



NUTRITION UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON NUTRITION, NOVEL FOODS AND FOOD ALLERGENS

MINUTES OF THE 120TH PLENARY MEETING

**Held on 15-16 December 2021 via web conference
(Agreed on 21 December 2021)**

Participants

■ Panel Members:

Torsten Bohn, Jacqueline Castenmiller, Stefaan de Henauw, Karen Ildico Hirsch-Ernst¹, Helle Katrine Knutsen, Alexandre Maciuk, Inge Mangelsdorf, Harry J. McArdle, Androniki Naska, Carmen Pelaez, Kristina Pentieva, Alfonso Siani, Frank Thies¹, Sophia Tsabouri, Dominique Turck (Chair) and Marco Vinceti.

■ Hearing Experts:

Not Applicable

■ European Commission:

Ivona Babic, Stephanie Bodenbach, Takis Daskaleros

■ EFSA:

NUTRI Unit: Valeriu Curtui, Agnès de Sesmaisons, Céline Dumas, Lucia Fabiani, Wolfgang Gelbmann, Andrea Germini, Leng Heng, Annamaria Rossi, Emanuela Turla, Silvia Valtueña Martínez, and Ermolaos Ververis.

■ Others:

Ana Afonso as Head of the new Nutrition & Food Innovation (NIF) Unit as from January 2022;
Anna Karin Lindroos (representing the mandate requestor, participation as Observer for item 5.1)

¹ Partially attended 16 Dec.



1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The chair welcomed all participants. No apologies were received.

Valeriu Curtui introduced to the Panel Ana Afonso, the Head of the Nutrition & Food Innovation (NIF) Unit as from January 2022.

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 Independence and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management, 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 118th Plenary meeting

The minutes of the 119th Plenary meeting held on 24 November 2021 were agreed by written procedure on 02 December 2021.

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

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

The Panel discussed the main changes introduced in the draft opinion following the comments received from the public consultation. Annex O of the opinion on the outcome of the public consultation was presented to the Panel. The opinion was adopted by the Panel on 15 December subject to the incorporation of editorial changes. Owing to the size of the document, the full text of the opinion will be available in 1Q2022 in the EFSA Journal via the following link: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/7074>

5.2 Draft opinion on dried Coffee husk (Cascara) from *Coffea arabica* L. as a novel food (NF 2018/0192). Applicant: Panama Varietals GmbH (EFSA-Q-2020-00229)

The draft opinion was presented. The Panel reviewed and discussed the sections related to the production process and characterisation, compositional data, specifications, history of use, proposed uses and use levels, nutritional information, toxicological information, and allergenicity of the Novel Food. The opinion was adopted by the Panel on 16 December 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/7085>

5.3 Draft opinion on Schizochytrium sp. oil as a novel food (NF 2019/1213). Applicant: BIOPLUS LIFE SCIENCES (EFSA-Q-2019-00548)

The draft opinion was presented. The Panel reviewed and discussed the sections related to the production process and characterisation, compositional data, specifications, history of



use, proposed uses and use levels, nutritional information, toxicological information, and allergenicity of the Novel Food. The opinion was adopted by the Panel on 16 December 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/7083>

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 9-10 February 2022.

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

- **WG on Claims** – No on-going applications are under assessment. One claim application is under validation. The draft scientific opinion advising on the development of harmonised mandatory front-of-pack nutrition labelling and the setting of nutrient profiles for restricting nutrition and health claims on foods is currently open for public consultation until 9 January 2022.
- **WG on Sugars** - Please refer to agenda item 5.1.
- **WG on Upper Levels** – Please refer to agenda item 8.1.
- **WG on Dietary Folate Equivalent** - Please refer to agenda item 8.2.
- **WG on Novel Foods** - See agenda items 5.2/5.3/8.3. The Chair stressed the very high workload faced by the WG and the Novel Food Team. Today, 94 applications are under risk assessment.
- **WG on Protein Hydrolysates** – Several applications related to the safety and suitability of formula based on protein hydrolysates are under stop-the-clock procedure for requesting additional information and clarification to the applicants. One application is under validation.
- **WG on Food allergy** – No on-going mandates.
- **WG on Traditional Foods from Third countries (TF)** - 3 notifications are currently under evaluation.

8. Other scientific topics for information and/or discussion

8.1 Update on tolerable upper intake levels for vitamins and minerals.

The Panel was informed about the workplan regarding the update of tolerable upper intake levels for selected vitamins and minerals. The draft protocol for the update of the tolerable upper intake level for vitamin B6 (EFSA-Q-2021-00369) was presented and discussed.



8.2 Update on the 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 ongoing work on the statistical analyses of the data obtained through the systematic review and on the approach taken. The deadline of the mandate is August 2022 and a public consultation is foreseen before final adoption.

8.3 Update on the statement on the safety of cannabidiol (CBD) as a novel food (CBD). (EFSA-Q-2021-00735)

The Panel was informed about the development of the statement on CBD to outline the data gaps identified in the available scientific literature with regards to the safety of CBD as novel food.

9. Any Other Business

The Chair and members of the NDA Panel jointly paid tribute to Valeriu Curtui for his leading role during these years managing challenging scientific works of the Nutrition Unit, and expressed its acknowledgement for his dedication and excellent support to the work of the NDA Panel since 2013.

The next Plenary meeting of the NDA Panel will be held on 26-28 January 2022.