

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON
Nutrition, Novel Foods and Food Allergens
168th NDA Panel Plenary meeting



27-28 May 2026
09:00-18:00 / 09:00-13:00
MINUTES - Agreed on 9 June 2026

Location: AESAN, Madrid, Spain

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 Siani¹, and Dominique Turck (Chair).
- Hearing Experts²:
Not Applicable
- European Commission representatives:
EC: Ivona Babic, Stephanie Bodenbach, Fruzsina Nyemecz, Olga Goulaki.
- EFSA:
Nutrition & Food Innovation (NIF) Unit: Ana Afonso, Océane Albert, Wolfgang Gelbmann, Andrea Germini, Leng Heng, Maura Magani, Leonard Matijevic, Salvatore Mutari, Irene Nuin, Ruth Roldán Torres, Annamaria Rossi, Emanuela Turla, and Silvia Valtueña Martinez.
- Other:
Spanish Food Safety and Nutrition Agency (AESAN): Ana López-Santacruz Serraller (only for item 1).

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Frank Thies.

Ana López-Santacruz Serraller, Executive Director of the Spanish Food Safety and Nutrition Agency (AESAN), welcomed the EFSA NDA Panel to AESAN in the framework of its 25th Anniversary.

Ana Afonso, Head of the Nutrition and Food Innovation (NIF) Unit at EFSA, thanked AESAN for its welcome and for hosting the NDA Plenary meeting at its Madrid headquarters.

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 to the preparatory meeting listed under the

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



agenda item “8.2 Preparatory meeting”. No conflicts of interest related to the matters discussed in these meetings have been identified during the screening process.

Certain interests were declared orally by two members before the beginning of this meeting. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Oral Declarations of Interest made at the beginning of this meeting, please refer to the Annex.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 167th Panel Plenary meeting held on 17 April 2026, via teleconference

The [minutes of the 167th Panel plenary](#) meeting were agreed by written procedure on 24 April 2026.

The opinion on the “[Safety of cannabidiol isolate from Cannabis sativa L. as a Novel food pursuant to Regulation \(EU\) 2015/2283](#)” (NF 2021/2340; EFSA-Q-2021-00282) was adopted by written procedure on 4th May 2026.

5. Scientific output(s) submitted for discussion/adoption

5.1 Draft opinion on synthetic cannabidiol (NF 2020/1670; [EFSA-Q-2020-00257](#)) Applicant: *Chanelle McCoy CBD 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, ADME, nutritional information, toxicological information, human data and allergenicity. The opinion was adopted by the Panel on 27 May 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 Zinc L-carnosine (NF 2024/24490; [EFSA-Q-2024-00587](#)) Applicant: *Hamari Chemicals, 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, ADME, nutritional information, proposed uses, toxicological information, human data and allergenicity. The opinion was adopted by the Panel on 27 May 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 Draft opinion on Lacto-N-triose II (LNT II) (NF 2024/22930; [EFSA-Q-2024-00142](#)) Applicant: *Shandong Henglu Biotechnology Co, Ltd*

Postponed to a future plenary meeting.

6. Other scientific topics for information/discussion

6.1 Draft Protocol for the Scientific Opinion on the safety of caffeine and “energy drinks” in children and adolescents ([EFSA-Q-2026-00259](#))



On 27 May, the Panel was informed about the mandate negotiation process, the terms of reference and the agreed deadline for endorsement of the draft opinion, which will be released for public consultation before adoption. The Panel discussed and endorsed the draft protocol for the risk assessment, including the scientific questions to be addressed and how to address them, and agreed on the risk assessment plan.

6.2 Draft opinion on S-Acetyl Glutathione (NF 2023-20990; [EFSA-Q-2024-00633](#)) Applicant: *Gnosis S.p.A.*

On 28 May, the Panel reviewed and discussed the draft opinion, and particularly the sections regarding product characterisation, proposed uses and use levels, and toxicology. It will be further elaborated and submitted to the Panel for possible adoption at a future plenary meeting.

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](#), [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).

7.3 EFSA

The Unit presented the results of the expert feedback survey, recently carried out as part of the mutual feedback activities outlined in the Declaration of Commitment. Experts were informed that the survey—where they provide feedback to EFSA—will be repeated in 2028/2029, while the complementary activity in which EFSA provides feedback to experts will take place between May and September 2026. The Unit expressed appreciation for the positive feedback received and for the constructive comments that will help further strengthen collaboration between EFSA and its experts.

8. Any other business

8.1 Technical report on “Response to comments on the Scientific Opinion of the EFSA Panel on Nutrition, Novel Foods and Food Allergens (NDA) on the scientific substantiation of a health claim related to oat beta-glucans and reduction of postprandial glucose peak pursuant to Article 13(5) of Regulation (EC) No 1924/2006” (EFSA-Q-2025-00201)

The Panel was informed of the comments submitted by the applicants to the European Commission pursuant to Article 16(6) of Regulation (EC) No 1924/2006, as well as of the European Commission’s request for EFSA to address those comments that were of a scientific nature. The Panel took note of the Technical Report in which EFSA addressed the scientific comments received.



8.2 Preparatory meeting NIF NDA Panel on Editorial discussion, 19/03/2026

Chaired by EFSA staff. Panel Members: Jacqueline Castenmiller, Karen Hirsch-Ernst, Ángeles Jos, Inge Mangelsdorf, Dominique Turck

Discussion at the meeting focused on editorials concerning discussion and conclusions for adopted opinions on Safety of L-alpha-glycerolphosphorylcholine from soya phospholipids (lecithin) (NF-2023-12770; EFSA-Q-2023-00492) and on Safety of beta-nicotinamide mononucleotide (NF-2023-17850; EFSA-Q-2023-00552).

9. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 1-2 July 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, Dr Montaña Cámara declared the following interest: involvement in the AESAN assessment of the dietary exposures to caffeine, taurine and D-glucuronolactone from energy drinks in various consumption scenarios and for various consumer profiles, to characterize the potential health risks and to suggest some recommendations for risk management and communication - resulting in a scientific publication in 2022. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁵ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁶, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question (item 6.1), the interest above was not deemed to represent a conflict of interest for the expert concerned.

With regard to this meeting, Ms Karen Ildico Hirsch-Ernst declared the following interest: involvement in a risk assessment conducted in 2019 by the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) on the cardiovascular effects associated with the acute consumption of caffeinated energy drinks (EDs) in children and adolescents, based only on intervention studies investigating acute effects in young adults, i.e. effects observed within up to three hours following ED consumption. 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 (item 6.1), the interest above was not deemed to represent a conflict of interest for the expert concerned.

⁵ https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf

⁶ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2025-11/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-25-11.pdf>

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