

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE AND ADVISORY FORUM UNIT

Parma, 15 May, 2009

Minutes of the National Experts on Aspartame

London, UK, 2-3 April, 2009

(adopted by the written procedure on 8 May, 2009)

Participants

National Experts: Eleni Kakouri (CY), Daniela Winklerová (CZ), Iona PRATT (EI), Hannu Raunion (FI), Tero Hirvonen (FI), Aldert Piersma (NL) André H. Penninks (NL), Jacqueline J.M. Castenmiller (NL), Tor Øystein Fotland (NO), Trine Husøy (NO), Angelina Lopes Simões Pena (PT), Maria Conceição Brancoi Montenegro (PT), Maria de Lourdes Bastos (PT), Nils-Gunnar Ilbäck (SE), Marica Theiszová (SK), Martina Valachovicova (SK), Nathalie Thatcher(UK), Stephen Atkin (UK)

EFSA: Gian Luca Bonduri, Georgi Nikolaev Grigorov, Miriam Jacobs, Hugues Kenigswald, Erik Konings, Djien Liem, Jeffrey Moon, Torben Nilsson, Karen Talbot.

1. Welcome and apologies

Djen Liem, Head of the Scientific Committee and Advisory Forum Unit of EFSA welcomed the participants to the meeting. Apologies were received from Germany and France.

2. Adoption of agenda

The Agenda was presented and agreed without changes.

3. Declarations of interest

Djen Liem outlined the requirements for all National Experts to complete an Annual Declaration of Interest (ADol) in accordance with EFSA's Policy on Declarations of Interests. It was noted that the Organising Team had all completed ADol as had other attending experts who were involved in other EFSA activities. These Experts were advised that an updated ADol would be required. It was emphasised that the ADols would need to be completed as soon as possible and that this would be followed up after the meeting and before any further work was carried out.

4. Discussions

4.1 End Points I: Brain Function, Satiation and Epidemiology /Exposure

4.2 End Points II: Fertility and Reproduction, Immunotoxicity/Allergenicity and

4.3 End Points III: Metabolism/Diabetes and Cancer/Genotoxicity

The experts from the Organising Team presented information on the review of peer reviewed literature relating to each of the end points considered. Discussion followed on identifying missing data and areas for further consideration.

4.4 Non-Peer Reviewed Submissions

The experts were provided with an overview of the non-peer reviewed information and details of cases of adverse reactions to aspartame that had been identified by the Organising team. The non-peer reviewed information included published articles in popular press such as lifestyle magazines, published on the internet and unpublished thesis papers. The case information being reviewed consists of the published volume of case reports by Dr Roberts and some additional information submitted by interest groups as part of the submissions to the Call for Data. This information was in most cases self-reported.

5. Next Steps

It was agreed that the work of the Organising Team should continue to prepare a report for consideration at a further meeting to be held in November. It was also agreed that there should be a public consultation on the report once it was completed and adopted by the participating National Experts. The report, together with the details of the comments received from the public consultation would then be presented to the Advisory Forum, most likely in February 2010.

