



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/132 final

25 July 2002

**Minutes of the 132nd Plenary Meeting
of the
Scientific Committee on Food
held on 15/16/17 April 2002 in Brussels**

Members/Membres/Mitglieder

Mr. J. ALEXANDER
Mrs. S. BARLOW First Vice chair
Mr. A. CARERE (present on 16-17 April)
K.-H. ENGEL
A. FLYNN (present on 15-16 April)
W. GRUNOW
Mrs. A. KNAAP Chair
Mr. B. KOLETZKO (present on 15-16 April)
J.C. LARSEN
S. LINDGREN
B. MOSELEY
A. PALOU Second Vice chair
J. SCHLATTER
P. TOBBACK
P. VERGER
J.-M. WAL (present on 16-17 April)
R. WALKER

Experts

Mr. A. RENWICK (present on 16 April)

Commission/Kommission

Mr. A. KLEPSCH (DG Health and Consumer Protection)
Mrs. S. HEINIMAA " "
H. LEE " "
Mr. B. MATHIOUDAKIS " "
G. SCHREIBER " "

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

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

1. Welcome, apologies for absence

Apologies were received from T. Hirvi and W. Saris.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

3. Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were made.

4. Matters arising from previous plenary meeting

The Committee acknowledged the minutes of the 131st plenary meeting of 25-27 February. With respect to the draft opinion on microbiological contamination of fruits and vegetables eaten raw, the revised version had been circulated for final approval. The Committee members were invited to provide their comments to the SCF Secretariat.

The Committee was informed about the outcomes of a meeting of an *ad hoc* working group that considered current approaches for assessment of the health risks of substances considered to be genotoxic and carcinogenic. This group had been convened to be organised as discussed at the one before last plenary session. The Plenary endorsed the conclusion of the working group that it could not recommend using mathematical modelling for this kind of compound for the SCF risk assessments at this stage, but that some method of ranking carcinogens for potency could be useful for risk management decision-making, for example, in setting priorities for action or legislation. However, it was clear that to recommend a method would need a wider exercise and would take more time than that available to the Committee in its foreseen lifespan. Given that the issue was also relevant to advisory committees other than the SCF and that the lifespan of the present scientific committees was now short, it was concluded that the new European Food Safety Authority should be urged to take this up as a cross-cutting issue, once it is in place.

5. New dossiers

Re-evaluation of the safety of sucrose esters of fatty acids (E 473)

Sucrose esters of fatty acids are permitted for use in several processed foods by Council Directive 95/2/EC on food additives other than colours and sweeteners. The Scientific Committee on Food allocated it an ADI 20 mg/kg bw in 1992. New toxicological and additional information has been received by the Commission from a petitioner requesting an increase of the ADI. The Committee is asked to re-evaluate the safety in use of this compound in the light of this new information.

6. General information from the Commission services on matters relevant to the SCF

The Committee noted the publication by the Commission of the list of proposed candidates to the management board of the EFSA.

The Secretariat informed the Committee that additional experts had been invited to assist the Additives, Contaminants, Flavourings and Food Contact Materials Working Groups in the field of exposure assessment during the remaining active period of the SCF.

The Committee was also informed about a rescheduling of meetings of the SCOOP Working Group on Chemically Defined Flavouring Substances.

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). At the last meeting of the SSC, officials of the Research Directorate-General announced a call for expression of interest for projects for the 6th Framework Programme (deadline: June 2002).

8. Novel Foods

8.1. Draft opinion on the safety assessment of the genetically modified sweet maize line Bt11

The draft opinion prepared within the Novel Foods Working Group was introduced and discussed. The opinion was adopted subject to incorporation of changes as suggested during the discussion by the Committee.

The full opinion appears as **Annex I** of these minutes.

9. Tolerable Upper Intake Levels for Vitamins and Minerals

9.1. Tolerable upper intake level of pantothenic acid

The draft opinion prepared within the Task Force on Vitamins and Minerals was introduced and discussed. The opinion was adopted subject to incorporation of changes as suggested by the Committee.

The full opinion appears as **Annex II** of these minutes.

9.2. Tolerable upper intake level of nicotinic acid and nicotinamide (niacin)

The draft opinion prepared within the Task Force on Vitamins and Minerals was introduced and discussed. The opinion was adopted subject to incorporation of changes as suggested by the Committee.

The full opinion appears as **Annex III** of these minutes.

10. Nutrition

10.1. Special foods for particular nutritional uses intended for persons suffering from diabetes mellitus. Minutes' statement (see also Annex IV of these minutes)

The Scientific Committee on Food has been consulted on the document "Report on Foods for Persons Suffering From Carbohydrate-Metabolism Disorders (Diabetes)" prepared by the Health and Consumer Protection Directorate-General (Preliminary Draft, SANCO/2002/888-EN Rev.1, 10.04.02). This report summarises the scientific basis for dietary advice, and dietary recommendations issued by several international and national scientific organisations, for people with diabetes mellitus. It was prepared in view of an amendment to the Directive relating to foods for particular nutritional uses (89/389/EEC)¹, which indicated that the Commission would report on the desirability of special provisions for foods intended for people with carbohydrate-metabolism disorders (diabetes). The Committee was asked to comment on the scientific conclusions of this report, in particular with regard to the scientific basis for defining specific compositional criteria for foods for persons suffering from diabetes mellitus.

The Committee supports the following: Dietary choices by people with diabetes can affect their long term health risks associated with the disease. The desirable dietary composition for people with diabetes is similar to that recommended for the population as a whole. Therefore, people with diabetes should be able to meet their

¹ European Commission (1989). Council Directive 89/389/EEC of 3 May 1989 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to foodstuffs intended for particular nutritional uses. Official Journal of the European Communities, 30.06.1989, L 186/27.

dietary needs by appropriate selection from normal foods. There are no scientific grounds for specific compositional criteria for foods for particular nutritional uses in people with diabetes. However, people with diabetes should have information on dietary needs in diabetes, and on composition of foods, to enable them to choose a balanced diet that meets their individual requirements.

This minute statement appears also as **Annex IV** to these minutes.

11. Food Contact Materials

11.1. Draft opinion on the 18th additional list of monomers and additives for food contact materials

The Committee discussed the draft evaluations prepared by the Committee and endorsed the endeavour of harmonising more the assessments in this area with those of other areas of the SCF. There was not sufficient time to consider all the compounds. A revised text incorporating the changes discussed including more detailed information will be circulated for approval by the Committee.

11.2. Draft opinion on Bisphenol A in food contact materials

The draft opinion prepared within the Food Contact Materials Working Group was introduced and discussed. After incorporation of modifications suggested by the Committee, the opinion was adopted.

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

12. Food additives

12.1. Draft opinion on impurities of ethylene oxide in food additives

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

12.2. Carnauba wax

The Scientific Committee on Food adopted an opinion on carnauba wax on 11 July 2001. In that opinion, the SCF had considered acceptable the use of carnauba wax as

glazing agent in the context of a maximum use level of 200 mg/kg of food. The Commission had subsequently received a request from industry to permit the use of carnauba wax in confectionery and chewing gum at higher levels than those stated in the opinion. The SCF was asked to advise the Commission whether the requested use levels in the products requested for carnauba wax as a glazing agent were acceptable.

A draft addendum to the previous opinion of 11 July 2001 prepared by the Working Group on Additives was discussed. After incorporation of modifications suggested by the Committee, the addendum of the opinion was adopted by written procedure.

The Committee concluded that it has no objection to the use of higher levels of carnauba wax as a glazing agent in products requiring it.

The full text of the addendum opinion appears as Annex VII of these minutes.

12.3. N-vinyl-2-pyrrolidone residues in PVP and PVPP

It has been drawn to the attention of the Scientific Committee on Food that there were two inaccuracies in its opinion adopted on 30 May 2001 about the subject above. These inaccuracies do not have any consequence for the reasoning and evaluation made by the Committee in its opinion in May 2001.

These are as follows:

1. Section **Intake considerations**, first paragraph, second sentence reading “The annual production of PVP amounts to about 3500 tons of which some 2000 tons are used by the pharmaceutical industry, about 1000 tons are used for beer and wine clarification and about 200 tons are used for food supplements (CEFIC, 2000).”

This sentence should be replaced with:

“The annual production of PVP and PVPP amounts to about 3500 tons of which some 2000 tons are used by the pharmaceutical industry, about 1000 tons are used for beer and wine clarification and about 200 tons are used for food supplements (CEFIC, 2000).”

2. Section **Intake considerations**, third paragraph, sentence reading “The Committee understands, however, that the Community Code of Oenological Practice and Processes limits the maximum content of free NVP in wine to 0.1%, which exceeds the proposed specification limit for NVP in PVPP by about 100-fold and

wishes to draw the attention of the Commission to this discrepancy (European Commission, 2000).”

This sentence should be replaced with:

“The Committee understands, however, that the Community Code of Oenological Practice and Processes limits the maximum content of free NVP in PVPP to 0.1%, which exceeds the proposed specification limit for NVP in PVPP by about 100-fold and wishes to draw the attention of the Commission to this discrepancy (European Commission, 2000).”

The Committee decided to replace the existing opinion with a new text incorporating these material corrections. The full text of the corrected opinion appears as **Annex VIII** of these minutes.

13. Flavouring substances

13.1. Draft opinion on eucalyptol

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

14. Any other business

In relation to the need to update the existing SCF guidelines relating to non-GM novel foods, expressed by the Committee at its previous meeting, the Commission services informed the Committee about the different steps planned.

15. Adoption of these minutes

These minutes were adopted at the 133rd Plenary meeting of the SCF held on 1/2/3 July 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 a request to place genetically modified sweet maize line Bt11 on the market (SCF/CS/NF/DOS/14 ADD2 Final)

ANNEX II

Opinion on the tolerable upper intake level of panthothenic acid (SCF/CS/NUT/UPPLEV/61 Final)

ANNEX III

Opinion on the tolerable upper intake levels of nicotinic acid and nicotinamide (niacin) (SCF/CS/NUT/UPPLEV/39 Final)

ANNEX IV

Minutes' statement adopted by the Scientific Committee on Food at its 132nd plenary meeting (15/16/17 April 2002) corresponding to item 10 of the agenda – Special foods for particular nutritional uses intended for persons suffering from diabetes mellitus (SCF/CS/NUT/NS/8 Final)

ANNEX V

Opinion on Bisphenol A (SCF/CS/PM/3936 Final)

ANNEX VI

Opinion on impurities of ethylene oxide in food additives (SCF/CS/ADD/EMU/186 Final)

ANNEX VII

Addendum to the Opinion of the Scientific Committee on Food on carnauba wax of 11 July 2001 (SCF/CS/Add/MsAD/218 Final)

ANNEX VIII

Opinion on the safety of N-vinyl-2-pyrrolidone residues in polyvinylpyrrolidone and polyvinylpyrrolidone (insoluble polyvinylpyrrolidone) when used as food additives, corrected (SCF/CS/MsAd/198 Final corrected)

ANNEX IX

Opinion of the Scientific Committee on Food on eucalyptol (SCF/CS/FLAV/FLAVOUR/20 ADD2 Final)