



NUTRITION AND FOOD INNOVATION UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON NUTRITION, NOVEL FOODS AND FOOD ALLERGENS

MINUTES OF THE 124TH PLENARY MEETING

**Held on 26 and 29 April 2022 via web conference
(Agreed on 9 May 2022)**

Participants

■ Panel Members:

Torsten Bohn¹, Jacqueline Castenmiller, Stefaan de Henauw, Karen Ildico Hirsch-Ernst², Helle Katrine Knutsen, 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:

■ Stella D'Amore, Ivona Babic, Carolin Bendadani, Stephanie Bodenbach, Takis Daskaleros, Rafael Perez Berbejal

■ EFSA:

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

Methodology & Scientific Support (MESE) Unit: Laura Ciccolallo (Agenda item 8.1).

■ Others:

Not applicable

¹ Partially attended on 29 April

² Partially attended on 26 April



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 123rd Plenary meeting

The minutes of the 123rd Plenary meeting held on 23–25 March 2022 were agreed by written procedure on 05 April 2022.

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

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

The draft opinion was presented. The Panel reviewed and discussed the conclusions of the individual sections as well as the overall conclusions of the draft scientific opinion. The opinion was endorsed for public consultation by the Panel on 26 April 2022 subject to the incorporation of editorial changes.

The full text of the draft opinion will be available for public consultation in the coming weeks [here](#).

5.2 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 all the different sections. The statement was adopted by the Panel on 26 April 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 frozen and freeze-dried formulations of the lesser mealworm (*Alphitobius diaperinus* larva) as a novel food (NF 2018/0125). Applicant: Protifarm Holding NV³ (EFSA-Q-2018-00282)

The draft opinion was presented. The Panel reviewed and discussed the sections related to the product characterization, production process, 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 26 April subject to the

³ During the assessment, the applicant's company name changed from "Proti-Farm Holding NV" to "Ynsect NL B.V.".



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 opinion on High vitamin D2 mushroom powder as a novel food (NF 2019/1471). Applicant: Monterey Mushrooms Inc. (EFSA-Q-2020-00417)

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 26 April 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](#).

5.5 Draft opinion on the Safety of 3-fucosyllactose (3-FL) produced by a derivative strain of *Escherichia coli* BL21 (DE3) as a novel food (NF 2020/1620). Applicant: Chr. Hansen A/S. (EFSA-Q-2020-00309)

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 29 April 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](#).

5.6 Draft opinion on the Safety of 3'-sialyllactose (3'-SL) produced by derivative strains of *Escherichia coli* BL21 (DE3) as a novel food (NF 2020/1794). Applicant: Chr. Hansen A/S. (EFSA-Q-2020-00625)

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 29 April 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](#).

5.7 Draft opinion on Zinc L-carnosine as a novel food (NF 2019/1090). Applicant: Hamari Chemicals, Ltd. (EFSA-Q-2020-00263)

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 29 April 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](#).



6. New mandates

Not applicable.

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

The Chair provided feedback from the last meeting of the **EFSA Scientific Committee (SC)** which was held on 27-28 April 2022:

- The draft review of the existing health-based guidance values for copper and its exposure assessment from all sources was endorsed by the SC to be released for public consultation. In this review, it was agreed to establish a HBGV expressed as an ADI, as initially intended and consistent with the Terms of Reference of the copper mandate. The setting of Upper Levels for Copper for all age groups will be carried out separately by the NDA Panel.
- The draft work-programme of the Scientific Committee 2022 – 2024 and prioritisation of activities were discussed, including proposals made by different EFSA Panels.
- The Panel was also informed about the end of the public consultation of the Protocol for human health risk assessment of fluoride in food and drinking water taking into account all sources.

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

- **WG on Claims** – No ongoing meeting since the publication of **EFSA’s scientific opinion related to nutrient profiling**.
- **WG on Upper Levels** – The WG is progressing on the re-evaluation of the ULs for selenium (see agenda item 8.1). 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** - See agenda item 5.1.
- **WG on Novel Foods** - See agenda items 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6 and 5.7.
- **WG on Protein Hydrolysates** – N/A.
- **WG on Food allergy** – The WG is working on the 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”. A draft protocol for the scientific assessment is being developed. A letter with a request for new information will be sent to the applicant who provided the dossier for the previous EFSA evaluation published in 2016.
- **WG on Traditional Foods from Third countries (TF)** – 1 TR finalised in April on Pilinuts, Pili Nuts or Philippine Nuts (**EFSA-Q-2021-00757**) and 1 TF notification is currently under evaluation, Makhana, roasted and popped seed kernels of *Euryale ferox* Salisb. (NF 2021/1875).

8. Other scientific topics for information and/or discussion

8.1 Draft Opinion on the upper levels for Selenium (**EFSA-Q-2020-00618**)

The Panel was presented with the risk assessment questions and data collected. The overall structure of the draft Opinion was outlined. The results of modelling of the relationship between selenium intake and plasma/serum concentrations were presented. The UL WG is



in the process of drafting the Opinion. The Panel will be informed about the progress at the next Plenary meeting.

9. Any Other Business

- The next Plenary meetings of the NDA Panel will be held as a web conference on 18-19 May 2022.