FOOD INGREDIENTS AND PACKAGING UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND FLAVOURINGS (FAF)

MINUTES OF THE 17TH PLENARY MEETING

Held on 24-25 November 2020
Online meeting

09:00-17:30 on 24th November 2020
09:00-18:00 on 25th November 2020

(Agreed by written procedure on 14 December 2020)

Participants

- Panel Members:

  Gabriele Aquilina, Laurence Castle, Karl-Heinz Engel, Paul Fowler, Maria José Frutos Fernandez, Peter Fürst, Ursula Gundert-Remy[1], Rainer Gürtler, Trine Husøy, Melania Manco, Wim Mennes, Peter Moldeus, Sabina Passamonti, Romina Shah[2], 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, Miguel-Angel Granero Rosell, Milada Schulzova and Jiri Sochor

- 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

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants in the meeting. No apologies were received for the whole length of the meeting.

[1] Apologies on 24 November 2020 AM
[2] Participated on 24 November 2020 PM

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[3] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[4], 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 16th Plenary meeting – Open for Observers held on 21-23 September 2020, as online meeting

The minutes of the 16th Plenary meeting – Open for Observers held on 21-23 September 2020 were agreed by written procedure on 14 October 2020[5].

5. Report on written procedures since 16th Plenary meeting

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

6. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

FLAVOURINGS

6.1. FGE.67 Rev3 (EFSA-Q-2013-00853; EFSA-Q-2013-00855; EFSA-Q-2013-00856; EFSA-Q-2013-00857; EFSA-Q-2013-00858; EFSA-Q-2013-00859; EFSA-Q-2014-00388; EFSA-Q-2014-00389; EFSA-Q-2014-00416; EFSA-Q-2014-00417; EFSA-Q-2014-00419; EFSA-Q-2014-00420)

The draft opinion on FGE.67 Rev3 was presented for the first time to the members of the Panel together with the main points for discussion. The current revision includes assessment of new data relevant for the evaluation of 12 substances not covered by the previous revision. During the assessment, the evaluation of two substances [FL-no: 13.066, 13.103] was withdrawn from the mandate because they are no longer supported by the business operators.

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.

[3] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf
[4] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf
[5] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/event/2020/16th-plenary-meeting-faf-panel-open-observers.pdf

6.2. Guidance on smoke flavourings (EFSA-Q-2019-00687): feedback from public consultation and technical hearing with interested parties

Further to the closure of the public consultation on 16 November 2020 and the technical hearing held on 5 November 2020 as an online event, the Panel was presented with a general overview of the comments received during both initiatives.

A significant number of the comments received from interested parties were related to the following topics:

- Feasibility issue related to the completion of the studies required for the renewal applications before the expiry of the current authorisations of smoke flavourings, as foreseen by Regulation (EC) No 2065/2003 (i.e. 1 Jan 2024, which may be extended by a 6-months period until 30 June 2024), combined with the legal requirement for a dossier submission to occur 18 months prior to the expiry of the authorisations (i.e. by 30 June 2022).
- Impact of Regulation (EU) 2019/1381 on the transparency and sustainability of the EU risk assessment in the food chain, entering into force in March 2021, on the timelines related to the submission of renewal applications for smoke flavouring primary products.
- The application of the component-based approach (CBA) to the genotoxicity assessment of smoke flavourings, in line with the EFSA Scientific Committee Statement on the genotoxicity assessment of chemical mixtures (EFSA SC, 2019);
- Interpretation of the tiered approach proposed for the safety assessment of smoke flavourings.

The general and initial view of the Panel was sought with respect to the comments received. These will be discussed in detail by the experts of the WG on Guidance Update on Flavourings and further elaborated in the revised version of the draft guidance document that will be tabled for discussion and possible adoption by the FAF Panel at a forthcoming Plenary meeting.

FOOD ADDITIVES

6.3. Re-evaluation of E 1200 Polydextrose (EFSA-Q-2011-00583)

The draft opinion on the re-evaluation of polydextrose (E 1200) as a food additive was presented for the first time to the members of the Panel, together with the main points for discussion.
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.

6.4. Assessment of titanium dioxide (E 171) as a food additive – progress update (EFSA-Q-2020-00262)

The Panel was presented with an update on the ongoing assessment of titanium dioxide (E 171), mainly focussing on the approach followed for the collection, screening and

assessment of the data from the publications retrieved from a literature search covering the last five years and the current status of the evaluation of the data from the requested extended one-generation reproductive toxicity study. In addition, advice received from the EFSA cross-cutting Working Group Nanotechnology and the progress made by the EFSA cross-cutting Working Group on Genotoxicity were also presented. As the assessment is still progressing, another update will be scheduled for the coming plenary meeting in December 2020.

6.5. Re-evaluation of pectin (E 440i) and amidated pectin (E 440ii) as a food additive in foods for infants below 16 weeks of age (EFSA-Q-2018-00098)

The FAF Panel was consulted on the approach followed and the preliminary conclusions reached on the assessment of the data provided by interested parties in response to the follow-up calls launched by EFSA after the re-evaluation of the food additives pectin (E 440i) and amidated pectin (E 440ii) with respect to the use in foods for infants below 16 weeks of age.
Based on the comments received during the current plenary meeting the draft opinion will be further elaborated by the Working Group and will be tabled for possible adoption at a forthcoming Plenary meeting.

6.6. Re-evaluation of lecithins (E322) – erratum to the scientific opinion of the ANS Panel (EFSA-Q-2011-00500)

Due to the lack of time the discussion has been rescheduled for the FAF Plenary meeting to be held in December 2020.

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 general feedback from the last meeting of the Scientific Committee which took place on 11-12 November 2020.

7.1.1. Scientific criteria for grouping chemicals into assessment groups for human risk assessment (RA) of combined exposure to multiple chemicals.

Due to the lack of time the presentation has been rescheduled for the FAF Plenary meeting to be held in December 2020.

7.1.2. 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**.

7.1.3. 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**.

7.1.4. 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.**

7.1.5. 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.**

7.1.6. 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.**

7.1.7. 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.**

7.1.8. 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.**

7.1.9. 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

No feedback provided.

7.3. European Commission

No feedback provided.

8. New mandates

Since the last Plenary meeting held in September 2020, no new mandates have been received.

8.1. Request for a scientific opinion on the safety of the new flavouring substance 2-hydroxy-4-methoxybenzaldehyde (Ref FLA 20-01)

Since the last plenary meeting, this mandate (M-2020-0150) was considered valid by APDESK on 07/10/2020 and the scientific assessment is currently in progress (EFSA-Q-2020-00573). The WG Flavourings is tasked with the drafting of the scientific opinion.

9. Other scientific topics for information and/or discussion

None

10. Any Other Business

10.1. ECHA CHL assessment of sulphur dioxide

EFSA secretariat informed the Panel about the latest developments on the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) evaluation of sulphur dioxide (CAS No 7446-09-5) as an active substance in biocidal products. Upon proposal from the German competent authority, the substance has been submitted to ECHA for inclusion in the registry of classification and labelling (CLH)[6]. The proposed revision to the harmonised classification and labelling, includes the proposal for a classification of the substance for germ cell mutagenicity as "Muta. 2, H341". A public consultation on this proposal took place between September and November 2020, and the opinion of the ECHA Committee for Risk Assessment (RAC) is expected for adoption in February 2022.
A mandate from the EC to EFSA to follow-up on the conclusions and recommendations of the ANS Panel opinion on the re-evaluation of the food additives sulphur dioxide–sulphites (E 220–228) is under preparation. It can be reasonably anticipated that in the context of this new mandate cooperation between EFSA and ECHA will be encouraged.

[6] https://echa.europa.eu/es/registry-of-clh-intentions-until-outcome/-/dislist/details/0b0236e181cb8df5