



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

**Place: Rue Froissart 101, 1040 Brussels**

**24 April 2018**

### **MINUTES**

#### **1. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME**

The Secretariat welcomed the members of the panel and explained that due to a declaration received from the Chair, it was decided to involve the Chair via remote access (teleconference) in the beginning of the meeting. There were no further apologies.

#### **2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

The agenda was adopted as proposed.

#### **3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

The Chair of the Panel, Andrea Buettner, explained that following recent changes in her employment situation and due to her new function as Deputy Director at Fraunhofer Institute for Process Engineering and Packaging, she would now become responsible inter alia for research funded by the tobacco industry that is related to the work of the independent advisory panel. This would constitute in her view a conflict of interest. Therefore she would like to discontinue her participation in the panel and would notify DG SANTE via the Secretariat in line with the applicable rules.

Members of the Panel took note of the declaration with regret but agreed with the assessment that her function and the related projects would constitute a conflict of interest for the mandate of the Panel.

Her further participation in the meeting ended subsequently. The Vice-Chair of the Panel, Efthimios Zervas, took over the function of chairing the remainder of the meeting subsequently. The Secretariat explained that a replacement for Andrea Buettner would be selected from the reserve list.

#### **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>

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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)

## **5. DISCUSSION OF THE APPROACHES PROPOSED BY THE TECHNICAL GROUP OF SENSORY AND CHEMICAL ASSESSORS**

The Panel reflected on the information received from the Technical Group of Sensory and Chemical Assessors (TG) and the discussions held at the last meeting. It was highlighted that consolidated comments from the IAP should be shared with the TG. This would be channelled via the Vice-Chair. The IAP expressed their wish to receive a document from the TG outlining a comprehensive overview of the tasks of the TG in line with the offer in the Framework Contract. The Secretariat would facilitate this exchange.

The Secretariat furthermore explained that for the smooth execution of the tasks of the IAP and the TG, the following should be considered:

Article 10(2) of Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/786 empowers the Panel, for the purpose of providing an opinion, to use the information resulting from reporting obligations pursuant to Article 5 of Directive 2014/40/EU which is stored in the EU – CEG (EU common entry gate), an IT-tool managed by the Commission.

The Panel may consider that for the purposes of providing its opinions the information resulting from reporting obligations pursuant to Article 5 of Directive 2014/40/EU stored in EU – CEG system is pertinent. Therefore, the Panel may ask access to this information stored in the EU-CEG system insofar it relates to its mandate - i.e. to provide opinions as to whether test products have a characterising flavour within the meaning of Article 7(1) of Directive 2014/40/EU.

Article 12 (1) of Decision (EU) 2016/786 stipulates that a technical group of sensory and chemical assessors ('the technical group') shall be set up to provide the panel with an assessment of the sensory and, where appropriate, chemical properties of the test product as part of the procedure laid down in Article 10.

Pursuant to Article 10(2) of Decision (EU) 2016/786 where the panel considers it necessary for the purposes of providing an opinion, it shall request input from the technical group established in accordance with Article 12 of this Decision.

Therefore, in order to enable the TG to provide input to the panel for the purposes of providing an opinion whether test products have a characterising flavour within the meaning of Article 7(1) of Directive 2014/40/EU and to carry out assessments under Article 12(1) of Decision (EU) 2016/786, the Panel may authorise the TG to receive and use, on its behalf, information stored in the EU – CEG database. The use of this information is subject to the confidentiality arrangements and shall be strictly limited to the activities specified in this paragraph. The authorisation can be revoked at any time by the panel.

Following a short discussion, the members of the IAP fully agreed that the TG should be authorized to assess the data in the EU-CEG on behalf of the Panel.

## **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 so far, in particular in relation to the proposed selection of potential products to be considered for the group of reference products (task 1.1 of the tender specifications<sup>2</sup>), as well as progress and discussions regarding the identification, screening, selection and recruitment of potential sensory assessors (task 4).

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<sup>2</sup> <https://etendering.ted.europa.eu/document/document-file-download.html?docFileId=31010>

The IAP discussed the approach presented by the TG and provided feedback. The TG would share presentations and their overall and specific work-plans with the IAP for comments and feedback. The TG would furthermore share the proposed initial list of reference products with the IAP, the refined methodology in relation to the product testing in order to establish the reference group (task 1.2) and preliminary work on the methodology to support the decision taking on products regarding characterising flavours (task 2).

It was proposed to further discuss progress in a teleconference before the next physical meeting of the IAP. It was emphasized that ideally at least tasks 1.1 and task 4 should be concluded by the end of June in order to start the training of panellists subsequently.

#### **7. ONGOING WORK AND DISCUSSIONS**

The IAP briefly reflected on the discussion with the TG and agreed on the way forward to provide feedback.

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

The IAP agreed on future joint meetings and discussions with the TG in the context of the meetings of the IAP. The Secretariat would start the replacement process for Andrea Buettner.

#### **9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

### **LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

#### **Members of the IAP**

Andrea Buettner (teleconference in the beginning of the meeting)  
Garnt Dijksterhuis  
Jan van Amsterdam  
Emmanuel Vanzeveren  
Wouter Visser  
Efthimios Zervas

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

#### **DG SANTE B2/IAP secretariat**

Katja Bromen  
Matus Ferech

#### **Other Commission services**

#### **DG JRC F4**

Thomas Wenzl