



Minutes of the meeting of the Selection Board for membership in the *ad hoc* Allergenicity Stakeholder Consultation Group

31 August 2020, Virtual meeting

1. Background

In 2017, EFSA's Scientific Panel on Genetically Modified Organisms (hereafter the GMO Panel) published a guidance document on the allergenicity assessment of genetically modified (GM) plants. The guidance addresses non-IgE-mediated adverse immune reactions to foods, in vitro protein digestibility tests and endogenous allergenicity. In relation to the in vitro protein digestibility tests, the GMO Panel considered that additional investigations were needed (interim phase) before any additional recommendations in the form of guidance for applicants could be provided.

To support this interim phase, EFSA launched a procurement to test a refined protocol for in vitro protein digestion. The final report was recently published, opening up new opportunities in this field that is still in its infancy and which has great potential for further improvement. In addition, a dedicated working group is established to discuss and provide an opinion on the topic considering all available information. The working group will also consider critical gaps in the field of allergenicity assessment and protein safety in general, and future development needs in these areas. Continuity with previous activities related to allergenicity will be ensured by enrolling experts from the former *ad hoc* Allergenicity Working Group.

Considering the successful past collaboration between EFSA and stakeholders and a high interest in this subject, EFSA has decided to re-establish an *ad hoc* stakeholder consultation group. The group will be asked to provide input to the working group at various stages of the process. In addition, the call was open for EU Member States and International partner organisation representatives.

EFSA will consult the *ad hoc* stakeholder consultation group at key stages of the development of the deliverables and on specific issues such as the role of the in vitro protein digestion test in the safety assessment of proteins, and development needs in allergenicity assessment.



2. Composition of the Selection Board

GMO Unit: Antonio Fernandez Dumont - chair

Engagement and Cooperation Unit (ENCO): Goran Kumric – member

3. Nominations

EFSA's stakeholders are representative organisations that have an interest in the Authority's work. EFSA divides stakeholders into seven major groups¹; all groups with an interest in the area are invited to nominate members for the Discussion Group. Additional information on EFSA's stakeholder engagement is available at this [webpage](#). The call for expression of interest in membership of the ad hoc consultation group was also open for representatives of EU Member States and International partner organisations.

The call for expression of interest in membership was launched on 23 July 2020 with a deadline for applications by 15 August 2020. In total, 10 applications were received.

4. Selection criteria

The selection followed the principles established in the EFSA's Stakeholder Engagement Approach and the provisions of the Decision of the Management Board of EFSA on the criteria for establishing a list of stakeholders and the establishment of the Stakeholder Forum and Stakeholder Bureau.

The Selection Board has thoroughly considered the following selection criteria:

- interest in the field of allergenicity assessment and expected benefits from the participation of the organisation;
- role and remit of the organisation at EU level;
- achieving a balanced representation of stakeholder interests; and
- knowledge and expertise of the nominated stakeholder expert, considering the need for the stakeholder consultation group to cover a range of technical and scientific areas, including allergenicity risk assessment, *in vitro* protein digestibility and food allergy.

¹ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/partnersnetworks/stakeholder>



Upon the analysis of the applications, the Selection Board unanimously agreed on the list of selected stakeholder organisations, as indicated under Section 5. The names of the stakeholder experts and nominating organisations will be made publicly available at EFSA web site.

5. List of selected organisations and representatives

	Stakeholder Organisation	Stakeholder category	Nominee Name
1.	European Environmental Bureau *	NGOs	Frédéric Jacquemart
2.	European Federation of Allergy and Airways Diseases Patients' Associations	NGOs	Sabine Schnadt
3.	The European Federation of the Associations of Dietitians	Practitioner	Andrea Mikkelsen
4.	European Network of Scientists for Social and Environmental Responsibility	Academia	Judy Carman
5.	Europabio	Business and food industry	Rod Herman
6.	FoodDrinkEurope	Business and food industry	Stella Cochrane

	EU Member States	Organisation	Nominee Name
1.	The Netherlands	University Medical Center Utrecht	Kitty Verhoeckx
2.	Germany	German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR)	Hermann Broll
		Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL)	Andrea Scheepers <i>Alternate</i>

	International Partners	Organisation	Nominee Name
1.	Canada	Health Canada, Bureau of Chemical Safety	Terry Koerner

**Stakeholder association has submitted an application to get registered as EFSA Stakeholder. The assessment procedure is ongoing.*