



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/129 Final

30 October 2001

**Minutes of the 129th Plenary Meeting
of the
Scientific Committee on Food**

Held on 25/26 September 2001 in Brussels

Members/Membres/Mitglieder

Mr. J. ALEXANDER
Mrs. S. BARLOW First Vice chair
Mr. A. CARERE
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S. LINDGREN
A. PALOU Second Vice chair
W. SARIS
J. SCHLATTER
P. TOBBACK
P. VERGER
J.-M. WAL
R. WALKER

Apologies for absence:

Mr. B. MOSELEY

Commission/Kommission

Mr. A. KLEPSCH (DG Health and Consumer Protection)
Mrs. H. LEE “ “
Mr. B. MATHIOUDAKIS “ “
Mrs. K. NEUBAUER “ “
Mr. L. ROSSI “ “
Mr. G. SCHREIBER “ “

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

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

- 1. Apologies for absence**
The apologies were noted.
- 2. Adoption of the agenda**
Some agenda items were re-ordered. With this change the agenda was adopted.
- 3. Declarations of interest**
No interests were declared.
- 4. Matters arising from previous plenary meeting**
The draft minutes of the 128th plenary meeting on 10/11 July were adopted subject to incorporation of a few modifications.
- 5. New dossiers**
The following new dossiers have been added to the working programme of the Committee:

5.1. Previous cargoes

Commission Directive 96/3/EC allows for sea transport of fats and oils in bulk tanks which have been previously used to transport substances included in a positive list (list of acceptable previous cargoes). In its previous opinion of September 1996¹ the SCF has established a list of substances which it considered as not acceptable at that time as suitable substances for immediate previous cargoes to oils and fats for human consumption.

Directive 96/3/EC was adopted before finalisation of the opinion of the SCF and did therefore not take account of the scientific advice, in particular the recommendations regarding certain substances considered as not acceptable as immediate previous cargoes (Annex 2 of the SCF opinion). The Commission seeks clarification whether the conclusions of the SCF regarding these substances in 1996 need to be updated. The Committee is therefore requested to update, if considered appropriate, Annex 2 of its opinion of September 1996 (substances submitted for assessment by the SCF but considered as not acceptable at present as suitable substances for immediate previous cargoes to oils and fats for human consumption) in the light of new toxicological information, if available. The Commission has invited the Federation of Oil, Seeds and Fat Association (FOSFA) to submit such information for consideration by the SCF.

5.2. Intake of phytosterols from multiple dietary sources

In its opinion of April 2000² on the safety assessment of the use of phytosterol esters in yellow fat spreads the Committee concluded that the safety in use of phytosterols had been demonstrated for specified mixtures and products. In addition the Committee concluded that the use of phytosterol esters in yellow fat spreads at a maximum level corresponding to 8% free phytosterols is safe for human use. The Committee however noted that daily ingestion of 20 g of products containing 8%

¹ Opinion on the potential risk to human health arising from the transport in ships' tanks of oils and fats from substances proposed as acceptable previous cargoes. Expressed on 20 September 1996.

² Opinion on the safety assessment of the use of phytosterol esters in yellow fat spreads. Expressed on 6 April 2000.

free phytosterols reduced plasma β -carotene concentrations by 20%. Such a reduction in plasma β -carotene levels was considered to become more relevant for persons whose vitamin A status is not optimal. The Committee wished to review additional information on the effects on plasma β -carotene levels as soon as it became available. The Committee is now invited, on the basis of the information submitted to the Commission, to comment on the possible effects on plasma β -carotene levels of the intake, also in the long-term, of elevated levels of phytosterols from multiple dietary sources.

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

Schedule of meetings in 2002 and remaining 2001

The Committee took note of the latest updates of the schedules for meetings in the remaining months of 2001 and the year 2002 as provided by the Secretariat.

Rearrangements in the Secretariat

On 16 October, Dr. Pettauer will leave the SCF Secretariat for a new position in the Directorate-General Administration of the Commission. In view of his departure, a few changes are foreseen in the distribution of work in the SCF Secretariat.

On behalf of the Committee and the Secretariat, the Chair gratefully acknowledged the excellent work and support Dr. Pettauer had given in his capacity as Scientific Secretary to the SCF.

Safety measures in Commission buildings

The Secretariat informed the Committee about the new safety measures in relation to access to Commission buildings following the tragic incidents on the 11th of September in the United States of America.

7. Co-ordination with the SSC and other Scientific Committees

The chair gave an update of the issues discussed during the meetings of the Scientific Steering Committee. The main focus was on matters related to BSE and TSE. In addition, the chair presented an update on the work by the Task Force on Harmonisation of Risk Assessment methods.

8. Upper Levels for Vitamins and Minerals

The Committee is reviewing a large number of vitamins and minerals with a view to setting tolerable upper intake levels at the request of the Commission services. The Committee has so far adopted the methodology it is using and up to this meeting had evaluated 9 vitamins and minerals. These opinions and the related background are already available on the web pages of the SCF. For this meeting the Committee was considering two additional nutrients biotin and magnesium. The remaining ones will be discussed as they are prepared by the Task Force in forthcoming meetings of the SCF.

8.1. Tolerable Upper Intake Level of Biotin

The rapporteur presented the draft opinion on the tolerable upper intake level of biotin. The draft was adopted subject to incorporation of a number of modifications.

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

8.2 Tolerable Upper Intake Level of Magnesium

The draft opinion on the tolerable upper level for magnesium, prepared within the Task Force , was presented by the rapporteur. The draft was then discussed and a number of clarifications were agreed. Subject to the incorporation of these changes the text was adopted by the Committee.

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

9. Flavouring substances

9.1 Estragole (1-Allyl-4-methoxybenzene)

9.2 Methyleugenol (4-Allyl-1,2-dimethoxybenzene)

The chair of the Flavourings Working Group and the rapporteur presented the modifications incorporated in the draft opinions on estragole and methyleugenol since the discussions of previous versions in the 127th Plenary meeting of the SCF of 29/30 May. The modifications were based on continued discussions in the Flavourings Working Group on the approach to be followed in a safety assessment of flavouring substances which are considered to be genotoxic and carcinogenic. The Committee agreed to incorporate a few changes to clarify the assumptions used for the exposure assessments. Furthermore, it reached agreement on the inclusion of a few modifications in the risk characterisation sections.

The draft opinions on estragole and methyleugenol were finally adopted subject to incorporation of the modifications suggested by the Committee. The full opinions appear as **Annex III** (estragole) and **Annex IV** (methyleugenol) of these minutes.

9.3. Other issues

The Committee noted important developments in the toxicological evaluation of the genotoxicity and carcinogenicity of substances in general and wished to have a more thorough discussion on this subject in one of its forthcoming meetings.

9.4 Capsaicin

The discussion of this draft opinion was deferred until the next plenary meeting as there was not sufficient time to finalise the discussions.

10. Food additives

10.1. Discussion and possible adoption of a draft opinion on the use of carbon monoxide as component of packaging gases in modified atmosphere packaging for fresh meat

The discussion of the draft opinion was postponed until the next plenary meeting due to lack of sufficient time to discuss the question properly.

11. Nutrition/dietetic foods

11.1. Fructooligosaccharides and galactooligosaccharides as ingredients of infant formulae and follow-on formulae

The Committee had been mandated by the Commission services to review this question in the context of the mandate for updating the essential requirements for infant formulae given at the 127th plenary of the SCF, in February 2001. This question had been asked to be given particular and urgent attention in view of the discussions with the member states authorities. On the basis of a draft submitted by the Working Group on Nutrition, the Committee discussed and adopted the statement that is attached to these minutes as **Annex V**.

12. Food Contact Materials

12.1. Discussion on primary aromatic amines in laminated plastic food contact materials

The Committee was informed about this issue and about the work carried out by the Working Group on Food Contact Materials which had met at the beginning of the month and had been asked to examine this question as a matter of urgency. The Committee discussed this issue and adopted the statement that is attached herewith as **Annex VI**.

13. Novel Foods

13.1 Progress report from the GMO/Novel Food Joint Working Group

In response to the requests by the SCF for additional information in relation to the dossiers on *Radicchio rosso* and green hearted chicory the applicant had informed the Commission that the company wished to delay a response to these questions for at least one year. The evaluation by the Committee will therefore also be suspended.

The Committee was also informed that the evaluation of the dossier on GA21 GMO maize had been delayed by an additional submission by the company. The discussion was therefore still under progress, with a draft opinion likely to be submitted to the Committee for its next plenary meeting.

14. Any other business

There were no additional other business.

15. Adoption of these minutes

These minutes were adopted by written procedure on 30 October 2001.

ANNEXES

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

ANNEX I

Opinion of the Scientific Committee on Food on the tolerable upper intake level of biotin (SCF/CS/NUT/UPPLEV/55 final)

ANNEX II

Opinion of the Scientific Committee on Food on the tolerable upper intake level on magnesium (SCF/CS/NUT/UPPLEV/54 final)

ANNEX III

Opinion of the Scientific Committee on Food on estragole (1-allyl-4-methoxybenzene) (SCF/CS/FLAV/FLAVOUR/6 ADD2 final)

ANNEX IV

Opinion of the Scientific Committee on Food on methyleugenol (4-allyl-1,2-dimethoxybenzene) (SCF/CS/FLAV/FLAVOUR/4 ADD1 final)

ANNEX V

Statement of the Scientific Committee on Food on the use of resistant short chain carbohydrates (oligofructose and oligogalactose) in infant formulae and in follow-on formulae (SCF/CS/NUT/IF/35 final)

ANNEX VI

Statement of the Scientific Committee on Food on the recent report on primary aromatic amines in food and packaging samples in a Danish magazine (SCF/CS/PM/GEN/88 final)