



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

**PLACE: RUE FROISSART 101, MEETING ROOM 00/33, 1040 BRUSSELS**

**28 June 2018**

### **MINUTES**

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

The Acting Chair (Vice-Chair of the Panel) 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 adopted and would be published on the website of the IAP subsequent to the meeting.<sup>1</sup>

#### **5. DISCUSSION ON THE PROGRESS OF THE TASKS CARRIED OUT BY THE TECHNICAL GROUP OF SENSORY AND CHEMICAL ASSESSORS**

- Selection of reference products;
- Set-up and initial training of the group of sensory assessors;
- Methodology to support the decision whether a tobacco product has a characterising flavour.

Prior to the meeting, the Technical Group (TG) had shared with the IAP the implementation report on task 4 (Identification, screening, selection and recruitment of potential sensory assessors) including the list of proposed assessors as well as the proposed selection of potential products to be considered for the group of reference products (task 1.1 of the tender specifications<sup>2</sup>). The Secretariat informed the IAP about the presentation of the TG to the Expert Group on Tobacco Policy – Subgroup on Ingredients at the meeting on 6 June 2018 and the ongoing consultation regarding the proposed selection of reference products. As clarification on some aspects was still outstanding it was agreed to confirm the final list of products that should be

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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)

<sup>2</sup> <https://etendering.ted.europa.eu/document/document-file-download.html?docFileId=31010>

tested (task 1.2) in writing. The IAP briefly discussed the documents received and reflected on feedback to be provided to the TG. The discussion on methodology and training was held under agenda item 6. However, IAP members collected some related questions for discussion with the TG.

## **6. EXCHANGE WITH THE TECHNICAL GROUP OF SENSORY AND CHEMICAL ASSESSORS**

The Consortium EUREST-FLAVOURS organizing the work of the Technical Group of Sensory and Chemical Assessors (TG) presented the work carried out since the last exchange, in particular the proposed selection of products to be considered for the group of reference products (task 1.1), as well as the results of task 4. It also outlined in detail the proposed approach of the initial training of assessors (task 5).

The IAP discussed the approach presented by the TG and provided feedback. The TG would share presentations and their overall and specific work-plans with the IAP for comments and feedback.

On task 1.1., the IAP agreed in principle to the list presented by the TG. The final list would be sent after additional verification of the products and consideration of possible additional feedback from the Member States. The decision would be noted in the minutes of the next meeting of the IAP. In the correspondence to Member States, the Secretariat would also check for options to receive cigarette packs for testing from the Member States' Competent Authorities.

On task 4, the TG presented the results of the screening process and the list of proposed members for the sensory panel. The Secretariat reminded the TG that, in line with Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/786 and the tender specifications for establishment of the TG, the members of the TG, including the sensory assessors are under an obligation to act independently and protect confidential information and personal data. The approval of the candidates by the Commission is subject to this condition. Therefore, the candidates shall return a duly completed declaration of interest and confidentiality before engaging in the work and the contractor is obliged to collect and assess the information received.

On task 5, the TG presented the approach proposed for the training of assessors, followed by a short discussion. While the approach was to a large extent independent from the methodology to support the decision taking on products regarding characterising flavours which needs to be further specified as part of task 2, the IAP encouraged the TG to advance on task 2 as quickly as possible and to share related documents with the IAP to allow for a thorough discussion at the next meeting. The TG acknowledged that outcomes of task 2 may result in adaptations of tasks 5 and tasks 1.2 (product testing in order to establish the reference group).

The IAP acknowledged the progress made by the TG and agreed to send, as appropriate, specific comments to the TG after the meeting who should in turn provide answers to the IAP.

## **7. ONGOING WORK AND DISCUSSIONS**

The IAP further discussed methodological aspects and composition of the group of reference products. It confirmed that it would revise the comments sent earlier to have a targeted discussion at the next meeting.

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

The Secretariat informed the IAP about the process to replace the member resigning from the IAP. Candidates on the reserve list are being assessed on the basis of their respective expertise.

## **9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

## **LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

### **Members of the IAP**

Garnt Dijksterhuis  
Jan van Amsterdam  
Emmanuel Vanzeveren  
Wouter Visser  
Efthimios Zervas

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

Katja Broman  
Matus Ferech

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

Franz Ulberth  
Thomas Wenzl

### **Representatives from the EUREST-FLAVOURS consortium (web-conference)**