

2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2024

14:30-18:00 / 09:00-12:30

MINUTES - Agreed on 16 July 2024

**Location:** EFSA, Parma // Teleconference

**Attendees:**

- Panel Members:  
Torsten Bohn, Camara Montana, Jacqueline Castenmiller, Stefaan de Henauw<sup>1</sup>, Karen Ildico Hirsch-Ernst, Angeles Jos, Alexandre Maciuk, Inge Mangelsdorf, Breige McNulty<sup>2</sup>, Androniki Naska, Kristina Pentieva, Alfonso Siani, Frank Thies and Dominique Turck (Chair for Agenda items 6-12).
- Hearing Experts<sup>3</sup>:  
Not Applicable
- European Commission (EC) and/or Member States representatives:  
EC: Takis Daskaleros (for Agenda item 9.2)
- EFSA:  
Nutrition & Food Innovation (NIF) Unit: Ana Afonso (Chair for Agenda items 1-5), Ionut Craciun, Lucia Fabiani, Thibault Fiolet, Andrea Germini, Yustina Olshevska-Grigorov, Leng Heng, Leonard Matijevic, Estefanía Noriega Fernández, Ariane Titz, and Silvia Valtueña Martinez.  
  
Methodology & Scientific Support (MESE) Unit: Lucian Farcal and Maria Bastaki (for Agenda items 9.3 and 9.4, respectively)
- Others:  
Not Applicable

## 1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The head of the Nutrition and Food Innovation (NIF) Unit, Ana Afonso, welcomed all participants to the first plenary meeting of the 7th mandate of the NDA Panel (2024-2029). No apologies were received.

Ana Afonso chaired the meeting until the chair of the Panel was elected.

## 2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

## 3. Declarations of Interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence<sup>4</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management<sup>5</sup>, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the

<sup>1</sup> On-line participation

<sup>2</sup> On-line participation

<sup>3</sup> 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>

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/policy\\_independence.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/competing\\_interest\\_management\\_17.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf)



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. Round table presentation of NDA Panel Members and EFSA NIF Unit/Teams**

Ana Afonso introduced NIF unit and the Teams dealing with Novel Foods & Team Human Nutrition. All Panel members presented themselves.

#### **5. Election of Panel Chair and Vice Chairs**

The Panel coordinator highlighted the role of the Panel Chair and Vice-Chairs.

The rules for electing the Chair and the two Vice-Chairs were explained. The election of the Chair and the two Vice-Chairs took place following the guidelines laid down in the EFSA implementing rule of the Management Board concerning the establishment and operations of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and of their Working Groups<sup>6</sup>.

Dominique Turck was elected as Chair of the NDA Panel.

Androniki Naska and Jacqueline Castenmiller were elected as Vice-Chairs of the NDA Panel.

The newly elected chair then took over as Chair of the meeting for the remaining items (6-12).

#### **6. NDA Panel & EFSA Teams: roles & working practice**

Ana Afonso introduced EFSA's & NDA Panel remit in Human Nutrition, and how the NDA Panel works including the opinion workflow. The roles of EFSA Unit & Teams, of NDA Panel members and its Working Groups (WGs) were explained. The EFSA procedure for setting working groups was also explained.

#### **7. The work programme of NDA Panel**

The work programme of the NDA Panel for 2024-2025 and the main activities were described. The Panel was given an overview of the different types of applications related to regulated products, the ongoing work related to generic mandates, including the methodological guidance for setting Upper Levels which is due for finalization in September 2024.

An overview of the EU regulatory framework which triggers mandates pursuant to Article 8(2) and 8(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1925/2006 was given. The Panel was also informed about the remit and the ongoing work of the WG on Substances other than vitamins and minerals, which oversees the preparatory work and drafting scientific outputs for the NDA Panel in the framework of Articles 8.2 and 8.4 of Regulation EC (No) 1925/2006.

The Panel was also briefed about the overlap between novel foods and nutrient sources, particularly regarding their use in food supplements.

#### **8. NDA Panel Working Groups**

The Panel took note of the following:

- The closing of the Working Group on Food Allergy (no ongoing mandate).
- The change of the composition for: the Working Group on Claims, the Working Group on Protein-Hydrolysate-Based Formula, and the Working Group on Substances other than vitamin and minerals. The Chairs of these WGs were re-confirmed: Alfonso Siani (Chair of

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2022-10/paneloperation\\_0.pdf](https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2022-10/paneloperation_0.pdf)



the WG Claims), Dominique Turck (Chair of the WG on Protein-Hydrolysate-Based Formula), and Alexandre Maciuk (Chair of the WG on Substances other than vitamins and minerals).

## **9. Other scientific topics for information**

### **9.1 Draft opinion on the nutritional safety and suitability of a specific protein hydrolysate manufactured by Fonterra Co-operative Group Ltd derived from a whey protein concentrate and used in an infant formula and follow-on formula (EFSA-Q-2021-00339)**

The NDA Panel was presented a draft of the opinion. The presentation covered the characterisation of the protein hydrolysate, the characterisation of the formula which was used in the clinical study as well as the clinical study that was submitted to substantiate the safety and suitability of the protein hydrolysate.

### **9.2 Scientific and technical assistance report on the evaluation of Human-identical Milk Oligosaccharides (HiMOs) as novel foods (EFSA-Q-2024-00049)**

The NDA Panel was informed about the request from the European Commission for scientific and technical assistance on the evaluation of HiMOs as novel foods. The presentation also included a description of the scientific approach and preliminary results. The draft scientific and technical assistance report will be discussed at the next WG NF meeting, and after amendments, the report will be circulated to the NDA Panel for endorsement.

### **9.3 Biomarkers of effect**

The NDA Panel was informed on the status of the biomarkers of effect self-task mandate of the Scientific Committee (SC). The WG coordinator presented an overview of the draft Scientific Report ("Conceptual basis for the development of guidance for the use of biomarkers of effect in regulatory risk assessment of chemicals") recently endorsed by the SC for public consultation. The consultation was launched on 19 June and will be opened until 31 July 2024 ([link](#)). The presentation covered several aspects included in the report, e.g. context of use, definitions, characteristics and description of biomarkers of effect. Finally, the next steps and the plan for guidance development was shown. The presentation was followed by a short Q&A session including discussion on the challenges related to biomarkers' variability, establishment of uncertainty factors, etc. The importance of this project for NDA Panel work was also mentioned, e.g. for establishing Tolerable Upper Intake Levels (ULs) for nutrients.

### **9.4 Risk-Benefit assessment**

The NDA Panel was informed about the Risk Benefit Assessment Guidance update. The coordinator from the EFSA MESE Unit, gave an overview of the recently adopted guidance for the risk-benefit assessment (RBA) of foods. The presentation gave the Panel a summary at the update process and highlighted key differences compared to the previously existing RBA guidance, including new methodologies.



## **10. NDA Plenary meeting dates for 2024-2025**

The Panel coordinator presented to the Panel the dates of plenary meetings for 2024 and 2025.

## **11. NDA online working space**

The Panel was given a brief overview of the NDA SharePoint microsite used for collaboration.

## **12. Any other business**

The next NDA Plenary meeting will be held on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> September in Parma.