

Scientific Panel on Nutrition, Novel Foods and Food Allergens

Minutes of the 90th Plenary meeting

**Held on 17-18 January 2019, Parma (Italy)
(Agreed on 28 January 2019)**

■ **Panel Members:**

Jacqueline Castenmiller, Stefaan de Henauw, Karen-Ildico Hirsch-Ernst, John Kearney, Helle Katrine Knutsen, Alexandre Maciuk, Inge Mangelsdorf, Harry J. McArdle, Androniki Naska, Carmen Pelaez, Kristina Pentieva, Alfonso Siani, Frank Thies, Sophia Tsabouri, Dominique Turck (Chair), and Marco Vinceti.

■ **Hearing Experts¹:**

Not Applicable.

■ **European Commission and/or Member States representatives:**

Not Applicable.

■ **EFSA:**

NUTRI Unit: Valeriu Curtui, Reinhard Ackerl, Mathias Amundsen, Janusz Ciok, Paolo Colombo, Agnès De Sesmaisons-Lecarré, Lucia Fabiani, Wolfgang Gelbmann, Andrea Germini, Tilemachos Goumperis, Leng Heng, Leonard Matijevic, Ruth Roldan Torres, Annamaria Rossi, Qingqing Sun, Emanuela Turla, Silvia Valtueña Martínez and Ermolaos Ververis.

AMU Unit: Laura Ciccolallo and Laura Martino (for item 8.1)

APDESK: Patricia Romero

■ **Observers:**

Not Applicable.

■ **Others:**

Not Applicable.

¹ As defined in Article 11 of the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest:
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted with changes in the order of items discussed.

3. Declarations of Interest of Scientific Panel Members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, 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, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 89th Plenary meeting held on 29 November 2018, via web-conference

The minutes were agreed by written procedure on [6 December 2018](#).

5. New Mandates

The Nutrition Unit updated the Panel members on new mandates received since the last Plenary meeting. Information about the mandates received and their status are available on [EFSA Register of Questions](#).

6. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion and/or possible adoption

6.1 *Zespri International Ltd. - "kiwifruit *Actinidia deliciosa* (var. Hayward)" and "reduces gastrointestinal discomfort"* (Art.13.5, 0475_BE, [EFSA-Q-2018-00416](#))

The Panel was briefed about the Applicant's Hearing held on 17 December 2018 by the WG Claims and EFSA following up with the applicant post-meeting.

Subsequently, upon a request from the applicant, the competent authority where the application was submitted, requested EFSA to

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

withdraw the application. On 18 January, the Panel took note of the withdrawal of this application and did not proceed with the adoption of the opinion.

6.2 Skotan S.A. - Draft opinion on *Yarrowia lipolytica* yeast biomass as a Novel Food (EFSA-Q-2018-00223)

The draft opinion was presented. The Panel took note of the QPS status for production purposes of *Yarrowia lipolytica*. The Panel reviewed and discussed the sections regarding production process, composition data, specifications, the proposed conditions of use and allergenicity of the NF.

The draft opinion was adopted by the Panel on 17 January subject to the incorporation of editorial changes.

The full text of the opinion will be available in the coming weeks in the EFSA Journal via the following link:

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsjournal/pub/5594>

Feedback from the Scientific Committee/Scientific Panels, EFSA, the European Commission

7.1 Scientific Committee (SC)

The Panel was briefed on the outcome of the [SC plenary](#) which was held on 21 November 2018.

The SC discussed the outcome of the public consultation on the Draft guidance on risk assessment of chemical mixtures. The guidance is foreseen for adoption at the February plenary meeting of the SC.

The SC adopted the [Statement on genotoxicity assessment of chemical mixtures](#).

[EFSA Guidance on communication of uncertainty in scientific assessment](#) was endorsed by the SC for publication (please see also [news story](#)).

In the context of the SC self-task mandate on interpretation of epidemiological studies, a working group of the SC has been established and chaired by Thorhallur Halldorsson. Marco Vinceti reported back from the first meeting of the WG.

7.2 EFSA including its Working Groups /Task Forces

The Chairs of respective WGs reported back to the Panel:

- **WG on Claims** – An applicant's Hearing was held to allow the applicant to clarify outstanding issues on the application related "Nutrimune" ([EFSA-Q-2018-00727](#)). The WG also discussed a draft opinion related to "GlycoLite™" ([EFSA-Q-2018-00611](#)), which will be submitted to the next plenary meeting of the Panel

for discussion/possible adoption. Regarding "Kiwifruit" (EFSA-Q-2018-00416), please see item 6.1.

- **WG on Novel Foods (NF)** – The WG discussed/elaborated several draft opinions on Novel Food applications. Four draft opinions were submitted to the Panel: one for possible adoption (see item 6.2), and three to receive feedback from the Panel (see items 8.2-8.4).
- **WG on Infant Nutrition** – The WG discussed the findings/outcomes related to weight, length, head circumference, BMI, body composition and overweight and obesity in association with the age of introduction of complementary feeding, and also discussed the potential overall conclusions of the opinion. A draft opinion will be submitted to the next plenary meeting of the Panel for possible endorsement for public consultation.
- **WG on DRVs for minerals** – see item 8.1.
- **WG on Sugars** – The WG Chair informed the Panel on the progress made in relation to the systematic reviews conducted in relation to this project, the full-text screening performed, and the current status of the intake assessment.

7.3 European Commission

Not applicable.

8 Other scientific topics for information and/or discussion

8.1 Draft Opinion on dietary reference values (DRVs) for sodium (EFSA-Q-2011-01224)

The Chair of the WG on DRVs for minerals provided an overview on the status of the draft opinion on DRVs for sodium, outlining the background and the criteria considered to set DRVs for sodium.

From the systematic review of the literature, the evidence gathered on the relationship between sodium intake and pre-specified health outcomes (CVD and bone health) was presented. The approach taken for selecting/appraising studies, in line with the [published protocol](#), was highlighted.

Relevant findings on the relationship between sodium intake and blood pressure (BP), hypertension and CVD outcomes were presented.

The Panel took note of the statistical modelling of the dose-response relationship between sodium intake and BP. Issues on the interpretation of the model for setting DRVs and uncertainties identified were discussed.

Next, the WG will be considering options for weighing of the evidence and integration to inform the setting of DRVs for sodium. An uncertainty analysis will be applied to inform final conclusions.

A draft opinion will be submitted to the next plenary meeting of the Panel⁴ for possible endorsement for release for public consultation.

Novel Food related

8.2 Laboratorio Reig Jofre, S.A. - Draft opinion *Mycobacterium setense manresensis* as a Novel Food (EFSA-Q-2018-00278)

The Panel was given an overview on data submitted in the application for the safety of heat-killed *Mycobacterium setense manresensis*, i.e. the identity of the NF, production process, compositional data, proposed uses and use levels, microbiological information and human studies presented. EFSA's request for additional information concerning the efficiency of the heat inactivation of the bacteria, compositional data and specifications, antimicrobial resistance genes, and precautions were outlined and discussed.

Feedback from the Panel was given to the WG on NF. The microbiological information and human studies will be further reviewed by the WG on NF.

8.3 Majami Sp. z o.o. Sp. k., Zentis GmbH & Co. KG, Sanchis Mira SA., Naturkost Übelhör GmbH & Co. KG, The Chia Co, Materne SAS, Parry's Pots Limited - Draft opinion on Chia seeds - extensions of use (EFSA-Q-2018-00344, EFSA-Q-2018-00681, EFSA-Q-2018-00682, EFSA-Q-2018-00683, EFSA-Q-2018-00684, EFSA-Q-2018-00686, EFSA-Q-2018-00224)

The Panel was given an overview on data submitted in the applications for extensions of use of chia seeds (*Salvia hispanica* L.). This included explanation of the mandate, short overview of previous safety assessments update on new literature findings about chia seeds and especially how different production processes may influence the characteristics of chia seeds (in particular on possible formation of process contaminants).

Feedback from the Panel was given to the WG on NF.

8.4 Access Business Group International LLC - Draft opinion on Chia seed powder "Xia powder 125" and "Xia powder 435" (EFSA-Q-2018-00373, EFSA-Q-2018-0685)

The Panel was given an overview on data submitted in the application for the safety of chia seed powders "Xia 125" and "Xia

⁴ The next Plenary meeting of the NDA Panel will be held 13-15 March 2019.

435", i.e. the production process, history of use and anticipated intake, toxicology data and human studies presented. The Panel took note of similarities with respect to the safety of NFs from this draft opinion with the previous Panel opinions on chia seeds (see also item 8.3).

Feedback from the Panel was given to the WG on NF.

8.5 FEEDAP Panel Guidance on the characterisation of microorganisms used as feed additives or as production organisms. i.e. section 3-fermentation products (EFSA-Q-2016-00069, EFSA-Q-2017-00211)

The Panel took note of the guidance of the FEEDAP Panel.

The document guides principles for characterisation of microorganisms (bacteria, yeasts and filamentous fungi), and advises on requirements that need to be provided by the applicant for feed additives containing microorganisms or produced with microorganisms by fermentation. The guidance addresses aspects to consider for identification of microorganisms, antimicrobial susceptibility/production, toxigenicity and pathogenicity, genetic modifications, and fermentation products.

The Panel recommended to applicants that this guidance can also be applied for the characterisation of microorganisms used as NF or for production of NF.

9 Any other business

Next plenary meeting of the NDA Panel is scheduled on 13-15 March 2019 in Parma.