



NUTRITION AND FOOD INNOVATION UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON NUTRITION, NOVEL FOODS AND FOOD ALLERGENS

MINUTES OF THE 123RD PLENARY MEETING

**Held on 23-25 March 2022 via web conference
(Agreed on 05 April 2022)**

Participants

■ Panel Members:

Torsten Bohn¹, Jacqueline Castenmiller², Stefaan de Henauw, Karen Ildico Hirsch-Ernst³, Helle Katrine Knutsen, Alexandre Maciuk, Inge Mangelsdorf, Harry J. McArdle¹, Androniki Naska, Carmen Pelaez, Kristina Pentieva, Alfonso Siani¹, Frank Thies¹, Sophia Tsabouri, Dominique Turck (Chair) and Marco Vinceti.

■ Hearing Experts:

NA

■ European Commission:

- Ivona Babic, Stephanie Bodenbach, Takis Daskaleros, Heidi Moens, Fruzsina Nyemecz, Rafael Perez Berbejal

■ EFSA:

Nutrition & Food Innovation (NIF) Unit: Ana Afonso, Reinhard Ackerl, Océane Albert, Domenico Azzollini, Paolo Colombo, Agnès de Sesmaisons, Wolfgang Gelbmann, Andrea Germini, Leng Heng, Eirini Kouloura, Estefanía Noriega Fernández, Annamaria Rossi, Ariane Titz, Ermolaos Ververis, and Silvia Valtueña Martínez.

Knowledge, Innovation and Partnership Management (KNOW) Unit: Benard Bottex (Agenda item 8.1)

Methodology & Scientific Support (MESE) Unit: José Cortiñas Abrahantes (Agenda item 8.1); Maria Bastakis (Agenda item 8.2).

Executive Director Office: Georges Kass (Agenda item 8.2).

■ Others:

N/A

¹ Partially attended on 23 March

² Partially attended on 24 March pm

³ Partially attended on 23 and 25 March



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 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 122nd Plenary meeting

The minutes of the 122nd Plenary meeting held on 28 February 2022 were agreed by written procedure on 08 March 2022.

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

5.1 Draft opinion on the safety of lacto-N-tetraose (LNT) produced by derivative strains of *Escherichia coli* BL21 (DE3) as a novel food (NF2020/1809). Applicant: Chr. Hansen A/S (EFSA-Q-2020-00630)

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 23 March subject to the incorporation of editorial changes. The full text of the opinion will be available in the coming weeks in the EFSA Journal [here](#).

5.2 Draft opinion on the safety of the extension of use of 2'-fucosyllactose (2'-FL) (NF2019/1350) and lacto-N-neotetraose (LNnT) as novel foods in food supplements for infants (NF2019/1359). Applicant: Glycom A/S (EFSA-Q-2021-00088 and EFSA-Q-2021-00089)

The draft opinion was presented. The Panel reviewed and discussed the sections related to the proposed uses and use levels and nutritional information of the Novel Food. The opinion was adopted by the Panel on 23 March subject to the incorporation of editorial changes. The full text of the opinion will be available in the coming weeks in the EFSA Journal [here](#).

5.3 Draft opinion on the safety of partially defatted house cricket (*Acheta domesticus*) powder as a novel food (NF2019/1227). Applicant: CRICKET ONE CO., LTD (EFSA-Q-2019-00589)

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, nutritional information, toxicological information and allergenicity of the Novel Food. The opinion was adopted by the Panel on 23 March subject to the incorporation of editorial



changes. The full text of the opinion will be available in the coming weeks in the EFSA Journal [here](#).

5.4 Draft Statement on the safety of cannabidiol (CBD) as a novel food (EFSA-Q-2021-00735)

The draft Statement was presented. The Panel reviewed and discussed the different sections of the Statement sections. The comments provided will be addressed by the WG on Novel Foods and the Statement will be presented for possible adoption at the next NDA Panel plenary meeting.

5.5 Draft Scientific advice related to nutrient profiling for the development of harmonised mandatory front-of-pack nutrition labelling and the setting of nutrient profiles for restricting nutrition and health claims on foods. (EFSA-Q-2021-00026)

The draft opinion was presented. The Panel reviewed and discussed the comments received during the public consultations and the changes introduced to the opinion based on those comments. The opinion was adopted by the Panel on 24 March. The full text of the opinion will be available in the coming weeks in the EFSA Journal [here](#).

5.6 Draft Scientific opinion on the conversion of calcium-L-methylfolate and (6S)-5-methyltetrahydrofolic acid, glucosamine salt into dietary folate equivalents (EFSA-Q-2020-00542)

The draft opinion was presented. The Panel reviewed and discussed the sections regarding the data available to derive a conversion factor into dietary folate equivalents for two salts of 5-methyltetrahydrofolate. The draft opinion will be revised in line with the discussion. It will be presented for possible endorsement for release for public consultation at the next NDA Panel plenary meeting.

6. New mandates

N/A.

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

The Panel was briefed about the activity of the SC Working Group on Fluoride. The draft [Protocol for human health risk assessment of fluoride in food and drinking water taking into account all sources of exposure](#) is open for public consultation until 18 April 2022 via this [link](#).

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

- **WG on Claims** – Please see Agenda item 5.5.
- **WG on Upper Levels** – The WG is progressing on the re-evaluation of the ULs for selenium. Regarding the re-evaluation of the ULs for other selected vitamins and minerals, the preparatory work conducted by the contractor is in progress.
- **WG on Dietary Folate Equivalent** - Please Agenda item 5.6.
- **WG on Novel Foods** - See agenda items 5.1, 5.2, 5.3 and 5.4.
- **WG on Protein Hydrolysates** – N/A.



- **WG on Food allergy** – The WG will be working on the new mandate requesting EFSA to update its opinion related to “behenic acid from mustard seeds to be used in the manufacturing of certain emulsifiers pursuant to article 21(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011”.
- **WG on Traditional Foods from Third countries (TF)** – One technical report on Xuta (edible variety of *Jatropha curcas* L.) roasted and ground seed kernels (EFSA-Q-2021-00584) was published in March. Two TF notifications are currently under evaluation: Pilinuts, Pili Nuts or Philippine Nuts (EFSA-Q-2021-00757) and Makhana, roasted and popped seed kernels of *Euryale ferox* Salisb. (EFSA-Q-2022-00237).

8. Other scientific topics for information and/or discussion

8.1 Draft guidance on the use of the Benchmark Dose approach in risk assessment (EFSA-Q-2020-00137)

The Panel was presented with an overview of the draft updated guidance, which is open for public consultation until 11 April 2022 via this [link](#). The purpose of the update is to align it with internationally agreed concepts and to harmonise further EFSA’s approach with those of its international Partners. The main structure and the major change introduced compared to the previous Guidance (2017) were highlighted. The update concerns Section 2.5, in which a change from the frequentist to the Bayesian model averaging paradigm is recommended for BMD analysis, and as a consequence Section 2.6 is now added guiding the reader step-by-step to perform Bayesian model averaging BMD estimation.

8.2 Draft re-evaluation of the existing health-based guidance values for copper and exposure assessment from all sources (EFSA-Q-2020-00399)

The Scientific Committee (SC) is reviewing the health-based guidance value (HBGV) for copper. The Commission requested 1) to provide a scientific opinion on an acceptable daily intake (ADI) for copper that can be used by the Commission as a reference value in managing copper-containing regulated products; 2) to perform a new estimation of copper intake, taking into account all sources of exposure and by integrating different approaches and scenarios and all new data available to EFSA for the estimation of exposure, and to assess the contribution from all major sources of exposure, including pesticide residues, to the overall copper intake. The deadline is December 2022. In line with the [SC statement on the derivation of HBGVs for regulated products that are also nutrients](#), the draft opinion was shared with the Panel for information and feedback. The Panel was consulted on the approach to apply to derive tolerable upper intake levels (ULs) for the different age groups. A public consultation on the draft opinion is foreseen to be launched this spring.

8.3 Feedback on the Scientific Committee work-programme 2022-2024

The SC will discuss its work-programme 2022-2024 at the next plenary meeting (27-28 April). Preliminary discussions took place in the November 2021 and February SC plenary



meetings, where some topics to be included in the work-programme 2022-2024 have been identified among the ongoing programmes or as continuation of existing activities.

In order to identify additional cross-cutting topics that could be relevant for the different panels, the NDA Panel has been consulted through two surveys.

9. Any Other Business

- The next Plenary meetings of the NDA Panel will be held as a web conference on **26 April and 29 April 2022**.