



NUTRITION UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON NUTRITION, NOVEL FOODS AND FOOD ALLERGENS

MINUTES OF THE 117TH PLENARY MEETING

**Held on 14-15 September 2021 via web conference
(Agreed on 23 September 2021)**

Participants

■ Panel Members:

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

■ Hearing Experts:

Not Applicable

■ European Commission:

Ivona Babic, Stephanie Bodenbach, Stella D'Amore, Panagiota Filippou, Heidi Moens, Fruzsina Nyemecz, Rafael Perez-Berbejal and Ana Rodriguez Perez.

■ EFSA:

NUTRI Unit: Valeriu Curtui, Reinhard Ackerl, Océane Albert, Paolo Colombo, Janusz Ciok, Agnès de Sesmaisons, Antonio Fernandez Dumont, Andrea Germini, Leng Heng, Eirini Kouloura, Annamaria Rossi, Ariane Titz, Emanuela Turla and Silvia Valtueña Martinez.

REPRO Department Office: Guilhem De Seze (for agenda item 9)

■ Others:

Not applicable

¹ Did not attend 14 Sep in the morning



1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The chair welcomed all participants. No apologies were received.

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. Agreement of the minutes of the 116th Plenary meeting

The minutes of the 116th Plenary meeting held on 06-08 July 2021 were agreed by written procedure on 15 July 2021.

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

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

The draft opinion was presented. The Panel reviewed and discussed the abstract, subchronic toxicity and discussion sections. The opinion was adopted by the Panel on 14 September 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/6843>

5.2 Draft opinion on Galacto-oligosaccharide as a novel food (NF 2019/1154). Applicant: Dairy Crest Ltd. (EFSA-Q-2020-00466)

The draft opinion was presented. The Panel reviewed and discussed the sections related to the compositional data, proposed uses and use levels, history of use, anticipated daily intake, nutritional information and allergenicity of the Novel Food. The opinion was adopted by the Panel on 14 September 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/6844>

5.3 Draft opinion on water lentil powder from Lemnaceae as a novel food (NF 2018/0430). Applicant: Parabel Ltd. (EFSA-Q-2018-00995)

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 14 September

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



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/6845>

**5.4 Draft opinion on mung bean protein as a novel food (NF 2020/1651).
Applicant: Eat Just, Inc (EFSA-Q-2020-00284)**

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 14 September 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/6846>

5.5 Draft opinion on ‘Organic food (lower levels of pesticide residues than those in conventional food)’ and ‘contributes to the protection of body cells and molecules (lipids and DNA) from oxidative damage. Applicant: Cyprus International Institute for Environmental and Public Health, Cyprus University of Technology (Art 14, 0502_CY, EFSA-Q-2021-00055)

The draft opinion was presented. The Panel reviewed and discussed the section related to characterisation of the food being subject of the claim. The opinion was adopted by the Panel on 14 September 2021 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/6847>

5.6 Draft opinion on ‘Isomaltulose (Palatinose) replacing other sugars’ and ‘contributes to normal energy-yielding metabolism yet via a slower hydrolysis’. Applicant: BENEOP GmbH (Art. 13.5, 0503_DE, EFSA-Q-2021-00073)

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 15 September 2021 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/6849>

6. New mandates

Not applicable.



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

No Scientific Committee (SC) meeting took place since last NDA Plenary. The **next SC plenary** will be held on 22-23 September 2021.

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

- ***WG on Novel Foods*** – See agenda items 5.1/5.2/5.3/5.4/8.1. The Chair stressed the very high workload faced by the WG and the Novel Food Team. Today, 97 applications are under safety assessment.
- ***WG on Claims*** - See agenda items 5.5/5.6/8.2.
- ***WG on Dietary Folate Equivalent*** – The **call for data** relevant to the assessment of the conversion factor of calcium-L-methylfolate and (6S)-5-methyltetrahydrofolic acid, glucosamine salt into dietary folate equivalent is open until the 4th October 2021. Analysis of the collected data is on-going. The next meeting will be held on 20 September 2021 as a web-meeting.
- ***WG on Upper Levels*** – See agenda item 8.3. In parallel, the work is ongoing for the revision of the Tolerable Upper Intake Level for Selenium. In particular, the WG discussed the inclusion/exclusion of studies for specific outcomes of interest, and the tools for the appraisal of risk of bias (RoB) for the studies on selenium and chronic disease endpoints .
- ***WG on Sugars*** – The **public consultation** on the draft scientific opinion on the tolerable upper intake level for dietary sugars is open until 30 September and EFSA will hold an online **public meeting** to discuss the draft opinion on 21 September.
- ***WG on Traditional Foods (TF) from Third Countries*** - EFSA staff informed the Panel that a new notification on a TF has been made available to EFSA through the European Commission e-submission portal: notification on 'Dried flowers from *Clitoria ternatea* L. (butterfly pea)' as TF (EFSA-Q-2021-00475 - NF 2020/2030). Thus, meetings dates for the WG on TF have been scheduled on 25 October, 23 November and 13 December 2021.

8. Other scientific topics for information and/or discussion

8.1 Update on Cannabidiol (CBD) in the framework of novel food assessments

The Panel was informed about the overall status of the CBD applications under scientific assessment, data gaps identified, and the issues encountered with their assessments. The Panel agreed with the approach proposed by the WG to optimise the assessment of ongoing and upcoming high number of CBDs applications.

8.2 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', 'Food groups that have important roles in diets



of European populations and subgroups thereof" and 'Choice of nutrients and other non-nutrient components of food for nutrient-profiling'. Feedback from the Panel will be discussed during the next WG meeting.

An updated draft opinion will be presented at the next NDA plenary meeting on 27-28 October 2021 for further discussion and possible endorsement for release for public consultation.

8.3 EFSA Workshop on data and methodologies for establishing tolerable upper intake levels for vitamins and minerals (programme & discussion paper).

The Panel was informed about the EFSA Workshop on data and methodologies for establishing tolerable upper intake levels (ULs) for vitamins and minerals which will be held on 28-29 September 2021. Around 30 individuals have been invited to participate to the workshop discussions, including members of the NDA Panel, the WG on UL and selected academic experts, who are invited based on their experience in expert committees in charge of establishing DRVs and related fields of expertise. The input collected at the workshop will be used by the WG to inform the revision of the ULs guidelines. As preparatory materials for the event, participants will receive a discussion paper outlining the questions to be discussed at Workshop and the Workshop programme.

9. Any Other Business

9.1 EFSA's organisational changes

- The Panel was informed about EFSA's organisational changes.

The next plenary meeting of the NDA Panel is scheduled on 27-28 October 2021 via web conference and will be partly open to observers.