



NUTRITION UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON NUTRITION, NOVEL FOODS AND FOOD ALLERGENS

MINUTES OF THE 112TH PLENARY MEETING

**Held on 08 April 2021 via web conference
(Agreed on 16 April 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, Kristina Pentieva, Alfonso Siani, Frank Thies, Sophia Tsabouri, Dominique Turck (Chair) and Marco Vinceti.

■ Hearing Experts:

Not Applicable

■ European Commission:

Ariane Vander Stappen, Olga Goulaki, Fruzsina Nyemecz, Alexander Rogge, and Hannah Sievers.

■ EFSA:

NUTRI Unit: Valeriu Curtui, Agnès de Sesmaisons, Leng Heng, Ariane Titz and Silvia Valtueña Martínez.

AMU Unit: Laura Ciccollalo, Valeria Ercolano and Laura Martino (for agenda item 8.2)

■ Others:

Not Applicable



1. Welcome and apologies for absence

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

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 Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², 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 111th Plenary meeting held on 24-25 February 2021

The [minutes](#) of the 111th Plenary meeting held on 24-25 February 2021 were agreed by written procedure on 05 March 2021.

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

5.1 Draft opinion on the assessment of the relationship between intake of alpha-lipoic acid (thioctic acid) and the risk of insulin autoimmune syndrome ([EFSA-Q-2020-00457](#))

The draft opinion including the comments submitted during the related [public consultation](#) was presented. The Panel reviewed and discussed in particular the comments that were received during the public consultation and their incorporation into the draft opinion. This concerned 1) the type of formulations of alpha-lipoic acid currently available on the market, 2) the absorption, distribution, metabolism and excretion of alpha-lipoic and dihydrolipoic acid, 3) genetic determinants and pathophysiology of insulin autoimmune syndrome and 4) the case reports described in the draft opinion and the sources of evidence used. The opinion was adopted by the Panel on 08 April 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/6577>

6. New mandates

Postponed.

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

Postponed.

¹ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



8. Other scientific topics for information and/or discussion

8.1 **Draft Protocol 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 foods** ([EFSA-Q-2021-00026](#))

The Panel discussed the draft protocol 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 foods prepared by the WG on Health Claims. The draft protocol breaks down the mandate received from the European Commission into specific scientific questions and outlines the approach towards their scientific assessment, including the possible sources of evidence.

Further information on this mandate is available [here](#).

8.2 **Draft Scientific opinion on the Tolerable Upper Intake Level of dietary sugars** ([EFSA-Q-2020-00414](#))

The Panel was consulted on specific aspects of the scientific assessment regarding hazard identification for metabolic diseases to gather feedback, which will be shared with the WG on sugars.

9. Any Other Business

- The next plenary meeting of the NDA Panel is scheduled on 27-29 April 2021 via web conference.