Tard, Stavroula Tasiopoulou.

¹ Participated physically on 5-7 December and on 8 December via web-conference

² Participated physically on 5 December and 6 December AM

³ Participated physically on 5-6 December and on 7 December PM and 8 December via web-conference

⁴ Participated on 5 December PM via web-conference and on 6-8 December physically

⁵ 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>

⁶ Participated on 6 December PM via web-conference

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed all participants.

Apologies were received from Oliver Lindtner.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without any changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of 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 Interest,⁸ 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. No Conflicts of Interest 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. Report on the written procedures since the 68th Plenary meeting

The minutes of the 68th Plenary meeting held on 17-20 October 2016 were agreed by written procedure on 25 November 2016.

5. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion and possible adoption

5.1 Re-evaluation of E 249 potassium nitrite and E 250 sodium nitrite ([EFSA-Q-2011-00460](#)) ([EFSA-Q-2011-00461](#))

The Chair and rapporteur of the Working Group on nitrates and nitrites presented the sections on mode of action for induction of methaemoglobinæmia by nitrites, discussion, uncertainties, conclusions and recommendations of the draft opinion on the safety of nitrites (E 249-250) to the members of the ANS Panel. Discussion was held and clarifications were requested to the WG. Due to cross-cutting nature of this opinion and the potential impact on areas of competence of other EFSA Panels, the CONTAM (Contaminants in the Food Chain) Panel and the Scientific Committee will be provided with the draft opinion for comments. Final discussion and adoption by the ANS Panel are deferred to an upcoming ANS Plenary meeting.

5.2 Re-evaluation of E 251 sodium nitrate and E 252 potassium nitrate ([EFSA-Q-2011-00462](#)) ([EFSA-Q-2011-00463](#))

The Chair and rapporteur of the Working Group on nitrates and nitrites presented the sections on discussion, uncertainties, conclusions and recommendations of the draft opinion on the safety of nitrates (E 251-252) to the members of the ANS Panel. Discussion was held and clarifications were requested to the WG. Due to cross-cutting nature of this opinion and the potential impact on areas of competence of other EFSA Panels, the CONTAM (Contaminants in the Food Chain) Panel and the Scientific Committee will be provided with the draft opinion for comments. Final discussion and adoption by the ANS Panel are deferred to an upcoming ANS Plenary meeting.

5.3 Re-evaluation of E 422 glycerol ([EFSA-Q-2011-00519](#))

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

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

The rapporteur introduced the draft opinion on the safety of glycerol (E 422) to the members of the ANS Panel and presented the main points for discussion. The ANS Panel discussed the approach for the conclusions the requested some further clarifications to the WG. Final discussion on the opinion and adoption are deferred to an upcoming ANS Plenary meeting.

5.4 Re-evaluation of E 412 guar gum ([EFSA-Q-2011-00511](#))

The rapporteur introduced the draft opinion on the safety of guar gum (E 412) to the members of the ANS Panel and presented the main points for discussion. The ANS Panel discussed the different parts of the opinion and adopted it subject to incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting.

The full opinion will be available on the Authority's webpage.

5.5 Re-evaluation of E 426 soybean hemicellulose ([EFSA-Q-2011-00521](#))

This agenda item was not discussed because of lack of time.

6. New Mandates

Panel members were informed that a request for an EFSA's scientific opinion as regards a proposed amendment of the specifications of the food additive Steviol glycosides (E 960) was received and that it is under consideration.

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

7.1 Scientific Committee and Scientific Panels including their Working Groups

- 7.1.1 ANS SWG Re-evaluation of Food Additives other than Gums & Colours**
- 7.1.2 ANS SWG Re-evaluation of Gums and Food Additives from natural sources**
- 7.1.3 ANS SWG Re-evaluation of Starches, Celluloses and Pectins**
- 7.1.4 ANS SWG of Nitrates and Nitrites**
- 7.1.5 ANS SWG on Applications**
- 7.1.6 ANS SWG on Exposure Assessment**
- 7.1.7 ANS WG on Nutrient Sources Guidance**
- 7.1.8 ANS WG on carcinogenicity of sucralose**

The Chairs of the above mentioned working groups briefly reported about the progresses made by each working group. The draft document prepared by the WG on Exposure assessment reporting the suggested approach for the food additives will be circulated to the Panel members for comments.

The Panel was informed that the request for an EFSA's scientific opinion as regards a proposed amendment of the specifications of the food additive microcrystalline cellulose E 460(i) (EFSA-Q-2016-00199) will be managed by the WG Application and not included in the re-evaluation as originally planned.

7.2 EFSA including its Working Groups /Task Forces

None

7.3 European Commission

The European Commission representative reported about requests under preliminary assessment by the Commission and the follow-up of ANS Panel's scientific opinions on the re-evaluation of the safety of permitted food additives for which some concerns have been identified.

8. Other scientific topics for information and/or discussion

8.1 Re-evaluation of E 322 lecithins

This item was not discussed because of lack of time.

8.2 Safety of changes in specifications for E 1209 polyvinyl alcohol-polyethylene glycol-graft-co-polymer

EFSA staff presented the main points for discussion. The Panel was of the view that this mandate deserved further consideration at Working Group/Panel level and an Opinion/Statement following the provisions of Article 29 (of the Regulation (EC) 178/2002) will be prepared.

9. Any Other Business

The panel members were informed that the open plenary Panel meeting for the next year is tentatively planned for 28 February-2 March.

The tentative work programme for the re-evaluation of food additives for the next years (2017-2020) was presented and discussed, and has been circulated to the Panel members for comments.