



NUTRITION UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON NUTRITION, NOVEL FOODS AND FOOD ALLERGENS

MINUTES OF THE 116TH PLENARY MEETING

**Held on 06-08 July 2021 via web conference
(Agreed on 15 July 2021)**

Participants

■ Panel Members:

Torsten Bohn, Jacqueline Castenmiller¹, Stefaan de Henauw², Karen Ildico Hirsch-Ernst³, Helle Katrine Knutsen, Alexandre Maciuk⁴, Inge Mangelsdorf, Harry J. McArdle, Androniki Naska, Carmen Pelaez⁵, Kristina Pentieva, Alfonso Siani, Frank Thies⁶, Sophia Tsabouri, Dominique Turck (Chair) and Marco Vinceti.

■ Hearing Experts:

Not Applicable

■ European Commission:

Ivona Babic, Stephanie Bodenbach, Takis Daskaleros, Panagiota Filippou, Heidi Moens and Rafael Perez-Berbejal.

■ EFSA:

NUTRI Unit: Valeriu Curtui, Reinhard Ackerl, Domenico Azzollini, Janusz Ciok, Agnès de Sesmaisons, Céline Dumas, Andrea Germini, Tilemacos Goumperis, Leng Heng, Ariane Titz, Silvia Valtueña Martínez and Ermolaos Ververis.

DATA Unit: Zsuzsanna Horvath (for agenda item 6.1)

AMU Unit: Laura Martino (for agenda item 6.1)

■ Others:

Anna Karin Lindroos (as observer for agenda item 6.1)

¹ Attended partially on 7 July

² Attended partially on 8 July

³ Attended partially on 6 July

⁴ Did not attend on 6 July

⁵ Attended partially on 7 July

⁶ Attended partially on 8 July



1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Valeriu Curtui welcomed all participants and chaired the meeting until the chair of the Panel was elected. No apologies were received.

Torsten Bohn, a new NDA Panel member, introduced himself followed by other Panel members.

2. Election Chair and Vice-Chairs of the NDA Panel

Elections of the NDA Panel Chair and two Vice-chairs were carried out according to the Decision of the EFSA Management Board concerning the establishment and operations of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and of their Working Groups⁷.

Dominique Turck was reconfirmed as NDA Panel Chair. Harry McArdle and Androniki Naska were reconfirmed as NDA Panel Vice-chairs.

3. Adoption of agenda

Valeriu Curtui handed over the Chairmanship to Dominique Turck. The agenda was adopted without changes.

4. Declarations of Interest of Scientific Panel members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁸ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁹, 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.

5. Agreement of the minutes of the 115th Plenary meeting

The minutes of the 115th Plenary meeting held on 25-26 May 2021 were agreed by written procedure on 01 June 2021.

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

6.1 Draft Scientific opinion on the Tolerable Upper Intake Level of dietary sugars (EFSA-Q-2020-00414)

The draft opinion was presented. The Panel discussed in detail the sections on hazard characterisation, assistance to Member States when developing food based dietary guidelines, conclusions, and recommendations for research. All comments received from Panel members before the meeting were discussed and the draft opinion was amended accordingly. The draft opinion was endorsed for public consultation by the Panel on 6 July subject to the incorporation of editorial changes. The full text of the draft opinion will be open for consultation and available on 22 July via the following link: <https://connect.efsa.europa.eu/RM/s/publicconsultation>

6.2 Draft opinion on 'Frutalose® chicory oligofructose' and 'regular bowel function by increasing stool frequency'. Applicant: Sensus B.V. (Royal

⁷ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2021-02/expertselection.pdf>

⁸ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁹ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



Cosun) International Limited. (Claim Serial No: 0500_NL, EFSA-Q-2020-00631)

The draft opinion was presented. The Panel reviewed and discussed the sections related to characterisation of the food being subject of the claim, the claimed effect and the scientific substantiation of the claimed effect. The opinion was adopted by the Panel on 06 July 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/6775>

6.3 Draft opinion on 'MegaNatural®-BP' and 'blood pressure'. Applicant: Praline i Čokolada j.d.o.o. (Claim Serial No: 0501_HR, EFSA-Q-2020-00718)

The draft opinion was presented. The Panel reviewed and discussed the sections related to characterisation of the food being subject of the claim, the claimed effect and the scientific substantiation of the claimed effect. The opinion was adopted by the Panel on 06 July 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/6776>

6.4 Draft opinion on frozen and dried formulations from whole house crickets (*Acheta domesticus*) as a novel food (NF 2018/0804). Applicant: Fair Insects BV (EFSA-Q-2019-00121)

The draft opinion was presented. The Panel reviewed and discussed the sections related to the identity, production process, compositional data, specifications, proposed uses and use levels, history of use, anticipated daily intake, nutritional information, toxicological data and allergenicity of the Novel Food. The opinion was adopted by the Panel on 07 July 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/6779>

6.5 Draft opinion on frozen and dried formulations from whole yellow mealworm (*Tenebrio molitor* larva) as a novel food (NF 2018/0802). Applicant: Fair Insects BV (EFSA-Q-2019-00101)

The draft opinion was presented. The Panel reviewed and discussed the sections related to the identity, production process, compositional data, specifications, proposed uses and use levels, history of use, anticipated daily intake, nutritional information, toxicological data and allergenicity of the Novel Food. The opinion was adopted by the Panel on 07 July 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/6778>

6.6 Draft opinion on Nicotinamide Riboside chloride as a novel food (NF2020/1613). Applicant: ChromaDex, Inc (EFSA-Q-2020-00289)

The draft opinion was presented. The Panel reviewed and discussed the sections related to the identity, production process, compositional data, specifications, proposed uses and use



levels, history of use, anticipated daily intake, nutritional information, toxicological data and allergenicity of the Novel Food. The opinion will be emailed to the Panel on 19 July for adoption by written procedure, pending final checks of the toxicological dataset.

6.7 Draft opinion on Pasteurised *Akkermansia muciniphila* as a novel food (NF 2019/1366). Applicant: A-Mansia BioTech S.A. (EFSA-Q-2019-00767)

The draft opinion was presented. The Panel reviewed and discussed the sections related to the identity, production process, compositional data, specifications, proposed uses and use levels, history of use, nutritional information, microbiological information, toxicological data and allergenicity of the Novel Food. The opinion was adopted by the Panel on 07 July 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/6780>

7. Confirmation of Panel working groups

The Panel confirmed the need for the following existing Working Groups in order to assist the Panel in undertaking all necessary preparatory tasks in relation to draft scientific outputs falling under its remit:

- Working Group on **Novel Foods** with no update of its composition, including chairmanship (Helle Katrine Knutsen)
- Working Group on **Claims** with no update of its composition, including chairmanship (Alfonso Siani)
- Working Group on **Sugars** with no update of its composition, including chairmanship (Marco Vinceti).
- Working Group on **Protein hydrolysate-based formula** with no update of its composition, including chairmanship (Dominique Turck).
- Working Group on **Dietary Folate Equivalent** with no update of its composition, including chairmanship (Kristina Pentieva).
- Working Group on **Food Allergy** with no update of its composition, including chairmanship (Stefaan De Henauw).
- Working Group on **Upper Levels** with no update on chairmanship (Androniki Naska), but an update of its composition.

Information on the these Working Groups is published on [EFSA Webpage](#).

The Panel took note that:

- the Working Group on Alpha-lipoic acid was closed.
- the [EFSA Working Group on Traditional Foods from Third Countries](#) will be continuing.

8. New mandates

The Panel took note of the new mandate¹⁰ received from the Commission.

Article 6 of Regulation (EC) No 1925/2006¹¹ on the addition of vitamins and minerals and of certain other substances to foods and Article 5 of Directive 2002/46/EC¹² on the approximation of the laws

¹⁰ <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2021-00364>, <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/study-inventory/EFSA-Q-2021-00364>

¹¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:32006R1925>

¹² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32002L0046>



of the Member States relating to food supplements provide that maximum amounts of vitamins and minerals added to foods and to food supplements respectively, shall be set. In this context, the Commission has requested EFSA to review the previous opinions of the Scientific Committee on Food (SCF) or the NDA Panel on the Tolerable Upper Intake Levels (UL) for vitamin A, folic acid/folate, vitamin D, vitamin E, vitamin B6, iron, manganese and β -carotene to take into account recent scientific developments and evidence. Before conducting this task, the Commission has requested EFSA to review the guidelines of the SCF for the development of tolerable upper intake levels for vitamins and minerals (adopted on 19 October 2000)¹³ in the light of available recent scientific and methodological developments. EFSA will organise a workshop to discuss data and methodologies for establishing tolerable upper intake levels and collect feedback from external experts regarding the update of the guidelines. The workshop will be held as a virtual meeting on the 28 and 29 September 2021.

EFSA is also launching a call for tenders aiming at identifying Organisations which can support EFSA in the preparatory work for the assessment of ULs for vitamins and minerals with a view for EFSA/NDA Panel to deliver its scientific opinions to the Commission by March 2023. The open call for procurement is available at this link: <https://etendering.ted.europa.eu/cft/cft-display.html?cftId=8872>, and also <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/procurement/tenders>.

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

The Chair of the NDA Panel provided feedback from the last plenary meeting of the Scientific Committee¹⁴.

- The SC adopted the "Guidance on risk assessment of nanomaterials to be applied in the food and feed chain: human and animal health" and the "Guidance on technical requirements for regulated food and feed product applications to establish the presence of small particles including nanoparticles". A highlight on both guidance documents was given by Jacqueline Castenmiller.
- The SC also adopted the "Guidance on aneugenicity assessment".
- The possible update on the Guidance on Expert Knowledge Elicitation (EKE-2014) was postponed.
- A new working group of the SC will be set up to address the mandate received from the Commission asking EFSA for an updated consumer risk assessment for fluoride in food and drinking water.
- The SC was given an update on the scientific programme of the **ONE – Health, Environment, Society – Conference**, which will be held on 21-24 June 2022 in Brussels and online.

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

- **WG on Novel Foods** – The Chair stressed the very high workload faced by the WG and thanked the support provided by the Novel Food Team and the members of the WG. See also Agenda items 6.4/6.5/6.6/6.7.
- **WG on Claims** – See Agenda items 6.2/6.3/10.2.

¹³ https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/efsa_rep/blobserver_assets/ndatolerableuil.pdf

¹⁴ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/104th-plenary-meeting-scientific-committee-open-observers>



- [WG on Dietary Folate Equivalent](#) – See Agenda item 10.1.
- [WG on Upper Levels](#) – See Agenda item 8.

10. Other scientific topics for information and/or discussion

10.1 Assessment of scientific evidence for setting a conversion factor of calcium methyl-folate and (6S) 5 methyltetrahydrofolic acid, glucosamine salt into dietary folate equivalent (EFSA-Q-2020-00542)

The Panel was informed about the context and remit of the mandate, information collected from previous opinions related to the subject, the methodology applied so far (problem formulation, evidence retrieval, data extraction, appraisal) and the next steps of the assessment. The Panel was also informed about the launch of a call for data by mid-July in the dedicated section of the EFSA website (<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/calls/data>), in order to fill-in a number of identified data gaps.

10.2 Draft Scientific Opinion on nutrient profiling approaches for the purpose of front-of-pack nutrition labelling and of restricting nutrition and health claims on foods (EFSA-Q-2021-00026)

The draft opinion was presented. The Panel discussed the following sections: 'Nutrients and non-nutrient components of food for which intakes might exceed recommended levels in most population groups and countries in Europe', 'Nutrients and non-nutrient components of food for which intakes might be inadequate in relation to recommended levels in some population groups and countries in Europe and 'Food groups that have important roles in diets of European populations and subgroups thereof'. Feedback from the Panel will be discussed during the next WG meeting.

11. Any Other Business

The next plenary meeting of the NDA Panel is scheduled on 14-16 September 2021 via web conference.