

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON NUTRITION, NOVEL FOODS AND FOOD ALLERGENS

161st NDA Panel Plenary meeting



29-30 September 2025

9:00 – 18:00 / 9:00 – 13:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 8 October 2025

Location: EFSA, Parma

Attendees:

- Panel Members:
Torsten Bohn, Montaña Cámara, Jacqueline Castenmiller¹, Stefaan de Henauw, Karen Ildico Hirsch-Ernst, Ángeles Jos, Alexandre Maciuk, Inge Mangelsdorf¹, Breige McNulty, Androniki Naska, Kristina Pentieva, Alfonso Siani¹, Frank Thies, and Dominique Turck (Chair).
- Hearing Experts²:
Not applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
EC: Rafael Luis Perez Berbejal¹, Athanasios Angelou¹, and Fruzsina Nyemecz¹.
- EFSA:
Nutrition & Food Innovation (NIF) Unit: Ana Afonso, Reinhard Ackerl, Océane Albert, Elisa Beneventi, Ionut Craciun, Agnès de Sesmaisons, Lucia Fabiani, Wolfgang Gelbmann, Andrea Germini, Thibault Fiolet, Leng Heng, Maura Magani, Leonard Matijevic, Irene Nuin, Gabriela Precup, Annamaria Rossi, Ruth Roldán Torres, Ariane Titz, Emanuela Turla, Silvia Valtueña Martinez, and Ermolaos Ververis.
- 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 Independence³ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management,⁴ EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Panel members invited to the present meeting and the preparatory meetings listed under agenda item 8. No conflicts of interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process.

Certain interests were declared orally by one member before the beginning of the meeting. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Oral Declaration of Interest made at the beginning of the meeting, please refer to the Annex.

¹ Online participation

² As defined in Article 34 of the document "Implementing Rule of the Management Board of the European Food Safety Authority laying down the rules on the selection, appointment and operations of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and of their Working Groups":
<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/paneloperation.pdf>

³ https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf

⁴ https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-2024.pdf



4. Agreement of the minutes of the 160th NDA Plenary meeting held on 27 August 2025

The [minutes](#) were agreed by written procedure on 8 September 2025.

5. Scientific output submitted for discussion/possible Adoption

5.1 Draft opinion on the safety of the changes in the conditions of use and the specifications of Chuta (NF 2023/16231, [EFSA-Q-2023-00416](#)). *Applicant: Chuta Nut 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, toxicological information and allergenicity. The opinion was adopted by the Panel on 29 September 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 the safety of synthetic Cannabidiol (NF 2019/0935, [EFSA-Q-2020-00084](#)). *Applicant: Cibdol AG*

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, toxicological information and allergenicity. The opinion was adopted by the Panel on 29 September 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 the safety of *Rhizomucor pusillus* biomass powder (NF 2020/1795, [EFSA-Q-2020-00476](#)). *Applicant: The Protein Brewery*

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, toxicological information and allergenicity. The opinion was adopted by the Panel on 29 September 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 the safety of UV-treated oil from yellow mealworm (*Tenebrio molitor* larvae) (NF 2021/0039, [EFSA-Q-2022-00534](#)). *Applicant: Nutriearth*

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, toxicological information and allergenicity. The opinion was adopted by the Panel on 29 September 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 the safety of egg membrane collagen peptides as a NF (NF 2022/7730, [EFSA-Q-2023-00184](#)). *Applicant: Eggново S.L.*



The Panel reviewed and discussed the draft opinion, and particularly the sections regarding product characterisation, production process, compositional data, proposed uses and use levels and nutritional information. The opinion was adopted by the Panel on 29 September 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.

5.6 Draft opinion on the safety of the extension of use of oleoresin from *Haematococcus (H.) pluvialis* containing astaxanthin (NF 2021/2418, [EFSA-Q-2021-00319](#)⁵). Applicant: AstaReal AB.

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, and toxicology. The opinion was adopted by the Panel on 30 September 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.

5.7 Draft opinion on the safety of algal meal from *H. pluvialis* containing astaxanthin (NF 2021/2418, [EFSA-Q-2021-00319](#)⁶). Applicant: AstaReal AB.

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, and toxicology. The opinion was adopted by the Panel on 30 September 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.

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 hazard characterisation and conclusions. The opinion was endorsed for public consultation by the Panel on 30 September 2025. The public consultation will be open from 3 October to 14 November 2025. Stakeholders are invited to submit their comments via this [LINK](#).

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

On 29 September, the Panel reviewed and discussed the draft Opinion, in particular the sections regarding the characterisation of plant preparations containing berberine, ADME (Absorption, Distribution, Metabolism and Excretion) and the genotoxicity assessment. Feedback received were incorporated.

^{5,6} Both, the opinion on the 'oleoresin from *Haematococcus (H.) pluvialis* containing astaxanthin' (item 5.6) and on the 'algal meal of *H. pluvialis* containing astaxanthin' (item 5.7) concern the mandate [EFSA-Q-2021-00319](#). The Panel has decided to prepare and adopt two separate opinions on these two novel foods, hence the opinion on the 'algal meal of *H. pluvialis* containing astaxanthin' (item 5.7) will be published under a new EFSA-Q-number.



6.3 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 30 September, the Panel reviewed and discussed the draft Opinion, in particular the sections regarding the characterisation of HCA and the plants containing HCA, ADME (Absorption, Distribution, Metabolism and Excretion) and the genotoxicity assessment. Feedback received were incorporated.

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

The Chair reported back from the [Scientific Committee \(SC\) plenary meeting of 24-25 September 2025](#), highlighting the ongoing works of interest to the NDA Panel.

8. Any other business

The Panel will receive a notification inviting experts to take part in the 'Panel Experts Feedback Survey 2025', which will run from mid-October to mid-November.

Since the last Plenary meeting, preparatory meetings chaired by EFSA staff were held on the following:

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

Date: 04/09/2025 Panel members: Ángeles Jos, Androniki Naska, Alfonso Siani, Frank Thies, and Dominique Turck

Discussion at the meeting focused on hazard identification, specifically regarding bleeding complications, hazard characterisation and conclusions.

- **Draft opinion on the evaluation of the safety in use of plant preparations containing berberine ([EFSA-Q-2022-00803](#)), and Draft opinion on the evaluation of the safety in use of hydroxycitric acid and plant preparations containing hydroxycitric acid (HCA) ([EFSA-Q-2022-00805](#))**

Date: 08/09/2025 Panel members: Montaña Cámara, Karen Ildico Hirsch-Ernst, Ángeles Jos. Hearing Expert: Eugenia Dogliotti

Discussion at the meeting focused on Berberine-containing plant preparations, BMD modelling, genotoxicity and carcinogenicity data.

Date: 19/09/2025 Panel members: Karen Ildico Hirsch-Ernst, Alexandre Maciuk, Androniki Naska, and Dominique Turck.

Discussion at the meeting focused on the genotoxicity sections of Berberine-containing plant preparations, and of HCA/HCA containing plant preparations.

9. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 23 October 2025 online.



Annex

Interests and actions resulting from the Oral Declaration of Interest done at the beginning of the meeting

With regard to this meeting, Breige McNulty declared the following interest: new membership of the food fortification working group (Health Service Executive, Ireland) and a public funded research project on CO2 database development. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁷ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁸, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, the interest above was not deemed to represent a Conflict of Interest for the expert concerned.

⁷ https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf

⁸ https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-2024.pdf