



**MINUTES OF THE 16TH PLENARY MEETING
OF THE SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON
FOOD ADDITIVES, FLAVOURINGS, PROCESSING AIDS
AND MATERIALS IN CONTACT WITH FOOD
Held in Parma on 28 February - 2 March 2006
Adopted on 3 May at 17th Plenary meeting**

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**MINUTES OF THE 16TH PLENARY MEETING
OF THE SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON
FOOD ADDITIVES, FLAVOURINGS, PROCESSING AIDS
AND MATERIALS IN CONTACT WITH FOOD (AFC)
Held in Parma on 28 February – 2 March 2006**

PARTICIPANTS

Panel Members:

Dimitrios Boskou, Laurence Castle; Riccardo Crebelli; Wolfgang Dekant (1st and 2nd day); Karl-Heinz Engel (2nd and 3rd day); Werner Grunow (2nd vice chair), Marina Heinonen; John Christian Larsen (1st vice chair; chair of this meeting); Catherine Leclercq; Maria Rosaria Milana; Iona Pratt (1st day); Kjetil Svensson; Paul Tobback; Fidel Toldrá (2nd and 3rd day);

Experts:

Jørn Gry and Rainer Gürtler (item 9)

Apologies

Robert Anton, Susan Barlow (Chair); Stephen Forsythe; Wim C. Mennes; Ivonne Rietjens;

EFSA

Torben Hallas-Møller (scientific co-ordinator of AFC Panel), Dimitrios Spyropoulos (assistant scientific co-ordinator of AFC Panel); Anne Theobald (assistant scientific co-ordinator of AFC Panel); Maud Pâques, (administrative secretary of AFC Panel); Ilse Koenig (administrative assistant of AFC Panel), Carola Sonderman (senior press officer) (item 7.2); Juliane Kleiner (item 7.2)

Commission

Michael Walsh (DG Health and Consumer Affairs); Catherine Simoneau JRC, Ispra (3rd day)

1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

As the Chair Susan Barlow was not participating in the meeting the meeting was chaired by the first vice chair John. C. Larsen.

The Chair welcomed the Participants.

Apologies were noted.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

These are noted under the specific item on Aspartame (item 7.2) and bisphenol A (item 10.1).

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 15TH PLENARY MEETING ON 24-26 JANUARY 2006

No matters were raised. The minutes can be seen on
http://www.efsa.eu.int/science/afc/afc_meetings/catindex_en.html

5. GENERAL INFORMATION FROM EFSA AND THE COMMISSION

Members of the Plenary meeting were informed that the MB had nominated EFSA's future Executive Director, Mrs Cathérine Geslaine-Lanéele. A Parliamentary hearing by the Environment Committee of the EP has been held. After appointment she will probably take up the position in July.

The call for expression of interest in membership of the EFSA Panels & SC has closed after its deadline was extended. The applications are being evaluated. A shortlist will be provided to the AF afterwards a shortlist will be circulated to the MB who will select shortlisted candidates.

The Commission reported that more systematic feedback and the impact on European legislation of EFSA's deliveries will be provided. The present draft describing the procedure will be revised after comments from Prof. Silano and from EFSA

6. FEEDBACK FROM RECENT MEETINGS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE, MANAGEMENT BOARD AND ADVISORY FORUM

The chair informed the Panel on the meeting of the Scientific Committee held on 15-16 February 2006.

Minutes from this meeting of the Scientific Committee can be seen on:
http://www.efsa.eu.int/science/sc_committee/sc_meetings/1344_en.html

The secretariat reported on the meetings of the Management Board held on 24 January
Minutes from the MB meeting can be found on:
http://www.efsa.eu.int/mboard/mb_meetings/1418/mb_draftminutes_24thmeet_en_21.pdf

There have been no meetings of the Advisory Forum since the last Plenary meeting of the Panel.

7. FOOD ADDITIVES

7.1. Maltitol syrup (E 965ii)–statement on specification (Q-2005-289)

The Panel discussed a draft statement concerning a new production method for maltitol and several comments were made. The Panel agreed that the proposed modification of the production method would fall within the previous opinion of the Scientific Committee on Food and that the specification for the substance could be modified accordingly. It was decided instead of the suggested statement to issue a formal opinion and a revised draft was adopted in principle pending adoption by written procedure.

The opinion can be found on
http://www.efsa.eu.int/science/afc/afc_opinions/catindex_en.html

7.2. Aspartame (Q-2005-122)

Following interests have been declared by the members:

S. Barlow, K.-H. Engel, W. Grunow, J.C. Larsen and P. Tobback had participated as members of the SCF in that committee's opinion on aspartame from 2002.

W. Grunow, J.C. Larsen, W. Mennes, I Pratt, K. Svensson and P. Tobback declared that they had advised their national authorities on the scientific aspects of aspartame, but had not been part of the national regulatory process when aspartame was originally approved.

I. Rietjens declared that she, beside her general interests appearing on her annual declaration, she had advised a consumer group on aspartame 5 years ago.

It was concluded that these interests were not a conflict and that the members could participate in the discussion.

K.-H. Engel declared that from 2001 to 2004 a PhD student, who was an employee of Ajinomoto, had made a thesis at his laboratory and that the student's stay had been financed by Ajinomoto. The work was related to flavourings (title of the thesis: Enzyme-catalyzed transformations of sulphur-containing flavour precursors) and was unconnected with aspartame. As no other direct or indirect financing by Ajinomoto had taken place the Chair, the Secretariat and the Panel agreed that this could not be considered a conflict of interest.

The Working Group Chair informed the Panel of the progress in the WG and presented a draft opinion, which were discussed to some details and several suggestions were made. It is anticipated that a draft opinion could be presented for adoption to the next Plenary in beginning May.

8. SUBSTANCES USED AS NUTRIENT SOURCES

8.1. Status of incoming food supplement dossiers to date

An updated list of submitted requests can be found on the Commission website:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/food/labellingnutrition/supplements/food_supplements.pdf

9. FLAVOURINGS

9.1. Flavouring group evaluations

9.1.1. *FGE.16 Aromatic ketones from chemical group 21*

The draft opinion was extensively discussed and several changes were suggested. Subject to these changes the draft opinion was adopted. The full opinion will be published on

http://www.efsa.eu.int/science/afc/afc_opinions/catindex_en.html

9.1.2. *FGE.18 Aliphatic, alicyclic and aromatic saturated and unsaturated tertiary alcohols aromatic tertiary alcohols and their esters*

The draft opinion was extensively discussed and several changes were suggested. Subject to these changes the draft opinion was adopted. The full opinion will be published on

http://www.efsa.eu.int/science/afc/afc_opinions/catindex_en.html

9.1.3. *FGE.26 Amino acids from chemical group 34*

The draft opinion was extensively discussed. It was decided to defer an adoption to the next Plenary meeting pending the receipt information from flavouring industry to clarify some matters on actual use levels and chemical structure.

9.1.4. *FGE.22 Phenol derivatives containing ring-alkyl, ring-alkoxy, and side-chains with an oxygenated functional group from chemical group 25.*

During the discussion of this FGE in the FLAVIS working group the question of whether it would be appropriate to use phenol as such as a supporting substance and the issue was therefore brought to the attention of the Panel. After a lengthy discussion it was decided that phenol could not be used for this FGE as it consisted of ring substituted phenol derivatives, which would not be metabolised like phenol. However, as phenol is included in the Register it shall also be taken through the procedure and it was decided to create a new group for phenol and substances which can be metabolised to phenol.

9.2. **Smoke flavourings**

The chair of the Working Group on Smoke Flavourings informed of the progress in the WG.

10. **FOOD CONTACT MATERIALS**

10.1. **Bisphenol-A (Q-2005-100)**

Laurence Castle expressed an interest because his laboratory has performed analyses on bisphenol-A. This was not considered as a conflict of interest and he was invited to participate in the discussions.

A second discussion of the draft opinion, focusing on the exposure aspects, took place. Proposed changes were noted and the rapporteurs will present the new draft to the next Plenary.

10.2. **ESBO (Q-2005-219)**

The draft opinion was discussed and changes were noted. The revised draft was adopted by written procedure.

The full opinion can be seen at:

http://www.efsa.eu.int/science/afc/afc_opinions/catindex_en.html

11. **WORKING PROGRAMME**

The updated register of questions can be seen on the EFSA website at http://www.efsa.eu.int/register/qr_panels_en.html.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

12.1. Benzene in soft drinks

The secretariat gave information on the recent findings on benzene in certain soft drinks containing the additives benzoic acid and ascorbic acid. The item was discussed and referred to the additives working group for further consideration.

12.2. Draft opinion of the Scientific Committee on uncertainties in dietary exposure assessment.

C. Leclercq, who is a member of the SC exposure group, presented a draft opinion and the Panel members gave their immediate comments and were further invited to send their written comments.

12.3. Guidance document on antimicrobial used for decontamination of carcasses.

The secretariat informed of the intention to create an EFSA guidance document for presenting of data for the evaluation of the safety and efficacy of decontamination products. This will be done together with the BIOHAZ Panel.

The Panel had several comments on the draft concerning data relevant for the safety evaluation. A revised draft will be sent to the Panel and additives working group members for further comments.

Post meeting note: a combined AFC/BIOHAZ draft guidance document has been published on the EFSA website for public consultation:

http://www.efsa.eu.int/science/biohaz/biohaz_consultations/1429_en.html