SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON
Nutrition, Novel Foods and Food Allergens
172nd NDA Panel Plenary meeting

22 October 2026
09:00-18:00
MINUTES - Agreed on 2 November 2026

EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY

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, Alfonso Siani, Frank Thies, and Dominique Turck (Chair).
- Hearing Experts[1]:
  Not Applicable
- European Commission representatives:
  EC: Ivona Babic (item 5.1), and Fruzsina Nyemecz (items 6.1, 6.2, 6.3).
- EFSA:
  Nutrition & Food Innovation (NIF) Unit: Ana Afonso, Agnès de Sesmaisons, Lucia Fabiani, Wolfgang Welbmann, Nevena Ivanovic, Leng Heng, Leonard Matijevic, Irene Nuin, Gabriela Precup, Ariane Titz, and Silvia Valtueña Martinez.

  Methodology & Scientific Support (MESE) Unit: Rita Ferreira De Sousa (item 6.1), and Alexis Nathanail (item 6.2).

  Knowledge, Innovation and Partnership Management (KNOW) Unit: Raquel Garcia Matas (item 8.2)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Kristina Pentieva.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted with changes in the order of the discussion.

3. Declarations of Interest of Panel members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[2] 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 were identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the Panel members at the beginning of the meeting.

[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 on the minutes of the 171st Plenary meeting held on 29-30 September 2026

The minutes of the 171st Panel plenary meeting were agreed by written procedure on 9 October 2026.

5. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion/possible adoption

5.1 Draft opinion on Serratiopeptidase (NF-2022-12270; EFSA-Q-2023-00205)

Applicant: *Advanced Enzyme Technologies Ltd*.

The Panel reviewed and discussed the draft scientific opinion. The opinion was adopted by the Panel on 22 October 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 scientific opinion on the evaluation of the safety in use of hydroxycitric acid (HCA) and plant preparations containing HCA (EFSA-Q-2022-00805)

The Panel reviewed and discussed the outcome of the public consultation on the draft opinion, which was open from 3 March to 10 July 2026. A total of 141 comments, including attachments, were submitted by 12 interested parties. The draft opinion is currently being updated to take into account relevant comments received from interested parties during the public consultation and feedback from the Panel. The updated opinion will be submitted to the Panel for discussion and possible adoption at the upcoming Plenary meeting on 26 November 2026.

6.2 Draft scientific opinion on the evaluation of the safety in use of preparations from the fruits of sweet and bitter fennel (EFSA-Q-2022-00804)

The Panel reviewed and discussed the revised exposure assessment, which was performed using new occurrence data points from Member States. The draft opinion is currently being updated to take into account relevant comments received from interested parties during the public consultation, incorporating feedback from the Panel and the revised exposure assessment. The updated opinion will be submitted to the Panel for discussion and possible adoption at the upcoming Plenary meeting on 26 November 2026.

6.3 Draft scientific opinion on the evaluation of the safety in use of plant preparations containing berberine (EFSA-Q-2022-00803)

The Panel reviewed and discussed the outcome of the public consultation on the draft opinion, which was open from 3 March to 10 July 2026. A total of 135 comments, including attachments, were submitted by 15 interested parties. The draft opinion is currently being updated to take into account relevant comments received from interested parties during the public consultation and feedback from the Panel. The updated opinion will be submitted to the Panel for discussion and possible adoption at the upcoming Plenary meeting on 26 November 2026.

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

Postponed.

8. Any other business

8.1 The Panel peer review process

Postponed.

8.2 EFSA's Scientific Training Offer

The Panel was introduced to EFSA's Scientific Training Programme for 2026, outlining how training is developed and communicated to Panel members through the Experts' Corner, EU Academy and other channels. The programme covers key scientific topics, including risk assessment, read-across, genotoxicity and systematic reviews, through online courses, classroom training and self-paced learning resources.

Panel members were invited to explore the available training resources and provide suggestions, questions and feedback to help improve access to and relevance of scientific training.

9. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 25, 26 and 27 November 2026 in EFSA.
The 26th November is open to Observers for online participation (see https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/173rd-plenary-meeting-nda-panel-open-observers).