

# SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON NUTRITION, NOVEL FOODS AND FOOD ALLERGENS

154<sup>th</sup> Panel Plenary meeting



28 November 2024

09:00-18:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 9 December 2024

**Location:** Teleconference

**Attendees:**

- Panel Members:  
Torsten Bohn, Montaña Cámara, Jacqueline Castenmiller<sup>1</sup>, Stefaan de Henauw, Karen Ildico Hirsch-Ernst, Ángeles Jos, Alexandre Maciuk, Inge Mangelsdorf, Breige McNulty, Androniki Naska, Kristina Pentieva, Alfonso Siani, Frank Thies, and Dominique Turck (Chair).
- Hearing Experts<sup>2</sup>:  
Not Applicable
- European Commission representatives:  
Fruzsina Nyemecz.
- EFSA:  
Nutrition & Food Innovation (NIF) Unit: Reinhard Ackerl, Ionut Craciun, Agnès de Sesmaisons, Leng Heng, Leonard Matijevic, Irene Nuin, Gabriela Precup, Ariane Titz, Emanuela Turla, Silvia Valtueña Martinez, and Ermolaos Ververis.
- Others:  
Not applicable

## 1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

## 2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

## 3. Declarations of Interest of Panel members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence<sup>3</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management<sup>4</sup>, 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 on the minutes of the 153rd NDA Plenary meeting held on 30 October online

---

<sup>1</sup>Chair the Agenda item 5.1

<sup>2</sup> As defined in Article 34 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>3</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>4</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)



The minutes of the [153<sup>rd</sup> NDA Panel plenary meeting](#) were agreed by written procedure on 5 November 2024.

## 5. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion/possible adoption

### **5.1 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 infant formula and follow-on formula. (EFSA-Q-2021-00339)**

The Panel reviewed and discussed the draft scientific opinion, and in particular the sections regarding the characterisation of the protein hydrolysate and the formula used in the clinical studies, and the safety and suitability of the infant and follow-on formula. The opinion was adopted by the Panel on 28 November, subject to the incorporation of editorial changes. The full text of the scientific opinion will be available in the coming weeks in the EFSA Journal.

### **5.2 Draft opinion on the safety of frozen and dried forms of whole yellow mealworm (*Tenebrio molitor* larva) (NF-2018/0396, EFSA-Q-2018-00746) Applicant: Belgian Insect Industry Federation (BiiF)**

The Panel reviewed and discussed the draft scientific opinion, and in particular the sections regarding product characterization, proposed uses and use levels, anticipated daily intake and nutritional information. The opinion was adopted by the Panel on 28 November, subject to the incorporation of editorial changes. The full text of the scientific opinion will be available in the coming weeks in the EFSA Journal.

### **5.3 Draft opinion on the safety of oil from *Schizochytrium limacinum* (strain ATCC-20889) for use in infant and follow-on formula (NF-2023-16402, EFSA-Q-2023-00410;) Applicant: BioPlus Life Sciences**

The Panel reviewed and discussed the draft scientific opinion, and in particular the sections regarding product characterization, production process, composition, proposed uses and use levels, anticipated daily intake, nutritional information, toxicology, and allergenicity. The opinion was adopted by the Panel on 28 November, subject to the incorporation of editorial changes. The full text of the scientific opinion will be available in the coming weeks in the EFSA Journal.

### **5.4 Draft opinion on the safety of a change of specifications for phytosterols/phytosteranols (NF-2022-12290, EFSA-Q-2023-00497) Applicant: Advanced Organic Materials SA**

The Panel reviewed and discussed the draft scientific opinion, and in particular the sections regarding production process, compositional data, specifications, and the safety of the fraction "other phytosterols". The opinion was adopted by the Panel on 28 November, subject to the incorporation of editorial changes. The full text of the scientific opinion will be available in the coming weeks in the EFSA Journal.

## 6. Other scientific topics for information/discussion

### **6.1 Article 8(4) mandate related to 'the safety for use in food of monacolins from read yeast rice (RYR) placed under Union scrutiny' (EFSA-Q-2023-00424)**



The Panel was presented with the previous risk assessment on monacolins from RYR performed by the ANS Panel (2018), data received during the scrutiny period by the interested parties, as well as with the timelines to evaluate new data. Feedback received from the Panel will be considered in the draft opinion.

## 7. 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 Article 13(5) health claims (EFSA-Q-2024-00321 and EFSA-Q-2024-00460) are under evaluation. For one of these claims (EFSA-Q-2024-00321), a request for additional information will be sent to the applicant. Additionally, one Article 14 disease risk reduction claim (EFSA-Q-2024-00479) is under evaluation, while another (EFSA-Q-2024-00630) is undergoing validation.
- [WG on Novel Foods](#) - The Panel was informed on the ongoing workload of the WG. See also Agenda items 5.2, 5.3 and 5.4. The Panel took note of the appointment of Karen Ildico Hirsch-Ernst as chair of the WG.
- [WG on Protein Hydrolysates](#) – Two applications related to the safety and suitability of a protein hydrolysate to be used in infant formula are under stop-clock for additional information/data request to the applicants (EFSA-Q-2024-00424, EFSA-Q-2019-00305). See also Agenda item 5.1.
- [WG on Substances other than vitamin and minerals](#) – The chair of the WG informed the Panel about the ongoing work related to risk of bias assessment (EFSA-Q-2022-00803, EFSA-Q-2022-00805) and exposure assessment (EFSA-Q-2022-00804). See also Agenda item 6.1.
- [WG on Traditional Foods from Third countries](#) – The chair of the WG informed the Panel about the ongoing work related to the risk assessment of Cochayuyo seaweed (*Durvillaea antarctica*/ *Durvillaea Incurvata*) (EFSA-Q-2023-00582) and Baru nut (*Dipteryx alata* Vogel) (EFSA-Q-2024-00114) as traditional foods.

The Panel was also informed about EFSA's webinar on tolerable upper intake levels for vitamins and essential minerals, held on 14 November 2024. The objective of this webinar was to share the results and conclusions of the scientific review conducted by EFSA. The event provided stakeholders with insights on the principles and methods applied for the evaluations and summarised the conclusions reached on each of the micronutrients that were recently evaluated. The recording of the webinar is available via this link: <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/webinar-tolerable-upper-intake-levels-vitamins-essential-minerals>.

Related to the Scientific Committee (SC), the Panel Chair reported back from the [122<sup>nd</sup> SC Plenary 20-21 November 2024](#). The opinion on bromide was adopted by the SC. The SC endorsed for public consultation the following: the draft opinion on Fluoride; and the draft Guidance on the characterisation of microorganisms in support of the risk assessment of products used in the food chain<sup>5</sup>. The Panel was also informed about the work programme of the SC (status of different ongoing projects and newly started projects).

## 8. Any other business

The next meeting will be held on 17 December 2024 via teleconference.

<sup>5</sup> The document was submitted to all the relevant Scientific Panels for endorsement before submitting to the SC. It was endorsed by the NDA Panel on 7 November 2024