



NUTRITION AND FOOD INNOVATION UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON NUTRITION, NOVEL FOODS AND FOOD ALLERGENS

MINUTES OF THE 131ST PLENARY MEETING

**Held on 14 December 2022 via web conference
(Agreed on 19 December 2022)**

Participants

Panel Members:

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

Hearing Experts:

None

European Commission:

Stephanie Bodenbach

EFSA:

Nutrition & Food Innovation (NIF) Unit: Ana Afonso, Ionut Cracuin, Lucia Fabiani, Thibault Fiolet, Irene Garcia Nuin, Andrea Germini, Maria Glymenaki, Leng Heng, Nena Karavasiloglou, Alejandra Muñoz, Angeliki Sofroniou, Ariane Titz, Emanuela Turla, Mendes Vania and Silvia Valtuena.

Others:

ED Chief Scientist Office: Carlos Gonçalo das Neves

MESE Team Scientific Committee: Maria Bastaki for agenda item 5.3

MESE Team E2E Evidence: Fulvio Barizzone for agenda item 5.4

MESE Team Scientific Committee: Daniela Maurici for agenda item 5.5



1. Welcome and apologies for absence

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

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 130th Plenary meeting

The minutes of the 130th Plenary meeting held on 24 November 2022 were agreed by written procedure on 5 December 2022.

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

5.1 Mandates on Articles 8 of Regulation (EU) No 1925/2006

The three mandates that EFSA received from the European Commission related to Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1925/2006 were presented to the Panel. They relate to the assessment of the safety of (1) preparations from the fruits of *Foeniculum vulgare* Miller subsp. *vulgare* var. *vulgare* and *Foeniculum vulgare* Miller subsp. *vulgare* var. *dulce* (Miller) Thellung ([EFSA-Q-2022-00804](#)), (2) plant preparations containing hydroxycitric acid and isolated hydroxycitric acid ([EFSA-Q-2022-00805](#)) and (3) plant preparations containing berberine ([EFSA-Q-2022-00803](#)). The mandates were allocated to the Working Group on substances other than vitamins and minerals. Alexandre Maciuk was nominated as the chair of this Working Group.

5.2 Risk of bias assessment of food challenge studies

The Panel was informed about the development of a risk of bias (RoB) appraisal tool by the Working Group Food Allergy, which is intended to be used in the context of oral food challenge studies. The unique aspects of oral food challenge studies were discussed, and the necessity of developing a RoB appraisal tool to capture all the distinctive features of these studies was emphasized. The Panel was presented the procedure for creating the tool and the various domains of bias that the tool addresses.

5.3 EFSA's activities about Risk-Benefit Assessment

The Panel was informed of the ongoing activities of the EFSA's Scientific Committee towards updating the EFSA Guidance on human health risk-benefit assessment (RBA) of foods. Moreover, the main elements under consideration to expand the existing paradigm were presented, including challenges and complexities in producing RBA outputs that Risk managers can use to develop dietary advice.



5.4 EFSA's activities about Uncertainty guidance

The Panel was informed about the ongoing survey on the application of the Guidance to scientific assessments. The aim is to gather expert awareness and, if applicable, experience with the application of the EFSA Uncertainty Guidance. The target group for the questionnaire are EFSA SC and Panel Experts and EFSA Scientific Officers. The questionnaire will be administered at individual level. The main characteristics of the questionnaire were presented, and the Panel was invited to participate to the survey, open until end of 2022.

5.5 Update on the outcome of the workshop on biomarkers of effect

The Panel was informed about the thematic workshop held on 22-23 September 2022 on the possible use of the biomarkers of effects in scientific assessments. The Summary of the workshop is published as an annex to the 111th SC plenary [minutes](#).

7. Any Other Business

- The Panel was informed about the activities of different [Working Groups](#).
- Newcomers to the NIF unit were introduced.
- The Panel was given a demonstration of a new Tool for declaration of interests (DoI).
- The next Plenary meeting of the NDA Panel will be held as a web conference on 27 February -28 February 2023.