Location: EFSA – Parma/Web-conference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
  Monika Batke, Ellen Bruzell, Polly Boon, Laurence Castle, Kevin Chipman (1st day), Riccardo Crebelli, Rex FitzGerald, Cristina Fortes, Maria José Frutos Fernandez, Peter Fürst (1st day), Ursula Gundert-Remy, Thorhallur Ingi Halldorsson, Trine Husøy, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Oliver Lindtner, Alicja Mortensen, Evangelia Ntzani, Romina Shah, Heather Wallace (2nd day), Matthew Wright and Maged Younes (Chair).

- EFSA:
  FIP Unit: Stefania Barmaz, Consuelo Civitella, Federica Lodi, Elena Mazzoli, Josef Daniel Rasinger, Camilla Smeraldi, Alexandra Tard, Sam Vermeiren and Panagiota Zakidou.
  MESE Unit: Petra Gergelová, Zsuzsanna Horvath and Francesca Riolo

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No full apologies were received.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management, 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.

IV. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

One break-out group, subgroup exposure, was held in parallel to the rest of the meeting on 18th and 19th April.

a. Re-evaluation of saccharin (E 954) ([EFSA-Q-2011-00736]; [EFSA-Q-2011-00737]; [EFSA-Q-2011-00738]; [EFSA-Q-2011-00739])

Biological and toxicological part:

The section on genotoxicity was reviewed. Furthermore, the WG discussed some parts of the weight of evidence (WoE) and both tables and text were revised accordingly. In this respect, to advance on this task, two preparatory meetings were held on 8 and 9 April with the experts involved to discuss the WoE of both animal and human studies.

A discussion on the evidence available on the mode of action was also held.
Exposure part:
A discussion on the papers on saccharin retrieved from the literature was held and the text was revised accordingly. Further clarifications and improvements based on the comments provided by the participants were noted.

Subject to these revisions, a new document will be presented for discussion at a forthcoming Working Group meeting (some sections) and Plenary meeting (some other sections).

b. Re-evaluation on acesulfame K (E 950) ([EFSA-Q-2011-00721](#))
A discussion on the approach to perform the re-evaluation on acesulfame K took place.
Exposure part: not discussed due to lack of time.

c. Exposure assessment on maltitols (E 965) ([EFSA-Q-2017-00490 EFSA-Q-2011-00755](#))
Not discussed due to lack of time.

d. Revision of the protocol on exposure assessment of sweeteners
The Working Group finalised the draft protocol on the exposure assessment of sweeteners.
Subject to these revisions a new document will be presented at a forthcoming Plenary meeting for endorsement.

V. Next meeting
The next meeting will be held on 28th and 30th May (Web-conference).
Location: EFSA – Web-conference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
  - Monika Batke, Ellen Bruzell, Polly Boon, Laurence Castle, Kevin Chipman, Rex FitzGerald, Cristina Fortes, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Thorhallur Ingi Halldorsson, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Oliver Lindtner, Alicja Mortensen, Evangelia Ntzani, Romina Shah, Heather Wallace and Matthew Wright.

- EFSA:
  - FIP Unit: Stefania Barmaz, Consuelo Civitella, Federica Lodi (Chair), Elena Mazzoli, Josef Daniel Rasinger, Ana Maria Rincon, Camilla Smeraldi, Alexandra Tard, Sam Vermeiren and Panagiota Zakidou.
  - MESE Unit: Petra Gergelova and Francesca Riolo

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received by Riccardo Crebelli, Heather Wallace, Maged Younes.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management, 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.

IV. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

One break-out session, subgroup exposure, was held in parallel to the rest of the meeting on 4th and 6th March.


Biological and toxicological part: the WG discussed some parts of the draft opinion, specifically the introduction, information on existing evaluations, ADME and genotoxicity.

Exposure part: The pending comments in the exposure part of the draft opinion were discussed and agreed (subgroup exposure). In addition, the sections on the uncertainties and concentrations and dietary exposure to saccharin from literature were discussed and revised.
(subgroup exposure). The exposure assessment of saccharin was also presented to the rest of the WG.
Further clarifications and improvements based on the comments provided by the participants were noted.
Subject to these revisions a new document will be presented for discussion at a forthcoming Working Group meeting.

b. General issues
The WG discussed some general points on the weight of evidence for saccharin (E 954) and on some studies on glucose homeostasis and on neurobehavioral disorders.

c. Update on the technical hearings on sucralose (E955) (EFSA-Q-2011-00724; EFSA-Q-2021-00375)
Feedback on the outcome of the technical hearings on sucralose (E 955) held on 22 February 2024 was given to the WG members.

d. Revision of the protocol on exposure assessment of sweeteners
The protocol on exposure assessment of sweeteners was further discussed and revised accordingly.

V. AOB
None.

VI. Next meeting
The next meeting will be held on 18th and 19th April (Parma/Web-conference).
Location: Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
  Laurence Castle, Kevin Chipman, Riccardo Crebelli, Peter Fürst and Maged Younes (Chair).

- Hearing experts representing interested business operators:
  Robert Rankin, Yang Yang, Shuzhi Ren, Linda Lu, Yi Gao and Aleena Sheikh from Calorie Control Council (CCC) were invited to present their views regarding the item IV “Applicant’s Technical hearing on sucralose (E 955) (EFSA-Q-2011-00724)” of the present meeting. They attended the meeting from 14:00 to 16:00 (CET time).

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
  EC: Katleen Baert
  EFSA:
  FIP Unit: Federica Lodi, Ana Maria Rincon, Camilla Smeraldi.

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.
No apologies were received.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agendas were adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest

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1 As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf)

2 In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management, EFSA invited hearing experts (for agenda item IV) to submit an ADoI. Their participation was limited to providing testimony, without the possibility to take on any role undertaken by members of the Working Group, in accordance with the applicable legal framework.
related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process.

IV. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. Technical hearing on sucralose (E 955) ([EFSA-Q-2011-00724](#))

Upon request from EFSA, the representatives of the interested business operators were given the opportunity to clarify the data submitted previously to EFSA on sucralose (E 955). Outstanding issues on these data were discussed separately with the different interested business operators. After the technical hearings were finished, and the hearing experts left the teleconference, the Working Group discussed the clarifications provided during the meeting. EFSA will follow up by providing the interested business operators with a written summary of the points discussed.

V. Any Other Business

None

VI. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 4 and 6 March via web conference.
Location: EFSA – Web-conference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
  Monika Batke, Polly Boon, Ellen Bruzell, Laurence Castle, Kevin Chipman, Riccardo Crebelli, Rex FitzGerald, Cristina Fortes, Maria Jose Frutos, Peter Fürst, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Thorhallur Ingi Halldorsson, Trine Husoy, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Oliver Lindtner, Alicja Mortensen, Evangelia Ntzani, Romina Shah, Heather Wallace, Matthew Wright and Maged Younes (Chair).

- EFSA:
  FIP Unit: Stefania Barmaz, Consuelo Civitella, Federica Lodi, Elena Mazzoli, Josef Daniel Rasinger, Ana Maria Rincon, Camilla Smeraldi, Alexandra Tard, Sam Vermeiren, and Panagiota Zakidou.
  MESE Unit: Petra Gergelova, Francesca Riolo.

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management, 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.

IV. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

One break-out session, subgroup exposure, was held in parallel to the rest of the meeting on 22nd and 26th January.

Another break-out session (i.e. Discussion on sucralose (E 955) and 1,6-DCF) was held in parallel to the rest of the meeting on 26 January.

a. Re-evaluation of saccharin (E 954) ([EFSA-Q-2011-00736; EFSA-Q-2011-00737; EFSA-Q-2011-00738; EFSA-Q-2011-00739])

Exposure part: a discussion on the exposure part of the draft opinion was held. The sections on the authorised uses and use levels, the data used for the exposure assessment and the different scenarios used to assess exposure were discussed and revised.
Technical Part: a discussion on the technical part of the draft opinion, including the impurities of the additive, and on the decisions and observations made by the Working Group (WG) Specifications, took place.

Toxicological part: the genotoxicity section of the draft opinion was discussed, with focus on the potential genotoxicity of the impurities discussed in the technical part. A discussion on the weight of evidence analysis of both animal and human studies took place.

Further clarifications and improvements based on the comments provided by the participants were noted.

Subject to these revisions a new document will be presented for discussion at a forthcoming WG meeting.

b. Feedback from the preparatory meeting of the WG Sweeteners: discussion on the impurities of saccharin (E 954) (EFSA-Q-2011-00736; EFSA-Q-2011-00737; EFSA-Q-2011-00738; EFSA-Q-2011-00739)

The WG received an update from a preparatory meeting held on 19 December 2023 to discuss the ongoing assessment of the technical data and genotoxicity data on saccharin (E 954) in respect to the impurities identified for both manufacturing processes. The way forward was discussed and agreed.

c. Feedback from the preparatory meeting of the FAF Panel on genotoxicity of sucralose (E 955) and neotame (E 961) (EFSA-Q-2011-00724; EFSA-Q-2021-00375; EFSA-Q-2011-00740)

An update on the main outcome of the discussion held at the preparatory meeting on genotoxicity on 20th December 2023 was provided to the WG.

Considerations on sucralose (E 955) and its hydrolysis product 1,6-dichloro-1,6-dideoxyfructose (1,6 DCF) as well as on neotame (E 961) were presented and discussed. The content of a request for additional data on neotame (E 961) was discussed and agreed.

d. Re-evaluation of sucralose (E 955) (EFSA-Q-2011-00724; EFSA-Q-2021-00375)

A discussion on sucralose (E 955) and 1,6-DCF, mainly focused on its formation and kinetics, took place. The WG agreed to host a technical hearing with the interested business operators to clarify some aspects on this matter and the need to ask for further data. Evidence on the kinetics based on the data available will be also further assessed.

e. Revision of the protocol on exposure assessment of sweeteners

A discussion was held on the application of facets in the exposure scenarios performed for the sweeteners. The protocol will be revised accordingly and discussed in the next WG.

V. AOB

None.

VI. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 4th and 6th March 2024 (Web-conference).
Location: EFSA – Web-conference

Attendees:

- **Working Group Members:**
  - Monika Batke, Ellen Bruzell, Polly Boon, Laurence Castle, Kevin Chipman (20th November), Riccardo Crebelli (20th November), Rex FitzGerald, Cristina Fortes, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Thorhallur Ingi Halldorsson, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Oliver Lindtner (20th November), Alicja Mortensen, Evangelia Ntzani, Romina Shah (20th November), Heather Wallace, Matthew Wright and Maged Younes (Chair).

- **European Commission and/or Member States representatives:**
  - EC: Katleen Baert (20th November)

- **EFSA:**
  - FIP Unit: Stefania Barmaz, Consuelo Civitella, Valeriu-Georgi Curtui, Federica Lodi, Camilla Smeraldi, Alexandra Tard, Josef Daniel Rasinger, Elena Mazzoli and Sam Vermeiren.
  - MESE Unit: Petra Gergelova, Francesca Riolo.

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Trine Husøy.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management, 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.

IV. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

One break-out session, subgroup exposure, was held in parallel to the rest of the meeting on 20th and 24th November.


Exposure part: the occurrence data were discussed and the first sections of the draft opinion were reviewed.

Biological and Toxicological part: a discussion on the approach to be followed and on the biological and toxicological section, in particular the sections on ADME, other toxicity studies and weight of evidence, took place.
Further clarifications and improvements based on the comments provided by the participants were noted.

Subject to these revisions a new document will be presented for discussion at a forthcoming Working Group meeting.

b. **Re-evaluation on Sucralose (E 955) and Cyclamates (E 954)** ([EFSA-Q-2011-00724]; [EFSA-Q-2011-00733]; [EFSA-Q-2011-00734]; [EFSA-Q-2011-00735]):

A discussion on the genotoxicity data received following the call for data and the technical hearing (held in March 2023 with the respective interested business operators) took place.

Next steps on how to move forward with these assessments were discussed.

c. **Discussion on the recommendation following the adoption of the opinion on erythritol (E 968).**

A general discussion took place concerning the recommendations following the adoption of the opinion on erythritol (E 968).

Next steps on how to move forward with these recommendations were discussed.

d. **Revision of the protocol on exposure assessment of sweeteners:**

The protocol on exposure assessment of sweeteners was revised to include acute exposure scenarios.

V. **AOB**

Minutes of the 51st Working Group meeting on the re-evaluation of sweeteners held on 20 and 24 November 2023 were agreed on 24 November 2023.

VI. **Next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 22 and 26 January 2024 (Web-conference).
Location: Parma/Webconference

Attendees:
- Working Group Members: Monika Batke, Ellen Bruzell, Polly Boon (2nd day), Laurence Castle, Rex FitzGerald, Cristina Fortes, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Thorhallur Ingi Halldorsson, Trine Husoy, Jean-Charles Leblanc (2nd day), Oliver Lindtner (2nd day), Alicja Mortensen (2nd day), Evangelia Ntzani, Romina Shah (2nd day), Heather Wallace, Matthew Wright and Maged Younes (Chair).
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
  EC: Katleen Baert and Olga Goulaki
- EFSA:
  FIP Unit: Stefania Barmaz, Consuelo Civitella, Federica Lodi, Camilla Smeraldi and Alexandra Tard.

I. **Welcome and apologies for absence**

The Chair welcomed the participants.

II. **Adoption of agenda**

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. **Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members**

In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management, 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.

IV. **Scientific topic(s) for discussion**


Exposure part: a discussion on the uncertainties and the discussion section took place.

Biological and Toxicological part: the biological and toxicological section of the draft opinion as well as the discussion, uncertainty, conclusion and recommendations sections were discussed and finalised.

Further clarifications and improvements based on the comments provided by the participants were noted.

Subject to these revisions a new document will be presented for discussion at a forthcoming Plenary meeting.
b) **Revision of the protocol on exposure assessment of sweeteners:** this item was not discussed due to lack of time.

V. **Any Other Business**

None

VI. **Next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 20 and 24 November (Web).
Location: Parma/Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
  - Monika Batke, Ellen Bruzell, Polly Boon, Laurence Castle, Riccardo Crebelli (1st day), Maria Jose Frutos, Rex FitzGerald, Cristina Fortes, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Thorhallur Ingi Halldorsson, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Oliver Lindtner, Alicja Mortensen (1st day), Evangelia Ntzani, Romina Shah, Heather Wallace (2nd day), Matthew Wright and Maged Younes (Chair).
  - European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
    - EC: Katleen Baert
  - EFSA:
    - FIP Unit: Stefania Barmaz, Consuelo Civitella, Federica Lodi, Camilla Smeraldi and Alexandra Tard.
    - MESE Unit: Petra Gergelova

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Peter Furst, Kevin Chipman and Trine Husøy.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management, 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.

IV. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. Re-evaluation of Erythritol (E 968) ([EFSA-Q-2011-00730; EFSA-Q-2022-00219](#))

Exposure part: a discussion on the natural occurrence and on the acute exposure per person took place.

Biological and Toxicological part: a discussion on the further answers received from the authors of the Witkowski et al. (2023) paper and on the consideration of this paper in the overall weight of evidence took place. A discussion on how to conclude the assessment took place. The Biological and Toxicological section of the draft opinion was discussed as well as the discussion section.
Further clarifications and improvements based on the comments provided by the participants were noted. Subject to these revisions a new document will be presented for discussion at a forthcoming Working Group meeting.


Exposure part: An update of the analytical data was presented.

c) Revision of the protocol on exposure assessment of sweeteners: a discussion on some revisions/updates of the protocol on exposure assessment of sweeteners to include the acute exposure took place.

V. Any Other Business

None

VI. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 11 and 13 October (Web).
Location: Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
  Monika Batke, Ellen Bruzell, Laurence Castle (on 3rd July), Rex FitzGerald, Cristina Fortes, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Thorhallur Ingi Halldorsson, Trine Husey, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Alicja Mortensen, Evangelia Ntzani, Heather Wallace, Matthew Wright and Maged Younes (Chair).

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
  EC: Katleen Baert (on 7th July)

- EFSA:
  FIP Unit: Stefania Barmaz, Consuelo Civitella, Federica Lodi and Camilla Smeraldi.

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management, 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.

IV. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. Re-evaluation of Erythritol (E 968) ([EFSA-Q-2011-00730; EFSA-Q-2022-00219](#))

Toxicological part: a discussion on the questions received from the authors of the Witkowski et al. (2023) paper and on the consideration of this paper in the overall weight of evidence took place. A discussion on how to conclude took place.

Further clarifications and improvements based on the comments provided by the participants were noted.

Subject to these revisions a new document will be presented for discussion at a forthcoming Working Group meeting.

V. Any Other Business
None

VI. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 14 and 15 September.
Location: Webconference

Attendees:
  o Working Group Members: Polly Boon (on 7th June), Ellen Bruzell, Laurence Castle (on 7th June), Cristina Fortes, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Thorhallur Ingi Halldorsson, Trine Husøy, Jean-Charles Leblanc (on 7th June), Oliver Lindtner (on 7th June), Evangelia Ntzani (on 9th June), Romina Shah (on 7th June) and Maged Younes (Chair).
  o European Commission and/or Member States representatives: EC: None
  o EFSA: FIP Unit: Stefania Barmaz, Consuelo Civitella, Lorenzo D’Angelo (on 9th June), Camilla Smeraldi, Alexandra Tard. MESE Unit: Petra Gergelova, Zsuzsanna Horvath.

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Evangelia Ntzani for the 7th of June.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management, 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.

IV. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

One break-out session, sub-group exposure, was held in parallel with the rest of the meeting on 7th June.

a. Re-evaluation of Erythritol (E 968) ([EFSA-Q-2011-00730]; [EFSA-Q-2022-00219])

Exposure part: the exposure assessment, including acute exposure, was discussed and finalised.
Toxicological part: a discussion on the biological and toxicological section of the draft opinion took place and human data were discussed for identification of a reference point from NOAELs for laxative effect.

Further clarifications and improvements based on the comments provided by the participants were noted.

Subject to these revisions a new document will be presented for discussion at a forthcoming Working Group meeting.

b. Re-evaluation of Saccharins (E 954) ([EFSA-Q-2011-00736]; [EFSA-Q-2011-00737]; [EFSA-Q-2011-00738]; [EFSA-Q-2011-00739])

Exposure part: an overview of the data was presented.

V. Any Other Business

None

VI. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 3 and 7 July via web conference.
Location: Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
  Monika Batke, Polly Boon (on the 26 April), Ellen Bruzell, Laurence Castle, Riccardo Crebelli, Cristina Fortes, Maria José Frutos Fernandez, Peter Fürst (on 27 April) Ursula Gundert-Remy, Thorhallur Ingi Halldorsson, Trine Husøy, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Oliver Lindtner (on 26 April), Alicja Mortensen, Evangelia Ntzani, Romina Shah, Heather Wallace (on the 26 April), Matthew Wright and Maged Younes (Chair).

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
  - EC: None

- EFSA:
  - FIP Unit: Stefania Barmaz, Consuelo Civitella, Lorenzo D’Angelo, Christina Kyrkou, Federica Lodi, Ana Maria Rincon, Camilla Smeraldi, Alexandra Tard.
  - MESE Unit: Francesca Riolo, Claudia Cascio, Petra Gergelova.

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Kevin Chipman and Rex FitzGerald.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management, 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.

IV. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

One break-out session, sub-group exposure, was held in parallel with the rest of the meeting.

a. Re-evaluation of Erythritol (E 968) (EFSA-Q-2021-00730 EFSA-Q-2022-00219)

   Technical part: the technical part of the draft opinion was presented and a discussion took place.

   Exposure: the exposure assessment, including acute exposure, was presented and a discussion took place.
Toxicological part: a discussion on the biological and toxicological section of the draft opinion (i.e. ADME, animal data, genotoxicity, human data, Weight of Evidence) took place.

Further clarifications and improvements based on the comments provided by the participants were noted. Subject to these revisions a new document will be presented for discussion at a forthcoming Working Group meeting.

b. Re-evaluation of Maltitols (E 965 ii, ii) ([EFSA-Q-2017-00490, EFSA-Q-2011-00755])

Exposure: The data available were discussed.

Further clarifications and improvements based on the comments provided by the participants were noted. Subject to these revisions a new document will be presented for discussion at a forthcoming Working Group meeting.

V. Any Other Business

None

VI. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 7 and 9 June via web conference.
Location: Webconference

Attendees:

- **Working Group Members:**
  Monika Batke, Polly Boon, Ellen Bruzell, Laurence Castle, Kevin Chipman, Riccardo Crebelli, Rex FitzGerald, Cristina Fortes, Maria José Frutos Fernandez, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Thorhallur Ingi Halldorsson, Trine Husøy, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Oliver Lindtner, Alicja Mortensen, Evangelia Ntzani, Romina Shah, Heather Wallace, Matthew Wright and Maged Younes (Chair).

- **Hearing Experts:**
  Gabriele Aquilina and Rainer Gürtler were invited to present their views for agenda item IV a) and b) of the present meeting; Lieve Herman was invited to present her views for agenda item IV c) of the present meeting.

  In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management, EFSA invited Gabriele Aquilina, Rainer Gürtler and Lieve Herman to submit an Annual Declaration of Interest. Their participation in the present meeting was limited to providing testimony, without the possibility to take on any role undertaken by members of the Working Group (i.e. not possible to draft or be involved in the discussion or the adoption of a scientific output), in accordance with the applicable legal framework.

- **Hearing experts representing interested business operators:**
  Tomàs Bernat, Laia Girós, Sean Taylor and AtLee Watson from Productos Aditivos S.A. were invited to present their views regarding the item IV a) “Applicants’ Technical hearing on cyclamates (E 954) (EFSA-Q-2011-00733 EFSA-Q-2011-00734 EFSA-Q-2011-00735)” of the present meeting. They attended the meeting from 11:00 to 13:00 (CET time) on 6th March.

  William Barfield, Thomas Herring, Chris Darwen, Jaspreet Gujral, Kavita Karnik, Sally-Ann Krzyzaniak, Joanna Jaskólska and Sean Taylor from International Sweeteners Association (ISA) were invited to present their views regarding the item IV b) “Applicants’ Technical hearing on sucralose (E 955) (EFSA-Q-2011-00724)” of the present meeting. They attended the meeting from 14:00 to 16:00 (CET time) on 6th March.

  In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management, EFSA invited Tomàs Bernat, Laia Girós, Sean Taylor and AtLee Watson (for agenda item IV a) and William Barfield, Thomas Herring, Chris Darwen, Jaspreet Gujral, Kavita Karnik, Sally-Ann Krzyzaniak, Joanna Jaskólska and Sean Taylor (for agenda item IV b) to submit an ADoI. Their participation was limited to providing testimony, without the possibility to take on any role undertaken by members of the Working Group, in accordance with the applicable legal framework.

- **European Commission and/or Member States representatives:**
  EC: Katleen Baert

- **EMA representatives (observers):**
  Susanne Brendler-Schwaab, Karen van Malderen

- **EFSA:**

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1 As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf)
I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Peter Fürst.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management, 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.

Certain interests were declared orally by some members before the beginning of the meeting. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Oral Declaration(s) of Interest made at the beginning of the meeting, please refer to the Annex.

IV. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

Two break-out sessions, sub-group exposure and sub-group epidemiologists, were held in parallel with the rest of the meeting on 6 March.

One break-out session, sub-group exposure, was held in parallel with the rest of the meeting on 10 March.


Upon request from EFSA, the interested parties were given the opportunity to clarify the data submitted previously to EFSA. Outstanding issues on the data submitted through the call for data on genotoxicity of cyclamates (E 952) were discussed. After the hearing was finished, and the hearing experts left the teleconference, the Working Group discussed the clarifications provided by the industry with the EMA representatives who attended as observers. EFSA will follow up by providing the interested parties with a written summary of the points discussed and a request for additional data.

b. Applicants’ Technical hearing on sucralose (E 955) (EFSA-Q-2011-00724)

Upon request from EFSA, the interested parties were given the opportunity to clarify the data submitted previously to EFSA. Outstanding issues on the data submitted through the call for data on genotoxicity of sucralose (E 955) were discussed. After the hearing was finished, and the
hearing experts left the teleconference, the Working Group discussed the clarifications provided by the industry with the EMA representatives who attended as observers. EFSA will follow up by providing the interested parties with a written summary of the points discussed and a request for additional data.

c. Re-evaluation of Erythritol (E 968) ([EFSA-Q-2011-00730](#) [EFSA-Q-2022-00219](#))

Technical part: a general presentation on the technical part related with the microorganism used in the production process was given and a discussion took place.

Exposure: the approach and the methodology of the exposure assessment, including acute exposure, was discussed.

Toxicological part: a discussion on the biological and toxicological section of the draft opinion (i.e. ADME, animal data, human data, Weight of Evidence) took place.

Further clarifications and improvements based on the comments provided by the participants were noted. Subject to these revisions a new document will be presented for discussion at a forthcoming Working Group meeting.

d. Re-evaluation of Maltitols (E 965 ii, ii) ([EFSA-Q-2017-00490](#) [EFSA-Q-2011-00755](#))

Exposure: A 1st draft opinion was discussed regarding the data available.

Further clarifications and improvements based on the comments provided by the participants were noted. Subject to these revisions a new document will be presented for discussion at a forthcoming Working Group meeting.

V. Any Other Business

None

VI. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 26 and 27 April via web conference.
Annex

**Interests and actions resulting from the Oral Declaration of Interest done at the beginning of the meeting**

With regard to this meeting, Mr Maged Younes declared the following new interest: Co-Editor for the Elsevier publication "Food and Chemical Toxicology". In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence\(^2\) and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management\(^3\), and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, the interest above was not deemed to represent a Conflict of Interest for the expert concerned.


Minories of the 44th meeting of the working group on the re-evaluation of sweeteners

Held on 14-15 December 2022, web-conference

(Agreed on 15 December 2022)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
  - Monika Batke, Polly Boon, Ellen Bruzell, Laurence Castle (14 December), Kevin Chipman (15 December), Riccardo Crebelli (15 December), Rex FitzGerald, Cristina Fortes, Peter Fürst (14 December), Maria José Frutos Fernandez (14 December), Ursula Gundert-Remy, Thorhallur Ingi Halldorsson, Trine Husøy, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Oliver Lindtner, Alicja Mortensen (15 December), Romina Shah, Heather Wallace (14 December), Matthew Wright and Maged Younes (Chair).

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
  - Katleen Baert

- EFSA:
  - FIP Unit: Stefania Barmaz, Consuelo Civitella, Lorenzo D’Angelo, Christina Kyrkou, Federica Lodi, Ana Maria Rincon, Camilla Smeraldi, Alexandra Tard.
  - MESE Unit: Francesca Riolo, Claudia Cascio, Bruno Dujardin, Petra Gergelova and Zsuzsana Horvath.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Evangelia Ntzani.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.
3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence\(^1\) and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management\(^2\), 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, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Feedback from FAF Panel, EFSA and European Commission

None.

5. Scientific outputs for discussion

One break-out session, sub-group exposure, was held in parallel with the rest of the meeting.

5.1 Erythritol (E 968) EFSA-Q-2011-00730, EFSA-Q-2022-00219

The WG was informed on the outcome of the applicant’s hearing held on 10 November 2022 to clarify some questions on the new mandate received on Erythritol.

Exposure: the approach and the methodology of the exposure assessment, including acute exposure, was discussed.

Technical part: a general presentation on the technical part was given and a discussion took place.

Toxicological part: a general presentation on the approach taken was given. Some sections of the biological and toxicological part of the draft opinion were discussed.

Next steps to move forward were noted. This draft opinion will be discussed in a forthcoming WG meeting.

5.2 Maltitols (E 965) EFSA-Q-2011-00490, EFSA-Q-2011-00755

Exposure: an overview of the data (including 2022 data collection) was presented.

Next steps to move forward were noted. This draft opinion will be discussed in a forthcoming WG meeting.

5.3 General issues

A discussion on some genotoxicity issues on maltitols (E 965 i, ii), cyclamates (E 952), sucralose (E 955) and saccharin (E 954) took place and the way forward was discussed.

6. Any other Business

6.1 Minutes of the 44th Working Group meeting on the re-evaluation of sweeteners held on 14 and 15 December 2022 were agreed on 15 December 2022.

6.2 Next meeting: 19-20 January 2023 (web).
SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND FLAVOURINGS (FAF)

MINUTES OF THE 43rd MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE RE-EVALUATION OF SWEETENERS

Subgroup chemistry

Held on 14th November 2022, web-conference

(Agreed on 14th November 2022)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
  - Laurence Castle, Peter Fürst and Maria José Frutos Fernandez.

- Hearing Expert¹: Lieve Herman

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
  None

- EFSA:
  FIP Unit: Jaime Aguilera, Consuelo Civitella, Lorenzo D’Angelo, Federica Lodi and Ana Rincon.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

EFSA welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

¹ As defined in Article 15 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:
3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups 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, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Feedback from FAF Panel, EFSA and European Commission

None.

5. Hearing Expert

Lieve Herman was invited to present her views.

In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence\(^4\) and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management\(^5\), EFSA invited Lieve Herman to submit an Annual Declaration of Interest. Her participation in the present meeting was limited to providing testimony, without the possibility to take on any role undertaken by members of the Working Group (i.e. not possible to draft or be involved in the discussion or the adoption of a scientific output), in accordance with the applicable legal framework\(^6\).

6. Scientific outputs for discussion

6.1 Erythritol (E 968) [EFSA-Q-2011-00730, EFSA-Q-2022-00219]

Technical data: some data of the technical part were discussed.

Next steps to move forward were noted. This draft opinion will be discussed in a forthcoming WG meeting.

7. Any other Business

7.1 Minutes of the 43\(^{rd}\) Working Group meeting on the re-evaluation of sweeteners held on 14\(^{th}\) November 2022 were agreed on 14\(^{th}\) November 2022.

7.2 Next meeting: 14-15 December (web).


SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND FLAVOURINGS (FAF)

MINUTES OF THE 42nd MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE RE-EVALUATION OF SWEETENERS

Held on 10th November 2022, web-conference

(Agreed on 10th November 2022)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
  - Jean-Charles Leblanc

- Hearing experts representing the interested party:
  - Marta Baffigo: Director – R&D Scientific and Regulatory Affairs and FSQR Regional Regulatory Lead EMEA
  - Alex Eapen: Director R&D Scientific and Regulatory Affairs NA, Cargill Inc
  - Peter Decock: Consultant, DGH-Consulting

In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management, EFSA invited Marta Baffigo, Alex Eapen, Peter Decock to submit an ADoI. Their participation was limited to providing testimony, without the possibility to take on any role undertaken by members of the Working Group, in accordance with the applicable legal framework.

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
  - Jiri Sochor and Olga Goulaki

- EFSA:
  - FIP Unit: Consuelo Civitella, Federica Lodi, Camilla Smeraldi and Alexandra Tard.

1. Welcome and tour de table

The Chair welcomed the participants and the participants introduced themselves.
2. Scope of the applicant’s hearing

The applicant has been explained the scope of the meeting.

3. Outstanding issues on the new application of erythritol (EFSA-Q-2022-00219) and on the re-evaluation of erythritol (EFSA-Q-2011-00730)

A presentation to the applicant was given in order to present the outstanding issues on the new application for requesting scientific advice on laxative effects of erythritol under the currently authorised conditions of use for erythritol in food in the EU, in order to assess the need for an exemption of erythritol from the current laxative warning requirement for added polyols under Regulation (EU) 1169/2011.

4. Wrap up and closing of the applicant’s hearing

After the meeting, EFSA staff will send a follow up communication to the applicant clarifying the main points discussed and the outcome of the discussion to ensure mutual understanding.
Participants

- **Working Group Members:**
  - Monika Batke, Polly Boon, Ellen Bruzell, Laurence Castle (17th October), Riccardo Crebelli (17th October), Rex FitzGerald, Cristina Fortes, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Thorhallur Ingi Halldorsson, Trine Husøy, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Alicja Mortensen, Evangelia Ntzani, Romina Shah (18th October), Heather Wallace (17th October) and Maged Younes (Chair).

- **European Commission and/or Member States representatives:**
  - Sochor Jiri

- **EFSA:**
  - FIP Unit: Stefania Barmaz, Consuelo Civitella, Federica Lodi, Camilla Smeraldi, Alexandra Tard.
  - MESE Unit: Petra Gergelova and Zsuzsana Horvath.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from James Chipman, Peter Fürst, María José Frutos Fernandez, Oliver Lindtner and Matthew Wright.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members
In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence\footnote{http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf} and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management\footnote{http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf}, 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, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Feedback from FAF Panel, EFSA and European Commission

None.

5. Scientific outputs for discussion

One break-out session, sub-group exposure, was held in parallel with the rest of the meeting.

5.1 Neotame (E 961) \url{EFSA-Q-2011-00740}

Following up on the discussion held at the previous meeting, the Working Group was informed about a further delay in the submission by the interested business operators of the requested data on genotoxicity. The reasons for this delay, as reported by the interested business operators that have commissioned the work to generate the data requested, are mainly the need to validate a new bioanalytical method to perform the requested study and other technical issues related to the study design, which have impacted the planned duration of the study. According to the information provided, the new timeline for the submission of these data needed to complete the assessment is the end of June 2023. The drafting of the opinion will be put on hold awaiting the requested data.

5.2 Erythritol (E 968) \url{EFSA-Q-2011-00730 EFSA-Q-2022-00219}

Exposure: the exposure section was discussed and revised.

A discussion on how to address the new mandate received took place.

Next steps to move forward were noted. This draft opinion will be discussed in a forthcoming WG meeting.

5.3 General issues

A discussion on the approach for inclusion of studies on maltitols took place.

The amendment of the protocol on hazard identification and characterisation of the sweeteners was presented to the WG and discussed. The revised protocol will be discussed in a forthcoming Plenary meeting.
6. Any other Business

6.1 Minutes of the 41\textsuperscript{th} Working Group meeting on the re-evaluation of sweeteners held on 17\textsuperscript{th} & 18\textsuperscript{th} October 2022 were agreed on 18\textsuperscript{th} October 2022.

6.2 Next meeting: 29 November 2022 and 1\textsuperscript{st} December (tbc, web).
Participants

- **Working Group Members:**
  Monika Batke, Polly Boon, Ellen Bruzell, Laurence Castle (only 16th September), Riccardo Crebelli (only 16th September), Rex FitzGerald, Cristina Fortes, Maria José Frutos Fernandez, Peter Fürst (only 16th September), Ursula Gundert-Remy, Thorhallur Ingi Halldorsson, Trine Husøy, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Oliver Lindtner, Alicia Mortensen (only 16th September), Evangelia Ntzani, Romina Shah, Matthew Wright, Heather Wallace (only 15th September) and Maged Younes (Chair).

- **European Commission and/or Member States representatives:**
  Jiri Sochor and Katleen Baert

- **EFSA:**
  FIP Unit: Stefania Barmaz, Consuelo Civitella, Federica Lodi, Agnieszka Mech (only 16th September), Camilla Smeraldi, Alexandra Tard, Ana Rincon (only 16th September).
  MESE Unit: Claudia Cascio, Petra Gergelova and Francesca Riolo.

1. **Welcome and apologies for absence**

   The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from James Chipman.

2. **Adoption of agenda**

   The agenda was adopted without changes.
3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², 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, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Feedback from FAF Panel, EFSA and European Commission

None.

5. Scientific outputs for discussion

One break-out session, sub-group exposure, was held in parallel with the rest of the meeting.

5.1 Neohesperidine DC (E 959) **EFSA-Q-2011-00726**

Technical data: one pending part of the technical section was discussed and finalised pending inclusion of the text that is being prepared by the WG Specifications.

Exposure: the pending parts on the exposure section were discussed and finalised.

Toxicological data: the toxicological data of the draft opinion on neohesperidine (E 959) were discussed and the draft opinion was finalised, subject to incorporation of changes as suggested during the meeting.

This draft opinion will be discussed in a forthcoming Plenary meeting.

5.2 Neotame (E 961) **EFSA-Q-2011-00740**

Toxicological data: the toxicological part of the draft opinion on neotame (E 961) was discussed but could not be finalised pending the submission of the requested data.

Next steps to move forward were noted. This draft opinion will be discussed in a forthcoming WG meeting.

5.3 Erythritol (E 968) **EFSA-Q-2011-00730** **EFSA-Q-2022-00219**

Exposure: the exposure section was discussed and revised.

Toxicological data: this section was not discussed due to lack of time.

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Next steps to move forward were noted. This draft opinion will be discussed in a forthcoming WG meeting.

5.4 Sucralose (E 955) [EFSA-Q-2011-00724, EFSA-Q-2021-00375]

Exposure: occurrence data were discussed and the approach on how to use them was agreed.

Next steps to move forward were noted. This draft opinion will be discussed in a forthcoming WG meeting.

5.5 Maltitols (E 965) [EFSA-Q-2011-00490, EFSA-Q-2011-00755]

Exposure: the approach for handling concentration data was discussed and agreed.

Next steps to move forward were noted. This draft opinion will be discussed in a forthcoming WG meeting.

5.6 General issues

Two general issues on rating reliability for ADME studies and on the relevance of gut microbiota studies in animals were discussed.

6. Any other Business

6.1 Minutes of the 40th Working Group meeting on the re-evaluation of sweeteners held on 15th & 16th September 2022 were agreed on 16th September 2022.

6.2 Next meeting: 17 October 2022 and 18th October (Web).
Participants

- **Working Group Members:**
  - Monika Batke, Ellen Bruzell, Laurence Castle, James Chipman (16th June), Riccardo Crebelli (16th June), Rex FitzGerald, Cristina Fortes, Maria José Frutos Fernandez, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Thorhallur Ingibjorg Halldursson, Trine Husøy (17th June), Jean-Charles Leblanc, Oliver Lindtner, Alicja Mortensen, Evangelia Ntzani, Romina Shah, Matthew Wright and Maged Younes (Chair).

- **European Commission and/or Member States representatives:**
  - Not present

- **EFSA:**
  - FIP Unit: Consuelo Civitella, Christina Kyrkou, Federica Lodi, Antonio Rivas Cornejo (17th June), Camilla Smeraldi and Alexandra Tard.
  - MESE Unit: Claudia Cascio, Petra Gergelova, Zsuzsanna Horvath and Francesca Riolo.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Polly Boon, Peter Fürst and Heather Wallace.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.
3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence\(^1\) and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management\(^2\), 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, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Feedback from FAF Panel, EFSA and European Commission

None.

5. Scientific outputs for discussion

One break-out session, sub-group exposure, was held in parallel with the rest of the meeting.

5.1 Neohesperidine DC (E 959)  EFSA-Q-2011-00726

Exposure: the pending parts on the exposure section were discussed and revised.

Toxicological data: the toxicological data of the draft opinion on neohesperidine (E 959) were discussed.

Next steps to move forward were noted. This draft opinion will be discussed in a forthcoming WG meeting.

5.2 Erythritol (E 968)  EFSA-Q-2011-00730 EFSA-Q-2022-00219

Exposure: the exposure section was discussed and revised.

An update on the new mandate under Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 was given.

Toxicological data: this section was not discussed due to lack of time.

Next steps to move forward were noted. This draft opinion will be discussed in a forthcoming WG meeting.

5.3 Sucralose (E 955)  EFSA-Q-2011-00724 EFSA-Q-2021-00375

Exposure: the exposure section was discussed and revised.

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5.4 Maltitols (E 965) EFSA-Q-2011-00490, EFSA-Q-2011-00755

Exposure: the exposure section was discussed and revised.

5.5 General issues

a) General approach of the weight of evidence was discussed.

b) A presentation on the implementation of the protocol and approaches on some of the sweeteners opinions was given and a way forward was agreed.

6. Any other Business

6.1 Minutes of the 39th Working Group meeting on the re-evaluation of sweeteners held on 16th & 17th June 2022 were agreed on 17th June 2022.

6.2 Next meeting: 15th & 16th September 2022 (Parma/Web).
SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND FLAVOURINGS (FAF)

MINUTES OF THE 38th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE RE-EVALUATION OF SWEETENERS

Held on 5th & 6th May 2022, web-conference

(Agreed on 6th May 2022)

Participants

◆ Working Group Members:
  - Monika Batke, Polly Boon, Ellen Bruzell, Laurence Castle, James Chipman (5th May), Riccardo Crebelli, Rex FitzGerald, Cristina Fortes, Maria José Frutos Fernandez (5th May), Peter Fürst (5th May), Ursula Gundert-Remy, Thorhallur Ingi Halldorsson, Trine Husøy (6th May), Jean-Charles Leblanc, Oliver Lindtner, Alicja Mortensen, Evangelia Ntzani, Romina Shah, Heather Wallace, Matthew Wright and Maged Younes (Chair).

◆ Hearing experts representing interested parties:
  - Jaspreet Gujral, Jim Carr, Chris Darwen, Sally-Ann Krzyzaniak, Kavita Karnik, Joanna Jaskólska and Niko Renmans were invited to present their views regarding the item 6.1 “Sucralose (E 955) (EFSA-Q-2011-00724)” of the present meeting. They attended the meeting from 15:00 to 17:00 (CET time).

In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management, EFSA invited Jaspreet Gujral, Jim Carr, Chris Darwen, Sally-Ann Krzyzaniak, Kavita Karnik, Joanna Jaskólska and Niko Renmans to submit an ADoI. Their participation was limited to providing testimony, without the possibility to take on any role undertaken by members of the Working Group, in accordance with the applicable legal framework.

◆ Hearing Expert¹: Alexander Schaechtele for item 6.1

◆ European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
  - Jiri Sochor and Katleen Baert (item 6.1)

¹ As defined in Article 15 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/expertselection.pdf
1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups 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, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Feedback from FAF Panel, EFSA and European Commission

None.

5. Hearing Expert

Dr Alexander Schaechtele was invited to present his views for item 6.1 of the present meeting.

In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence\(^4\) and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management\(^5\), EFSA invited Dr Alexander Schaechtele to submit an Annual Declaration of Interest. His participation in the present meeting was limited to providing testimony, without the possibility to take on any role undertaken by members of the Working Group (i.e. not possible to draft or be involved in the discussion or the adoption of a scientific output), in accordance with the applicable legal framework\(^6\).


6. Scientific outputs for discussion

Two break-out sessions, sub-group chemistry and sub-group exposure, were held in parallel with the rest of the meeting.

6.1 Sucralose (E 955) [EFSA-Q-2011-00724] [EFSA-Q-2021-00375]

Upon request from EFSA, the interested parties were given the opportunity to clarify the data submitted previously to EFSA. Outstanding issues on the new application for authorisation of extension of use for sucralose (E 955) in energy-reduced or without added sugar fine bakery wares under Regulation (EC) No. 1333/2008 and on the re-evaluation of sucralose were discussed. After the hearing was finished, and the hearing experts left the teleconference, the Working Group discussed the clarifications provided by the industry. EFSA will follow up by providing the interested parties with a written summary of the points discussed and a request for additional data.

6.2 Neohesperidine DC (E 959) [EFSA-Q-2011-00726]

Exposure: the exposure section was discussed and revised.

Technical data: the WG discussed the information provided by the interested parties and the need to ask for further data was identified.

Toxicological data: the toxicological data of the draft opinion on neohesperidine (E 959) were discussed.

Next steps to move forward were noted. This draft opinion will be discussed in a forthcoming WG meeting.

6.3 General issues

a) Genotoxicity approach and the genotoxicity tables on sucralose (E 955) were discussed and agreed.
b) General approach of the weight of evidence was discussed.
c) The way to assess Tier 3 studies was discussed and agreed.
d) Next steps to move forward on the screening of sorbitols were discussed and agreed.
e) Exposure scenario was discussed.

6.4 Erythritol (E 968) [EFSA-Q-2011-00730] [EFSA-Q-2022-00219]

Exposure: the exposure section was discussed and revised.

Next steps to move forward were noted. This draft opinion will be discussed in a forthcoming WG meeting.
6.5 Neotame (E 961) [EFSA-Q-2011-00740]
Exposure: the exposure section was discussed and revised.

6.6 Maltitols (E 965) [EFSA-Q-2011-00490, EFSA-Q-2011-00755]
Exposure: general presentation was given and discussed.

7. Any other Business

7.1 Minutes of the 38th Working Group meeting on the re-evaluation of sweeteners held on 5th & 6th May 2022 were agreed on 6th May 2022.

7.2 Next meeting: 16th & 17th June 2022.
SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND FLAVOURINGS (FAF)

MINUTES OF THE 37th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE RE-EVALUATION OF SWEETENERS

Held on 8th & 14th-15th March 2022, web-conference

(Agreed on 15th March 2022)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
  - Monika Batke, Polly Boon, Ellen Bruzell, Laurence Castle, James Chipman (14 March), Riccardo Crebelli, Rex Fitzgerald, Cristina Fortes, Maria José Frutos Fernandez, Peter Fürst (8th March), Ursula Gundert-Remy, Thorhallur Ingí Halldórsson, Trine Husey, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Alicja Mortensen, Evangelia Ntzani, Romina Shah, Heather Wallace, Matthew Wright and Maged Younes (Chair).

- Hearing Experts¹: Alexander Schaechtele (8th March) for item 6.1

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives: Not present

- EFSA:
  - MESE Unit: Claudia Cascio, Petra Gergelova and Francesca Riolo.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Oliver Lindtner.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

¹ As defined in Article 15 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/expertselection.pdf
3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, 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, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Feedback from FAF Panel, EFSA and European Commission

None.

5. Hearing Expert

Dr Alexander Schaechtele was invited to present his views for item 6.1 (technical data) of the present meeting.

In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁵, EFSA invited Dr Alexander Schaechtele to submit an Annual Declaration of Interest. His participation in the present meeting was limited to providing testimony, without the possibility to take on any role undertaken by members of the Working Group (i.e. not possible to draft or be involved in the discussion or the adoption of a scientific output), in accordance with the applicable legal framework⁶.

6. Scientific outputs for discussion

One break-out session, sub-group exposure, was held in parallel with the rest of the meeting.

6.1 Sucralose (E 955) **EFSA-Q-2011-00724 EFSA-Q-2021-00375**

Technical data: the stability data of the draft opinion on sucralose (E 955) were discussed.

The WG acknowledged the technical data received by one interested business operator in response to EFSA call for technical data for sucralose.⁷

Next steps to move forward were noted. This draft opinion will be discussed in a forthcoming WG meeting.

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6.2 Neohesperidine DC (E 959) **EFSA-Q-2011-00726**

Technical data: the technical data of the draft opinion on neohesperidine DC (E 959) were discussed.

Exposure: the exposure section was discussed and revised.

Toxicological data: the toxicological data of the draft opinion on neohesperidine (E 959) were discussed.

Next steps to move forward were noted. This draft opinion will be discussed in a forthcoming WG meeting.

6.3 Neotame (E 961) **EFSA-Q-2011-00740**

Exposure: the exposure section was discussed and revised.

Next steps to move forward were noted. This draft opinion will be discussed in a forthcoming WG meeting.

6.4 General issues

a) Genotoxicity approach and the genotoxicity tables on sucralose (E 955) were discussed and agreed.

7. **Any other Business**

7.1 Minutes of the 37th Working Group meeting on the re-evaluation of sweeteners held on 8th & 14th-15th March 2022 were agreed on 15th March 2022.

7.2 Next meeting: 5th - 6th May 2022.
Participants

- Working Group Members:
  - Monika Batke, Polly Boon, Ellen Bruzell, Laurence Castle, James Chipman, Riccardo Crebelli, Rex FitzGerald, Cristina Fortes, Maria José Frutos Fernandez, Peter Fürst, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Thorhallur Ingi Halldorsson, Trine Husøy, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Oliver Lindtner, Alicja Mortensen, Evangelia Ntzani, Romina Shah, Heather Wallace, Matthew Wright and Maged Younes (Chair).

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
  Not present

- EFSA:
  FIP Unit: Consuelo Civitella, Christina Kyrkou, Federica Lodi, Agnieszka Mech, Antonio Rivas Cornejo, Camilla Smeraldi, Alexandra Tard and Giorgia Vianello.
  MESE Unit: Claudia Cascio, Petra Gergelova and Francesca Riolo.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members
In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², 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, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Feedback from FAF Panel, EFSA and European Commission

None.

5. Scientific outputs for discussion

Two break-out sessions, sub-group chemistry and exposure, were held in parallel with the rest of the meeting.

5.1 Neohesperidine DC (E 959) EFSA-Q-2011-00726

Technical data: the technical data of the draft opinion on neohesperidine DC (E 959) were discussed.

Toxicological data: the toxicological data of the draft opinion on neohesperidine DC (E 959) were discussed.

Exposure: the exposure section was discussed and revised.

Next steps to move forward were noted. This draft opinion will be discussed in a forthcoming WG meeting.

5.2 Erythritol (E 968) EFSA-Q-2011-00730

Toxicological data: the toxicological data of the draft opinion on erythritol (E 968) were discussed.

Next steps to move forward were noted. This draft opinion will be discussed in a forthcoming WG meeting.

5.3 Neotame (E 961) EFSA-Q-2011-00740

Genotoxicity: the general approach was discussed.

5.4 Saccharin (E 954) EFSA-Q-2011-00736

Exposure: a presentation on the available data was given.

Next steps to move forward were noted. This draft opinion will be discussed in a forthcoming WG meeting.

**5.5 Cyclamates (E 952 i, ii, iii) [EFSA-Q-2011-00733; EFSA-Q-2011-00734; EFSA-Q-2011-00735]**

The technical data of the draft opinion on cyclamates (E 952) were discussed.

Next steps to move forward were noted. This draft opinion will be discussed in a forthcoming WG meeting.

**5.6 Sucralose (E 955) [EFSA-Q-2011-00724]**

Exposure: the exposure section was discussed and revised.

Next steps to move forward were noted. This draft opinion will be discussed in a forthcoming WG meeting.

**5.7 General issues**

RoB Human studies: some clarifications on the risk of bias evaluation for human studies were given.

**5.8 General feedback from subgroup chemistry and subgroup exposure**

General feedback from the discussion held at the subgroups chemistry and exposure were given.

**6. Any other Business**

6.1 Minutes of the 36th Working Group meeting on the re-evaluation of sweeteners held on 1st - 2nd February 2022 were agreed on 2nd February 2022.

6.2 Next meeting: 14th - 15th March 2022.
SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND FLAVOURINGS (FAF)

MINUTES OF THE 35th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE RE-EVALUATION OF SWEETENERS

Held on 16th-17th December 2021, web-conference

(Agreed on 17th December 2021)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
  - Monika Batke, Polly Boon, Ellen Bruzell, Laurence Castle James Chipman, Laurence Castle, Riccardo Crebelli, Rex FitzGerald, Cristina Fortes, Maria José Frutos Fernandez, Peter Fürst, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Thorhallur Ingi Halldorsson, Trine Husøy, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Oliver Lindtner, Alicja Mortensen, Evangelia Ntzani, Romina Shah, Heather Wallace, Matthew Wright and Maged Younes (Chair).
  - Hearing experts: Alexander Schaechtele and Ron Hoogenboom.

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
  - Not present

- EFSA:
  - FIP Unit: Consuelo Civitella, Kyrkou Christina, Federica Lodi, Antonio Rivas Cornejo, Camilla Smeraldi, Alexandra Tard and Giorgia Vianello.
  - DATA Unit: Davide Arcella, Cascio Claudia, Gergelova Petra, Horvath Zsusanna and Francesca Riolo.
  - BIOCONTAM: Luisa Ramos

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.
3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence\(^1\) and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management\(^2\), 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, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Feedback from FAF Panel, EFSA and European Commission

None.

5. Scientific outputs for discussion

Two break-out sessions, sub-group chemistry and exposure, were held in parallel with the rest of the meeting.

5.1 Neohesperidine DC (E 959) \textbf{EFSA-Q-2011-00726}

Technical data: the technical data of the draft opinion on neohesperidine DC (E 959) were discussed. The WG identified the need for collecting additional information on this part of the assessment.

Toxicological data: the toxicological data of the draft opinion on neohesperidine DC (E 959) were discussed.

Next steps to move forward for the technical and toxicological part were noted. This draft opinion will be discussed in a forthcoming WG meeting.

Exposure: this item was not done due to lack of time.

5.2 Erythritol (E 968) \textbf{EFSA-Q-2011-00730}

A preliminary overview on the biological and toxicological data available for this substance was given to the WG.

Next steps to move forward for the toxicological part were noted. This draft opinion will be discussed in a forthcoming WG meeting.

Exposure: this item was not done due to lack of time.

5.3 Sucralose (E 955) \textbf{EFSA-Q-2011-00724, EFSA-Q-2021-00375}

Technical data (subgroup chemistry): the data related to stability of E 955 were discussed.

Exposure: the exposure section was discussed and revised.


Next steps to move forward for the technical and exposure parts were noted. This draft opinion will be discussed in a forthcoming WG meeting.

5.4 Neotame (E 961)  
Exposure: the exposure section was discussed and revised.

5.5 Saccharin (E 954)  
Exposure: this item was not done due to lack of time.

5.6 Cyclamates (E 952 i, ii,iii)  
Exposure: this item was not done due to lack of time.

5.7 General issues

a) Risk of bias: some general points on the risk of bias were discussed and some adjustments on the risk of bias appraisal were proposed.

b) Genotoxicity approach: some further developments on the approach taken for the assessment of genotoxicity studies were presented.

c) Mixtures studies: the way to cover this kind of studies was discussed.

5.8 General feedback from subgroup exposure and subgroup chemistry

General feedback from the discussion held at the subgroup chemistry and exposure were given.

6. Any other Business

6.1 An overview on the progress made so far on the sweeteners under consideration was given.

6.2 Minutes of the 35th Working Group meeting on the re-evaluation of sweeteners held on 16th - 17th December 2021 were agreed.

6.3 Next meeting: 1st – 2nd February 2022.
MINUTES OF THE 34th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE RE-EVALUATION OF SWEETENERS

Held on 11th-12th November 2021, web-conference

(Agreed on 11th-12th November 2021)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
  - Monika Batke, Ellen Bruzell, James Chipman, Laurence Castle, Riccardo Crebelli, Rex FitzGerald, Cristina Fortes, Maria José Frutos Fernandez, Peter Fürst, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Thorhallur Ingi Halldorsson, Trine Husøy, Evangelia Ntzani, Heather Wallace, Matthew Wright and Maged Younes (Chair).
  - Hearing expert¹: Lieve Herman.

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
  - Not present

- EFSA:
  - DATA Unit: Gergelova Petra.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Alicja Mortensen.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf.
3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups 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, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Feedback from FAF Panel, EFSA and European Commission

None.

5. Scientific outputs for discussion

Two break-out sessions, sub-group chemistry and epidemiology, were held in parallel with the rest of the meeting.

5.1 Neohesperidine DC (E 959) \(\text{EFSA-Q-2011-00726}\)

Technical data (subgroup chemistry): the technical data of the draft opinion on neohesperidine DC (E 959) were discussed.

Toxicological data: a presentation on the biological and toxicological approach of the draft opinion on neohesperidine DC (E 959) was given.

Next steps to move forward for the technical and toxicological part were noted. This draft opinion will be discussed in a forthcoming WG meeting.

5.2 Sucralose (E 955) \(\text{EFSA-Q-2011-00724} \; \text{EFSA-Q-2021-00375}\)

Technical data (subgroup chemistry): the data related to stability of E 955 were discussed.

Toxicological data (subgroup epidemiology): a discussion on the way forward about how to consider some of the human data took place.

Next steps to move forward for the technical and toxicological part were noted. This draft opinion will be discussed in a forthcoming WG meeting.

5.3 Erythritol (E 968) \(\text{EFSA-Q-2011-00730}\)

The WG (subgroup chemistry) discussed the available technical data and identified the need for collecting additional information on this part of the assessment.

5.4 Maltitol (E 965 i, ii) \(\text{EFSA-Q-2011-00755; EFSA-Q2017-00490}\)


The WG (subgroup chemistry) discussed the available technical data and identified the need for collecting additional information on this part of the assessment.

5.5 **General issues**

a) A training session on Distiller RoB was given.

b) Risk of bias: some general points on the risk of bias were discussed and some adjustments on the risk of bias appraisal were proposed.

c) Genotoxicity approach: some further developments on the approach taken for the assessment of genotoxicity studies was presented.

7. **Any other Business**

7.1. Minutes of the 34th Working Group meeting on the re-evaluation of sweeteners held on 11th-12th November 2021 were agreed.

7.2. Next meeting: 16th-17th December 2021.
Participants

Working Group Members:
- Monika Batke, Ellen Bruzell, James Chipman (2nd day), Laurence Castle, Riccardo Crebelli, Rex FitzGerald, Cristina Fortes, Maria José Frutos Fernandez, Peter Fürst, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Thorhallur Ingi Halldorsson, Trine Husøy, Alicja Mortensen, Evangelia Ntzani, Heather Wallace, Matthew Wright and Maged Younes (Chair).

European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
- Not present

EFSA:
- FIP Unit: Stefania Barmaz, Consuelo Civitella, Federica Lodi, Antonio Rivas Cornejo, Camilla Smeraldi, Alexandra Tard, Giorgia Vianello and Riccardo Vriz.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the

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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, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Feedback from FAF Panel, EFSA and European Commission

None.

5. Scientific outputs for discussion

One break-out session, sub-group chemistry, was held in parallel with the rest of the meeting.

5.1 Thaumatin (E 957) EFSA-Q-2011-00725

Toxicological data: the biological and toxicological section of the draft opinion on thaumatin (E 957) was finalised.

This draft opinion will be discussed at the forthcoming FAF Panel meeting.

5.2 Sucralose (E 955) EFSA-Q-2011-00724

Technical data: the technical data of the draft opinion on sucralose (E 955) were discussed. A preliminary assessment of the available information on E 955 manufacturing process was conducted. The assessment has highlighted the need for collecting additional data and information on manufacturing process(es) to produce E 955 used as a food additive in the EU. Next steps to move forward were noted. This draft opinion will be discussed in a forthcoming WG meeting.

5.3 Neohesperidine DC (E 959) EFSA-Q-2011-00726

Technical data: the technical data of the draft opinion on neohesperidine DC (E 959) were discussed. Next steps to move forward were noted. This draft opinion will be discussed in a forthcoming WG meeting.

5.4 Saccharin (E 954) EFSA-Q-2011-00736

Technical data: the technical data of the draft opinion on saccharin (E 954) were discussed. A preliminary assessment of the available information on E 954 manufacturing process was conducted. The assessment has highlighted the need for collecting additional data and information on manufacturing process to produce E 954 used as a food additive in the EU.

Next steps to move forward were noted. This draft opinion will be discussed in a forthcoming WG meeting.

5.5 General issues

a) Microbiota: the relevance of the animal studies on changes in microbiota was discussed.

b) Risk of bias: some general points on the risk of bias of sucralose were discussed.
c) Mixtures: the relevance of the studies performed with mixtures (e.g. Splenda) was discussed.

7. Any other Business

7.1. Minutes of the 33rd Working Group meeting on the re-evaluation of sweeteners held on 6th September and 10th September 2021 were agreed.
SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND FLAVOURINGS (FAF)

MINUTES OF THE 32\textsuperscript{nd} MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE RE-EVALUATION OF SWEETENERS

Held on 1 June-4 June 2021, web-conference

(Agreed on 4\textsuperscript{th} June 2021)

Participants

\begin{itemize}
  \item Working Group Members:
    \begin{itemize}
      \item Monika Batke, Polly Boon (1\textsuperscript{st} day), Ellen Bruzell, Laurence Castle, James Chipman (1\textsuperscript{st} day), Riccardo Crebelli (1\textsuperscript{st} day), Rex FitzGerald, Cristina Fortes, Maria José Frutos Fernandez, Peter Fürst, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Thorhallur Ingi Halldorsson, Trine Husøy, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Oliver Lindtner (1\textsuperscript{st} day), Alicja Mortensen, Evangelia Ntzani, Heather Wallace, Matthew Wright and Maged Younes (Chair).
    \end{itemize}
  \item European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
    Not present
  \item EFSA:
    FIP Unit: Stefania Barmaz, Ana Campos Fernandes, Consuelo Civitella, Federica Lodi, Antonio Rivas Cornejo, Camilla Smeraldi, Alexandra Tard, Giorgia Vianello and Riccardo Vriz.
    DATA Unit: Davide Arcella, Claudia Cascio, Petra Gergelova, Zsuzsanna Horvath and Francesca Riolo.
\end{itemize}

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies from Romina Shah were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.
3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence\(^1\) and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management\(^2\), 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, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Feedback from FAF Panel, EFSA and European Commission

The Working Group was informed about the outcome of the discussion held at the last FAF plenary meeting (on 5\(^{th}\) May 2021) on the genotoxicity data available for sweeteners and the need to ask for further data for some of the substances through an open call for data (deadline of 6 months).

5. Scientific outputs for discussion

Two break-out sessions, one of the sub-group exposure and one of the sub-group chemistry, were held in parallel with the rest of the meeting.

5.1 Thaumatin (E 957) **EFSA-Q-2011-00725**

Technical data: the technical section of the draft opinion on thaumatin (E 957) was finalised.

Toxicological data: the biological and toxicological section of the draft opinion on thaumatin (E 957) was finalised.

This draft opinion will be discussed for possible adoption at the forthcoming FAF Panel meeting.

5.2 Cyclamates (E 952 i, ii,iii) (**EFSA-Q-2011-00733**; **EFSA-Q-2011-00734**; **EFSA-Q-2011-00735**)

Technical data: the technical data of the draft opinion on cyclamates (E 952) were discussed.

Toxicological data: a discussion took place on the impurity/metabolite cyclohexylamine and the approach to consider the toxicological studies available. An update on the ongoing assessment of the genotoxicity data was also given.

Next steps to move forward were noted. This draft opinion will be discussed in a forthcoming WG meeting.

5.3 Neotame (E 961) **EFSA-Q-2011-00740**

Sections on the exposure assessment of neotame (E 961) were discussed.

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Next steps to move forward were noted. This draft opinion will be discussed in a forthcoming WG meeting.

5.4 Saccharin (E 954) [EFSA-Q-2011-00736]

An update on the data available for the exposure assessment of saccharin (E 954) was given.

Next steps to move forward were noted. This draft opinion will be discussed in a forthcoming WG meeting.

6. Any other Business

6.1. Minutes of the 32nd Working Group meeting on the re-evaluation of sweeteners held on 1st June and 4th June 2021 were agreed.
Participants

- Working Group Members:
  - Monika Batke, Polly Boon, Ellen Bruzell, Laurence Castle, James Chipman, Riccardo Crebelli, Rex FitzGerald, Cristina Fortes, Maria José Frutos Fernandez, Peter Fürst, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Thorhallur Ingi Halldorsson, Trine Husøy, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Oliver Lindtner (1st day), Alicja Mortensen, Evangelia Ntzani, Romina Shah, Heather Wallace, Matthew Wright and Maged Younes (Chair).

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
  - Not present

- EFSA:
  - DATA Unit: Davide Arcella, Claudia Cascio, Petra Gergelova, Zsuzsanna Horvath and Francesca Riolo.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.
3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence\(^1\) and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management\(^2\), 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, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Feedback from FAF Panel, EFSA and European Commission

None.

5. Scientific outputs for discussion

Two break-out sessions, one of the sub-group exposure and one of the sub-group epidemiology, were held in parallel with the rest of the meeting.

5.1 Thaumatin (E 957) \[\text{EFSA-Q-2011-00725}\]

The final results on the exposure assessment of thaumatin (E 957) were discussed. The text of the opinion was reviewed.

Technical data: the technical section (except stability) of the draft opinion on thaumatin (E 957) was discussed.

Toxicological data: a discussion on the biological and toxicological section of the draft opinion on thaumatin (E 957) took place, including the approach for the weight of evidence for both human and animal studies, according to the protocol on hazard identification and characterisation.

This draft opinion will be distributed to the FAF Panel for discussion at its coming plenary meeting to receive steer ahead of its finalisation.

5.2 Neohesperidine DC (E 959) \[\text{EFSA-Q-2011-00726}\]

Sections and results on the exposure assessment of neohesperidine DC (E 959) were discussed. Next steps to move forward were noted. This draft opinion will be discussed in a forthcoming WG meeting.

5.3 Sucralose (E 955) \[\text{EFSA-Q-2011-00724}\]

Sections and results on the exposure assessment of sucralose (E 955) were discussed. Next steps to move forward were noted. This draft opinion will be discussed in a forthcoming WG meeting.

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\(^1\) \url{http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf}

\(^2\) \url{http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf}
6. Any other Business

6.1. Minutes of the 31\textsuperscript{th} Working Group meeting on the re-evaluation of sweeteners held on 26 April and 30 April 2021 were agreed.

6.2. Next meeting: 1st June (AM/PM) and 4 June AM (web-conference)
SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND FLAVOURINGS (FAF)

MINUTES OF THE 30th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE RE-EVALUATION OF SWEETENERS

Held on 25-26 March 2021, web-conference

(Agreed on 26 March 2021)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
  - Monika Batke, Ellen Bruzell, Laurence Castle, James Chipman, Riccardo Crebelli (1st day), Rex FitzGerald, Cristina Fortes, Maria José Frutos Fernandez, Peter Fürst, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Thorhallur Ingí Halldorsson, Trine Husøy, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Oliver Lindtner, Alicja Mortensen, Evangelia Ntzani, Romina Shah, Heather Wallace, Matthew Wright and Maged Younes (Chair).

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
  - Jiri Sochor

- EFSA:
  - DATA Unit: Davide Arcella, Claudia Cascio, Petra Gergelova, Zsuzsanna Horvath and Francesca Riolo.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.
3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence\(^1\) and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management\(^2\), 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, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Feedback from FAF Panel, EFSA and European Commission

None.

5. Scientific outputs for discussion

A break-out session of the sub-group exposure was held in parallel with the rest of the meeting.


The full draft opinion was discussed and revised: technical part, exposure assessment, toxicological part, discussion and uncertainties, including the latest set of data submitted by interested parties (technical and toxicological data).

Next steps to move forward were noted. This draft opinion will be discussed in a forthcoming WG meeting.


The results on the exposure assessment of thaumatin (E 957) were discussed.

Technical data: a discussion on some part of the technical section of the draft opinion on thaumatin (E 957) took place.

Toxicological data: the approach for the weight of evidence and data extraction, according to the protocol on hazard identification and characterisation, was discussed.

Next steps to move forward were noted. This draft opinion will be discussed in a forthcoming WG meeting.

5.3 Steering on genotoxicity (neotame, neohesperidine DC, sucralose)

Following the assessment of the data available on genotoxicity for the three opinions on neotame, neohesperidine DC and sucralose, a discussion took place to decide on the way to move forward.


The results on the exposure assessment of sucralose (E 955) were discussed.
Next steps to move forward were noted. This draft opinion will be discussed in a forthcoming WG meeting.

5.5 Neohesperidine DC (E 959) **EFSA-Q-2011-00726**

The results on the exposure assessment of neohesperidine DC (E 959) were discussed. This draft opinion will be discussed in a forthcoming WG meeting.

5.6 Saccharin (E 954) **EFSA-Q-2011-00736**

An update on the exposure assessment of saccharin (E 954) was presented. This draft opinion will be discussed in a forthcoming WG meeting.

6. **Any other Business**

6.1. Minutes of the 30th Working Group meeting on the re-evaluation of sweeteners held on 25-26 March 2021 were agreed.

6.2. Next meeting: 26 April (PM) and 30 April (AM;PM) (web-conference)
Participants

- Working Group Members:
  - Monika Batke, Ellen Bruzell, Laurence Castle, James Chipman, Riccardo Crebelli, Rex FitzGerald, Cristina Fortes, Maria José Frutos Fernandez, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Thorhallur Ingj Halldorsson, Trine Husøy, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Oliver Lindtner (1st day only), Alicja Mortensen, Evangelia Ntzani, Romina Shah, Heather Wallace (1st day only), Matthew Wright and Maged Younes (Chair).

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
  Not present

- EFSA:
  FIP Unit: Stefania Barmaz, Ana Campos Fernandes, Consuelo Civitella, Federica Lodi, Camilla Smeraldi, Alexandra Tard and Giorgia Vianello.
  DATA Unit: Davide Arcella, Claudia Cascio, Petra Gergelova, Zsuzsanna Horvath and Francesca Riolo.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

   The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Peter Fürst.

2. Adoption of agenda

   The agenda was adopted without changes.
3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence\(^1\) and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management\(^2\), 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, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Feedback from FAF Panel, EFSA and European Commission

None.

5. Scientific outputs for discussion

Break-out sessions of the sub-groups on chemistry and exposure were held in parallel with the rest of the meeting.

5.1 Implementation of the protocol

A discussion on how to perform the next steps on data extraction and weight of evidence, according to the protocol on hazard identification and characterisation, took place. Next steps to move forward were noted.

The main points of discussion will be implemented on the draft opinion on thaumatin (E 957) as a pilot.

5.2 Thaumatin (E 957) EFSA-Q-2011-00725

The results on the exposure assessment of thaumatin (E 957) were discussed.

Technical data: a discussion on some aspects of the technical part of the draft opinion on thaumatin (E 957), following the information received by interested business operators, took place.

Toxicological data: some clarifications on the risk of bias tables for both animals and human studies on thaumatin (E 957) were discussed. The genotoxicity section of the draft opinion on thaumatin was also discussed.

Next steps to move forward were noted. This draft opinion will be discussed in a forthcoming WG meeting.

5.3. Neotame (E 961) EFSA-Q-2011-00740

The results of the exposure assessment of neotame (E 961) were discussed.

Technical data: a discussion on some aspects of the technical part of the draft opinion on neotame (E 961), following the information received by the interested business operator, took place.

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Other parts of the draft opinion (e.g. Discussion) were also discussed as well as the outcome of the updated literature search.

Next steps to move forward were noted. This draft opinion will be discussed in a forthcoming WG meeting.

5.4 Sucralose (E 955) EFSA-Q-2011-00724

The results on the exposure assessment of sucralose (E 955) were discussed.

Toxicological data: the relevance of some of the toxicity studies, included after the screening for relevance step of the protocol, was discussed.

An update on some changes applied in the Distiller tools were also presented.

Next steps to move forward were noted. This draft opinion will be discussed in a forthcoming WG meeting.

5.5 Neohesperidine DC (E 959) EFSA-Q-2011-00726

The results on the exposure assessment of neohesperidine DC (E 959) were discussed.

Some issues on the data available were presented to the WG and the steering on the next steps to move forward were noted.

This draft opinion will be discussed in a forthcoming WG meeting.

6. Any other Business

6.1. Minutes of the 29th Working Group meeting on the re-evaluation of sweeteners held on 28-29 January 2021 were agreed.

6.2. Next meeting: 25-26 March 2021 (web-conference)
MINUTES OF THE 28th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE RE-EVALUATION OF SWEETENERS

Held on 27 November 2020, web-conference

(Agreed on 27 November 2020)

Participants

Working Group Members:
- Monika Batke, Ellen Bruzell, Laurence Castle, Riccardo Crebelli, Rex FitzGerald, Cristina Fortes, Maria José Frutos Fernandez, Peter Fürst, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Thorhallur Ingi Halldorsson, Trine Husay, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Oliver Lindtner, Alicja Mortensen, Evangelia Ntzani, Romina Shah, Heather Wallace, Matthew Wright and Maged Younes (Chair).

European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not present

EFSA:
- DATA Unit: Davide Arcella, Claudia Cascio, Petra Gergelova, Zsuzsanna Horvath, Francesca Riolo.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.
3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², 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, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Feedback from FAF Panel, EFSA and European Commission

None.

5. Scientific outputs for discussion

Break-out sessions of the sub-groups on chemistry, exposure and epidemiology were held in parallel with the morning session.

5.1 Neotame (E 961) EFSA-Q-2011-00740

The results of the exposure assessment of neotame (E 961) were discussed. Toxicological data/Implementation of the protocol: a discussion on the risk assessment approach for the safety evaluation of neotame (E 961) took place. Next steps to move forward were noted. This draft opinion will be discussed in a forthcoming WG meeting.

5.2 Sucralose (E 955) EFSA-Q-2011-00724

The preliminary results on the exposure assessment of sucralose (E 955) were discussed. A discussion took place on the technical data (i.e. stability and impurities) of sucralose (E 955) submitted by interested business operator. Toxicological data: the outcome of the categorisation step (in Distiller) was presented. Next steps to move forward were noted. This draft opinion will be discussed in a forthcoming WG meeting.

5.3 Thaumatin (E 957) EFSA-Q-2011-00725

The results on the exposure assessment of thaumatin (E 957) were discussed. A discussion took place on the risk of bias table for human studies as well as on the risk of bias evaluation of human studies on thaumatin (E 957). Toxicological data: a general discussion took place on the data extraction for human and animal studies.

Next steps to move forward were noted. This draft opinion will be discussed in a forthcoming WG meeting.

5.4 Neohesperidine DC (E 959) EFSA-Q-2011-00726

The preliminary results on the exposure assessment of neohesperidine DC (E 959) were discussed. Next steps to move forward were noted. This draft opinion will be discussed in a forthcoming WG meeting.

6. Any other Business

6.1. Minutes of the 28th Working Group meeting on the re-evaluation of sweeteners held on 27 November 2020 were agreed.

6.2. Next meeting: 28-29 January 2021 (web-conference)
Participants

- Working Group Members:
  - Monika Batke, Ellen Bruzell, Laurence Castle, Riccardo Crebelli, Rex FitzGerald, Cristina Fortes, Maria José Frutos Fernandez, Peter Fürst, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Thorhallur Ingi Halldorsson, Trine Husøy, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Alicja Mortensen, Evangelia Ntzani (23 October only), Romina Shah (22 October only), Heather Wallace, Matthew Wright and Maged Younes (Chair).

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
  - Not present

- EFSA:
  - DATA Unit: Davide Arcella, Claudia Cascio, Petra Gergelova, Francesca Riolo.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Oliver Lindtner.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.
3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence\(^1\) and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management\(^2\), 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, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Feedback from FAF Panel, EFSA and European Commission

None.

5. Scientific outputs for discussion

5.1 Saccharin Na, Ca, K (E 954) EFSA-Q-2011-00736, EFSA-Q-2011-00737, EFSA-Q-2011-00738, EFSA-Q-2011-00739 (Exposure)

A presentation on the data available on saccharin (E 954) was given, and a discussion took place. Next steps to move forward were noted.

5.2 Cyclamates (E 952) EFSA-Q-2011-00733, EFSA-Q-2011-00734, EFSA-Q-2011-00735 (Exposure)

A presentation on the data available on cyclamates (E 952) was given, and a discussion took place. Next steps to move forward were noted.

5.3 Outcome WG Specifications on data on solubility and particle size (Neohesperidine DC (E959) EFSA-Q-2011-00726; Sucralose (E 955) EFSA-Q-2011-00724; Cyclamates (E 952) EFSA-Q-2011-00733, EFSA-Q-2011-00734, EFSA-Q-2011-00735)

An update on the outcome of the discussion on data on solubility and particle size held on 14 October 2020 under the WG Specifications was given, and the steps to move forwards were noted.

5.4 Thaumatin (E 957) EFSA-Q-2011-00725

Toxicological data: some sections of the biological and toxicological data were discussed. Next steps to move forward were noted.

This draft opinion will be discussed in a forthcoming WG meeting.

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5.5 Neotame (E961) EFSA-Q-2011-00740

Toxicological data/Implementation of the protocol: the revisions of the text based on the comments received during the previous Working Group meeting were discussed. This draft opinion will be discussed in a forthcoming WG meeting.

5.6 Sucralose (E 955) EFSA-Q-2011-00724

Some parts of the technical section of the draft opinion (i.e. identity of the substance, specifications, manufacturing process, stability) were discussed. Next steps to move forward were noted. Toxicological data: an update on the results of the screening process (papers retrieved from the call for data and literature search) was given. This draft opinion will be discussed in a forthcoming WG meeting.

5.7 General issues

Some general issues raised since the previous Working Group meeting in September were discussed.

6. Any other Business

6.1. Minutes of the 27th Working Group meeting on the re-evaluation of sweeteners held on 22-23 October 2020 were agreed.

6.2. Next meeting: 26-27 November 2020 (web-conference)
SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND FLAVOURINGS (FAF)

MINUTES OF THE 26\textsuperscript{th} MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE RE-EVALUATION OF SWEETENERS

Held on 24-25 September 2020, web-conference

(Agreed on 25 September 2020)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
  - Monika Batke, Ellen Bruzell, Laurence Castle, Riccardo Crebelli, Rex FitzGerald, Cristina Fortes, Maria José Frutos Fernandez, Peter Fürst, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Thorhallur Ingí Halldórsson, Trine Husøy (24\textsuperscript{th} September only), Jean-Charles Leblanc, Oliver Lindtner (24\textsuperscript{th} September only), Alicja Mortensen (25\textsuperscript{th} September only), Evangelia Ntzani (25\textsuperscript{th} September only), Romina Shah (24\textsuperscript{th} September only), Heather Wallace (25\textsuperscript{th} September only), Matthew Wright and Maged Younes (Chair).

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
  - Not present

- EFSA:
  - DATA Unit: Davide Arcella, Claudia Cascio, Zsuzsanna Horvath, Francesca Riolo.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.
3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence\(^1\) and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management\(^2\), 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, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Feedback from FAF Panel, EFSA and European Commission

The Working Group Chair informed the Working Group about the outcome of the 16\(^{th}\) Plenary meeting of the FAF Panel, which was held on 21-23 September 2020 (Open to Observers).

5. Scientific outputs for discussion

5.1 Neohesperidine DC (E959) [EFSA-Q-2011-00726](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf)

A discussion on some technical data took place within the subgroup Chemistry. Next steps to move forward were noted.

5.2 Neohesperidine DC (E959) [EFSA-Q-2011-00726](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf) (Exposure)

A presentation on the data available (i.e. Mintel, use levels) on neohesperidine DC (E 959) was given, and a discussion took place. Next steps to move forward were noted.

5.3 Thaumatin (E 957) [EFSA-Q-2011-00725](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf)

Some part of the technical section of the draft opinion (i.e. manufacturing process, method of analysis and stability and reaction/fate in food) were discussed. Next steps to move forward were noted.

Toxicological data: an update on the appraisal of the toxicological studies of Thaumatin using the DistillerSR tool took place; a presentation on the appraisal process using the DistillerSR tool was given to the Working Group. Genotoxicity studies and other toxicity studies were discussed. Next steps to move forward were noted.

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This draft opinion will be discussed in a forthcoming WG meeting.

5.4 General issues

Some general issues raised since the previous Working Group meeting in July were discussed.

5.5 Neohesperidine DC (E 959) [EFSA-Q-2011-00726] (Technical and toxicological data)

An update on the outcome of the discussion held on 24th September (AM) within the subgroup chemistry was given.

Some parts of the technical section of the draft opinion (i.e. identity of the substance and specifications) were discussed. Next steps to move forward were noted.

Toxicological data: an update on the results of the screening process (papers retrieved from the call for data and literature search) was given.

This draft opinion will be discussed in a forthcoming WG meeting.

5.6 Neotame (E961) [EFSA-Q-2011-00740]

Toxicological data/Implementation of the protocol: the revisions of the text based on the comments received during the previous Working Group meeting were discussed.

This draft opinion will be discussed in a forthcoming WG meeting.

6. Any other Business

6.1. Minutes of the 26th Working Group meeting on the re-evaluation of sweeteners held on 24-25 September 2020 were agreed.

6.2. Next meetings: 22-23 October 2020 (web-conference)
       26-27 November 2020 (web-conference)
       17-18 December 2020 (web-conference)
Participants

- Working Group Members:
  - Monika Batke, Ellen Bruzell, Laurence Castle, Riccardo Crebelli, Rex Fitzgerald, Cristina Fortes, Maria José Frutos Fernandez, Peter Fürst, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Thorhallur Ingi Halldorsson, Trine Husøy, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Oliver Lindtner (2nd July only), Alicja Mortensen, Evangelia Ntzani, Romina Shah (2nd July only), Heather Wallace, Matthew Wright and Maged Younes (Chair).

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
  - Not present

- EFSA:
  - DATA Unit: Davide Arcella, Claudia Cascio, Petra Gergelova, Zsuzsanna Horvath, Francesca Riolo.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members
In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence\(^1\) and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management\(^2\), 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, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

### 4. Feedback from FAF Panel, EFSA and European Commission

None.

### 5. Scientific output for discussion

#### 5.1 Neotame (E 961) \textbf{EFSA-Q-2011-00740}:

Some feedback on the clarification teleconference held on 4 June 2020 with one of the interested parties was given.

The exposure assessment of neotame was discussed. Next steps to move forward were noted.

The sections of the draft opinion on toxicological data and on the implementation of the protocol were discussed. Next steps to move forward were noted.

This draft opinion will be discussed in a forthcoming WG meeting.

#### 5.2 Thaumatin (E 957) \textbf{EFSA-Q-2011-00725}

Technical data: an update on the outcome of the 24th WG Sweeteners meeting (subgroup chemistry) held on 25 June 2020 was given.

The exposure assessment of thaumatin was discussed. Next steps to move forward were noted.

Toxicological data: a presentation on the results of the screening (call for data), on the appraisal of the studies (in Distiller), and on some other general considerations (e.g. thaumatin-like proteins, allergenicity, genotoxicity) was given and a discussion took place. Next steps to move forward were noted.

This draft opinion will be discussed in a forthcoming WG meeting.

### 6. Any other Business


6.1. Minutes of the 25th Working Group meeting on the re-evaluation of sweeteners held on 2-3 July 2020 were agreed.

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND FLAVOURINGS (FAF)

MINUTES OF THE 24th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE RE-EVALUATION OF SWEETENERS (subgroup chemistry)

Held on 25 June 2020, web-conference

(Agreed on 25 June 2020)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
  - Laurence Castle, Maria José Frutos Fernandez and Peter Fürst

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
  - Not present

- EFSA:
  - FIP Unit: Consuelo Civitella, Federica Lodi and Giorgia Vianello.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The participants were welcomed. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence1 and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management2, 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, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Feedback from FAF Panel, EFSA and European Commission

None

5. Scientific output for discussion

5.1 Thaumatin [(E 957) EFSA-Q-2011-00725]

The technical part of the thaumatin draft opinion and the information submitted by interested parties were discussed. Some tasks needed to move forward with the assessment were noted. This opinion will be discussed in a forthcoming WG meeting (i.e. exposure assessment and biological/toxicological data).

6. Any other Business

6.1. Minutes of the 24th Working Group meeting on the re-evaluation of sweeteners held on 25 June 2020 were agreed.

6.2. Next meeting is scheduled on 2-3 July.
Participants

- Working Group Members:
  - Monika Batke, Ellen Bruzell, Laurence Castle, Riccardo Crebelli, Rex FitzGerald, Cristina Fortes, Maria José Frutos Fernandez, Peter Fürst, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Thorhallur Ingi Halldorsson, Trine Husøy, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Oliver Lindtner, Alicja Mortensen, Evangelia Ntzani, Romina Shah, Heather Wallace, Matthew Wright and Maged Younes (Chair).

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
  - Not present

- EFSA:
  - DATA Unit: Davide Arcella, Claudia Cascio, Petra Gergelova, Zsuzsanna Horvath, Francesca Riolo.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. A tour de table from all participants was presented. Apologies were received from Peter Fürst (on 14 May) and Romina Shah.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.
3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², 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, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Feedback from FAF Panel, EFSA and European Commission

The WG was informed on the reprioritisation of some of the tasks (including the re-evaluation of sweeteners) under the remit of the Food Additives and Flavouring Team of the FIP Unit and the FAF Panel, due to the new recent mandate on titanium dioxide (E 171) to be completed by end of 2020.

The WG was also informed on the recent publication of the “Draft Framework for Protocol Development for EFSA’s scientific assessment”, and its pilot phase starting on the 1st June 2020 for one year.

5. Scientific output for discussion


5.1 Different presentations were given to present an overview on the sweeteners re-evaluation:

- Introduction on the re-evaluation of food additives
- The re-evaluation of sweeteners
- Technical data
- Exposure assessment (including the protocol on exposure)
- Toxicological data (Protocol on hazard identification and characterisation)
- Tables on Risk of Bias (animals and human studies).

5.2 Exposure assessment: an update on the preliminary data available to be used for the exposure assessment of Thaumatin (E 957), as well as an overview on some of the decisions taken so far for the exposure assessment for sweeteners in general were presented.

5.3 Neotame (E 961): the draft opinion was not discussed due to lack of time. This opinion will be discussed in a forthcoming WG meeting.

5.4 Thaumatin (E957): some sections of the technical part of the thaumatin draft opinion as well as the outcome of the extensive literature search were discussed. This opinion will be discussed in a forthcoming WG meeting.

6. Any other Business

6.1. Minutes of the 23rd Working Group meeting on the re-evaluation of sweeteners held on 14-15 May 2020 were agreed.

6.2. Next meeting: the next WG meeting scheduled for the 4-5 June will be postponed (date to be confirmed).
SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND FLAVOURINGS (FAF)

MINUTES OF THE 22\textsuperscript{nd} MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE RE-EVALUATION OF SWEETENERS

Held on 30-31 March 2020, web-conference

(Agreed on 31 March 2020)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
  - Laurence Castle, Riccardo Crebelli, Maria José Frutos Fernandez, Peter Fürst, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Thorhallur Ingó Halldórsson, Trine Husøy, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Oliver Lindtner (only 1\textsuperscript{st} day), Romina Shah and Maged Younes (Chair).

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
  - Not present

- EFSA:
  - DATA Unit: Davide Arcella, Claudia Cascio, Petra Gergelova, Zsuzsanna Horvath, Francesca Riolo.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence\(^1\) and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management\(^2\), 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, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Feedback from FAF Panel, EFSA and European Commission

None.

5. Scientific output for discussion


5.1 A follow up on some of aspects for the implementation phase of the protocol for the assessment of hazard identification and hazard characterisation of sweeteners was discussed (i.e. appraisal of animal and human studies and literature searches).

5.2 Exposure assessment: a concrete approach based on data from the 1st batch of sweeteners was presented and discussed.

5.3 Neotame: the draft opinion was discussed in full (technical data, exposure data and biological/toxicological data) as well as the implementation of the protocol to this opinion. Comments to move forward were noted. This opinion will be discussed in a forthcoming WG meeting.

6. Any other Business

6.1. Minutes of the 22nd Working Group meeting on the re-evaluation of sweeteners held on 30-31 March 2020 were agreed.

6.2. Next meeting: 14 (PM)-15(AM) May 2020

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND FLAVOURINGS (FAF)

MINUTES OF THE 21\textsuperscript{TH} MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE RE-EVALUATION OF SWEETENERS

Held on 30-31 January 2020, Parma

(Agreed on 31 January 2020)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
  - Laurence Castle, Maria José Frutos Fernandez, Peter Fürst, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Thorhallur Ingi Halldorsson, Trine Husøy and Maged Younes (Chair).
  - Thorhallur Ingi Halldorsson participated via tele-conference (2\textsuperscript{nd} day).

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
  - Not present

- EFSA:
  - FIP Unit: Stefania Barmaz, Consuelo Civitella, Federica Lodi, Camilla Smeraldi and Alexandra Tard.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received by Riccardo Crebelli.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.
3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence\(^1\) and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management\(^2\), 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, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Feedback from FAF Panel, EFSA and European Commission

The WG was informed that the protocol on the exposure assessment and the accompanying technical report on the outcome of the public consultation were endorsed by the FAF Panel at its 12 Plenary meeting (28-30 January 2020).

5. Scientific output for discussion


5.1 A follow up on different aspects for the implementation phase of the protocol for the assessment of hazard identification and hazard characterisation of sweeteners has been discussed (i.e. appraisal of animal and human studies, pilot exercise on the neotame 52-week study in dog, refinement for literature searches and overview of chemical substances).

6. Any other Business

6.1. Minutes of the 21\(^{st}\) Working Group meeting on the re-evaluation of sweeteners held on 30-31 January 2020 were agreed.
SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND FLAVOURINGS (FAF)

MINUTES OF THE 20\textsuperscript{TH} MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE RE-EVALUATION OF SWEETENERS

Held on 13-14 January 2020, Parma

(Agreed on 14 January 2020)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
  - Laurence Castle, Oliver Lindtner
  - Jean-Charles Leblanc and Romina Shah participated via teleconference.

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
  - Not present

- EFSA:
  - DATA Unit: Davide Arcella, Claudia Cascio, Petra Gergelova, Zsuzsanna Horvath, Francesca Riolo.
  - FIP Unit: Brian Flynn, Alexandra Tard.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The participants were welcomed.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members
In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence\(^1\) and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management\(^2\), 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, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Feedback from FAF Panel, EFSA and European Commission

An update on the technical stakeholder event on the re-evaluation of authorised food additives with focus on sweeteners, which took place in Paris on 3 December 2019, was given.

5. Scientific output for discussion


5.1 Discussion on the comments received during the public consultation of the protocol for the exposure assessment as part of the safety assessment of sweeteners under the food additives re-evaluation programme: drafting of the report, revision of the protocol

The WG went through all the comments received and drafted the replies in a technical report. Revisions on the draft protocol have been made accordingly, when appropriate.

The report will be fine-tuned for a presentation at the forthcoming FAF Panel meeting, together with the revised version of the protocol.

6. Any other Business

6.1 Minutes of the 20\(^{th}\) Working Group meeting on the re-evaluation of sweeteners held on 13-14 January 2020 were agreed.

6.2 Dates for next meeting: to be defined

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Participants

- Working Group Members:
  - Laurence Castle, Maria José Frutos Fernandez, Peter Fürst, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Maged Younes (Chair) and Trine Husøy.
  - Thorhallur Ingi Halldorsson participated via tele-conference.

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
  - Not present

- EFSA:
  - FIP Unit: Barmaz Stefania, Consuelo Civitella, Federica Lodi and Alexandra Tard.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received by Riccardo Crebelli.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by

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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, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Feedback from FAF Panel, EFSA and European Commission

Some feedback on the technical stakeholder event on the re-evaluation of authorised food additives with focus on sweeteners, held in Paris on 3 December 2019, was given.

5. Scientific output for discussion


5.1 A follow up on different aspects for the implementation phase of the protocol for the assessment of hazard identification and hazard characterisation of sweeteners has been discussed.

Additional comments on the protocol on exposure assessment have been also discussed.

6. Any other Business

6.1 Minutes of the 19th Working Group meeting on the re-evaluation of sweeteners held on 10 December 2019 were agreed.
MINUTES OF THE 18TH MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE RE-EVALUATION OF SWEETENERS

Held on 27 November 2019, Parma

(Agreed on 27 November 2019)

Participants

■ Working Group Members:
  ■ Laurence Castle, Jean-Charles Leblanc
  ■ Oliver Lindtner and Romina Shah participated via teleconference.

■ European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
  Not present

■ EFSA:
  DATA Unit: Davide Arcella, Petra Gergelova, Francesca Riolo.
  FIP Unit: Brian Flynn, Alexandra Tard.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The participants were welcomed.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members
In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence\(^1\) and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management\(^2\), 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, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Feedback from FAF Panel, EFSA and European Commission

An update on the technical stakeholder event on the re-evaluation of authorised food additives with focus on sweeteners, to be organised in Paris on 3 December 2019, was given.

5. Scientific output for discussion

Sorbitols \([\text{E 420 i, ii)} \quad \text{EFSA-Q-2011-00644}; \quad \text{EFSA-Q-2011-00645}]\); Mannitol \([\text{E 421 i, ii)} \quad \text{EFSA-Q-2011-00646}; \quad \text{EFSA-Q-011-00647}]\); Acesulfame K \([\text{E 950)} \quad \text{EFSA-Q-2011-00721}]\); Isomalt \([\text{E 953)} \quad \text{EFSA-Q-2011-00723}]\); Sucralose \([\text{E 955)} \quad \text{EFSA-Q-2011-00724}]\); Thaumatin \([\text{E 957)} \quad \text{EFSA-Q-2011-00725}]\); Neohesperidine DC \([\text{E 959)} \quad \text{EFSA-Q-2011-00726}]\); Aspartame acesulfame salt \([\text{E 962)} \quad \text{EFSA-Q-2011-00727}]\); Lactitol \([\text{E 966)} \quad \text{EFSA-Q-2011-00728}]\); Xylitol \([\text{E 967)} \quad \text{EFSA-Q-2011-00729}]\); Erythritol \([\text{E 968)} \quad \text{EFSA-Q-2011-00730}]\); Cyclamates \([\text{E 952 i, ii, iii)} \quad \text{EFSA-Q-2011-00733}, \quad \text{EFSA-Q-2011-00734}, \quad \text{EFSA-Q-2011-00735}]\); Saccharin Na, Ca, K \([\text{E 954 i, ii, iii, iv)} \quad \text{EFSA-Q-2011-00736}, \quad \text{EFSA-Q-2011-00737}, \quad \text{EFSA-Q-2011-00738}, \quad \text{EFSA-Q-2011-00739}]\); Neotame \([\text{E 961)} \quad \text{EFSA-Q-2011-00740}]\); Maltitol \([\text{E 965 i, ii)} \quad \text{EFSA-Q-2017-00490}; \quad \text{EFSA-Q-2011-00755}]\).

5.1 Discussion on the comments received during the public consultation of the protocol for the exposure assessment as part of the safety assessment of sweeteners under the food additives re-evaluation programme

The WG went through the main comments received and discussed the best approach to address them.

The WG started to draft the technical report that will provide a response to all comments received. Some revisions on the draft protocol have been made accordingly, when appropriate.

This work will continue at a forthcoming WG meeting.

6. Any other Business

6.1 Minutes of the 18th Working Group meeting on the re-evaluation of sweeteners held on 27 November 2019 were agreed.

6.2 Dates for next meeting: to be decided


Participants

- Working Group Members:
  - Laurence Castle, Maria José Frutos Fernandez, Peter Fürst, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Thorhallur Ingi Halldorsson, Trine Husøy and Maged Younes (Chair).

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
  - Not present

- EFSA:
  - FIP Unit: Barmaz Stefania, Consuelo Civitella, Federica Lodi, Camilla Smeraldi.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received by Riccardo Crebelli and Peter Fürst (2nd day).

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management² 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, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Feedback from FAF Panel, EFSA and European Commission

An update on the technical stakeholder event on the re-evaluation of authorised food additives with focus on sweeteners, to be organised in Paris on 3 December 2019, was given.

5. Scientific output for discussion


5.1 Finalisation of the protocol for the assessment of hazard identification and characterisation of the sweeteners:

The revisions made according to the comments received during the public consultations have been discussed. The document will be discussed at the forthcoming Plenary meeting together with the technical report which addresses all the comments received.

5.2 Discussion on the technical report addressing the comments received during the public consultation:

The document has been revised and will be discussed at the forthcoming Plenary meeting together with the final protocol for the assessment of hazard identification and characterisation of the sweeteners.

6. Any other Business

6.1. Minutes of the 17th Working Group meeting on the re-evaluation of sweeteners held on 24-25 October 2019 were agreed.

6.2. Dates for next meeting: 10 December 2019 (AM)

A proposal for the dates for WG meetings in 2020 has been also discussed.
Participants

- Working Group Members:
  - Laurence Castle, Maria José Frutos Fernandez, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Trine Husøy and Maged Younes (Chair).
  - Riccardo Crebelli participated via Tele-conference.

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
  - Not present

- EFSA:
  - FIP Unit: Barmaz Stefania, Consuelo Civitella, Federica Lodi, Camilla Smeraldi and Alexandra Tard

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received by Peter Fürst and Thorhallur Ingi Halldorsson.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.
3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence\(^1\) and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management\(^2\), 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.

Certain interests were declared orally by the members before the beginning of the meeting. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Oral Declaration(s) of Interest made at the beginning of the meeting, please refer to the Annex.

4. Feedback from FAF Panel, EFSA and European Commission

An update on the latest developments on the sweeteners re-evaluation was given.

5. Scientific output for discussion


5.1 Follow up on the comments received during the public consultation on the protocol for the assessment of hazard identification and characterisation of the sweeteners:

All the comments received have been discussed and addressed, and some revisions on the draft protocol have been made accordingly, when appropriate. The document will be discussed at the forthcoming Plenary meeting together with the technical report which address all the comments received.

6. Any other Business

6.1. Minutes of the 16th Working Group meeting on the re-evaluation of sweeteners held on 23 September 2019 were agreed.

6.2. Dates for next meeting: 24 October 2019 AM (TC) and 25 October 2019 PM (TC, if needed)
Annex

**Interests and actions resulting from the Oral Declaration of Interest done at the beginning of the meeting**

With regard to this meeting, Dr Trine Husøy declared the following interest: current involvement in a grant application as project leader on the sweeteners, i.e. call funded by Nord Forsk (organisation under the Nordic Council of Ministers that provides funding for and facilitates Nordic cooperation on research and research infrastructure). In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence\(^3\) and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management\(^4\), and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, the interest above was not deemed to represent a Conflict of Interest for the expert concerned.

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Participants

- Working Group Members:
  - Thorhallur Ingi Halldorsson and Maged Younes (Chair).
  - Maria José Frutos Fernandez, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Trine Husøy, Laurence Castle, Oliver Lindtner, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Romina Shah, Peter Fürst participated via teleconference.

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
  - Not present

- EFSA:
  - DATA Unit: Davide Arcella, Petra Gergelova, Francesca Riolo
  - FIP Unit: Alexandra Tard, Federica Lodi, Camilla Smeraldi

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

   The participants were welcomed. Apologies were received from Riccardo Crebelli.

2. Adoption of agenda

   The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members
In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², 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, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Feedback from FAF Panel, EFSA and European Commission

WG members were informed that the public consultation on the draft protocol for the assessment of hazard identification and characterisation of sweeteners was extended until 19 September 2019.

5. Scientific output for discussion


5.1 Discussion on the approach to be followed for the exposure assessment of sweeteners:

The topics to be considered in the exposure assessment of sweeteners were discussed (characterisation of foods containing sweeteners, occurrence data, food consumption surveys, exposure scenarios, target population).

Subject to revisions proposed during the meeting, a revised version was agreed and will be presented in the forthcoming FAF Panel meeting.

6. Any other Business

6.1. Minutes of the 15th Working Group meeting on the re-evaluation of sweeteners held on 13 September 2019 were adopted.

6.2. Dates for next meeting: 23 September 2019

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON FOOD ADDITIVES AND FLAVOURINGS (FAF)

MINUTES OF THE 14TH MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE RE-EVALUATION OF SWEETENERS

Held on 1 July 2019, Parma

(Agreed on 1 July 2019)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
  - Laurence Castle, Oliver Lindtner.
  - Jean-Charles Leblanc, Romina Shah participated via teleconference.

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
  Not present

- EFSA:
  DATA Unit: Davide Arcella, Petra Gergelova, Marina Nikolic, Francesca Riolo
  FIP Unit: Alexandra Tard

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The participants were welcomed.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence\(^1\) and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management\(^2\), 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, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Feedback from FAF Panel, EFSA and European Commission

WG members were informed that the other protocol, for the assessment of hazard identification and characterisation of the sweeteners was endorsed by the FAF Panel beginning of June and will go for public consultation in the coming days.

5. Scientific output for discussion


5.1 Discussion on the approach to be followed for the exposure assessment of sweeteners:

The topics to be considered in the exposure assessment of sweeteners were further discussed (characterisation of foods containing sweeteners, occurrence data, food consumption surveys, exposure scenarios, target population). Subject to revisions proposed during the meeting, a new draft document will be circulated to the WG members. A revised version will be scheduled for presentation in the forthcoming WG sweeteners meeting.

6. Any other Business

6.1 Minutes of the 14th Working Group meeting on the re-evaluation of sweeteners held on 1 July 2019 were adopted.
MINUTES OF THE 13TH MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE RE-EVALUATION OF SWEETENERS

Held on 7 June 2019, TC

(Agreed on 7 June 2019)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
  - Jean-Charles Leblanc and Oliver Lindtner participated via teleconference.

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
  - Not present

- EFSA:
  - DATA Unit: Davide Arcella, Petra Gergelova, Marina Nikolic, Francesca Riolo
  - FIP Unit: Brian Flynn

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The participants were welcomed. Apologies were received from Laurence Castle and Romina Shah.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the

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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, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Feedback from FAF Panel, EFSA and European Commission

No feedback from FAF Panel, EFSA and European Commission was given.

5. Scientific output for discussion


5.1 Discussion on the approach to be followed for the exposure assessment of sweeteners:

The approach was further discussed and refined. The topics to be considered in the exposure assessment of sweeteners were discussed (characterisation of foods containing sweeteners, occurrence data, food consumption surveys, exposure scenarios, target population). Some tasks needed to move forward were noted and distributed.

6. Any other Business

6.1. Minutes of the 13th Working Group meeting on the re-evaluation of sweeteners held on 7 June 2019 were adopted.

6.2. Date for next physical meeting: 1 July 2019.
Participants

- Working Group Members:
  - Laurence Castle, Riccardo Crebelli, Peter Fürst (22 May), Maria José Frutos Fernandez, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Thorhallur Ingi Halldorsson, Trine Husøy and Maged Younes (Chair).

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives: Not present

- EFSA: FIP Unit: Federica Lodi and Camilla Smeraldi

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence\(^1\) and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management\(^2\), 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, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Feedback from FAF Panel, EFSA and European Commission

None.

5. Scientific output for discussion


5.1 Follow up from the WG meeting in May (Strategy for the assessment) and finalisation of the draft protocol:

The latest revisions made on the draft protocol for the assessment of the sweeteners have been discussed. The document will be discussed at the forthcoming Plenary meeting.

6. Any other Business

6.1. Minutes of the 12th Working Group meeting on the re-evaluation of sweeteners held on 21-22 May 2019 were agreed.
Participants

- Working Group Members:
  - Maria José Frutos Fernandez, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Thorhallur Ingi Halldorsson and Maged Younes (Chair).
  - Trine Husøy participated via teleconference.

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
  - Not present

- EFSA:
  - FIP Unit: Federica Lodi, Camilla Smeraldi and Alexandra Tard (item 4).

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Laurence Castle, Fürst Peter and Riccardo Crebelli.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.
3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence\(^1\) and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management\(^2\), 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, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Feedback from FAF Panel, EFSA and European Commission

Some feedback from the WG meeting of the subgroup on exposure was provided.

5. Scientific output for discussion


5.1 Follow up from the WG meeting in April (Strategy for the assessment):

The latest revisions made on the draft protocol for the assessment of the sweeteners have been discussed. Some tasks needed to move forward were noted and distributed.

6. Any other Business

6.1 Minutes of the 11\(^{th}\) Working Group meeting on the re-evaluation of sweeteners held on 2-3 May 2019 were agreed.

6.2 Dates for next meeting: 21 May (PM)-22 May (AM) (teleconference)

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Participants

- **Working Group Members:**
  - Laurence Castle, Jean-Charles Leblanc, Oliver Lindtner.
  - Romina Shah participated via teleconference.

- **European Commission and/or Member States representatives:**
  - Not present

- **EFSA:**
  - DATA Unit: Davide Arcella, Petra Gergelova, Marina Nikolic, Francesca Riolo
  - FIP Unit: Brian Flynn, Alexandra Tard

1. **Welcome and apologies for absence**

The participants were welcomed.

2. **Adoption of agenda**

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. **Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members**
In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence\(^1\) and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management\(^2\), 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, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Feedback from FAF Panel, EFSA and European Commission

Timetable for the protocol and its public consultation was presented to the WG members (subgroup exposure).

5. Scientific output for discussion


5.1 Discussion on the approach to be followed for the exposure assessment of sweeteners:

The several topics to be considered in the exposure assessment of sweeteners were discussed (characterisation of foods containing sweeteners, occurrence data, food consumption surveys, exposure scenarios, target population). Some tasks needed to move forward were noted and distributed.

6. Any other Business

6.1. Minutes of the 10\(^{th}\) Working Group meeting on the re-evaluation of sweeteners held on 30 April 2019 were adopted.

6.2. Date for next physical meeting: 1 July 2019. Other TC meeting might be scheduled before July 2019.

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Participants

- Working Group Members:
  - Laurence Castle, Riccardo Crebelli, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Trine Husøy and Maged Younes (Chair).
  - Maria José Frutos Fernandez and Thorhallur Ingi Halldorsson participated via teleconference.

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
  - Not present

- EFSA:
  - FIP Unit: Federica Lodi and Camilla Smeraldi

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants and particularly Riccardo Crebelli, recently appointed as a new member of this WG. Apologies were received from Fürst Peter.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.
3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence\(^1\) and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management\(^2\), 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, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Feedback from FAF Panel, EFSA and European Commission

None.

5. Scientific output for discussion


5.1 Follow up from the WG meeting in March (Strategy for the assessment):

The latest revisions made on the draft protocol for the assessment of the sweeteners have been discussed. Some tasks needed to move forward were noted and distributed.

6. Any other Business

6.1. Minutes of the 9th Working Group meeting on the re-evaluation of sweeteners held on 4-5 April 2019 were agreed.

6.2. Dates for next meeting: 2-3 May 2019 (Parma); 21 May (PM)-22 May (AM) (teleconference)

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Participants

- Working Group Members:
  - Maria José Frutos Fernandez, Fürst Peter, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Trine Husøy, Thorhallur Ingi Halldorsson and Maged Younes (Chair).

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
  - Not present

- EFSA:
  - FIP Unit: Federica Lodi and Camilla Smeraldi

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Laurence Castle.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², 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, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Feedback from FAF Panel, EFSA and European Commission

None.

5. Scientific output for discussion


5.1 Follow up from the WG meeting in March (Strategy for the assessment): the latest revisions made on the draft protocol for the assessment of the sweeteners have been discussed.

5.2 A brainstorming on the presentation to be given at the next Plenary meeting (26-28 March) on the work carried out so far on the re-evaluation of sweeteners took place.

6. Any other Business

6.1 Minutes of the 8th Working Group meeting on the re-evaluation of sweeteners held on 19 March 2019 were agreed.

6.2 Date for next meeting: 4-5 April 2019
Participants

- **Working Group Members:**
  - Laurence Castle, Maria José Frutos Fernandez, Fürst Peter (via teleconference in agenda points 5.1 to 5.6), Ursula Gundert-Remy (in agenda points 5.1 to 5.6), Trine Husey (in agenda points 5.1 to 5.6), Thorhallur Ingi Halldorsson (in agenda points 5.1 to 5.6) and Maged Younes (Chair) (in agenda points 5.1 to 5.6).
  - Jean-Charles Leblanc, Oliver Lindtner and Romina Shah have participated via teleconference in agenda points 5.4 to 5.6.
  - **Hearing Experts**¹:
    - Dr Andreas Eisenreich (BfR) (for item 5.10, via teleconference).

- **European Commission and/or Member States representatives:**
  - Not present

- **EFSA:**
  - FIP Unit: Dimitrios Chrysafidis, Brian Flynn, Federica Lodi, Camilla Smeraldi and Alexandra Tard.
  - DATA Unit: Petra Gergelova and Davide Arcella.

1. **Welcome and apologies for absence**

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

2. **Adoption of agenda**

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The agenda was adopted without changes.

### 3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups 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, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

### 4. Feedback from FAF Panel, EFSA and European Commission

None.

### 5. Scientific outputs for discussion


#### 5.1. Toxicological and epidemiological data:

The notes from the previous meeting held on 29 January 2019 were adopted.

#### 5.2. Follow up from the WG meeting in January (Strategy for the assessment):

A discussion on the draft protocol for the assessment of the sweeteners took place and some revisions were made.

#### 5.3. General discussion and distribution of tasks:

A general discussion took place on the approach to be followed and some tasks were noted and distributed in order to move forward.

#### 5.4. Exposure assessment:

The notes from the previous meeting held on 13 February 2019 were adopted.

#### 5.5. Brainstorming on the assessment of the exposure to sweeteners:


A presentation was given on different aspects of the exposure assessment.

**5.6. General discussion and distribution of tasks:**
A general discussion took place on the possible approach to be followed and some tasks were noted and distributed in order to move forward.

**5.7. Technical data:**
The notes from the previous meeting held on 15-16 January 2019 were adopted.

**5.8. Follow up from the WG meeting in January (technical data):**
A discussion on the technical parts (i.e. identity and specifications, manufacturing process; analytical methods and stability and fate in food) for some of the sweeteners took place [i.e. acesulfame K [(E 950)]; aspartame acesulfame salt [(E 962); cyclamates [(E 952 i, ii, iii); saccharin Na, Ca, K [(E 954 i, ii, iii, iv)].

**5.9. General discussion and distribution of tasks:**
During the discussion, some tasks needed to move forward with the assessment were noted and distributed among the experts.

**5.10. Presentation on sucralose (E 955)**
Dr Andreas Eisenreich (BfR) was invited as hearing expert to present his views on the current BfR Opinion on the formation of chlorinated compounds during heating of foods containing sucralose (E 955). A discussion and exchange of questions/answers took place.

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**6. Any other business**

**6.1. Dates for next meetings:**
The dates for the next meetings were agreed: 19 March 2019 (TC) and 4-5 April 2019.
Participants

- Working Group Members:
  Jean-Charles Leblanc, Oliver Lindtner, Romina Shah, Maged Younes

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
  Not present

- EFSA:
  FIP Unit: Dimitrios Chrysafidis, Federica Lodi, Camilla Smeraldi and Alexandra Tard
  DATA Unit: Petra Gergelova, Davide Arcella, Sofia Ioannidou, Zsuzsanna Horvath, Francesca Riolo.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.
3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence\(^1\) and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management\(^2\), 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, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Feedback from FAF Panel, EFSA and European Commission

None.

5. Exposure assessment methodology and data - Overview on the current status


A discussion took place on different aspects of the exposure assessment:

- Information on the authorised uses;
- Presentation on current data available on the use level and the analytical results;
- Presentation on the possible use of FoodEx2 and its facets;
- Presentation on the available consumption data;
- Information from Mintel GNPD;
- Brainstorming on possible methods to assess exposure to sweeteners.

6. General discussion on the approach to be followed

A general discussion took place on some of the aspects of the exposure assessment. Different approaches for the exposure assessment were discussed, including some proposals to be further elaborated at forthcoming meetings.

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7. Any other Business

7.1. Minutes of the 6th Working Group meeting on the re-evaluation of sweeteners held on 13 February 2019 were agreed.

7.2. Date for next meeting: 5-8 March 2019
FOOD INGREDIENTS AND PACKAGING UNIT

Scientific Panel on Food Additives and Flavouring (FAF)

Minutes of the 5th Meeting of the Working Group on the re-evaluation of sweeteners

Held on 29 January 2019, Parma (Italy)

(Agreed on 29 January 2019)

Participants

Working Group Members:
Laurence Castle, Maria José Frutos Fernandez, Fürst Peter, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Trine Husøy and Maged Younes (Chair).
Thórhallur Ingi Halldórsson participated via teleconference.

European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not present

EFSA

FIP Unit: Dimitrios ChrySAFidis, Alessandra Giarola, Federica Lodi, Camilla Smeraldi and Alexandra Tard.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence
The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda
The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Adoption of the notes from previous meetings
The notes from the previous meeting were adopted.
4. **Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members**

In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes\(^1\) and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest\(^2\): EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of Interest and the Specific Declaration of Interest filled in by the working group members invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

5. **Feedback from FAF Panel, EFSA and European Commission**

None.

6. **General update on:**


- Technical data: feedback from the previous WG meeting (subgroup chemistry) was given.
- Exposure: feedback on the brainstorming from the meeting with DATA Unit was given. The first meeting with the experts on the exposure assessment will be held on 13 February 2019.
- Toxicological and epidemiological data: an update on ongoing activities (i.e. procurement contract and tasking grant for preparatory work) as well as a follow up from the WG meeting in December (Strategy for the assessment) took place.

7. **General discussion and distribution of tasks.**

A general discussion took place on some of the aspects of the assessment of the technical data, exposure and biological and toxicological data. An initial discussion on the strategy to be developed for the assessment took place. Some proposals for further elaboration were noted.

8. **Any Other Business**


8.1. Minutes of the 5th Working Group meeting on the re-evaluation of sweeteners held on 29 January 2019 were agreed.

8.2. Dates for the next WG meetings were discussed. 5-8 March 2019.
FOOD INGREDIENTS AND PACKAGING UNIT

Scientific Panel on Food Additives and Flavouring (FAF)

Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the Working Group on the re-evaluation of sweeteners

Held on 15-16 January 2019, Parma (Italy)

(Agreed on 16 January 2019)

Participants

Working Group Members:
Laurence Castle, Maria José Frutos Fernandez, Fürst Peter.

European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not present

EFSA

FIP Unit: Dimitrios Chrysafidis, Federica Lodi and Camilla Smeraldi

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The participants were welcomed. Apologies were received from Laurence Castle on the 16th January 2019.

2. Adoption of agenda and notes from previous meeting

The agenda and notes from the previous meeting (subgroup chemistry) were adopted.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest² EFSA

screened the Annual Declaration of Interest and the Specific Declaration of Interest filled in by the working group members invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. **Feedback from FAF Panel, EFSA and European Commission**

Feedback from the last WG Sweeteners meeting held on 13-14 December 2018 was provided.

5. **Update on the current status of the data available**


A discussion on the technical parts (i.e. identity and specifications, manufacturing process; analytical methods and stability and fate in food) for some of the sweeteners took place [i.e. sucralose (E 955), thaumatin (E 957), neohesperidine DC (E 959), neotame (E 961), sorbitols [(E 420 i,ii) mannitol [(E 421 i, ii), isomalt [(E 953), lactitol [(E 966), xylitol [(E 967), erythritol [(E 968), maltitol [(E 965 i, ii)].

6. **General discussion and distribution of tasks**

During the discussion, some tasks needed to move forward with the assessment were noted and distributed among the experts.

7. **Any Other Business**

Minutes of the 4th Working Group meeting on the re-evaluation of sweeteners held on 15-16 January 2019 were agreed.
Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of the Working Group on the re-evaluation of sweeteners

Held on 13-14 December 2018, Parma (Italy)

(Agreed on 14 December 2018)

Participants

Working Group Members:
Laurence Castle, Maria José Frutos Fernandez, Fürst Peter, Thorhallur Ingi Halldorsson, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Trine Husøy and Maged Younes (Chair).

European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not present

EFSA
FIP Unit: Eleonora Alquati, Dimitrios Chrysafidis, Alessandra Giarola, Federica Lodi, Camilla Smeraldi and Alexandra Tard
DATA Unit: Petra Gergelova and Doreen Dolores Russell.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence
The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda
The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Adoption of the notes from previous meetings
The notes from previous meetings were adopted.

1 Via teleconference on 14/12/2018
4. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes\(^2\) and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest\(^3\), EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of Interest and the Specific Declaration of Interest filled in by the working group members invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

5. Feedback from FAF Panel, EFSA and European Commission

None.

6. General update on:


- Technical data: feedback from the previous WG meeting was given. An overview on the chemical substances (including possible degradation products and impurities) as well as information on the sweeteners that can be manufactured via fermentation were presented.
- A presentation on the occurrence data from Members States, so far gathered by EFSA, was given. As a next step, it was explained, that data will require cleaning and possibly clarifications with the data providers.
- Toxicological and epidemiological data: an update on ongoing activities (i.e procurement contract and tasking grant for preparatory work), previous evaluations of some of the sweeteners (i.e. sucralose, thaumatin, neotame, and neohesperidine DC) and epidemiological studies available (from one recent review) was given.

7. General discussion and distribution of tasks.

A general discussion took place on some of the aspects of the assessment of the technical data, exposure and biological and toxicological data. During the discussion,


an initial strategy for the assessment was developed by the WG, including some proposals to be further elaborated at forthcoming meetings.

8. Any Other Business

8.1. Minutes of the 3rd Working Group meeting on the re-evaluation of sweeteners held on 13-14 December 2018 were agreed.

8.2. Dates for the next WG meetings were discussed. Pending agreement from all experts required, the following tentative dates were proposed: 15-16 January 2019 (subgroup chemistry); 29 January 2019; 5-6 March 2019.

8.3. The Chair of the WG proposed to appoint Trine Husøy as vice-chair.
**Minutes of the 2\textsuperscript{nd} Meeting of the Working Group on the re-evaluation of sweeteners**

**Held on 29\textsuperscript{th} November 2018, Parma (Italy)**

(Agreed on 29\textsuperscript{th} November 2018)

**Participants**

- **Working Group Members:**
  - Laurence Castle, Maria José Frutos Fernandez, Fürst Peter.

- **European Commission and/or Member States representatives:**
  - Not present

- **EFSA**
  - **FIP Unit:** Dimitrios Chrysafidis, Federica Lodi and Camilla Smeraldi

1. **Welcome and apologies for absence**

   The participants were welcomed. No apologies were received.

2. **Adoption of agenda**

   The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. **Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members**

   In accordance with EFSA’s Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes\textsuperscript{1} and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest\textsuperscript{2}, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of Interest and the Specific Declaration of Interest filled in by the working group members invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

\textsuperscript{1} http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf

4. Feedback from FAF Panel, EFSA and European Commission

A general overview on the re-evaluation programme for all sweeteners, the ongoing activities, and the way of working of this WG were given.

5. Update on the current status of the data available


A presentation on the current status of the technical data available, received following the latest call for data on sweeteners, was given.

A discussion on the technical parts (i.e. identity and specifications, manufacturing process; analytical methods and stability and fate in food) for some of the sweeteners took place [i.e. sucralose (E 955), thaumatin (E 957), neohesperidine DC (E 959) and neotame (E 961)].

6. General discussion and distribution of tasks

During the discussion, some tasks needed to move forward with the assessment were noted and distributed among the experts.

7. Any Other Business

Minutes of the 2nd Working Group meeting on the re-evaluation of sweeteners held on 29th November 2018 were agreed.
Scientific Panel on Food Additives and Flavouring (FAF)

Minutes of the 1\textsuperscript{th} Meeting of the Working Group on the re-evaluation of sweeteners

Held on 9\textsuperscript{th}-10\textsuperscript{th} October 2018, Parma (Italy)

(Agreed on 10\textsuperscript{th} October 2018)

Participants

\textbf{Working Group Members:}

- Maria José Frutos Fernandez, Ursula Gundert-Remy, Trine Husøy and Maged Younes (Chair).
- Thorhallur Ingi Halldorsson participated via teleconference

\textbf{European Commission and/or Member States representatives:}

- Not present

\textbf{EFSA}

\textbf{FIP Unit:} Dimitrios Chrysafidis, Alessandra Giarola, Federica Lodi, Camilla Smeraldi and Alexandra Tard

\textbf{Data Unit:} Davide Arcella and Doreen Dolores Russell.

1. **Welcome and apologies for absence**

   The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

2. **Adoption of agenda**

   The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. **Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members**

   In accordance with EFSA\textquotesingle s Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes\textsuperscript{1} and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest\textsuperscript{2}, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of Interest and the Specific Declaration of Interest filled in by the working group members invited for the present meeting. No

\textsuperscript{1} http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf

Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Feedback from FAF Panel, EFSA and European Commission

None.

5. Appointment of Vice Chair

The Chair decided to postpone the appointment of the Vice Chair(s) of this WG to a later stage, once the WG has been enlarged.

6. Update on the current status of the data available


Presentations on the current status of both the technical as well as biological and toxicological data available, received following the latest call for data on sweeteners, were given.

An overview on the use levels data received from the latest call for data has been also given. An initial discussion on the exposure assessment took place.

7. General discussion: setting up questions and strategy design

A general brainstorming and discussion took place on different aspects of the assessment of the technical, exposure and biological and toxicological data, in order to define the main questions to be addressed and set up the best approach to evaluate the food additives under this WG.

The Working Group identified the need for the following additional areas of expertise: chemistry, dietary exposure assessment and toxicology/epidemiology. Additional members would be identified to cover these areas.

8. Any Other Business

8.1. Minutes of the 1th Working Group meeting on the re-evaluation of sweeteners held on 9th-10th October 2018 were agreed.

8.2. Dates for the next WG meetings were discussed and will be defined according to the needs.