



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/133 final

25 September 2002

**Minutes of the 133rd Plenary Meeting
of the
Scientific Committee on Food**

Held on 1/2/3 July 2002 in Brussels

ATTENDANCE LIST**LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS TEILNEHMERLISTE****Members/Membres/Mitglieder**

Mr. J. ALEXANDER
Mrs. S. BARLOW First Vice chair
Mr. A. CARERE (present on 1-2 July)
K-H. ENGEL (present on 2-3 July)
A. FLYNN
W. GRUNOW
T. HIRVI
Mrs. A. KNAAP Chair
Mr. B. KOLETZKO (present on 1 July)
J.C. LARSEN
S. LINDGREN
B. MOSELEY
A. PALOU Second Vice chair
W. SARIS
J. SCHLATTER
P. TOBBACK
P. VERGER
J.-M. WAL
R. WALKER

Experts

Mr. J. GRY (present on 2 July)
Mr. P.S. ELIAS (present on 3 July)

Commission/Kommission

Mr. M. SLAYNE (DG Health and Consumer Protection)
Mr. B. MATHIOUDAKIS “ “
Mrs. H. LEE “ “
Mr. G. SCHREIBER “ “
Mr. A. KLEPSCH “ “
Mrs. S. HEINIMAA “ “
Mr. BOUTHORS (DG Enterprise)
Mr. A. BOENKE (DG Research)
Stagiaire (SH)...

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

The Chairman welcomed the members and participants to the 133rd SCF meeting. All SCF members attended the meeting.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted. It was noted the large number of issues that the Committee had in front of it for this meeting. It was also noted the urgency of the one on acrylamide with little possibility for preparatory discussion at Working Group level.

It was remarked by members at the meeting the importance of having the documents intended for discussion and adoption in sufficiently advanced stage at reasonable time before the plenary meeting so the time of the meeting could be used efficiently.

3. Declarations of interest

Dr. Walker indicated that he had carried out consultancy work for the petitioner of the bioprotein. The meeting agreed that he would not be present during the discussion of this issue.

4. Matters arising from previous plenary meeting

The draft minutes of the previous meeting were discussed and adopted.

The Commission legislative services also reported briefly about the follow-up given to several recent SCF opinions for information of the SCF members.

5. Co-ordination with the Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) and other Scientific Committees

The Chair reported about recent activities of the SSC. The SSC had adopted at their last meeting an opinion on azole antimycotic resistance and another opinion on Triclosan resistance.

The SSC is also working on matters related to risk assessment procedures. It is releasing for comments a preliminary report on scientific quality of life criteria in risk benefit assessment. It is also issuing a Preliminary report on Risk assessment of food borne bacterial pathogens: Quantitative methodology relevant for human exposure assessment. These two documents are open for comments. It is likely that these two documents from the SSC will also be placed on the SCF and other sister committees' webpages with the intention of increasing awareness and encouraging submission of comments.

6. General information by Commission services on matters relating to SCF

6.1 Development of the European Food Safety Authority and related matters

Peter Wagstaffe, Head of the Unit responsible for the management of the 8 so called "sectoral" Scientific Committees, gave an update on the developments regarding the EFSA. The Council was about to agree on the list of members of the Management Board. Once the members were in place a first meeting could take place. The Management Board would have to adopt its own rules of procedure and functioning. Regarding the appointment of the Executive Director, Mr. Wagstaffe indicated that by September the Commission would be able to finalise the examination of the candidates and make a proposal with a short list of 3/5 candidates for submission to the EFSA Management Board and the subsequent steps in the process of his/her appointment. By the end of the year, both the MB and ED of the EFSA would be in place.

EFSA would launch the call of expression of interest for becoming members of the EFSA Scientific Committee and its panels, probably by October.

The Parliament was not accepting to release the EFSA budget until there was a decision on the site of the EFSA.

The existing Scientific Committees relating to food would continue performing their current functions until the EFSA Scientific Committee and its panels would be in place.

6.2 Schedule of meetings in 2003

This item had to be deferred to the next meeting, as there was not enough time to discuss it.

7. Contaminants

7.1 Acrylamide in food

The Committee had been informed of the urgent request by the Commission services to assess the implications for food safety of the new information originating from Sweden on acrylamide in foods. New findings in Sweden in April 2002 elucidated formation of high levels of acrylamide in a variety of fried and baked common foods. The Committee was asked to advise the Commission on the scientific basis for possible measures relating to acrylamide in food, taking into account its own and other existing evaluations.

In order to gain insight into the complex issues regarding the formation of acrylamide in foods, the Committee's Working Group on Contaminants invited experts from the Swedish National Food Agency (SNFA) to participate in its meeting on the 17th of May 2002 to discuss the Swedish studies on acrylamide in food. The FAO/WHO organized a

consultation on the health implications of acrylamide in food, held in Geneva on 25-27 June 2002. Some members of the SCF participated in this consultation.

The Committee discussed the draft opinion and related information available to it. After discussion the text was agreed. The text of the opinion adopted appears as **Annex I**.

7.2 Non-dioxin-like PCBs. Progress report by the Commission services

This item had to be deferred to the next meeting, as there was not enough time to discuss it

8. Flavourings

8.1 Draft opinion on pulegone and menthofuran

The draft discussed by the Working Group was presented. A number of changes were discussed and agreed.

The text of the opinion adopted appears as **Annex II**.

8.2 Draft opinion on furfural

Due to the lack of enough time to discuss the issue, it was deferred to the next meeting.

8.3 Draft opinion on quassin

The draft discussed by the Working Group was presented. A number of changes were discussed and agreed.

The text of the opinion adopted appears as **Annex III**.

8.4 Preparation of SCF opinions on chemically defined flavouring substances in SCOOP Task 1.1 and the Flavourings WG (Commission Regulation EC 1565/2000)

The Committee was given an introduction to the way this group of compounds were being evaluated according to the Regulation and including Member States' experts participation through a specific task under the directive on Scientific Cooperation.

The Committee examined afterwards a draft opinion of a group of related compounds (branched-chained aliphatic saturated aldehydes, carboxylic acids and related esters).

This was the first group considered by the SCF using the previously agreed methodology. The Committee suggested a number of changes relating both to the contents and the presentation of the evaluation. This was important as a precedent for other forthcoming

group evaluations. In view of the large number of changes to be made , the Committee decided to send back the text to the Working Group and await for a submission of the revised draft according to the discussions.

9. Food contact materials

9.1. Confirmation of draft opinion on the 18th list of monomers and additives for food contact materials

Following the requests for a fuller explanation of the evaluations by the committee expressed at the previous plenary, a text with the full evaluations was circulated. However, due to the lack of time it could not be examined in detail. It was agreed to circulate it for approval by written procedure.

9.2 Draft opinion on the 19th list of monomers and additives for food contact materials

Due to the lack of enough time to discuss the issue, it was deferred to the next meeting.

10. Food additives

10.1 Draft opinion on benzyl alcohol

New information from the petitioner had been announced to the Commission legislative services just before the meeting. The item was therefore sent back to the Working Group for consideration and will come back to the next SCF Plenary.

11. Novel foods and novel processes

11.1 2-alkylcyclobutanones in irradiated fatty foods

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

The full text of the statement adopted appears as **Annex IV** of these minutes.

11.2 Bioproteins in animal feed

Since 1988 both the Scientific Committee on Animal Nutrition (SCAN) and the Scientific Committee on Food (SCF) had been requested by the Commission to consider the safety of protein-rich animal feed products produced by fermentation. The first such product,

considered in 1988, was Pruteen. A similar protein rich-mass, called BioProtein, derived from growth of microorganisms on natural gas, was accepted in 1995. In an attempt to demonstrate the safety of the extension of use of BioProtein as ingredient of human food, additional rat feeding studies were undertaken. These new studies revealed adverse effects principally related to the immune system. Reconsideration of all available evidence by SCAN resulted in the conclusion on December 2001 that BioProtein should no longer be permitted to be included as a protein source in animal feeds for growing pigs, veal calves, poultry and farmed fresh water and marine salmon fish.

The Committee took note of the opinion of the SCAN. Since SCAN has given an unfavourable opinion on the use of this product for animal health, the Committee considered there was no need for the SCF to look into the safety for human health from any carry over from use in animal feed.

11.3 Overconsumption of phytosterols from multiple dietary sources and effects on beta-carotene levels

This item had to be deferred, as there was not enough time to discuss it.

11.4 Post launch monitoring of “yellow fat spreads with added phytosterol esters”

This item had to be deferred, as there was not enough time to discuss it.

12. Tolerable Upper Intake Levels for Vitamins and Minerals

12.1 Draft Opinion on the tolerable upper intake level of Iodine

This item had to be deferred, as there was not enough time to discuss it.

12.2 Draft Opinion on the tolerable upper intake level of Zinc

This item had to be deferred, as there was not enough time to discuss it.

13. Nutrition

13.1 Infant formulae

The Committee reviewed the activities of the Working Group on Nutrition regarding infant formulae in relation to the request by the Commission services to update the essential requirements of infant formulae in the existing EU Directive 91/321/EC and taking into account the revision of the existing standard in Codex Alimentarius.

A draft outline with proposed new levels of nutrients in infant formulae was introduced. In

particular, the Committee considered the proposed minimum and maximum levels of protein content in infant formulae, calculation of the protein content, protein sources permitted, protein quality and other requirements for other compounds such as taurine or carnitine. Proposed levels for total fat content, as well as for saturated and unsaturated fat contents were also discussed. Attention was also given to minimum and maximum levels for vitamins and minerals, according to the recent scientific developments in this field.

The Working Group will continue its work and submit in due course a draft opinion for adoption of the Committee.

14. Update on Research and Technological Development Framework Programmes relating to matters relating to the SCF

A. Boenke reported briefly about the main groups of on going projects within the 5th Framework Programme relating to the area of the SCF. He also mentioned that there had been thousands of expression of interests received relating to the 6th Framework Programme.

15. Any other business

There were none

16. Adoption of these minutes

These minutes were adopted on 24 September 2002 by written procedure.

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 on new findings regarding the presence of acrylamide in food (SCF/CS/CNTM/CONT/4 Final)

ANNEX II

Opinion of the Scientific Committee on Food on pulegone and menthofuran (SCF/CS/FLAV/FLAVOUR/3 ADD2 Final)

ANNEX III

Opinion of the Scientific Committee on Food on quassin (SCF/CS/FLAV/FLAVOUR/29 Final)

ANNEX IV

Statement of the Scientific Committee on Food on a report on 2-alkylcyclobutanones (SCF/CS/NF/IRR/26 ADD 3 Final)