



Brussels, 5 December 2003
EFSA/THM
EFSA/AFC/PLE/M03/MIN-final

**MINUTES OF THE 3rd PLENARY MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC
PANEL ON
FOOD ADDITIVES, FLAVOURINGS, PROCESSING AIDS
AND MATERIALS IN CONTACT WITH FOOD
Held in Brussels on 30 September to 1 October 2003**

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PARTICIPANTS

Panel Members:

Robert Anton, Susan Barlow (chair); Dimitrios Boskou; Laurence Castle; Riccardo Crebelli; Wolfgang Dekant; Karl-Heinz Engel; Werner Grunow (2nd vice chair); John Christian Larsen (1st vice chair); Catherine Leclercq; Wim C. Mennes; Maria Rosaria Milana; Ivonne Rietjens; Paul Tobback; Fidel Toldrá

Apologies

Stephen Forsythe; Kjetil Svensson;

EFSA

Torben Hallas-Møller (scientific co-ordinator of AFC Panel), Dimitrios Spyropoulos (assistant scientific co-ordinator of AFC Panel), Hanne Pedersen (administrative secretary of AFC Panel),

Commission

Taina Säteri; Helen Lee; Katja Neubauer, Annette Schäfer (DG Health and Consumer Protection)

Experts

Cyrille Krul (TNO) (item 7.2)

1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were noted.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

J.C. Larsen declared that he had advised his national authorities on semicarbazide in carrageenan.

L. Castle declared that he had performed analytical studies and advised his national authorities in chemical matters concerning migration of semicarbazide from sealing gaskets to foods (item 7.2).

It was decided these were not interests in conflict and that they could participate fully in the discussion.

4. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2ND PLENARY MEETING ON 22 MAY 2003

The minutes were adopted. The members were informed that in the future the minutes from Panel meetings should be adopted by written procedure so as not to delay their publication unduly.

5. GENERAL INFORMATION FROM EFSA

The panel was informed that EFSA would move to new premises in rue de Genève 10 on 3 October.

6. FOLLOW UP FROM SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 30 JUNE TO 1 JULY AND 27-28 AUGUST

The members were informed of the main items discussed at the 2 meetings held in the Scientific Committee since AFC last met in July. A new working group on exposure has been established and also one on genotoxic carcinogens and a task force on nutraceuticals. AFC will be represented in these groups.

Further details can be found in the minutes from the SC meetings:

http://www.efsa.eu.int/pdf/minutes_sci_01_adopted_en.pdf and
http://www.efsa.eu.int/pdf/minutes_sci_02_adopted_en.pdf

7. SOME SUBSTANCES USED IN FOOD CONTACT MATERIALS

7.1. 1st list of substances for food contact materials

The draft opinion on the following substances was adopted with editorial changes to be inserted by the secretariat before publication:

Ref. No. 31542;	Acrylic acid, methyl ester, telomer with 1-dodecanethiol, C16-C18 alkyl esters; CAS No 174254-23-0
Ref. No 33105;	Alcohols C12-C14 Secondary.beta.-(2-hydroxyethoxy)-ethoxylated; CAS No 146340-15-0
Ref. No 48960;	9,10-dihydroxy stearic acid; CAS No 000120-87-6
Ref. No 69160;	Oleic acid, cobalt salt; CAS No 014666-94-5

The opinion can be seen on http://www.efsa.eu.int/p_foodadd_en.html

The following substances were referred back to the working group for further elaboration:

Ref. No.: 21370	Methacrylic acid, 2-sulphoethyl ester; CAS No :10595-80-9
Ref. No.:76415;	Pimelic acid, calcium salt CAS No:19455-79-9
Ref. No 77708;	Polyethyleneglycol (EO = 1-50) ethers of primary linear and branched C ₈ - C ₂₂ alcohols CAS No 09002-92-0; 09004-95-9; 09043-30-5; 09002-92-0 68439-49-6; 68439-50-9; 68213-23-0; 09005-00-9; 61791-28-4 09005-00-9; 09005-00-9

7.2. Semicarbazide

The panel was informed of the results of various tests and of the latest progress in chemistry and exposure and issued a statement which can be seen on (http://www.efsa.eu.int/pdf/p_afc_doc_02_en.pdf)

8. SOME SUBSTANCES USED AS NUTRIENT SOURCES

8.1. Carnitine tartrate

The revised draft opinion was discussed and the opinion adopted, apart from the summary, which was to be adopted by written procedure. The opinion can be seen on http://www.efsa.eu.int/p_foodadd_en.html.

8.2. Calcium sulphate

Discussion deferred.

9. WORKING PROGRAMME

9.1. Meeting days in 2004

The following meeting days were agreed in the AFC Panel and its working groups:

Panel plenary	17-18 Feb.	28-29 Apr.	12-13 July	5-6 Oct.	7-8 Dec.
Additive WG	20-21 Jan.	16-17 Mar.	25-26 May	14-15 Sep	23-24 Nov.
Flavouring WG	24-25 Feb.	1-2 June	12-13 Oct.	14-15 Dec.	
Food Contact Material WG	9-11 Mar	15-17 June	7-9 Sep.	10-12 Nov.	

9.2. Working programme

EFSA has received from the Commission a request to re-evaluate all approved food additives. The Panel, as stated in its minutes from the previous meeting (http://www.efsa.eu.int/pdf/minutes_afc_02_adopted_en.pdf), recognises that for some additives a re-evaluation is warranted, but considering that food additives generally are of very low toxicity it would, in the opinion of the Panel, be unnecessary to undertake a systematic evaluation of all additives on public health grounds.

Other tasks recently received from the Commission, but not discussed at the present meeting are:

An updated terms of reference for nutrient sources with the inclusion of further substances for evaluation by the Panel: Calcium, Magnesium and ferrous pidolate, D-a-tocopheryl acid succinate, lycopene and lutein.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

11. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

The minutes were adopted by written procedure