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EUROPEAN COMMUNITY POSITION

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES

BEIJING, CHINA, 21-25 APRIL 2008

Agenda Item 10

Priority List of Food Additives proposed for Evaluation by JECFA

*Mixed Competence.
Member States Vote.*

Following the conclusions in the 68th report of JECFA, on exposure assessment, the European Community and its Member States (ECMS) would request that JECFA reconsider the potential genotoxicity of alpha-beta unsaturated substances and their precursors evaluated in earlier reports. The list with the JECFA numbers of the substances is attached.

In the default evaluation procedure, JECFA employs the maximized survey-derived intake (MSDI) method as a measure of dietary exposure. The MSDI provides an estimate of the mean exposure of consumers to a flavouring agent. The European Community and its Member States appreciate the application of the SPET approach.

In its 68th report of JECFA explored an additional new method of dietary exposure assessment (since termed the single-portion exposure technique or SPET) based on the daily consumption of a single portion of food containing the flavouring agent.

The SPET was used to estimate dietary exposure for 57 flavouring agents. It was concluded that in general, the estimated dietary exposure using the SPET was up to several orders of magnitude higher than that calculated by the MSDI for any of the three geographic regions for which production volume data were available (Europe, Japan and USA).

The Committee however concluded that the MSDI and SPET dietary exposure estimates provide different and complementary information and that it would not be necessary to re-evaluate flavouring agents that have already been assessed using the Procedure.

The European Community and its Member States would like to bring to the attention of the Committee the conclusions on genotoxicity in the report of the 63rd JECFA (WHO food additives series 54, page 374) on *Aliphatic, Linear alpha-beta unsaturated Aldehydes, Acids and related Alcohols, Acetals and Esters*. This concluded that such alpha-beta unsaturated components are genotoxic but that at low concentrations, such as those resulting from intake of flavourings substances, alpha – beta unsaturated aldehydes are rapidly metabolised in the high capacity beta-oxidation pathway and that there is no convincing evidence that alpha-beta-unsaturated aldehydes exhibit significant genotoxic potential in vivo.

The European Community and its Member States would like JECFA to reconsider this conclusion taking into account that for most of the substances the exposure assessment based on the SPET may be orders of magnitude higher than that calculated by MSDI and whether a threshold mechanism for genotoxicity can be assigned.

List of substances for which the European Community and its Member States would request to reconsider potential genotoxicity:

Evaluation of certain food additives and contaminants: Fifty-fifth report of the Joint FAO/WHO expert Committee on food additives, (2000)

JECFA numbers: 647, 648, 656, 650, 652, 649, 651, 654, 653, 655, 673, 678, 677, 681, 682, 687, 689, 688, 686, 685, 684, 743, 740, 742, 741, 739, 751, 451, 450

Evaluation of certain food additives and contaminants: Fifty-seventh report of the Joint FAO/WHO expert Committee on food additives, (2001)

JECFA numbers: 948, 944

Evaluation of certain food additives and contaminants: Fifty-ninth report of the Joint FAO/WHO expert Committee on food additives, (2002)

JECFA numbers: 973, 974, 975, 977, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 985, 1020, 1022, 1050, 1051, 1098, 1105, 1106, 1107, 1115, 1111, 1114, 1112, 1113, 1139, 1134, 1149, 1140, 1141, 1124, 1125, 1129, 1131, 1126, 1127, 1132, 1130, 1133, 1135, 1136, 1138, 1152, 1150, 1151, 1153, 1148, 1147.

Evaluation of certain food additives and contaminants: Sixty-first report of the Joint FAO/WHO expert Committee on food additives, (2003)

JECFA numbers: 1163, 1162, 1164, 1172, 1173, 1175, 1179, 1174, 1195, 1196, 1181, 1190, 1184, 1186, 1185, 1182, 1197, 1187, 1189, 1198, 1208, 1216, 1209, 1201, 1214, 1215, 1217, 1227, 1207, 1226, 1223, 1230, 1224, 1200, 1225, 1202, 1228

Evaluation of certain food additives and contaminants: Sixty-third report of the Joint FAO/WHO expert Committee on food additives, (2004)

JECFA numbers: 1306, 1307, 1319, 1354, 1365, 1369, 1374, 1384, 1350, 1363, 1349, 1359, 1364, 1366, 1360, 1362, 1353, 1355, 1378, 1375, 1376, 1381, 1377, 1398, 1403, 1404, 1406, 1405, 1409, 1446, 1449, 1450, 1451, 1456, 1480, 1481, 1482, 1484, 1472, 1473

Evaluation of certain food additives and contaminants: Sixty-fifth report of the Joint FAO/WHO expert Committee on food additives, (2005)

JECFA numbers: 1570, 1571, 1574