



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Health systems, medical products and innovation
Cross-border healthcare and tobacco control

11TH MEETING OF THE INDEPENDENT ADVISORY PANEL ON CHARACTERISING FLAVOURS IN TOBACCO PRODUCTS (IAP)

PLACE: RUE FROISSART 101, 1040 BRUSSELS

15 March 2019

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.¹

5. CONFIRMATION/ELECTION OF THE CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

The Secretariat informed about the process to nominate the new Chair and Vice-Chair of the panel outlined in Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/786 and the rules of procedures of the IAP. Accordingly, the Chair shall be replaced by the Vice-Chair in cases where the Chair is not in a position to fulfil his/her function or, failing that, by another member chosen in common accord by the members. In case of a permanent replacement of the Chair, the replacement shall be for the remainder of the term of the IAP. Accordingly, the Vice-Chair, Prof. Efthimios Zervas, confirmed his availability to act as Chair of the IAP. For the selection of the Vice-Chair, members unanimously supported the candidature of Mr. Emmanuel Vanzeveren for this position.

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

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

The IAP briefly discussed the documents and information received prior to the meeting and reflected on feedback to be provided to the TG. The focus of the discussion was on the process to support the decision whether a tobacco product has a characterising flavour and in particular the decision criteria involved.

7. 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 on the following aspects:

- Update on the (chemical + sensory) testing of the products considered for establishment of the reference group (task 1.2);
- Further refinement of the methodology and the flow-chart for determining whether a tobacco product has a characterising flavour (task 2).

The IAP discussed the revised approach presented by the TG and provided feedback. As in the last meeting, it was pointed out that further work was needed to fully address the requests made at earlier occasions and to finalize the methodology. In particular, the IAP requested that the detailed description of the proposed decision process, including the graphical description of the decision tree, was lacking the necessary detail in order to take the decision whether or not a product proposed as a reference product would become part of the final group of reference products. Moreover, the decision criteria whether a test product was to be classified as having a characterizing flavour was still missing. The IAP also reminded the TG that the methodology proposed would need to be fully in line with the requirements of the Tobacco Products Directive and Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/786. It was also pointed out that additional adaptation of the chemical approach may be necessary in the future depending on the types of products on the market.

In line with established practice, the TG would share presentations and relevant documents including work-plans with the IAP for comments and feedback.

8. FUTURE WORK/NEXT STEPS

It was agreed that the TG would still need to further work on the methodology and in particular the decision criteria to allow the IAP to fully assess the methodology proposed. This should focus in particular on the following aspects:

- Decision tree to classify products including the full statistical methodology and testing.
- Final results of the testing to establish the group of reference products and to define the reference space including the assessment of the impact of outliers.

The IAP would send specific comments to the TG after the meeting. The TG is expected to provide background documents at the latest one week before the next meeting.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

An additional meeting date was tentatively scheduled.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Members of the IAP

Alberto Del Rio
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