



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

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

13TH MEETING OF THE INDEPENDENT ADVISORY PANEL ON CHARACTERISING FLAVOURS IN TOBACCO PRODUCTS (IAP)

PLACE: RUE FROISSART 101, 1040 BRUSSELS

25 June 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.

The Chairman of the IAP, Prof. Efthimios Zervas declared that in relation to his involvement as an expert in the Tobacco and Vaping Products Group of ANSES¹ he had participated in meetings organized by ANSES where members of two professional associations (Fédération Interprofessionnelle de la Vape (FIVAPE) and France Vapotage) had presented their views on electronic cigarettes.

Meetings with other professional associations in relation to tobacco products will be organized in the future and Prof. Zervas will update the group on his involvement.

The members discussed the declarations made and concluded that none of them would constitute a conflict of interest.

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.²

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

¹ Agence nationale de sécurité sanitaire de l'alimentation, de l'environnement et du travail

² https://ec.europa.eu/health/tobacco/products/characterising_flavours/panel_en#fragment0

discussion was on the additional information provided on the approach to support the decision whether a tobacco product has a characterising flavour, and in particular the decision criteria involved, and on the results of the testing of 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);
- 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 further refined approach presented by the TG and provided feedback.

In relation to task 1.2, the outcome of the further testing on products proposed for inclusion into the group of reference products was discussed. As presented at the last meeting, the majority of products tested were confirmed for inclusion into the group of reference products on the basis of the tests performed. However, a few products had been identified where deviations had been observed warranting further consideration, including on the nature of sensory attributes detected, their origin and the extent to which these would qualify as a genuine tobacco flavour. As a result of the additional testing the TG presented a recommendation to IAP regarding these products.

In relation to this and to task 2, the IAP recognized the progress made since the last meeting. However, it was pointed out that despite such progress, 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. Moreover, it was discussed whether the presented approach was fully sufficient to take a final decision on the allocation of potential reference products.

In particular, the IAP requested that the description of the evidence base and the proposed decision making process, including the graphical description of the decision tree, would still require additional justification and detail. While it was recognized that it was the task of IAP to provide an opinion on test products to the Commission or Member States, the importance of receiving comprehensive input from the TG was emphasized.

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:

- Further detail 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 in early September.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

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