



## **24<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE INDEPENDENT ADVISORY PANEL ON CHARACTERISING FLAVOURS IN TOBACCO PRODUCTS (IAP)**

**PLACE: WEBEX VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**23 NOVEMBER 2020 (09:30-12:00)**

**- MINUTES -**

### **1. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME**

The Chair welcomed the members of the panel. There were no apologies.

### **2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

The agenda was adopted as proposed.

### **3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

There were no new interests declared.

### **4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the last meeting were discussed and would be adopted in written. Subsequent it will be published on the website of the IAP.<sup>1</sup>

### **5. UPDATE ON THE REGULATORY DEVELOPMENTS**

Additional Member States indicated presence of products with suspect characterising flavour on their markets and are considering further regulatory steps. In order to facilitate secure exchange of procedural documents, the Commission created a dedicated S-CircaBC space allowing Member States to share their documents in a secure way. However, no formal request has been submitted to consult the independent advisory panel. The IAP methodology is being approved in a form of a Commission decision.

### **6. DRAFT TEMPLATE OF A PANEL OPINION**

In absence of any specific product request, IAP discussed practical aspects of the opinion forming and its formal aspects. In this respect, a reference was made to relevant provisions of the Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/786 and of the IAP Rules of procedure. While the actual sensory and chemical test are performed

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<sup>1</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/health/tobacco/products/characterising\\_flavours/panel\\_en#fragment0](https://ec.europa.eu/health/tobacco/products/characterising_flavours/panel_en#fragment0)

by the TG, the IAP conclusions whether or not a tobacco product has a characterising flavour should be primarily based on the IAP own considerations. The opinion template would be based on one of the products processed by the TG in the context of maintenance sessions. The appointed rapporteur would take the lead on the drafting, with the input of all IAP members and assistance from the Secretariat.

#### **7. INPUT FROM THE TECHNICAL GROUP OF SENSORY AND CHEMICAL ASSESSORS**

TG presented additional observations from the informal tests carried recently with four product samples in the context of the routine panel maintenance. The discussion focused on the chemical profiles of the products and how this can best complement the sensory part. Different suggestions for improvement of the chemical profile utility were made by the IAP members for consideration by the TG.

#### ***Practical arrangements for handling upcoming requests to consult the independent advisory panel:***

Unless there is a specific request reaching IAP in the coming weeks, the IAP will focus on the development of a generic template for future IAP opinions. IAP discussed further practical aspects of the future requests for opinions including the IAP interaction with TG. Product samples for regulatory testing shall be in principle provided by a requesting Member State. The samples should be representative of the products placed on the market what may be to certain extent verified on the basis of the unique pack identifiers within the EU traceability system. IAP also discussed the use of established standards for product sampling required for laboratory testing.

#### **8. FUTURE WORK/NEXT STEPS**

Several tentative dates were agreed for the next meeting to allow certain level of flexibility in line with the further regulatory developments.

#### **9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None

## **LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

### **Members of the IAP**

Alberto Del Rio  
Garnt Dijksterhuis  
Jan van Amsterdam  
Emmanuel Vanzeveren  
Wouter Visser  
Efthimios Zervas (Chair)

### **IAP Secretariat** (DG SANTE B2)

Matus Ferech  
Antti Maunu  
Anna Wozniak

### **Other Commission services - DG JRC F4**

Thomas Wenzl

### **Representatives from the EUREST-FLAVOURS consortium**