



26TH MEETING OF THE INDEPENDENT ADVISORY PANEL ON CHARACTERISING FLAVOURS IN TOBACCO PRODUCTS (IAP)

21 APRIL 2021 (09:30-13:00)

VENUE: TEAMS VIDEOCONFERENCE

- MINUTES -

1. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

The Chair welcomed the members of the panel.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as proposed.

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no new interests declared. The chair informed that has been invited to participate in the EU-CEG data assessment at national level.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting were adopted subject to minor editorial modifications. Subsequently it will be published on the website of the IAP.¹

5. UPDATE ON THE REGULATORY DEVELOPMENTS

The secretariat informed the panel that the decision on the methodology on characterising flavours has been adopted on 11 March and subsequently the report was published on the IAP website.

An official request to consult the independent advisory panel in accordance with Article 7 of the Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/786 has been submitted by a Member State. The request concerns 21 individual TP-IDs subject to the procedure initiated on 10 June 2020. The accompanying documentation shared in S-CircaBC includes the manufacturer's assessment including its statement that the blend composition of all those products should be practically identical despite minor divergences in the ingredients quantities as notified through EU-CEG.

The panel discussed the requests and confirmed that it would require input from TG (based on both sensory and chemical analysis). Practical aspects of the sampling and shipping would be discussed in the joint session. In principle, the Member State

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/health/tobacco/products/characterising_flavours/panel_en#fragment0

should provide samples of all products concerned by the request. From a practical perspective, the first set of 4-5 products should be tested following this meeting. Those should be selected on the basis of the EU-CEG data analysis (presented by DG SANTE) taking into consideration variations in the reported product composition and sales volumes. Further steps necessary for the conclusion of the opinions(-s) would be discussed in the next meeting.

6. DRAFT TEMPLATE OF A PANEL OPINION

IAP further progressed in the clarification of horizontal issues and discussed practical aspects facilitating the process of the opinion forming and its formal aspects. This discussion should be concluded in the next meeting and result in a template to be used for the upcoming opinions.

7. UPDATE FROM THE TECHNICAL GROUP OF SENSORY AND CHEMICAL ASSESSORS (TG)

The IAP informed the technical group on the request submitted by the Member State and asked further clarifications concerning practical and logistical aspects of both the sensory and the technical analysis. TG was tasked to prepare a shipment protocol with a comprehensive check-list together with a template of a declaration certifying compliance with the shipment protocol. The check list shall include, i.a a declaration that products correspond with the most recent composition reported to EU-CEG, that they are fresh to the extent possible and packed in an adequate manner and container preventing cross-contamination between products during transportation and shipment. Product source shall be verified on the basis of their track and trace unique identifiers.

TG further presented their experience from informal product tests conducted in the context of the maintenance sessions. Recently launched products show certain properties which were not observed with traditional flavoured products. In the discussion, JRC presented their own analysis of such products raising further interesting issues for further follow up.

8. FUTURE WORK/NEXT STEPS

The secretariat will provide the competent authority of the Member State requesting the opinion of the IAP, with the shipment instructions and the relevant documentation as soon as this would have been finalised by TG. TG will keep the panel updated on the status of the shipment and the timing of the performed analysis. Those should be provided, to the extent possible, in advance of the next meeting.

The next meeting has been tentatively scheduled for the end of May, subject to availability of the input from the technical group.

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
Anna Wozniak
Ana Duarte
Dimitrios Apostopolou
Melina Ballario

Other Commission services - DG JRC F4

Thomas Wenzl

Representatives from the EUREST-FLAVOURS consortium