

**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE & ADVISORY FORUM UNIT**

Paris, 19 September 2008  
EFSA/AF/D/2008/155/PUB/FIN

## **Advisory Forum**

---

**Working Group :**            **Advisory Forum**

**Title :**                      **Mandate for the EFSA meeting of national experts on Aspartame**

**Submitted by :**            **EFSA Secretariat**

<b>Document for :</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Information</b>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Discussion</b>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Already adopted by written procedure</b>

<b>Distributed to :</b>	<b>Advisory Forum (draft)</b>	<b>On</b>	<b>03 July 2008</b>
	<b>Advisory Forum (final)</b>		<b>19 September 2008</b>

<b>Confidentiality level :</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Confidential</b>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>For Restricted Use Only</b>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Public</b>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Written consultation and/or approval</b>

## **MANDATE FOR THE EFSA MEETING OF NATIONAL EXPERTS ON ASPARTAME**

### **BACKGROUND**

Based on a substantial body of evidence, there is broad consensus internationally amongst food authorities on the absence of adverse health effects of aspartame. Consequently, aspartame is allowed globally by regulatory authorities for a wide variety of food uses. However, some studies have raised questions about the health implications of exposure to aspartame. Thorough and independent scientific evaluation of these studies has not resulted in the need to reconsider the safety of aspartame, although there continues to be a certain level of public concern with respect to the risks of aspartame use in food.

EFSA and its Advisory Forum (AF) therefore agreed on a consorted European-wide initiative to address in a comprehensive manner the concerns about the safety of aspartame for use in food.

### **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

An EFSA Meeting of National Experts on Aspartame will be convened tentatively in December 2008 to identify possible areas of discrepancies, or gaps, in the body of evidence on aspartame safety and to consider options to address these discrepancies and/or gaps, if any. Specifically, the Meeting of National Experts on Aspartame will:

- Review a comprehensive overview of reports, publications and other data on aspartame, provided by EFSA;
- Agree on the completeness of the overview provided by EFSA or, alternatively, ensure that missing data are added;
- Identify possible data gaps and discrepancies in the available data;
- In case no data gaps or discrepancies are identified, agree on a (communication) approach to confirm the adequate robustness of the data, supporting the absence of any human health concern;
- In case such data gaps or discrepancies exist, consider detailed options to address these outstanding issues and agree on a preferred approach for work, if needed;
- Reach agreement on the organisation of the work, including parties involved and the timing of the work, taking into account: resource implications and the need for independent scientific evaluation of the outcome of the work.