SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON NUTRITION, NOVEL FOODS AND FOOD ALLERGENS

159th Panel Plenary meeting

24-25 June 2025
09:00-18:00 / 09:00 – 13:00
MINUTES - Agreed on 7 July 2025

Location: EFSA, Parma

Attendees:

- Panel Members:
  Torsten Bohn, Montaña Cámara, Jacqueline Castenmiller, Stefaan de Henauw[1], Karen Ildico Hirsch-Ernst, Ángeles Jos, Alexandre Maciuk, Inge Mangelsdorf, Breige McNulty, Androniki Naska, Kristina Pentieva, Alfonso Siani[2], Frank Thies, and Dominique Turck (Chair).
- Hearing Experts[3]: Not applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
  EC: Fruzsina Nyemecz (for item 6.2), and Rafael Luis Perez Berbejal (for items 5, 6.4, 6.5).
- EFSA:
  Nutrition & Food Innovation (NIF) Unit: Ana Afonso, Océane Albert, Domenico Azzollini, Elisa Beneventi, Ionut Craciun, Lucia Fabiani, Thibault Fiolet, Leng Heng, Georges Kass, Marcello Laganaro, Maura Magani, Leonard Matijević, Vânia Mendes, Irene Nuin, Anna-Maria Pieger, Gabriela Precup, Ruth Roldán Torres, Annamaria Rossi, Hanna Schmierer, Ariane Titz, Emanuela Turla, and Silvia Valtueña Martinez.

  Communication (COM) Unit: Anatolie Luca (for item 6.2)
- Others:
  Not applicable

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

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[4] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[5], 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] Online participation

[2] Online participation on 24 June.

[3] 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

[4] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

[5] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

4. Agreement on the minutes of the 158th NDA Plenary meeting held on 6-7 May 2025.

The minutes of the 158th NDA Panel plenary meeting were agreed by written procedure on 28 May 2025.

5. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion/possible adoption

5.1 Draft opinion on synthetic cannabidiol (CBD) (NF 2020/2116, EFSA-Q-2021-00243) Applicant: PureForm International Limited

The Panel reviewed and discussed the draft opinion, and particularly the sections regarding product characterisation, production process, proposed uses and use levels, ADME, nutritional information, toxicology and allergenicity. The opinion was adopted by the Panel on 24 June 2025, 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 Magnesium orotate dihydrate (NF 2024/27354, EFSA-Q-2024-00419) Applicant: Gall Pharma GmbH.

The Panel reviewed and discussed the draft opinion, and particularly the sections regarding product characterisation, production process and compositional data, proposed uses and use levels, ADME, nutritional information, and toxicology. The opinion was adopted by the Panel on 25 June 2025, 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 Fungi Fusarium strain flavolapis biomass (NF 2021/1350, EFSA-Q-2021-00519) Applicant: Nature's Fynd

The Panel reviewed and discussed the draft opinion, and particularly the sections regarding product characterisation, proposed uses and use levels, and toxicology. The opinion was adopted by the Panel on 25 June 2025, 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 cRG-I, a rhamnogalacturonan-rich fraction derived from carrot pomace (NF 2022/7430, EFSA-Q-2023-00025) Applicant: NutriLeads B.V.

The Panel reviewed and discussed the draft opinion, and particularly the sections regarding product characterisation, production process and compositional data, proposed uses and use levels, ADME, nutritional information, toxicology, human studies, and allergenicity. The opinion was adopted by the Panel on 25 June 2025, 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.

5.5 Draft opinion on Inulin-propionate ester (NF 2018/0266, EFSA-Q-2018-00225) Applicant: Imperial College Hammersmith Campus

The Panel reviewed and discussed the draft opinion, and particularly the sections regarding product characterisation, production process, compositional data, proposed uses and use levels, anticipated daily intake, ADME, human studies and allergenicity. The opinion was adopted by the Panel on 25 June 2025, subject to additional editorial comments. The full text of the scientific opinion will be available in the coming weeks in the EFSA Journal.

5.6 Draft opinion on rapeseed protein-fibre concentrate (NF 2022/8650, EFSA-Q-2023-00160) Applicant: NapiFeryn BioTech Sp. z o.o.

On 25 June, the Panel reviewed and discussed the draft opinion, and particularly the sections regarding product characterisation, production process and compositional data, proposed uses and use levels, ADME, and nutritional information. The draft opinion will be further discussed at the next Panel meeting.

6. Other scientific topics for information / discussion / endorsement

6.1 Draft Opinion on Tolerable Upper Intake Level for supplemental docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) (EFSA-Q-2025-00054).

The Panel reviewed and discussed the draft opinion, and particularly the sections regarding data and methodologies, and hazard identification, with focus on the outcomes related to bleeding complications, glucose homeostasis, blood lipid profile and immune function.

6.2 Draft opinion on the evaluation of the safety in use of preparations from the fruits of sweet and bitter fennel (Foeniculum vulgare Mill. and Foeniculum piperitum (Ucria) C. Presl) (EFSA-Q-2022-00804)

Following consultation of the Scientific Committee on the use of the Margin of exposure (MoE) approach in the safety assessment of fennel fruit preparations, and subsequent consultation with the Cross-cutting WG Genotoxicity, a revised draft opinion incorporating comments received was presented to the Panel and discussed. On 24 June, the draft opinion was endorsed by the Panel for public consultation, subject to additional editorial comments.

The public consultation will be open from 16 July to 17 September 2025. Stakeholders are invited to submit their comments via this LINK.

6.3 Draft opinion on the evaluation of the safety in use of plant preparations containing berberine (EFSA-Q-2022-00803)

On 24 June, evidence from toxicological studies on *Hydrastis Canadensis* L. was presented and discussed.

6.4 Draft opinion on the evaluation of the safety in use of hydroxycitric acid and plant preparations containing hydroxycitric acid (HCA) (EFSA-Q-2022-00805)

On 24 June, conclusions from genotoxicity studies and animal studies on HCA and plant preparations containing HCA were presented and discussed.

6.5 Updated statement on the safety of cannabidiol (CBD) as a novel food (EFSA-Q-2025-00218)

On 24 June, the Panel was informed on the status of the updated statement on the safety of CBD, which takes into consideration new literature published between 2021 and 2024, data submitted by applicants and a discussion on the risk assessment of CBD. The updated statement on the safety of CBD is expected to be presented at the next NDA Plenary meeting for discussion and possible endorsement for public consultation.

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

Postponed.

8. Any other business

The next Plenary meeting will be held on 27th August 2025 via web-conference.
The Plenary meeting of 29 and 30 September 2025 will be held in Parma.