



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

**PLACE: RUE FROISSART 101, 1040 BRUSSELS**

**21 September 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**

- Test the products and establish the reference group (task 1.2);
- Initial training of the group of sensory assessors (task 5);
- Methodology to support the decision whether a tobacco product has a characterising flavour (task 2).

Prior to the meeting, the Technical Group (TG) had shared with the IAP results from the initial training of the initially recruited assessors (task 5 of the tender specifications<sup>2</sup>) and a preliminary procedure for establishing whether a tobacco product has a characterising flavour (task 2). The IAP briefly discussed the documents received and reflected on feedback to be provided to the TG.

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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>

Furthermore, the final list of the initial set of reference products to be included in the testing in order to establish the group of reference products (task 1.2) had been sent to the IAP after additional verification by the TG and consideration of additional feedback from the Member States. The IAP agreed that this list should be used in the execution of task 1.2.

## **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 preliminary results from the initial training of assessors (task 5) and a preliminary procedure for determining whether a tobacco product has a characterising flavour including decision criteria (task 2).

The IAP discussed the approach presented by the TG and provided feedback.

Regarding the initial set of reference products to be included in the testing in order to establish the group of reference products (task 1.2), the IAP approved the list and discussed with the TG and the Secretariat practical aspects of receiving cigarette packs for testing. The Secretariat had facilitated the exchange between the Member States' Competent Authorities and the TG to that end.

On task 2 additional work and discussion was necessary before the testing of the initial group of reference products could start. Therefore both tasks (1.2 and 2) would be put on the agenda of the next meeting.

On task 5, the TG presented the training of assessors (more than 18 which was the minimal requirement), with preliminary results pointing to a high level of assessor's performance. This was followed by a short discussion. As outlined at the last meeting, the training approach was largely independent from the methodology to support the decision taking on products regarding characterising flavours. As task 2 was still ongoing, further adaptation to the profile of trained assessors might be needed at a later stage.

The IAP acknowledged the progress made by the TG. In line with established practice from earlier meetings, the TG would share presentations and relevant documents including work-plans with the IAP for comments and feedback by the IAP.

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

The Secretariat would continue to facilitate the process to support the TG in receiving products from the Member States' Competent Authorities. The Secretariat also informed the IAP about the process to replace the member resigning from the IAP, which was still ongoing.

## **8. 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 Bromen  
Matus Ferech

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

Thomas Wenzl

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