

Parma, 30/09/2015

## **Note on the establishment of a Standing Working Group on Novel Foods of the Scientific Panel on Dietetic Products, Nutrition and Allergies (2015-2018)**

The Nutrition Unit is requested to manage the administrative and scientific activities of the Standing Working Group on Novel Foods. The Nutrition Unit is also requested to organise the meetings of the Standing Working Group and assist in the preparation of the relevant EFSA scientific outputs in line with the tasks delegated to the Standing Working Group.

### **Background:**

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) is the keystone of European Union risk assessment regarding food and feed safety, animal health and welfare, nutrition, plant protection and plant health. In close collaboration with national authorities and in open consultation with its stakeholders, EFSA provides independent and transparent scientific advice and clear communication on existing and emerging risks associated with the food chain. On request from the European Commission, European Parliament and Member States or on its own initiative<sup>1</sup>, EFSA provides scientific opinions on issues falling under its remit.

The Scientific Panel on Dietetic Products, Nutrition and Allergies (NDA Panel), which deals with questions in relation to the scientific substantiation of health claims, dietary reference values, the safety of novel foods, the safety and suitability of substances for use in infant formulae, the potential of certain food ingredients to cause allergic or intolerance reactions, upper tolerable intake levels of vitamins and minerals, and other generic questions in relation to nutrition, confirmed during its 67<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting the need of a Standing Working Group on Novel Foods.

### **Terms of reference:**

The objective of the Standing Working Group on Novel Foods is to perform the preparatory work for consideration by the Scientific Panel in relation to requests falling under the framework of Regulation (EC) No 258/1997<sup>2</sup> (i.e. elaboration of draft opinions related to the safety assessment of Novel Foods, development of draft guidance and/or update of existing guidance related to Novel Foods, and

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and the Council of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety (OJ, L 31, 1.2.2002, p. 1-24).

<sup>2</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CONSLEG:1997R0258:20090120:en:PDF>

assistance to any other request from the European Commission related to Regulation (EC) No 258/1997. In order to fulfil its objective, the above-mentioned Standing Working Group shall consist of members with experience in the safety assessment of Novel Foods and/or with expertise in the following scientific areas: food chemistry/biochemistry, food technology and –processing, exposure assessment, toxicology, human nutrition, epidemiology, (food) microbiology/gut microbiota, clinical immunology/allergenicity/immunotoxicology.

In addition, at the end of 2015 or early 2016, a new Novel Food Regulation is expected to be adopted by the EU Parliament and Council. In this case, this new Regulation would come into force two years after its publication, i.e. early 2018. The new regulation would change the current procedure to a centralised procedure with legal deadlines. It would also result in an increased number of applications. For traditional foods from third countries, the new Regulation foresees a notification procedure in which EFSA will have the possibility to raise safety objections. For this notification procedure the Regulation does not require an Opinion by the NDA Panel. The scope of the Working Group in this case would be to assess such notifications and to perform preparatory work for consideration by EFSA.

### **Members:**

During the 67<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting of the NDA Panel, the Chair appointed (in consultation with EFSA) the Chair of the Standing Working Group on Novel Foods. The Chair of this Standing Working Group, in collaboration with the respective EFSA Head of Unit, selected the members of the Standing Working Group. The composition of the Standing Working Group on Novel Foods is available on the EFSA website<sup>3</sup>.

### **Scope in EFSA's work and outsourcing programme:**

The Standing Working Group will assess the available and relevant scientific information and data provided to EFSA by the European Commission, EU Member States and stakeholders, as well as those submitted through the applicants' dossiers (when applicable) or through public calls for data. As appropriate, EFSA may outsource the collection, collation or analysis of scientific information, through its grant and procurement schemes, in order to support the scientific assessment of the Standing Working Group.

### **Timelines:**

Provided the Standing Working Group on Novel Foods is not closed earlier, as a result of a period of inactivity, then its mandate will terminate on 30 September 2018.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://ess.efsa.europa.eu/doi/doiweb/doisearch>

### **Expected deliverables:**

- Draft EFSA scientific outputs, which will be submitted for consideration and possible adoption by the Scientific Panel on Dietetic Products, Nutrition and Allergies.
- (In the event that a new Novel Foods Regulation is adopted by the end of 2015/early 2016) Draft scientific outputs on notifications for traditional foods from 3<sup>rd</sup> countries (which do not require adoption by the Panel).

SIGNED

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