



NUTRITION AND FOOD INNOVATION UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON NUTRITION, NOVEL FOODS AND FOOD ALLERGENS

MINUTES OF THE 121ST PLENARY MEETING

Held on 26-27 January 2022 via web conference
(Agreed on 02 February 2022)

Participants

Panel Members:

Torsten Bohn¹, Jacqueline Castenmiller, Stefaan de Henauw, Karen Ildico Hirsch-Ernst, Helle Katrine Knutsen², Alexandre Maciuk, Inge Mangelsdorf, Harry J. McArdle³, Androniki Naska, Carmen Pelaez, Kristina Pentieva, Alfonso Siani⁴, Frank Thies⁵, Sophia Tsabouri, Dominique Turck (Chair) and Marco Vinceti.

Hearing Experts:

Francesco Cubbada on 26 January for item 8.1.

European Commission:

Stella D'Amore, Carolin Bendadani, Stephanie Bodenbach, Takis Daskaleros, Rafael Perez Berbejal, Alexandra Tuijtelaas

EFSA:

Nutrition & Food Innovation (NIF) Unit: Ana Afonso, Paolo Colombo, Agnès de Sesmaisons, Céline Dumas, Wolfgang Gelbmann, Andrea Germini, Leng Heng, Estefanía Noriega Fernández, Ariane Titz, Emanuela Turla, and Silvia Valtueña Martínez.

Methodology & Scientific Support (MESE) Unit: José Cortiñas Abrahantes for item 8.1

Others:

NA

¹ Partially attended on 27 January

² Partially attended on 27 January

³ The Expert chaired the discussion for item 5.4

⁴ Partially attended on 26 January

⁵ Only attended on 27 January



1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The chair welcomed all participants. Apologies were received from Frank Thies 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 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 120th Plenary meeting

The [minutes](#) of the 120th Plenary meeting held on 15-16 December 2021 were agreed by written procedure on 21 December 2021.

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

5.1 **Draft Scientific opinion on Inositol-Stabilized Arginine Silicate as a novel food** *Applicant: Nutrition 21, LLC (EFSA-Q-2017-00071)*

The Panel was informed of the applicant's request of withdrawal of the application received on 25 January 2022.

5.2 **Draft opinion on Bovine milk osteopontin as a novel food (NF 2020/1698).** *Applicant: Arla Foods Ingredients (EFSA-Q-2020-00475)*

The draft opinion was presented. The Panel reviewed and discussed the sections related to the product characterization, specifications, history of use, proposed uses and use levels, ADME, nutritional information, toxicological information, human data, and allergenicity of the Novel Food. The opinion was adopted by the Panel on 26 January 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/7137>

5.3 **Draft opinion on the safety of the extension of use of 2'-Fucosyllactose/difucosyllactose mixture and lacto-N-tetraose (LNT) in food supplements for infants as novel foods (NF 2019/1457 and NF 2019/1456).** *Applicant: Glycom A/S (EFSA-Q-2021-00091 and EFSA-Q-2021-00090)*

The draft opinion was presented. The Panel reviewed and discussed the sections related to the history of use, proposed uses and use levels and nutritional information of the Novel Foods. The opinion was adopted by the Panel on 26 January 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/7140>



5.4 Draft opinion on the nutritional safety and suitability of a specific protein hydrolysate derived from whey protein concentrate and used in infant formula manufactured from hydrolysed protein. *Applicant: meyer.science GmbH (EFSA-Q-2019-00304)*

The draft opinion was presented. The Panel reviewed and discussed the sections regarding the characterisation of the protein hydrolysate, characterisation of the formula manufactured from the protein hydrolysate used in the clinical studies provided, and the human intervention studies submitted to support the nutritional safety and suitability of the protein hydrolysate. The opinion was adopted by the Panel on 27 January 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/7141>

6. New mandates

Postponed.

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 Panel was briefed about the activity of the SC Working Group on Fluoride. The draft Protocol for fluoride risk assessment will be presented to the next SC Plenary to be held on 9-10 February.

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

WG on Claims – One claim application is under validation. The public consultation on 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 was closed on 9 January 2022. The WG is reviewing the comments received.

WG on Upper Levels – Please refer to agenda item 8.2.

WG on Dietary Folate Equivalent - Please refer to agenda item 8.1.

WG on Novel Foods - See agenda items 5.2 and 5.3. The WG and the Novel Foods Team keeps on facing a very high workload and are trying to put in place additional measures to ensure sustainability of the risk assessment process.

WG on Protein Hydrolysates – See agenda item 5.4. One application is under validation.

WG on Food allergy – No ongoing meeting.

WG on Traditional Foods from Third countries (TF) – 2 TF notifications are currently under evaluation: Xuta (edible variety of *Jatropha curcas* L.) roasted and ground seed kernels (EFSA-Q-2021-00584) and Pilinuts, Pili Nuts or Philippine Nuts (EFSA-Q-2021-00757).



8. Other scientific topics for information and/or discussion

8.1 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)

An update about the ongoing work on the statistical analyses of the data obtained through the systematic review and on the proposed approach was presented and discussed. Feedback received from the Panel will be considered by the WG. The deadline of the mandate is August 2022 and a public consultation is foreseen before the final adoption.

8.2 Update on tolerable upper intake levels for vitamins and minerals

The draft protocols for the update of the tolerable upper intake level for vitamin A and B-carotene (EFSA-Q-2021-00365, EFSA-Q-2021-00372), Vitamin D (EFSA-Q-2021-00367), Manganese (EFSA-Q-2021-00371), Iron (EFSA-Q-2021-00370), and folate (EFSA-Q-2021-00366) were presented and discussed. Feedback received was incorporated and will be discussed with the contractor.

9. Any Other Business

- The Panel was presented the organisational chart of the new Nutrition and Food Innovation (NIF) Unit.
- The next Plenary meeting of the NDA Panel will be held as a web conference on 28 February 2022.