



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
HEALTH & CONSUMER PROTECTION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL  
Directorate C - Scientific Opinions  
**C2 - Management of scientific committees; scientific co-operation and networks**

**Scientific Committee on Food**

**SCF/CS/PLEN/MINS/131 final**

**25 April 2002**

**Minutes of the 131<sup>st</sup> Plenary Meeting  
of the  
Scientific Committee on Food  
held on 25/26/27 February 2002 in Brussels**

**Members/Membres/Mitglieder**

Mr. J. ALEXANDER  
 Mrs. S. BARLOW First Vice chair  
 Mr. A. CARERE (present on 26-27 February)  
 K.-H. ENGEL  
 A. FLYNN (present on 25-26 February)  
 W. GRUNOW  
 T. HIRVI  
 Mrs. A. KNAAP Chair  
 Mr. J.C. LARSEN  
 S. LINDGREN (present on 27 February)  
 B. MOSELEY  
 A. PALOU Second Vice chair  
 W. SARIS  
 J. SCHLATTER  
 P. TOBBACK  
 P. VERGER  
 J.-M. WAL (present on 26-27 February)

**Experts**

Mr. A. RENWICK (present on 25 February)

**Commission/Kommission**

Mr. A. KLEPSCH (DG Health and Consumer Protection)  
 Mrs. H. LEE “ “  
 Mr. G. SCHREIBER “ “

**Secretariat/Secrétariat/Sekretariat (DG Health and Consumer Protection)**

Mr. M. A. GRANERO ROSELL  
 Mr. D. LIEM  
 Mrs. P. RODRIGUEZ IGLESIAS  
 Mrs. H. PEDERSEN  
 Mrs. T. SÄTERI

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from B. Koletzko and R. Walker.

**2. Adoption of the agenda**

The agenda was adopted.

**3. Declarations of interest**

No specific interests were declared.

**4. Matters arising from previous plenary meeting**

The Committee acknowledged the minutes of the 130<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting of 12-13 December, which had been already adopted by written procedure on 19 February 2002.

Prof. T. Hirvi informed the SCF that he has been nominated to become Director of the Center for Metrology and Accreditation in Helsinki as of May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2002. On behalf of the Committee, the Chair congratulated Prof. Hirvi with this new position.

**5. New dossiers**

The following new dossiers have been added to the working programme of the Committee:

**5.1. Nutrition labelling**

The Committee is asked to make recommendations for reference nutrient values for vitamins and minerals to be used for labelling purposes as included in Council Directive 90/496/EC on nutrition labelling for foodstuffs., taking into account scientific developments and relevant data from Member States and elsewhere.

**5.2. Food allergens for labelling purposes**

The Commission has adopted in September 2001 a proposal for amendment of Directive 2000/13/EC on labelling (COM (2001) 433 final). This proposal addresses among other aspects the labelling of food allergens. In view of the recent scientific developments in this field and the earlier SCF opinion on “Adverse reactions to foods and food ingredients” expressed in 1995, the Committee is asked to advise the Commission on: a) the scientific basis supporting the identification of foods, food components and food ingredients which may induce food allergies and food intolerances for labelling purposes, and b) on the possibility of determining thresholds or of identifying other elements (including food processing) to establish if a food component or a food ingredient is susceptible to induce adverse reactions.

The members agreed to suggest names of additional experts that could contribute in an *ad-hoc* SCF working group.

### **5.3 Dietetic foods for persons suffering from diabetes**

The Committee was informed that the Commission is preparing a report to the European Parliament and the Council on the desirability of special provisions for persons suffering from carbohydrate-metabolism disorders (diabetes), as foreseen in the framework dietetic foods Directive (89/398, as amended by Directive 1999/41). The Committee is asked to comment on the scientific aspects of this issue.

## **6. General information from the Commission services on matters relevant to the Scientific Committee on Food**

### *Changes in the Secretariat*

The Secretariat introduced Mrs. Taina Säteri who joined it as of January 2002. The Chair welcomed Mrs. Säteri on behalf of the Committee.

## **7. Co-ordination with the Scientific Steering Committee and other Scientific Committees**

The Chair reported on several activities of the work of the Scientific Steering Committee (SSC). The SSC adopted a number of opinions related to TSE and BSE. It also adopted a guidance document prepared by a harmonisation task force on the terminology and the format of scientific opinions (“Guidance for the expression of opinions and other outputs of scientific advisory committees”).

In addition, the SSC discussed about procedures for making available short curricula of the members of the Scientific Committees. The members agreed to amend their CVs following a model and send them to the Secretariat.

## **8. Upper Levels for Vitamins and Minerals**

### **8.1 Tolerable Upper Intake Level of Niacin**

The draft opinion prepared within the Task Force on Vitamins and Minerals was introduced and discussed. The Committee identified a number of aspects in the document that required further clarification that could not be solved during the meeting as they required consultation of literature and re-elaboration. The Task Force will examine these issues so the Committee could discuss a revised draft opinion at the April 2002 plenary meeting.

## **8.2 Tolerable Intake Level of Pantothenic Acid**

The draft opinion prepared within the Task Force was introduced and discussed. The Committee identified a number of aspects in the document that required further clarification and that could not be solved at the meeting. The Task Force will examine these issues so the Committee could discuss a revised draft opinion at the April 2002 plenary meeting.

## **9. Novel Foods**

### **9.1. Opinion on the safety assessment of the genetically modified maize line GA21**

For the preparation of this evaluation, the Committee has taken into account the original dossier submitted by the petitioner in 1998, the additional safety data submitted in September 2000 in response to Members States' objections and further information submitted in May 2001 in response to questions from the Working Group on Novel Foods.

The draft opinion prepared by the Working Group was introduced and discussed. After discussion, the opinion was adopted subject to the incorporation of a few changes as suggested during the meeting. The full opinion appears as **Annex I** of these minutes.

## **10. Contaminants**

### **10.1. Opinion on Fusarium toxins. Part 6: Group evaluation of T-2 toxin, HT-2 toxin, Nivalenol and Deoxynivalenol**

This opinion represents the conclusion of a number of individual evaluations on a group of toxins produced by the *Fusarium* fungi that can be present in food, that the Committee has carried out during the last years.

The draft opinion prepared by the Working Group contaminants was introduced and discussed. The opinion was adopted subject to the incorporation of a few changes as suggested by the Committee. The full opinion appears as **Annex II** of these minutes.

## **11. Opinion on specifications for gelatine in terms of consumer health**

The chairs of the Contaminants and the Food Microbiology and Hygiene Working Groups presented the draft opinion on specifications for gelatine. The opinion was adopted subject to incorporation of a few changes as suggested by the Committee. The full opinion appears as **Annex III** of these minutes.

## **12. Food Contact Materials**

### **12.1. Draft opinion on the 17<sup>th</sup> list of monomers and additives for contact materials**

The Committee examined the draft evaluations as proposed by the Working Group. As regards the compound “mixture of (80%) 2,4-diamino-3,5-diethyltoluene and (20%) 2,6-diamino-3,5-diethyltoluene” (PM/REF. 22330/50), the Committee decided to clarify the information about the uses of the compound and postpone its evaluation.

The Committee examined also the assessment on compound trimethylolpropane trimethacrylate-methyl methacrylate copolymer (PM/REF 95000). After introduction of a number of clarifications, the Committee adopted the assessment.

The full opinion appears as **Annex V** to these minutes.

## **13. Flavouring substances**

### **13.1. Opinion on capsaicin**

The revised draft opinion was introduced and discussed. The Committee agreed on a few changes including a modified text for the risk characterisation section. The opinion was adopted subject to incorporation of the changes as suggested by the Committee. The full opinion appears as **Annex V** of these minutes.

## **14. Food Irradiation**

### **14.1. Consideration on 2-alkylcyclobutanones. Minute statement**

The Commission’s legislative service explained the background of the request for an evaluation by the Committee of a report on 2-alkylcyclobutanones (2-ACB)<sup>1</sup>. The Secretariat also distributed a copy of a letter received from “Center for Food Safety” and “Public Citizen”.

The Committee identified a number of issues in the report<sup>2</sup> that need further clarification and evaluation as to the interpretation of the studies and their relevance for the risk assessment of food irradiation. The Committee noted that the studies in

---

<sup>1</sup> Burnouf D, Delincée H, Hartwig A, Marchioni E, Miesch M, Raul F, Werner D (2001). “Etude toxicologique transfrontalière destinée à évaluer le risque encouru lors de la consommation d’aliments gras ionisés / Toxikologische Untersuchung zur Risikobewertung beim Verzehr von bestrahlten fetthaltigen Lebensmitteln – Eine französisch-deutsche Studie im Grenzraum Oberrhein.” Rapport final / Schlussbericht Interreg II. Project / Projekt N° 3171 (submitted to the Commission by the authors in confidence).

<sup>2</sup> A summary of that report is available on the Internet at:  
<http://www.iaea.org/programmes/rifa/icgfi/documents/summary-press.pdf>.

the report were not of the type usually required for the safety assessment of toxicological effects from exposure to chemicals.

In the context of the on-going update of the SCF opinion on food irradiation expressed in 1986, the Committee requested some members of the SCF, assisted by additional experts in the field of irradiation, to further evaluate these and other studies on 2-ACB.

In view of the need expressed by the Commission services to make use of the above statement by the Committee, it was decided to make this statement separately shortly available without waiting for the adoption of the full minutes of the meeting. The minute statement appears also as **Annex VI** to these minutes.

## **15. Food Microbiology and Hygiene**

### **15.1 Microbiological contamination of fruits and vegetables eaten raw**

The draft opinion was introduced and discussed.

The Committee introduced a number of changes to clarify the contents and the presentation of the text. The Committee preferred to consider the document as a report. It also changed the title of the document. The text was considered adopted subject to the incorporation of a significant number of editorial, drafting and presentational changes discussed, that would need to be done after the meeting.

## **16. Any other business**

### **16.1 Guidance documents on novel foods**

The Guidance document on genetically modified foods, being prepared by the Joint Working Group comprising members and experts of the Scientific Committee on Plants, the SC on Food and the SC on Animal Nutrition is likely to be submitted for consideration by the Scientific Steering Committee in the near future.

The Committee considers that it is also necessary to update the section of the existing SCF guidelines relating to non-GM novel foods, as the SCF has gained very valuable experience when evaluating a number of novel foods dossiers falling in this category in the last years. The Commission services will consider how to best address this question.

## **17. Adoption of these minutes**

These minutes were adopted by written procedure on 11 April 2002

## **ANNEXES**

(The text of the opinions adopted in these annexes appear in the section outcome/opinions of the web page of the SCF on the Internet, not in the section outcome/minutes)

### **ANNEX I**

Opinion on the safety assessment of the genetically modified maize line GA21 (SCF/CS/NF/DOS/10 ADD1 Final)

### **ANNEX II**

Opinion on Fusarium toxins. Part 6: Group evaluation of T-2 toxin, HT-2 toxin, Nivalenol and Deoxynivalenol (SCF/CS/CNTM/MYC/27 Final)

### **ANNEX III**

Opinion on specifications for gelatine in terms of protection of consumer health (SCF/CS/CNTM/MET/27 Final)

### **ANNEX IV**

Opinion of the Scientific Committee on Food on the 17th additional list of monomers and additives for food contact materials (SCF/CS/PM/GEN/M88 addendum Final)

### **ANNEX V**

Opinion of the Scientific Committee on Food on capsaicin (SCF/CS/FLAV/FLAVOUR/8 ADD1 Final)

### **ANNEX VI**

Minutes' statement adopted by the Scientific Committee on Food at its 131st plenary meeting (25/26/27 February 2002) corresponding to item 14 of the agenda - Food Irradiation - Consideration on 2-alkylcyclobutanones (SCF/CS/NF/IRR/27 Final)