

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON
Nutrition, Novel Foods and Food Allergens
169th NDA Panel Plenary meeting



1-2 July 2026

09:00-18:00 / 09:00-13:00

+ MINUTES - Agreed on 14 July 2026

Location: Web meeting

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:

Paolo Colombo for agenda item 5.4, Pablo Rodríguez Fernández for agenda item 5.5.

- European Commission representatives:

EC: Ivona Babic, and Athanasios Angelou.

- EFSA:

Nutrition & Food Innovation (NIF) Unit: Ana Afonso, Reinhard Ackerl, Océane Albert, Agnès De Sesmaisons, Andrea Germini, Leng Heng, Maura Magani, Salvatore Mutari, Estefanía Noriega Fernández, Marcello Laganaro, Gabriela Precup, Ruth Roldán Torres, Carolina Roperó, Annamaria Rossi, Emanuela Turla, and Silvia Valtueña Martínez.

Methodology and Scientific Support (MESE) Unit: Alexis Nathanail

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 Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management,³ 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 matters discussed in the 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 this meeting, please refer to the Annex.

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/2025-11/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-25-11.pdf>



4. Agreement of the minutes of the 168th Panel Plenary meeting held on 27-28 May 2026 in AEASAN, Spain

The [minutes](#) of the 168th Panel plenary meeting were agreed by written procedure on 9 June 2026.

5. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion/adoption

5.1 Draft opinion on *Anaerobutyricum soehngenii* CH106 (NF 2021/0521; [EFSA-Q-2022-00552](#)) Applicant: Caelus Lifesciences IP BV synthetic.

The Panel reviewed and discussed the draft scientific opinion, and particularly the sections regarding the identity of the novel food, production process, compositional data, specifications, ADME, nutritional information, proposed uses, toxicological information, human data and allergenicity. The opinion was adopted by the Panel on 1 July 2026, 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 Roasted sacha inchi seeds as traditional food (NF 2021/2344; [EFSA-Q-2021-00193](#)) Applicant: several companies.

The Panel reviewed and discussed the draft scientific opinion, and particularly the sections regarding compositional data, specifications, proposed uses and nutritional information. The opinion was adopted by the Panel on 1 July 2026, 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 Technical assistance *Fusarium* species strain flavolapis ([EFSA-Q-2026-00302](#)). Applicant: Nature's Fynd.

The Panel reviewed and discussed the draft scientific technical report, and in particular the NF updated proposed uses and use levels and anticipated daily intake. The technical report was endorsed by the Panel on 1 July 2026, 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 Lacto-N-triose II (LNTri II) (NF 2024/22930; [EFSA-Q-2024-00142](#)) Applicant: Shandong Henglu Biotechnology Co, Ltd.

The Panel reviewed and discussed the draft scientific opinion, and particularly the sections regarding the identity of the novel food, production process, compositional data, specifications, proposed uses, nutritional information, ADME, toxicological information and allergenicity. The opinion was adopted by the Panel on 1 July 2026, 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 Cultivated Protein from *Xanthobacter* sp. SoF1 (NF 2021/1730; [EFSA-Q-2022-00140](#)) Applicant: Solar Foods Oy.

On 1 July, the Panel took note of the draft opinion and was informed of the status of the NF application, which is currently subject to a request for additional information. Pending the applicant's reply and further elaboration by the Working Group (WG), a draft opinion will be submitted to the Panel for discussion/possible adoption at a future plenary meeting.

5.6 Draft opinion on S-Acetyl Glutathione as a novel food (NF-2023/20990; [EFSA-Q-2024-00633](#)) Applicant: Gnosis S.p.A.



The Panel reviewed and discussed the draft scientific opinion, and particularly the sections regarding the identity of the novel food, production process, compositional data, specifications, ADME, nutritional information, proposed uses, toxicological information, human data and allergenicity. The opinion was adopted by the Panel on 2 July 2026, 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 Protocol risk benefit assessment of fish.

The Panel was presented with an overview of the draft protocol for the risk-benefit assessment (RBA) of fish in the context of the combined presence of several specified contaminants, as requested by the European Commission. The presentation outlined the RBA process, the terms of reference, and the elements covered, and highlighted methodological aspects of RBA, as well as the challenges arising from the complexity of assessing multiple contaminants, multiple health effects, and different target populations. The draft protocol is open for public consultation until 3rd August (via this [LINK](#)). Panel members who wish to provide comments are invited to submit them through the Unit.

6.2 Draft mandate on the revision of the guidance on botanicals and botanical preparations.

The draft self-task mandate regarding the revision of the Scientific Committee (SC) guidance on the safety assessment of botanicals and botanical preparations for use as ingredients in food supplements was presented. The goal is to consolidate into a single guidance updated information and approaches, ensuring alignment with the latest scientific developments and EFSA's needs. It also aims to expand coverage beyond food supplements, incorporating relevant approaches for novel foods, food enzymes, additives, food contact materials and botanical pesticide active substances, among others. The draft self-task mandate is open for public consultation until 3rd August (via this [LINK](#)). Panel members who wish to provide comments are invited to submit them through the Unit.

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

7.1 Scientific Committee (SC)

Respective members of the Panel involved in transversal activities of the SC updated the Panel on relevant discussions that took place in the last working groups of the SC on [Evidence Appraisal](#), [Risk-Benefit Assessment of Fish](#) (see item 6.1), [Weight of Evidence](#), and [Particle Risk assessment](#).

7.2 Working Groups

The NDA Panel was updated on activities and discussions that took place in the last meetings of the working groups on [Novel Foods](#), [Claims](#), and [Substances other than vitamins and minerals](#) (Art. 8(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1925/2006).

8. Any other business



The Panel discussed data requirements for dossiers on cannabidiol with purity $\geq 98\%$, in light of the [Update of the statement on safety of cannabidiol as a novel food](#), published in 2026.

9. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 31 August 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. Angeles JOS declared the following interest: her involvement in the WG Food Additives Applications, with her Declaration of Interest currently under validation. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁵, 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.

⁴ https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf

⁵ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2025-11/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-25-11.pdf>