SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON NUTRITION, NOVEL FOODS AND FOOD ALLERGENS

148th Plenary meeting

30th April 2024
09:00-18:00
MINUTES - Agreed on 13 May 2024

Location: Teleconference

Attendees:

- Panel Members:
  Torsten Bohn, Jacqueline Castenmiller, Stefaan de Henauw, Karen Ildico Hirsch-Ernst, Alexandre Maciuk, Harry J. McArdle, Androniki Naska, Alfonso Siani, Frank Thies, Sophia Tsabouri, Dominique Turck (Chair) and Marco Vinceti.
- Hearing Experts[1]:
  Maret Traber, and Misha Vrolijk (for agenda item 5.4).
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
  EC: Ivona Babic.
- EFSA:
  Nutrition & Food Innovation (NIF) Unit: Ana Afonso, Charlotte Bercovici, Ionut Craciun, Agnès de Sesmaisons, Lucia Fabiani, Andrea Germini, Leng Heng, Nena Karavasiloglou, Vania Mendes, Ruth Roldán Torres, Ariane Titz, Emanuela Turla, and Silvia Valtueña Martinez.
- Others:
  Not Applicable

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.
Apologies were received from Helle Katrine Knutsen, Inge Mangelsdorf, and Kristina Pentieva.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted with changes.
An item 5.5 (draft scientific opinion on the revision of the Tolerable Upper Intake Level (UL) for iron – *post public consultation*) was added to the agenda.

3. Declarations of Interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[2] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[3], 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

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4. Agreement on the minutes of the 147th NDA Plenary meeting held on 20th March 2024 by teleconference.

The minutes of the 147th Plenary meeting were agreed by written procedure on 26 March 2024.

5. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion

5.1 Draft scientific opinion on the revision of the Tolerable Upper Intake Level (UL) for vitamin A and β-Carotene (EFSA-Q-2021-00365/EFSA-Q-2021-00372)

The Panel discussed the outcome of the public consultation on the draft opinion. The comments received from the public consultation on the above-mentioned draft opinion were presented and discussed, together with the proposed responses. On 30th April, the revised draft Opinion was adopted by the Panel, including the annex with the technical report which addresses the comments received during the consultation. The full text of the opinion will be published in the coming weeks in the EFSA Journal.

5.2 Draft scientific opinion on Safety of vitamin D_2 mushroom powder as a Novel food pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2015/2283 (NF 2020/2226, EFSA-Q-2020-00849)

The Panel discussed the draft scientific opinion, and in particular assessed data regarding product characterization, production process, proposed uses and use levels, anticipated daily intake, toxicology, human studies and allergenicity. On 30th April, the draft Opinion was adopted by the Panel. The full text of the opinion will be available in the coming weeks in the EFSA Journal.

5.3 Draft guidance for establishing and applying tolerable upper intake levels for vitamins and essential minerals (EFSA-Q-2021-00364)

The draft guidance for establishing and applying tolerable upper intake levels (UL) for vitamins and essential minerals was published in January 2022 and has been implemented in recent UL re-assessments (piloting phase). The document is being refined and adapted based on the experience gained. The discussion focused on aspects related to determination of uncertainty factors, illustrated with recent UL assessments, and to intake assessment and uncertainties encountered. The draft guidance will be further discussed in upcoming meeting(s).

5.4 Draft scientific opinion on the revision of the Tolerable Upper Intake Level (UL) for Vitamin E (EFSA-Q-2021-00368)

The draft opinion was presented. The Panel reviewed and discussed the sections related to priority outcomes, hazard and risk characterisation, and conclusions. The Panel also discussed the UL for infants. The draft opinion was endorsed on 30 April for release for public consultation.

The public consultation is foreseen to open **from 13 May to 9 June**. EFSA is inviting interested parties to submit their comments by the indicated deadline: https://connect.efsa.europa.eu/RM/s/publicconsultation2/a0lTk000000r0bO/pc0940.

5.5 Draft scientific opinion on the revision of the Tolerable Upper Intake Level (UL) for Iron (EFSA-Q-2021-00370)

The Panel discussed the outcome of the public consultation on the draft opinion. The comments received from the public consultation on the above-mentioned draft opinion were presented and discussed, together with the proposed responses. On 30th April, the revised draft Opinion was adopted by the Panel, including the annex with the technical report which addresses the comments received during the consultation. The full text of the opinion will be available in June 2024 in the EFSA Journal.

6. Other scientific topics for information

6.1 The interpretation of the age ranges applied for setting DRVs – following a request for clarification

The Panel discussed the interpretation of the age ranges applied to define the population subgroups in the framework of Dietary Reference Values (DRVs) and the possibility to align them to the age categories used in EFSA intake assessments.[4] This item will be further discussed.

6.2 Feedback from the Scientific Committee/ Scientific Panels/EFSA/ EC

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

- WG on Claims – Two applications are under evaluation, an Article 13(5) health claim related to 'Citicoline' (EFSA-Q-2022-00411), and an Article 14 disease risk reduction claim related to 'Joselito ham' (EFSA-Q-2022-00412). One Article 14 health claim application related 'Choline' (EFSA-Q-2023-00171) was withdrawn.
- WG on Novel Foods - The Panel was informed on the ongoing workload of the WG and number of NF applications received. See also Agenda item 5.2.
- WG on Upper Levels – See Agenda items 5.1, 5.3, 5.4 and 5.5.
- WG on Protein Hydrolysates – The WG will meet in May to continue the evaluation of an application related to the safety and suitability of a protein hydrolysate to be used in infant formula (EFSA-Q-2021-00339).
- WG on Substances other than vitamin and minerals – The WG informed the Panel results of the outsourced systematic reviews. The Chair also informed of the meetings with EMA for possible collaboration on plants on common interest.
- WG on Food Allergy: No ongoing activity.
- WG on Traditional Foods from Third countries – The WG will convene on the 28th of May to review the comments received during the public consultation on the 'update Guidance for

[4] Guidance of EFSA, 2011. Use of the EFSA Comprehensive European Food Consumption Database in Exposure Assessment. EFSA Journal 2011;9(3):2097. Available at: https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.2903/j.efsa.2011.2097

notifications and applications for traditional foods from third countries (EFSA-Q-2023-00444). Overall, the feedback has been valuable and will be used to enhance the clarity of the Guidance on Traditional Foods. The revised Guidance will be submitted to the NDA Panel in June for discussion/possible adoption.

Related to the Scientific Committee (SC), the Panel Chair reported back from the 118th Plenary meeting of the SC. The Panel was also informed about the ongoing activities of the SC WG on Fluoride, the SC WG on Bromide, and the SC WG on Epidemiological studies, the SC WG on Biomarkers of effect and the SC WG for the Update of Risk-Benefit Assessment Guidance.

Of relevance for the NDA Panel, the SC also discussed a draft concept paper for the revision of the guidance on the margin of exposure. The SC discussed about the new project on the Guidance Architecture Portfolio, which aims at: 1) Mapping and organising all EFSA guidance documents, 2) Developing a Multiannual Work Programme for revision/update of cross-cutting and sectoral guidance, and 3) Developing a roadmap for an EU-wide Food Safety/Risk Assessment guidance library.

7. Any other business

The next NDA Plenary meeting will be held on 7th June 2024 online.