



NUTRITION AND FOOD INNOVATION UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON NUTRITION, NOVEL FOODS AND FOOD ALLERGENS

MINUTES OF THE 129TH PLENARY MEETING

**Held on 26 October 2022 via web conference
(Agreed on 10 November 2022)**

Participants

■ Panel Members:

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

■ Hearing Experts:

Not applicable.

■ European Commission:

Ivona Babic, Carolin Bendadani, Stephanie Bodenbach, Takis Daskaleros, Rafael Luis Perez Berbejal.

■ EFSA:

Nutrition & Food Innovation (NIF) Unit:

Ana Afonso, Paolo Colombo, Agnès de Sesmaisons, Lucia Fabiani, Leng Heng, Estefanía Noriega Fernández, Angeliki Sofroniou, Ariane Titz, Emanuela Turla, and Silvia Valtueña Martínez.

■ Others:

Not applicable.



1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The chair welcomed all participants. Apologies were received from Carmen Pelaez and Inge Mangelsdorf.

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 128th Plenary meeting

The [minutes](#) of the 128th Plenary meeting held on 28 September 2022 were agreed by written procedure on 06 October 2022.

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

5.1 Draft opinion on 6'-Sialyllactose (6'-SL) as a novel food (NF 2020/1801). *Applicant: Chr. Hansen A/S (EFSA-Q-2020-00623)*

The draft opinion was presented. The Panel reviewed and discussed the sections related to product characterization, production process, specifications, history of use, proposed uses and use levels, ADME, nutritional information, toxicological information and allergenicity of the novel food. The opinion was adopted by the Panel on 26 October, 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 2'-Fucosyllactose (2'-FL) as a novel food (NF 2020/1825) *Applicant: Advanced Protein Technologies Corp. (EFSA-Q-2020-00500)*

The draft opinion was presented. The Panel reviewed and discussed the sections related to product characterization, production process, specifications, history of use, ADME, nutritional information, toxicological information and allergenicity of the novel food. The opinion was adopted by the Panel on 26 October, 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. Other scientific topics for information and/or discussion

6.1 Draft scientific opinion on the revision of the Tolerable Upper Intake Level (UL) for vitamin B6 (EFSA-Q-2021-00369)

After an introduction on the framework and the questions addressed by the contractor through systematic and narrative reviews in line with the protocol, the Panel was presented with an overview of vitamin B6 draft opinion. The Panel reviewed and discussed: the ADME



of the B6 vitamers in humans and influencing factors, data related to developmental toxicity and peripheral neuropathy, the derivation of the tolerable upper level (UL) for vitamin B6 and the uncertainties around it, and the data used and limitations for the intake assessment.

Feedback from the Panel was collected. The draft opinion will be further elaborated and submitted to the Panel for possible endorsement for public consultation at its plenary meeting in November.

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

The Panel Chair reported back from last [Scientific Committee \(SC\) plenary meeting which was held on 21-22 September 2022](#). Of relevance to the Panel,

- Draft updated guidance on benchmark dose approach (EFSA-Q-2020-00137) was adopted by the SC.
- Draft guidance on Protocol development (EFSA-Q-2019-00256) will be further discussed by the SC in November.
- The [SC WG on Copper](#) is reviewing comments received from public consultation, the draft Opinion on Copper will be submitted to the SC for possible adoption in November.
- For the [SC WG on Fluoride](#), the work is ongoing in relation to the systematic literature review and Risk of Bias (RoB) analysis. An additional NDA Panel member will be joining the WG.

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

- WG [Upper Levels](#) - See Agenda item 6.1.
- WG [Food Allergy](#) - The WG is working on the re-evaluation of 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. In particular, based on the information received from the applicant (in July 2022), the WG discussed the possible approaches to estimate the Minimal observed eliciting dose (MOED) for mustard protein.
- WG [Claims](#) – No ongoing meeting. [One application](#) is under clock-stop for requesting supplementary information.
- WG [Protein hydrolysate-based formula](#) – No ongoing meeting. Two 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 (<https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2019-00305>; <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2020-00025>). [One application](#) is under validation.
- WG [Novel Foods](#) - See Agenda items 5.1 and 5.2.
- WG [Traditional Foods from Third Countries](#) – The WG finalised the Technical Report on the Notification on Dried Kenari Nuts (*Canarium Amboinense* Hochr.) (NF 2020/1665, [EFSA-Q-2022-00371](#)).

8 Any Other Business

- For information: Public consultation on the draft opinion on tolerable upper intake levels (UL) for Selenium closed on the 19th of October. A total of 24 comments were received from 5



interested parties (one food industry association, two national authorities and two university affiliates). The comments are being reviewed by the experts of the working group on ULs. A technical report addressing the comments is being prepared and will be presented to the Panel at its next plenary, together with the final opinion (for adoption).

- The next Plenary meetings of the NDA Panel will be held as web conferences on 24 November 2022 and 14 December 2022.