



NUTRITION UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON NUTRITION, NOVEL FOODS AND FOOD ALLERGENS

MINUTES OF THE 111TH PLENARY MEETING

**Held on 24-25 February 2021 via web conference
(Agreed on 05 March 2021)**

Participants

■ Panel Members:

Jacqueline Castenmiller, Stefaan de Henauw, Karen Ildico Hirsch-Ernst, John Kearney, Helle Katrine Knutsen, Alexandre Maciuk, Inge Mangelsdorf, Harry J. McArdle, Androniki Naska, Carmen Pelaez¹, Kristina Pentieva, Alfonso Siani, Frank Thies, Sophia Tsabouri, Dominique Turck (Chair) and Marco Vinceti.

■ Hearing Experts:

Not Applicable

■ European Commission:

Ivona Babic, Carolin Bendadani, Stephanie Bodenbach and Fruzsina Nyemecz.

■ EFSA:

NUTRI Unit: Valeriu Curtui, Janusz Ciok, Ionut Craciun, Agnès de Sesmaisons, Lucia Fabiani, Leng Heng, Ruth Roldán Torres, Ariane Titz, Emanuela Turla and Silvia Valtueña Martínez.

■ Others:

Not Applicable

¹ Participated only on 25 February.



1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Carmen Pelaez for the first day.

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. The minutes of the 110th Plenary meeting held on 21 January 2021

The [minutes](#) of the 110th Plenary meeting held on 21 January 2021 were agreed by written procedure on 29 January 2021.

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

5.1 **Draft statement on the essential composition of total diet replacement for weight control (TDRs) (EFSA-Q-2020-00260)**

The draft statement⁴ was presented. The Panel reviewed and discussed the sections regarding the release of linoleic and alpha-linolenic acid from adipose tissue during weight loss, the minimum content of these fatty acids in TDRs, the minimum fat content in TDRs, the risk of developing diarrhoea associated with the consumption of readily dissociable magnesium salts and the maximum magnesium content in TDRs. The statement was adopted by the Panel on 24 February 2021 subject to the incorporation of editorial changes. The full text of the statement will be available in the coming weeks in the EFSA Journal via the following link: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/6494>

5.2 **Draft opinion on UV-treated mushrooms (*Agaricus bisporus*) as a novel food (NF 2019/1237). Applicant: MBio, Monaghan Mushrooms (EFSA-Q-2019-00550)**

The draft opinion was presented. The Panel reviewed and discussed the sections regarding identity of the Novel Food, production process, compositional data, specifications, proposed uses and use levels, anticipated daily intake, nutritional information, human data and allergenicity of the Novel Food. The opinion was adopted by the Panel on 24 February 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/publications>

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

⁴ The drafting group of the Panel composed of Jacqueline Castenmiller, Stefaan de Henauw, Harry J. McArdle, Dominique Turck and EFSA staff has held an additional preparatory meeting on 1st February 2021 to finalise the draft statement for submitting to the Panel.



5.3 Draft opinion on “Beta-glucans from oats and/or barley in a ready-to-eat cereal manufactured via pressure cooking and reduction of blood glucose rise after consumption”. Applicant: Société des Produits Nestlé S.A. (Art. 13.5 Claim, Serial No 1924/2006, EFSA-Q-2020-00447)

The draft opinion was presented. The Panel reviewed and discussed the sections regarding the characterisation of the food/constituent, relevance of the claimed effect to human health, and the scientific substantiation of the claimed effect taking into consideration the data submitted in the present application including the applicant’s reply to EFSA’s stop-the-clock letter. The opinion was adopted by the Panel on 25 February 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/6493>

6. New mandates

Not applicable.

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

The Panel was informed about the ongoing activities of the Scientific Committee (SC)⁵ that are relevant for the Panel:

- The SC adopted the Statement on the derivation of Health-Based Guidance Values (HBGVs) for regulated products that are also nutrients. It presents a proposal for harmonising the establishment of HBGVs for regulated products that are also nutrients. This is a recurrent issue for food additives and pesticides and may occasionally occur for other regulated products. The Statement describes the specific considerations that should be followed for establishing the HBGVs during the assessment of a regulated product that is also a nutrient. It also addresses the elements to be considered in the intake assessment; and proposes a decision tree for ensuring a harmonised process for the risk characterisation of regulated products that are also nutrients. The SC recommends the involvement of the relevant EFSA Panels and units, in order to ensure an integrated and harmonised approach for the hazard and risk characterisation of regulated products that are also nutrients, considering the intake from all relevant sources.
- The [SC WG on Copper](#) has started its activities on the mandate to revisit the existing HBGVs for copper and to make a complete exposure assessment from all sources aggregating all routes of exposure to copper.
- The EFSA statement on the requirements for whole genome sequence (WGS) analysis of microorganisms intentionally used in the food chain was endorsed by the SC. This document provides recommendations to applicants on how to describe the process and results which should be provided to the risk assessor in the context of an application for market authorisation of a regulated product. Indications are given on how to perform WGS and the quality criteria/thresholds that should be reached as well as the data and relevant information that need to be sent along whenever such kind of data is required.

⁵ Scientific Committee plenary meeting on 17-18 February 2021: <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/102nd-plenary-meeting-scientific-committee>



- The SC also discussed the use and on possible update of the 2014 EFSA Guidance on Expert Knowledge Elicitation (EKE).

The Chairs of respective Working Groups (WG) reported back to the Panel:

- **WG on Claims** – For the meeting of 3 March 2021, the WG will discuss two Art 13(5) claim applications. The WG will also discuss and work on a draft protocol to define the scientific assessment approach for the provision of scientific advice on nutrient profiling approaches for harmonised mandatory front-of-pack nutrition labelling and for restricting nutrition and health claims on foods⁶.
- **WG on Novel Foods** - At the last WG meeting the experts discussed and elaborated twelve draft opinions and considered that for ten of those, additional information is needed from the applicants in order to proceed with the scientific assessment.
- **WG on Sugars** - Please refer to agenda item 8.1.
- **WG on Food Allergy** – The WG met on 22nd January 2021. The WG discussed the applicant answers to the stop clock letter and a draft opinion. Further questions were raised, and another clock-stop letter has been sent to the applicant with requests for clarifications.
- **WG on Upper Levels** – Please refer to agenda item 8.2.
- **WG on Dietary Folate Equivalent** – At last meeting the WG discussed the data extracted from the chronic studies in humans included after literature search, and further discussed on the sections on the appraisal of the risk of bias of the studies and the approach for evidence synthesis in the draft protocol.
- **WG on Alpha-Lipoic Acid** – The WG will meet on 5th March to review and discuss comments received from the [public consultation on the draft opinion on the relationship between intake of alpha-lipoic acid \(thioctic acid\) and the risk of insulin autoimmune syndrome](#).
- **WG on Traditional Foods (TF) from Third Countries** – Two valid notifications on TF have been recently submitted to EFSA: notification on 'Coffee cherry pulp' (EFSA-Q-2021-00004) and notification on 'GO Wolfia' (EFSA-Q-2021-00053).

8. Other scientific topics for information and/or discussion

8.1 Draft Scientific opinion on the Tolerable Upper Intake Level of dietary sugars (EFSA-Q-2016-00414)

The Panel was given an overview on the status of the hazard characterisation step for metabolic diseases and was updated on the adaptations made to the general principles for evidence integration and uncertainty analysis. The Panel was consulted on specific aspects of the scientific assessment to gather feedback, which will be shared with the WG on sugars.

8.2 Draft Protocol for the Scientific Opinion on the revision of the EFSA's Tolerable Upper Intake Level (UL) of Selenium (EFSA-Q-2020-00618)

The approach for the revision of the UL for selenium proposed by the WG on Upper levels was presented to the Panel. The main parts of the draft Protocol for the opinion were presented to the Panel, including the interpretation of the Terms of Reference of the

⁶ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/news/efsas-scientific-advice-inform-harmonised-front-pack-labelling-and-restriction>



Mandate received from the European Commission, problem formulation and evidence needs and methods. The Panel agreed on the approach proposed by the WG.

9. Any Other Business

- The next plenary meeting of the NDA Panel is scheduled on 24 March 2021 via web conference.
- The Panel will receive by email the calendar with plenary meeting dates scheduled for 2022.