

# SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON NUTRITION, NOVEL FOODS AND FOOD ALLERGENS

164<sup>th</sup> NDA Panel Plenary meeting



15-16 December 2025

13:00 – 17:00 / 9:00 – 18:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 22 December 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 Experts<sup>1</sup>: Paolo Colombo (Agenda item 5.1), Georges Kass (Agenda item 5.3)
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:  
EC: Stephanie Bodenbach, and Fruzsina Nyemecz.
- EFSA:  
Nutrition & Food Innovation (NIF) Unit: Océane Albert, Ionut Craciun, Agnès de Sesmaisons, Lucia Fabiani, Thibault Fiolet, Leng Heng, Marcello Laganaro, Maura Magani, Leonard Matijevic, Estefania Noriega Fernandez, Annamaria Rossi, Ariane Titz, and Silvia Valtueña Martinez.
- Others:  
Not applicable

## 1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

## 2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

## 3. Declarations of Interest of Panel members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence<sup>2</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management,<sup>3</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. 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.

## 4. Agreement on the minutes of the 163rd NDA Plenary meeting held on 19-20 November 2025

The [minutes](#) were agreed by written procedure on 27 November 2025.

<sup>1</sup> 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>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf](https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-2024.pdf](https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-2024.pdf)



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

### 5.1 Draft opinion on the safety of 6'-sialyllactose sodium salt produced with a derivative strain (*Escherichia coli* K-12 MG1655 INB-6SL\_02) of *E. coli* K-12 MG1655 (ATCC 700926) ([EFSA-Q-2023-00710](#); NF 2023/15590) - Applicant: 'Inbiose N.V.'

The Panel reviewed and discussed the draft scientific opinion, and particularly the sections regarding identity of the Novel Food, production process, compositional data, specifications, ADME, nutritional information, toxicological information and allergenicity. The opinion was adopted by the Panel on 15 December 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 Tolerable Upper Intake Level for supplemental docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) ([EFSA-Q-2025-00054](#))

The Panel discussed the outcome of the public consultation, focusing on the comments received and corresponding responses. Sections of the opinion that were revised based on these comments were also reviewed. The opinion was adopted by the Panel on 15 December 2025. The full text of the scientific opinion, together with related annexes such as the protocol and the outcome of the public consultation, will be published in the EFSA Journal in January 2026.

### 5.3 Update on the statement on safety of cannabidiol as a novel food ([EFSA-Q-2025-00218](#))

The Panel discussed the remaining sections of the final draft Statement and the related public consultation comments, while the other sections had been reviewed at the meeting of 19–20 November 2025. The sections discussed at the present meeting included toxicity endpoints (liver, neurological and psychiatric, endocrine and reproductive), small particles, genotoxicity, BMD modelling, abstract, discussion and conclusion and the supporting Appendix and Annexes. A new Annex compiling all the comments received during the public consultation and its replies was also reviewed. The Statement and Annexes were adopted on 16 December 2025 and will be published in the EFSA Journal in the coming weeks.

## 6. Other scientific topics for information/ discussion/ endorsement

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

The Panel reviewed and discussed the draft scientific opinion, particularly the sections on the assessment of hydroxycitric acid, *Garcinia* (*G.*) *gummi-gutta*, *G. indica*, *G. mangostana* and *Hibiscus sabdariffa*, including sections on evidence from human case reports, general toxicity animal studies, genotoxicity studies, intermediate conclusions and identified data gaps. A revised draft scientific opinion will be submitted to the Panel in January 2026 for further discussion.

### 6.2 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 the assessment of berberine and protoberberine alkaloids, including sections on evidence from



human intervention studies and human case reports, intermediate conclusions and identified data gaps. A revised draft scientific opinion covering the remaining sections will be submitted to the Panel in January 2026 for further discussion.

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

The feedback from the [128<sup>th</sup> Scientific Committee open plenary meeting, held on 26-27 November 2025](#), will be shared with the Panel together with the minutes of the NDA Plenary meeting.

## **8. Any other business**

On 16 December, the Panel took note of the data claimed as proprietary and agreed with the conclusions regarding the protection of proprietary data in accordance with Article 26 of Regulation (EU) 2015/2283 for the following: Opinion on the safety of algal meal from *Haematococcus (H.) pluvialis* ([EFSA-Q-2021-00319](#)); Opinion on the safety of the extension of use of oleoresin from *H. pluvialis* ([EFSA-Q-2025-00598](#)); Opinion on the safety of changes in the conditions of use and the specifications of edible *Jatropha curcas* L. (Chuta) ([EFSA-Q-2023-00416](#)). These previously adopted opinions will be updated accordingly and published in the EFSA Journal in January 2026.

The next plenary meeting will be held on **28 and 29 January 2026** online.



## **Annex**

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

With regard to this meeting, Prof. Androniki Naska declared the following interest: a new membership on the Committee on food-related risk assessment and obesity prevention of the Hellenic National Public Health Organisation of Greece (affiliated to the Ministry of Health). 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>, 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.

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<sup>4</sup> [https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf](https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-2024.pdf](https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-2024.pdf)