

29th February 2024

09:00-12:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 8 March 2024

Location: Teleconference

Attendees:

- Panel Members:
Torsten Bohn, Jacqueline Castenmiller, Stefaan de Henauw, Helle Katrine Knutsen, Alexandre Maciuk, Inge Mangelsdorf, Harry J. McArdle, Androniki Naska, Kristina Pentieva, Alfonso Siani, Frank Thies, Sophia Tsabouri, Dominique Turck (Chair) and Marco Vinceti.
- Hearing Experts¹:
Not applicable.
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
EC: Fruzsina Nyemecz.
- EFSA:
Nutrition & Food Innovation (NIF) Unit: Ana Afonso, Agnès de Sesmaisons, Thibault Fiolet, Leng Heng, Georges Kass, Leonard Matijevic, Annamaria Ross, Ariane Titz, and Silvia Valtueña Martinez.
Methodology and Scientific Support (MESE) Unit: Lucian Farcal (for Agenda item 6.2).
- Others:
Not Applicable

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.
Apologies were received from Karen Ildico Hirsch-Ernst.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, 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.

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



4. Agreement on the minutes of the 145th NDA Plenary meeting held from 30th January to 1st February 2024

The minutes of the 145th Plenary meeting were agreed by written procedure on 13 February 2024.

5. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion

5.1 Draft scientific Opinion on additional data on the safety of plant preparations containing hydroxyanthracene derivatives submitted pursuant to Article 8(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1925/2006 EFSA-Q-2022-00790

The Panel was presented with the outcome of the assessment of the submitted studies by the Scientific Committee (SC) cross-cutting Working Group on Genotoxicity. A first draft of the opinion was also presented and the approach applied was discussed. A revised draft opinion will be presented at the next NDA plenary meeting on 20 March for further discussion and possible adoption.

As background information, an overview about the different guidance documents of the EFSA Scientific Committee on the evaluation of genotoxic carcinogens, chemical mixtures and botanicals was given to the Panel. In addition, the Panel was informed about similar evaluations and the approaches taken by other EFSA Panels when assessing complex mixtures containing genotoxic carcinogens. A discussion took place on the different approaches which are applied by EFSA to the assessment of genotoxic carcinogens in regulated products and to unavoidable impurities mostly in the context of assessment of contaminants.

6. Other scientific topics for information

6.1 Biomarkers of effect

The Panel was provided with an update on the status and the plan of the ongoing activities of [the SC WG on biomarkers of effect](#) project. The project consists of two phases, commencing with a feasibility study, which will be followed by the development phase of guidance. The long-term goal is to develop a horizontal guidance to support the risk assessors and to achieve internationally agreed guidance by establishing consultation and co-creation mechanisms with relevant EU agencies and international organisations.

During the initial phase, the WG is tasked with developing a feasibility study encompassing various aspects related to the definition and description of biomarkers of effect, as well as the overall scope of the future guidance. The outline of the feasibility study, including its methodology, context, and scope, along with the related challenges, was presented to the Panel. In parallel, a mapping study is also developed, aiming to support the WG with information following the review of initiatives and knowledge related to biomarkers of effect.

The Panel members showed interests in the project and feedback was provided based on the ongoing work in nutrition. Panel members are invited to reply to the Survey (open until 30 April), which was launched to raise awareness regarding this project and to collect input from stakeholders on the biomarkers of effect.



7. Feedback from the Scientific Committee/ Scientific Panels/EFSA/ EC

Postponed.

8. Any other business

The next NDA Plenary meeting will be held on **20th March 2024** online.