



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

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

12TH MEETING OF THE INDEPENDENT ADVISORY PANEL ON CHARACTERISING FLAVOURS IN TOBACCO PRODUCTS (IAP)

PLACE: RUE FROISSART 101, 1040 BRUSSELS

14 May 2019

MINUTES

1. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

The Chair 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. 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, and on the testing of the products considered for the establishment of the group of reference products.

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 on the following aspects:

- Results of the chemical and sensory testing of the products considered for establishment of the group of reference products (task 1.2);

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

- Further refinement of the methodology, including 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.

In relation to task 1.2, the outcome of the testing on products proposed for inclusion into the group of reference products was discussed. While the majority of products tested were confirmed for inclusion into the group of reference products on the basis of the tests performed, a few products were identified where certain deviations were observed which warrant further consideration, including on the nature of sensory attributes detected and to what extent these would qualify as a genuine tobacco flavour. Furthermore, it was discussed whether the presented approach was fully sufficient to decide on such allocation.

In relation to this and to task 2, the IAP recognized the progress made since the last meeting. However, it was pointed out that further work was still needed to finalize the methodology for taking a decision whether a test product is to be classified as having a characterising flavour. In particular, the IAP requested that the description of the proposed decision making process, including the graphical description of the decision tree, would require additional justification and detail. Practical aspects of the procedure of the chemical analysis were also discussed.

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

7. FUTURE WORK/NEXT STEPS

It was agreed that the TG would need to revise further the description of the methodology and in particular the decision criteria. This should focus in particular on the following aspects:

- Description and justification of the methodological assumptions, the statistical methodology and the final composition of the group of reference products.
- Additional sensitivity analysis in relation to the establishment of the group of reference products including the assessment of the impact of outliers/borderline products.

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.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

An additional meeting date before the summer break was scheduled.

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)

Katja Bromen
Matus Ferech

Other Commission services - DG JRC F4

Thomas Wenzl

Representatives from the EUREST-FLAVOURS consortium