



NUTRITION UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON NUTRITION, NOVEL FOODS AND FOOD ALLERGENS

MINUTES OF THE 98th PLENARY MEETING

**Held on 22-23 January 2020 in Parma
(Agreed on 31 January 2020)**

Participants

■ Panel Members:

Jacqueline Castenmiller, Stefaan de Henauw, Karen Ildico Hirsch-Ernst¹, John Kearney, Helle Katrine Knutsen, Alexandre Maciuk, Inge Mangelsdorf, Harry J. McArdle², Androniki Naska, Carmen Pelaez, Kristina Pentieva, Alfonso Siani, Frank Thies, Sophia Tsabouri, Dominique Turck (Chair) and Marco Vinceti.

■ Hearing Experts:

Not Applicable

■ European Commission:

Not Applicable

■ EFSA:

NUTRI Unit: Valeriu Curtui, Reinhard Ackerl, Domenico Azzolini, Janusz Ciok, Paolo Colombo, Lucien Ferreira, Wolfgang Gelmann, Andrea Germini, Leng Heng, Eirini Kouloura, Leonard Matijevic, Gabriela Precup, Annamaria Rossi, Roman Svejstil, Ariane Titz, Emanuela Turla, Silvia Valtuena Martínez and Ermolaos Ververis.

Head of REPRO Department: Guilhem De Seze (item 9.2)

Head of RASA Department: Juliane Kleiner (item 9.2)

■ Others:

Not Applicable

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

¹ Participated on 23 January

² Participated via web-conference on 23-24 January



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 Independence³ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁴, 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 97th Plenary meeting held on 18 December 2019 via a web-conference

The **minutes of the 97th Plenary meeting** held on 18 December 2019 were agreed by written procedure on 20 December 2019.

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

5.1. Health Claim - Draft opinion on "Lozenges containing *L. reuteri* DSM 17938 and *L. reuteri* ATCC PTA 5289" and "support normal gum function" - **Applicant: BioGaia AB (Art. 13.5, Claim Serial No: 0485_SE, EFSA-Q-2019-00383)**

On 22 January, the draft opinion was presented. The Panel reviewed and discussed the sections on the characterisation of the food/constituent, relevance of the claimed effect to human health, and scientific substantiation of the claimed effect taking into consideration the data submitted in the present application and the content of the reply to the stop-the-clock letter. The opinion was adopted by the Panel subject to the incorporation of editorial changes. The full text will be published in the EFSA Journal in the coming weeks via this link: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/5949>

5.2. Health Claim - Draft opinion on "Coffee C21" and "maintenance of DNA integrity in cells of the body" - **Applicant: Tchibo GmbH (Art. 13.5, Claim Serial No: 0487_DE, EFSA-Q-2019-00423)**

On 22 January, the draft opinion was presented. The Panel reviewed and discussed the section on the scientific substantiation of the claimed effect taking into consideration the data submitted in the present application and the content of the reply to the stop-the-clock letter. The opinion will be discussed again at the next Plenary meeting⁵.

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

⁴ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁵ 23-25 March 2020



5.3. Health Claim - Draft opinion on “Lutemax 2020” and “contributes to the maintenance of normal vision” - *Applicant: OmniActive Health Technologies (Art. 13.5, Claim Serial No: 0484_BE, EFSA-Q-2019-00346)*

The application was withdrawn on 17 January 2020.

5.4. Novel Food - Draft opinion on Chromium-enriched biomass of *Yarrowia lipolytica* - *Applicant: SKOTAN S.A. (EFSA-Q-2018-00769)*

The draft opinion was presented. The Panel reviewed and discussed the sections regarding composition, production process, specifications, proposed uses and use levels, anticipated daily intake, toxicology and allergenicity of the Novel Food. The opinion was adopted by the Panel on 23 January subject to the incorporation of editorial changes. The full text of the opinion will be available in the coming weeks in the EFSA Journal via the following link: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/5948>

6. Other scientific topics for information and/or discussion

Not applicable

7. New Mandates

The Nutrition Unit updated the Panel members on new mandates received since the last Plenary meeting. Information about the mandates received and their status are available on [EFSA Register of Questions](#).

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

- *Scientific Committee* – The Chair updated the Panel about ongoing activities related to the SC. A workshop on microbiome will be organised by the SC on 19 February 2020. [EFSA statement on the requirements for whole genome sequence \(WGS\) analysis of microorganisms intentionally used in the food chain](#) is open for public consultation until 28 February 2020. The scope of this document is to provide recommendations to applicants on how to describe the analysis and results of WGS-based characterisation of microorganisms. These data should be submitted to EFSA and used in the risk assessment of **microorganisms** to be used in the food chain as such or as production strains of substances of interest.

The SC agreed to amend the 2007 definition of “emerging risk” to include also the “environment” in the definition (“*an emerging risk to human, animal and/or plant health and the environment is understood...*”).



- The Chairs of respective WGs reported back to the Panel:
 - WG on Claims - The WG discussed several Art 13(5) claim applications, two of which were submitted to this plenary for adoption (see items 5.1 and 5.2) while one was withdrawn before the plenary (item 5.3).
 - WG on Novel Foods - The WG discussed and elaborated several draft opinions, one of which was submitted to this plenary for possible adoption (item 5.4).
 - WG on Sugars - The WG Chair briefed the Panel on the work done so far in relation to this mandate regarding the Tolerable Upper Intake Level of dietary sugars. The WG discussed the criteria for the appraisal of observational studies, and the analysis of data from observational studies. The analysis of intervention studies and their reporting were also discussed.
 - WG on Copper Uncertainty Factor - The meeting of the WG will be held on 23-24 January.
 - WG on Food Allergy - A second stop-the-clock letter was sent to the applicant for requesting clarification on the application related to "Barley starch to be used in the manufacturing of several foods as ingredient, of the food additive modified starch, and of glucose syrups" pursuant to Article 21(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 for permanent exemption from labelling.
 - WG on Protein hydrolysate-based formula - With reference to the application related to the safety and suitability of a formula manufactured from protein hydrolysates under discussion, letter requesting for additional information and clarification will be sent to the applicant and a stop-the-clock procedure will be applied.
 - EFSA WG on Traditional Foods from Third Countries (TF) - The assessment of the notification on 'herbal infusion made from coffee leaves' (EFSA-Q-2019-00594) as TF was finalised at the January meeting of the WG on TF. The approved Technical Report on this TF will be published on the EFSA website. A notification on 'roasted sacha inchi seeds' (EFSA-Q-2019-00700) as TF is under evaluation by the WG on TF. The draft Technical Report on this TF will be discussed at the February meeting of the WG on TF.

9. Any Other Business

9.1. Novel Food - Draft opinion on 6'-Sialyllactose (6'-SL) sodium salt- Applicant: Glycom A/S (EFSA-Q-2019-00169)

The Panel was given a brief overview of the data included in the Novel Food application on 6'-Sialyllactose sodium salt and on the approach proposed. Feedback from the Panel will be given to the WG on NF. A draft opinion will be submitted to a forthcoming plenary meeting of the Panel for discussion and possible adoption.

9.2. New expert compensation scheme, extension of current Panel mandate and mutual assessment of EFSA staff and experts

Guilhem De Seze and Juliane Kleiner attended the Plenary meeting to inform the Panel about the changes introduced by the New Transparency Regulation and the implication to the Scientific Committee and Panels, in particular in relation to the Panel mandate extension, the increase in expert indemnity, expert mutual assessment and timeline.



9.3. Next plenary meeting

The next plenary meeting of the NDA Panel is scheduled on 25 February 2020 via web conference.