



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/128 Final

3 October 2001

**Minutes of the 128th Plenary Meeting
of the
Scientific Committee on Food**

Held on 10/11 July 2001, Brussels

ATTENDANCE LIST LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS TEILNEHMERLISTE

Members/Membres/Mitglieder

Mrs.	S. BARLOW	First Vice chair
Mr.	A. CARERE	
	K-H. ENGEL	
	A. FLYNN	(present on 30 th May)
	W. GRUNOW	
	T. HIRVI	
Mrs.	A. KNAAP	Chair
Mr.	B. KOLETZKO	
	J.C. LARSEN	
	S. LINDGREN	(present on 29 th May)
	B. MOSELEY	
	A. PALOU	Second Vice chair
	W. SARIS	
	J. SCHLATTER	
	P. TOBBACK	
	P. VERGER	
	J.-M. WAL	
	R. WALKER	

Apologies for absence:

Mr. J. ALEXANDER

Commission/Kommission

Mr.	L. ROSSI	(DG Health and Consumer Protection)
Mrs.	K. NEUBAUER	“ “
Mr.	F. VERSTRAETE	“ “
	M. SLAYNE	“ “
	G. SCHREIBER	“ “
	A. KLEPSCH	“ “
	B. MATHIOUDAKIS	“ “
Mrs.	H. LEE	“ “
Mr.	L. BONTOUX	(DG Joint Research Centre)
Mrs.	E. ANKLAM	“ “

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

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

1. Apologies for absence

The apologies were noted. The chair welcomed Mrs. Pilar Rodriguez Iglesias joining the SCF Secretariat for the period June-December 2001.

2. Adoption of the agenda

Some agenda items were re-ordered in order to allow any editing where needed. With this change the agenda was adopted.

3. Declarations of interest

Prof R. Walker declared a specific interest in damar gum (agenda item 5.2) and a non-specific interest on salatrim (agenda item 12.1). The Committee decided that Prof. Walker could participate in the discussions on both items at the chair's discretion.

4. Matters arising from previous plenary meeting

The minutes of the 127th meeting on 29/30 May were adopted.

5. New dossiers

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

5.1. Review on aspartame

The SCF evaluated aspartame first in 1984 (16th report of the SCF) and reviewed additional information in 1988 (21st report of the SCF). On 12/13 June 1997 at its 107th meeting the SCF also examined the issue of alleged increase in incidence of brain tumours relating to aspartame following in particular the publication by Ollney et al (November 1996).

The UK's Food Standards Agency (FSA) received a number of enquires on the safety of aspartame. It has prepared a list of the literature on aspartame published since the last opinion of the SCF.

The Committee is asked to review all new scientific information on aspartame not having been examined by the SCF previously taking into account the literature search carried out by the UK.

The Secretariat reported that details on how to put together the information for evaluation by the Committee as well as administrative arrangements will have to be sorted out

properly before the dossier is actually ready for consideration by the Committee. The Food Standards Agency offered to assist in preparing the review.

5.2. Damar gum

The Commission services received a request to include purified damar gum as a stabiliser for flavour emulsions. The Committee is asked to evaluate the safety of this substance as an additive in flavourings.

5.3. Plant sterols

The Committee was informed that two new dossiers on phytosterols as novel food will be submitted to the SCF for evaluation.

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

Change of location of Directorate C of the Health & Consumer Protection Directorate-General (SANCO/C)

The Secretariat announced that Directorate C (Scientific Advice) of DG SANCO will move from its present location at Rue Belliard 232 to Rue de Geneve 1, Evere, at the end of July. An information package will be made available to all members how to reach this new location. The meetings of the Working Groups of September will already take place at the new location. The plenary meeting of the SCF will continue to be held in Centre Borschette.

The Secretariat also announced that as a matter of transparency DG SANCO is prepared to publish the annual statements of the members' interests as well as their CV's on the internet.

The Committee was informed that in August there will be at least one of the four Secretaries available for any information. They can be reached using the same phone and fax number, and e-mail addresses.

Smoke flavourings

A representative of the legislation service informed the Committee on the development of a framework directive on *smoke flavourings*. Discussions have already taken place in the Expert Working Group on Flavourings under the Standing Committee on Foodstuffs and in the SCF Working Group on Flavourings. The Committee was asked to give advice on the scientific information required to evaluate the safety of smoke flavourings and whether it would be sufficient to refer to the guidelines on the submission of dossiers on food additives. The chair of the Committee noted that the timeframe as proposed by the legislation service is too short in order to allow a proper discussion in the flavourings

Working Group and the Committee. The representative of the legislation service will approach a few members of the Committee to explore options to resolve this issue.

Contamination of pomace oils (olive residue oils) with polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons

The Commission services gave an update on the status regarding the present case of pomace oils (olive residue oils) contaminated with polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) at levels up to 1700 micrograms/kg (sum of 14 PAH measured).

The Committee received an ad-hoc request from the Commission services to give a preliminary evaluation of the situation in view of possible acute toxic effects. A minute statement was prepared and appears as **Annex I** of these minutes.

Following a recent request by the Commission services the Committee is establishing an *ad hoc* working group, which will embark on a detailed assessment of the risks related to dietary exposure to PAH.

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 of Vitamins and Minerals

8.1. Tolerable Upper Intake Level for vitamin B₁

The rapporteur presented the updated draft opinion on the tolerable upper intake level for vitamin B₁. The draft was adopted subject to incorporation of a few modifications. The full opinion appears as **Annex II** of these minutes.

9. Food additives

9.1. Draft opinions on various substances

9.1.1. Dimethyl dicarbonate in wine

The chair of the Additives Working Group presented the draft opinion on the use of dimethyl dicarbonate in wines prepared by the Working group. The draft was adopted subject to incorporation of a few modifications. The full opinion appears as **Annex III** of these minutes.

9.1.2. Carnauba wax

The draft opinion on carnauba wax as a glazing agent was presented by the chair of the Additives Working Group. The draft was adopted subject to incorporation of a few modifications. The full opinion appears as **Annex IV** of these minutes.

9.1.3. Carbon monoxide

The rapporteur presented the draft opinion on the use of carbon monoxide as component of packaging gases in modified atmosphere packaging for fresh meat. The Committee identified a few general shortcomings that require further clarification. In particular, the microbiological aspects needed further clarification.

9.1.4. Hydrogenated poly-1 decene

The rapporteur presented the updated draft opinion on hydrogenated poly-1-decene. The draft was adopted subject to incorporation of a few modifications. The final text of the opinion appears as **Annex V** to these minutes.

9.2. Clarification of status of evaluation on saccharin

On request of the Commission services, the present status of the safety evaluation of saccharin was reviewed.

Saccharin was first evaluated by the Committee on 24 June 1977 (4th series) when a temporary ADI of 2,5 mg/kg bw was allocated, but a special warning that small children and pregnant woman should avoid consumption was issued at the same time. The ADI was confirmed on 14 September 1984 (16th series) and on 10 December 1987 (21st series) at which time it was also stated that there was no longer any reason to warn children or pregnant woman in particular.

On 2nd June 1995 (97th meeting) the Committee decided that the weight of evidence warranted a full ADI and a safety factor of 100 resulting in an ADI of 5 mg/kg bw. The opinion was formally adopted on 21st March 1997 at 106th meeting and was published as annex to the minutes of this plenary meeting (CS/ADD/EDUL/114 final, Annex III to the minutes of the 106th plenary meeting of the SCF held on 21st March Doc III/5157/97).

This ADI is in line with that of JECFA from 1993 (41st meeting).

In October 1998 IARC (Report 73) changed its classification of saccharin and its salts to group 3 (not classifiable as to their carcinogenicity to humans). On 15 May 2000, the US NTP submitted its 9th edition of its Report on Carcinogens to the Congress. In this report saccharin was removed from the list of substances considered carcinogenic.

A literature search in FSTA, Medline and ToxlinePlus from 1997 to date (June 2001) did not result in any study which would suggest effects not considered before.

The Committee, therefore, sees no reason to undertake a review at this stage.

It recommends that the report dated 2 June 1995 be made generally available, e.g. on Internet.

9.3. Draft guidance on submissions for food additive evaluations by the Scientific Committee on Food

The chair of the Additives Working Group presented the latest version of the draft guidance document. Attention was given to the modifications incorporated after the last plenary meeting of the SCF.

A revised version of the document with improved sections on exposure and on additives produced by microbiological processes was rediscussed and adopted subject to incorporation of a few modifications. The final guidance document appears as **Annex VI** to these minutes.

10. Draft guidance on dossiers for safety evaluation of sources of nutrients or ingredients proposed for use in the manufacture of foods

The rapporteur introduced the revised version of the guidance document for submissions for safety evaluation of sources for nutrients or other ingredients proposed for use in the manufacture of foods. The draft was adopted subject to incorporation of a few modifications. The final text appears as **Annex VII** to these minutes.

11. Nutrition/dietetic foods

11.1. Progress report on dossiers on infant formulae and other issues

The chair of the Nutrition Working Group informed the Committee on the present situation with respect to the infant formulae. Work has been initiated on the different areas of the requirements on infant formulae and follow-on formulae that require updating. The Working Group is also working on the question of the addition of fructooligosaccharides and oligosaccharides to these products.

12. Novel Foods

12.1. Draft opinion on Salatrim

The co-chair of the Joint GMO/Novel Food Working Group introduced the draft opinion on salatrim. On the basis of the various issues identified during the discussions the Committee agreed with the chair's proposal to defer the draft opinion to the working group for incorporation of the changes suggested by the Committee. Because the date of the next meeting of the SCF will be before the one of the Joint GMO/Novel Food Working Group the first occasion to rediscuss the document in the SCF plenary would be in December.

13. Food Contact Materials

13.1. Draft opinion on the 14th list of monomers and additives for contact materials

The draft opinion prepared by the Working group was presented by the Chairman of the Working Group. After the discussion, the draft was adopted subject to incorporation of a few minor changes . The full opinion appears as **Annex VIII** to these minutes.

14. Update of Schedule of SCF meetings for 2001

Provisional schedule of possible meetings for 2002

The Committee took note of the remaining dates of the meetings for the year 2001. It agreed on provisional dates for meetings in 2002 (26/27 February, 16/17 April, 2/3 July, 24/25 September, 3/4 December).

15. Any other business

There was no other business.

16 Adoption of these minutes

These minutes were adopted at the 129th plenary meeting of the SCF on 25/26 September 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

Statement on the contamination of pomace oils (olive residue oils) with polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (adopted during the SCF plenary meeting of 10/11 July 2001)

ANNEX II

Opinion of the Scientific Committee on Food on the Tolerable Upper Intake Level of Vitamin B₁ (SCF/CS/NUT/UPPLEV/46 final)

ANNEX III

Opinion of the Scientific Committee on Food on the use of dimethyl dicarbonate (DMDC) in wines (SCF/CS/ADD/CONS/43 final)

ANNEX IV

Opinion of the Scientific Committee on Food on carnauba wax (SCF/CS/ADD/MsAd/194 final)

ANNEX V

Opinion of the Scientific Committee on Food on hydrogenated poly-1-decene (SCF/CS/ADD/MSAD/199 final)

ANNEX VI

Guidance on submissions for food additive evaluations by the Scientific Committee on Food (SCF/CS/ADD/GEN 26 final)

ANNEX VII

Guidance on submissions for safety evaluation of sources of nutrients or other ingredients proposed for use in the manufacture of foods (SCF/CS/ADD/NUT/21 final)

ANNEX VIII

Opinion of the Scientific Committee on Food on the 14th additional list of monomers and additives for food contact materials (SCF/CS/PM/M86 final)