



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Health systems, medical products and innovation
Health in all policies, global health, tobacco control

2ND MEETING OF THE INDEPENDENT ADVISORY PANEL ON CHARACTERISING FLAVOURS IN TOBACCO PRODUCTS (IAP)

Place: Rue Froissart 101, 1040 Brussels

19 October 2017

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

The Chair, Andrea Büttner, asked members if there was any update on their activities that are relevant for the work of the panel. This should include any activities already reported to the Chair or the Secretariat after the last meeting.

Members reported the following:

- 1) Efthimios Zervas reported that he has been nominated by the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES), as an external expert of the working group “Tobacco and Vaping Products”. However, the focus of this work was not related to the tasks of the IAP.
- 2) Manu Vanzeveren reported that he was recently appointed as teacher at the Haute Ecole Louvain en Hainaut, where he was teaching in the areas of applied biology, food chemistry, and transformation of vegetal products. He would also coach and train students involved in industry-funded research. Neither the work nor the industries involved were related to the tasks of the IAP
- 3) Garnt Dijksterhuis reported about his recent move from the Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences to Wageningen University and Research, where he would be involved in research on consumer understanding and sensory perception. He will also be coaching marketing MSc students of the Erasmus University in Rotterdam. The topics there are nudging in a food context, and food-scares/hypes. In theory students could choose a tobacco related topic. Though this is highly unlikely he will inform the IAP if it happens.
- 4) The Chair reported on a change in her professorship at University of Erlangen and her role as director/speaker at Fraunhofer with a new initiative (“Campus of

Senses"¹). She also reported that she was co-organizer of a symposium to share research in the area of certain flavour characteristics (smoke/burnt/roasted) and aroma chemistry (American Chemical Society, March 2018, New Orleans). She clarified that no tobacco industry funding was received for these activities.

The members discussed the declarations made and concluded that none of them would constitute a conflict of interest. The Secretariat reminded that activities related to the subject area of the panel should be declared as well as any circumstance that could give rise to a conflict of interest. The Secretariat suggested that members update the Declaration of Interest forms as appropriate and in line with the template and the guidance document (Annex Ia of the Rules of Procedures).

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.

5. UPDATE FROM THE COMMISSION

The Secretariat informed members that the evaluation and selection process regarding the establishment of the Technical Group of Sensory and Chemical Assessors in line with Article 12 of Commission Implementing Decision 2016/786/EU was ongoing. The Secretariat would update members on relevant progress in this process. While the evaluation would be carried out by the Commission, the IAP would be involved in the interactions with the Technical Group as soon as possible in line with the applicable rules.

Members inquired about the interaction between the Technical Group and the IAP. The Secretariat referred to Decision 2016/786/EU and the respective roles of the Technical Group and the IAP outlined therein and explained that a mechanism to facilitate an effective cooperation, while safeguarding the independence requirement between the two bodies was foreseen. To that end, it was foreseen to develop a Memorandum of Understanding specifying the interaction.

6. DISCUSSION/ADOPTION OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURES

The Secretariat provided a short update on the changes made since the last version shared with members. That version had been checked in terms of compliance with the requirements of the relevant pieces of legislation including Commission Decision C(2016) 3301 establishing horizontal rules on the creation and operation of Commission expert groups. It had been agreed with the Director General of DG SANTE in line with Article 8(1) of Decision 2016/786/EU.

The latest version essentially contained a more detailed specification on the different types of experts that may be invited to provide input to the work of the panel in line with Article 10(2) of Decision 2016/786/EU. Furthermore, specific declarations to be signed by those external experts had been prepared.

Following a short discussion, the rules were adopted and would be published on the website of the IAP subsequent to the meeting.

¹ <https://www.iis.fraunhofer.de/en/profil/zukunftsinitiativen/campusdersinne.html>

7. ONGOING WORK AND DISCUSSIONS

7.1 METHODOLOGY FOR THE TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT OF TEST PRODUCTS

In line with the objective to further specify the methodology for the technical assessment of test products pursuant to Article 9(1) of Decision 2016/786, the decision criteria for the sensory analysis, based on a comparison of the smelling properties of the test product with those of reference products as well as the approach to establish the group of reference products would need to be specified.

As a first step, members had been asked to assess the methodology that had been proposed and tested in the context of the Health Effects Tobacco Composition (HETOC) project and, as appropriate, other relevant sources.

Following a general discussion, the group started to develop a list of relevant aspects and criteria that should be considered for the establishment of the group of reference products and the decision criteria. This list would be further refined for the next meeting.

7.2 Relevant data sources

It was acknowledged that the data resulting from the reporting obligations pursuant to Article 5 of the TPD could provide relevant information in the assessment of future test products. To that end, the related data dictionary had been shared with members after the last meeting. While suggestions regarding variables of particular relevance for the work of the IAP have been received, it was agreed to come back to this topic at a future meeting.

8. FUTURE WORK/NEXT STEPS

It was agreed to organize a meeting or teleconference on 20 December to discuss progress made on the methodologies and regarding the establishment of the Technical Group. While it was considered important to invite external experts to future meetings of the IAP, no concrete suggestion was made for the next meeting.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Members of the IAP

Andrea Buettner
Garnt Dijksterhuis
Jan van Amsterdam
Emmanuel Vanzeveren
Wouter Visser
Efthimios Zervas

DG SANTE B2/IAP secretariat

Katja Bromen
Matus Ferech
Monica Nicolle Dimitriu

Other Commission services

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Franz Ulberth