FOOD INGREDIENTS AND PACKAGING UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND FLAVOURINGS (FAF)

MINUTES OF THE 15TH PLENARY MEETING

Held on 30 June – 1-2 July 2020
Online meeting

11.00-12.00 / 14.00-18.00 on 30th June 2020
10.00-17.00 on 1st July 2020
09.00-13.00 on 2nd July 2020

(Agreed by written procedure on 22 July 2020)

Participants

- Panel Members:

  Gabriele Aquilina, Laurence Castle, Karl-Heinz Engel, Paul Fowler, Maria José Frutos Fernandez, Peter Fürst, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Rainer Gürtler, Trine Husøy, Melania Manco, Wim Mennes, Peter Moldeus, Sabina Passamonti, Romina Shah[1], Dina (Ine) Waalkens-Berendsen, Detlef Wölfle, Matthew Wright and Maged Younes

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

  DG SANTE (Health and Food Safety), E2 Food processing technologies and novel foods: Guillermo Cardon and Miguel-Angel Granero Rosell and Milada Schulzova

- EFSA:

  FIP Unit: Claudia Roncancio Peña, Stefania Barmaz, Ana Campos Fernandes, Maria Carfi, Consuelo Civitella, Esraa Elewa, Galvin Ndip Eyong, Alessandra Giarola, Federica Lodi, Carla Martino, Ana Maria Rincon, Camilla Smeraldi, Alexandra Tard and Giorgia Vianello

  COMMS Unit: Maria Tejero Martín and Anthony Smith

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants in the meeting. No apologies were received.

[1] Participated on 30th June PM and 1st July PM 2020. Apologies on 1st July AM and 2nd July 2020.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Scientific Panel members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[2] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[3], EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group 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.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 14th Plenary meeting held on 12-14 May 2020, Parma

The minutes of the 14th Plenary meeting held on 12-14 May 2020 were agreed by written procedure on 3 June 2020[4].

5. Report on written procedures since 14th Plenary meeting

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

6. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

FOOD ADDITIVES

6.1. Follow-up from the re-evaluation of starch sodium octenyl succinate (E 1450) as a food additive, including use in foods for infants below 16 weeks of age (EFSA-Q-2018-00102)

Further to the discussion held at the previous plenary meeting in May 2020, a revised draft scientific opinion on the follow-up to the re-evaluation of starch sodium octenyl succinate (E 1450) as a food additive, including use in foods for infants below 16 weeks of age was presented to the FAF Panel.

The Panel discussed the different parts of the assessment and unanimously 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. Re-evaluation of polyvinylpyrrolidone (E 1201; PVP)/polyvinylpolypyrrolidone (E 1202; PVPP) ((EFSA-Q-2011-00584; EFSA-Q-2011-00585) and extension of use of PVP (E1201) (EFSA-Q-2020-00232)

[2] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf
[3] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf
[4] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/event/2020/14th-plenary-meeting-faf-panel_0.pdf

Further to the discussion held at the 11th plenary meeting in December 2019, a revised draft scientific opinion on the re-evaluation of polyvinylpyrrolidone (E 1201; PVP) and polyvinylpolypyrrolidone (E 1202; PVPP), now encompassing also the assessment of an application for the proposed extension of use of PVP (E 1201) in dietary foods for special medical purposes, was presented to the FAF Panel.

The Panel discussed the different parts of the assessment and unanimously adopted the opinion, subject to incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting.

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

FLAVOURINGS

6.3. Guidance on smoke flavourings (EFSA-Q-2019-00687)

Further to the initial discussion held at the previous plenary meeting in May 2020, a first draft scientific guidance for the preparation of applications on smoke flavouring primary products was presented. The guidance is intended to provide guidance (i) to applicants for the preparation of applications for the authorisation of new smoke flavouring primary products submitted under Article 7 of Regulation (EC) No 2065/2003, (ii) for the renewal of the existing authorisation of smoke flavouring primary products submitted under Article 12 of Regulation (EC) No 2065/2003 and Regulation (EU) No 1321/2013 and (iii) for the modification of existing authorisations of smoke flavouring primary products submitted under Article 11 of Regulation (EC) No 2065/2003.

The Panel provided several comments to the draft guidance that will require further elaboration of the text. On the basis of the comments received during the current plenary meeting, the draft scientific guidance will be further elaborated by the Working Group on Guidance Update on Flavourings and will be presented to the next Plenary meeting in September 2020 in a session open to observers, when the draft should be endorsed for public consultation.

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

7.1. Scientific Committee and Scientific Panel(s) including their Working Groups

The Chair provided feedback from the last meeting of the EFSA Scientific Committee which took place on 23-24 June 2020. The following items were flagged to the attention of the Panel as of particular relevance for current and future work:

1) The EFSA guidance on technical requirements to establish the presence of small particles including nanoparticles, that will be released for public consultation.

   The Panel noted that this new guidance document will be extremely relevant to the application of the 2018 EFSA "Guidance on risk assessment of the application of nanoscience and nanotechnologies in the food and feed chain".

2) The draft statement on EFSA approaches for the Derivation of Health Based Guidance Values (HBGV) for food additives, other regulated products and nutrients, that will also be released for public consultation.

7.1.1. FAF WG Food Additives Applications

No additional issues were brought to the attention of the FAF Panel further to what is already recorded in the **minutes of the WG**.

7.1.2. FAF WG on the re-evaluation of miscellaneous food additives

No additional issues were brought to the attention of the FAF Panel further to what is already recorded in the **minutes of the WG**.

7.1.3. FAF WG on the re-evaluation of food additives permitted in foods for infants below 16 weeks of age

No additional issues were brought to the attention of the FAF Panel further to what is already recorded in the **minutes of the WG**.

7.1.4. FAF WG on the re-evaluation of remaining food additives other than colours and sweeteners

No additional issues were brought to the attention of the FAF Panel further to what is already recorded in the **minutes of the WG**.

7.1.5. FAF WG on Sweeteners

No additional issues were brought to the attention of the FAF Panel further to what is already recorded in the **minutes of the WG**.

7.1.6. FAF WG on Flavourings

No additional issues were brought to the attention of the FAF Panel further to what is already recorded in the **minutes of the WG**.

7.1.7. FAF WG on Specifications of Food Additives

No additional issues were brought to the attention of the FAF Panel further to what is already recorded in the **minutes of the WG**.

7.1.8. FAF WG on Guidance Update on Flavourings

No additional issues were brought to the attention of the FAF Panel further to what is already recorded in the **minutes of the WG**.

7.2. EFSA including its Working Groups/Task Forces

7.3. European Commission

No feedback provided.

8. New mandates

8.1. Request for EFSA to perform a risk assessment and to provide a scientific opinion on the safety in use of long-chain glycolipids from *Dacryopinax spathularia* as a food additive

This new mandate (M-2020-0102) from the European Commission covers the request for evaluation of an application for the use of long-chain glycolipids from *Dacryopinax spathularia* as a food additive (EFSA-Q-2020-00433) and is under consideration by EFSA.

Pending confirmation of the validity of the application, the scientific assessment will be carried out by the Panel WG Food Additives Applications.

9. Other scientific topics for information and/or discussion

No other scientific topics were presented for information and/or discussion.

10. Any Other Business

10.1. Working in Microsoft Teams: brief explanation on the main features for using the digital collaboration

The FAF Panel was provided with an introduction on how Microsoft TEAMS will be used in EFSA to improve collaboration on the development on outputs. In particular, the co-authorship features were presented in a DEMO to the FAF Panel. All future communications could also be done in TEAMS to avoid email overload. It was clarified to the FAF Panel that the present document management system (DMS) will remain the EFSA repository and should be available to the EFSA experts until spring 2021, when EFSA will move to a new repository system. Currently EFSA is in a transition period in which all its WGs and Panels are migrating to TEAMS.

10.2. EFSA SOP 003: Review and revision of guidance documents

10.2.1. Update of administrative guidance for submission of dossiers and possible revision of the 2012 ANS Panel Guidance for submission for food additive evaluations,[5] and the revision of the Guidance on Food Flavourings and Smoke Flavourings

In accordance with the applicable EFSA SOP 003, in preparation of the entry into force of Regulation (EC) 178/2002 ('GFL Regulation'), as amended by Regulation (EU) 2019/1381 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on the transparency and sustainability of the EU risk assessment in the food chain, the need to revise the sectorial guidance documents applicable to the remit of the FAF Panel was identified. The revision will affect the relevant sections of the guidance documents containing indication on the administrative steps to be followed for the submission of applications. These sections will be replaced by the EFSA document "Administrative Guidance on the preparation of applications on food additives, food enzymes and food flavourings (EFSA, 2020)".

In the context of this exercise, the Panel held a reflection on the need for updating the scientific content of the guidance documents in the light of the experience accrued and latest scientific developments and current references, e.g. EFSA cross-cutting guidance documents.

For what concerns the evaluation of smoke flavourings, a mandate has already been received from the EC and an updated scientific guidance document is currently under preparation (see agenda item n. 6.3). A similar mandate is expected to be received from the EC later in 2020 requesting an update of the scientific guidance for the evaluation of the other flavouring substances and therefore revisions to the currently applicable guidance will be considered in the scope of this new future mandate.

[5] https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.2903/j.efsa.2012.2760

With respect to the evaluation of food additives, instead the FAF Panel acknowledged the need for a revision of the scientific content of the guidance, to take into account the experience accrued with the interpretation of the guidance since its adoption by the ANS Panel in 2012 and the need to replace obsolete references to cross-cutting guidance documents and other links (e.g. Food Additives Intake Model (FAIM) tool 2.0; use of the benchmark dose approach in risk assessment; guidance on risk assessment of the application of nanoscience and nanotechnologies, etc) and to include the newly developed ones that would be applicable to the assessment of food additives (e.g. guidance on infants below 16 weeks of age, genotoxicity of complex mixtures, etc). A self-task activity should be initiated for the proposed revision of the scientific guidance, ideally to go in parallel with the update of the guidance on flavourings, since many of the elements to be considered will be common to the two food sectors guidance documents.

10.3. Results of the expert mutual assessment

The outcome of the 2020 EFSA Experts Mutual Assessment was presented to the Panel, alongside the next steps that will follow during the summer.

10.4. Meetings calendar 2021

Proposed dates for the FAF plenary meetings for 2021 were circulated to the members of the Panel.