

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON NUTRITION, NOVEL FOODS AND FOOD ALLERGENS

162nd NDA Panel Plenary meeting



23 October 2025

9:00 – 13:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 4 November 2025

Location: Teleconference

Attendees:

- Panel Members:
Torsten Bohn, Montaña Cámara, Jacqueline Castenmiller, 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 Experts¹: not applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
EC: Stephanie Bodenbach, and Fruzsina Nyemecz.
- EFSA:
Nutrition & Food Innovation (NIF) Unit: Ionut Craciun, Agnès de Sesmaisons, Lucia Fabiani, Wolfgang Gelbmann, Thibault Fiolet, Leng Heng, Leonard Matijevic, Ariane Titz, and Silvia Valtueña Martinez.
- 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 Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, 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 the meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the Panel members at the beginning of the meeting.

4. Agreement on the minutes of the 161st NDA Plenary meeting held on 29 and 30 September 2025

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

¹ 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>

² https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf

³ https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-2024.pdf



5. Other scientific topics for information/discussion/ endorsement

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

The Panel reviewed and discussed the draft scientific opinion, particularly the sections on acute toxicity, general toxicity, and developmental toxicity. The comments received were taken into consideration. A revised draft opinion covering the remaining sections will be submitted to the Panel in November for further discussion.

5.2 Use of case reports in Art. 8.2 Opinions on safety in use of plant preparations containing berberine ([EFSA-Q-2022-00803](#)) and on safety in use of hydroxycitric acid and plant preparations containing hydroxycitric acid ([EFSA-Q-2022-00805](#)): case of *Chelidonium majus* and *Garcinia gummi gutta*.

The preliminary evidence from case reports on *Chelidonium majus* and *Garcinia gummi-gutta* was presented and discussed. Feedback received from the Panel was taken into consideration. Additional data will be assessed and discussed with the Working Group, and the Panel will be consulted.

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

The Chair gave a short recap of the online meeting held on 7 October between Scientific Committee and Sandra Gallina, DG Sante Director general.

The Chair also reported back on the meeting held on 30 September with Nik Kriz, EFSA's Executive Director.

All Panel members are kindly invited to participate in EFSA's Expert Feedback Survey 2025 (open from 13 October to 14 November).

7. Any other business

The next meetings will be held on:

- 19 and 20 November 2025 online
- 15 and 16 December 2025 online