

Scientific Panel on Nutrition, Novel Foods and Food Allergens

Minutes of the 89th Plenary meeting

**Web-conference, 29 November 2018, Parma (Italy)
(Agreed on 6 December 2018)**

■ **Panel Members:**

Jacqueline Castenmiller, Stefaan de Henauw, Karen-Ildico Hirsch-Ernst, John Kearney, Helle Katrine Knutsen, Alexandre Maciuk, Inge Mangelsdorf, Carmen Pelaez, Kristina Pentieva, Alfonso Siani, Frank Thies, Sophia Tsabouri, Dominique Turck (Chair), and Marco Vinceti.

■ **Hearing Experts¹:**

Not Applicable.

■ **European Commission and/or Member States representatives:**

Not Applicable.

■ **EFSA:**

NUTRI Unit: Valeriu Curtui, Reinhard Ackerl, Mathias Amundsen, Janusz Ciok, Paolo Colombo, Agnès De Sesmaisons-Lecarré, Céline Dumas, Wolfgang Gelbmann, Andrea Germini, Tilemachos Goumperis, Leng Heng, Leonard Matijevic, Ruth Roldan Torres, Annamaria Rossi, Ariane Titz, Emanuela Turla and Ermolaos Ververis.

BIOCONTAM Unit: Sandra Correia (item 8.2)

AMU Unit: Eugen Christoph (item 8.4).

■ **Observers:**

Not Applicable.

■ **Others:**

Not Applicable.

¹ As defined in Article 11 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest:
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair opened the web-conference meeting and welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Harry J. McArdle and Androniki Naska.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Scientific Panel Members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Panel members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 88th Plenary meeting held on 24-25 October 2018, Parma (Italy)

The minutes of the 88th NDA Panel Plenary meeting were agreed by written procedure on [8 November 2018](#).

5. New Mandates

Not applicable.

6. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion and/or possible adoption

Not applicable.

7. Feedback from the Scientific Committee/Scientific Panels, EFSA, the European Commission

Of relevance to the NDA Panel, in the context of a self-task on interpretation of epidemiological studies, the Scientific Committee will be

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

setting a working group to provide guidance on appraisal of epidemiological evidence for specific scientific assessment questions.

8. Other scientific topics for information and/or discussion

8.1 Dietary Reference Values Finder

The NDA Panel was informed about the launch by EFSA of an interactive tool that gives quick and easy access to EFSA's dietary reference values (DRV) for nutrients. It is intended for end users of these values, such as nutrition and health professionals, risk managers, policy-makers, food manufacturers and scientists.

The DRV Finder searches by population group or nutrient, allowing users to extract and combine the precise information they need from the 32 opinions on DRVs that EFSA has published in recent years.

The opinions contain DRVs for water, fats, carbohydrates and dietary fibre, protein, energy, as well as 14 vitamins and 13 minerals. The information is available in English, German, French and Italian.

The Panel congratulated EFSA staffs involved in the development of this tool.

Panel members were invited to widely disseminate further EFSA DRV Finder.

Useful links:

- [EFSA DRV Finder](#)
- [A special issue on DRVs including a summary report.](#)

8.2. Qualified Presumption of Safety (QPS)

Sandra Correia (BIOCONTAM Unit) gave an overview on EFSA activities related to the qualified presumption of safety (QPS) concept concerning microorganisms (such as bacteria, yeasts and viruses). EFSA assesses the safety of microorganisms used in food and feed in the context of regulated products submitted to EFSA, before they are authorised for use in the European market. The concept of QPS was introduced by EFSA to establish a generic approach that would harmonise the safety evaluation of microorganisms used as food or feed additives, food enzymes, novel foods or pesticides (plant protection products).

The scope, the methodology/principles, the process/workflow for QPS assessment, the approach applied for the assessment and for granting QPS status, and how QPS evaluation is applied to each sectorial regulated products coordinated by the different EFSA Panels were outlined.

Once EFSA grants a microorganism a QPS status, it is included in the “QPS list”, which is available on the EFSA website. EFSA also carries out an extensive literature search every six months to ensure that the list is up to date. Useful links: [Update list](#) (scientific opinion with the updated QPS list in Appendix A) / [Knowledge Junction](#).

8.3. Opinion on the appropriate age of introduction of complementary feeding into an infant’s diet (EFSA-Q-2016-00482)

The context of the mandate received from the European Commission, and the situation of complementary feeding recommendations in other regions were introduced.

The approach applied by the Working Group on Infant Nutrition to address the mandate was presented, e.g. systematic literature review conducted, selection criteria for pertinent studies, the study population considered, the outcomes/endpoints addressed, and the criteria for appraising scientific evidence.

The Panel took note of the current status of the assessment carried out by the WG. The intermediate results were presented in forest plots to visualise the data for endpoints for which at least 3 studies were available. Uncertainties were pointed out.

Feedback from the Panel was given to the WG.

The draft opinion is planned for release for public consultation by April 2019 and finalisation by July 2019.

8.4. Expert Knowledge Elicitation (EKE)

Eugen Christoph (AMU Unit) gave an introduction on the use of Expert Knowledge Elicitation (EKE) for Scientific Assessments. In June 2014, EFSA published a Guidance on EKE in Food and Feed Safety Risk Assessment. EKE is defined as a systematic, documented and reviewable process to retrieve expert judgments from groups of experts in the form of probability distributions the context. Examples of EKE applications in EFSA scientific risk assessments were depicted. The methods available and the best practice for quantifying uncertainty in risk assessment were outlined.

The Panel was informed of a series of training sessions on EKE organised by EFSA AMU Unit.

9. Any other business

Next plenary meeting of the NDA Panel is scheduled on 17-18 January 2019 in Parma (starting at 9:00 am the first day and finishing by lunch time the last day).