

## SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER SAFETY (SCCS)

**Request for a scientific opinion: Kojic acid EC No 207-922-4 CAS No 501-30-4.  
Submission III**

### 1. BACKGROUND

Kojic acid with the chemical name 5-hydroxy-2-hydroxymethyl-4-pyrone is used in cosmetic products as a skin whitening, skin lightener or depigmenting agent.

Derivative esters of Kojic acids might also be used, e.g. Kojic dipalmitate, Kojic isopalmitate and chlorokojic acid are mentioned in CosIng.

The first opinion (SCCP/1182/08) was adopted 30 September 2008 by the Scientific Committee on Consumer Products with the conclusion:

*"Based on the information provided, margins of safety of respectively 35 (face and hands), 58 (hands) and 88 (face) have been calculated suggesting that the use of Kojic acid at a maximum concentration of 1.0% in skin care formulations poses a risk to the health of the consumer. In addition, other parts of the skin might be exposed to Kojic acid. Kojic acid has the potential to induce skin sensitisation. Relevant data on kinetics of Kojic acid after dermal application may be submitted to refine the MOS approach."*

The current submission III consists of the industry response to the above mentioned opinion and a new dermal penetration study. Reference is also made to the recent Cosmetic Ingredient Review report (CIR).

### 2. Terms of reference

1. *Does the SCCS consider the use of kojic acid in a concentration of up to 1.0% in cosmetic products safe for the consumers given the provided data?*
2. *Does the SCCS foresee further scientific concerns to the safe use of kojic acid and/or its derivatives?*