



EFSA

European Food Safety Authority

Panel on Dietetic products, Nutrition and Allergies

SP/NDA/PLEN/MIN/1 Final
16 September 2003

**MINUTES OF THE 1ST PLENARY MEETING OF THE
SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON DIETETIC PRODUCTS, NUTRITION AND ALLERGIES
HELD ON 21 MAY 2003**

PARTICIPANTS

Panel members:

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|----------------------|------------------------|
| • Wulf Becker | • Bevan Moseley |
| • Jean-Louis Bresson | • Andreu Palou |
| • Albert Flynn | • Hildegard Przyrembel |
| • Alan A. Jackson | • Seppo Salminen |
| • Pagona Lagiou | • Stefan Strobel |
| • Geltrude Mingrone | • Hendrik van Loveren |

EFSA staff:

- | | |
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| • Jochen Brodersen | • Geoffrey Podger |
| • Marie-Nöelle Costa | • Pilar Rodríguez Iglesias |
| • Christine Majewski | |

European Commission (DG Health and Consumer Protection):

- | | |
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| • Michael Walsh | • Helen Lee |
| • Basil Mathioudakis | • Taina Sateri |

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Daniel Brasseur

I. GENERAL INAUGURAL MEETING (MORNING SESSION)

The Executive Director welcomed all attending the meeting. The objective of the first part of the meeting was to brief the Members of the Scientific Panels and Committee on their role, the role of EFSA and the joint interrelationship with other European Institutions and with National Authorities. The first session was intended to provide opportunities for everyone to participate in the discussion. It was hoped that there would be strong and lively interaction between EFSA and members of the Scientific Committee and Panels in all future dealings, as this was the way to build mutual confidence and make best use of the very considerable scientific expertise which was available.

The Executive Director stressed that EFSA wished to build on the many achievements of the previous scientific committee system. Equally EFSA had not been created to simply replicate the previous system but to make innovations in a number of key areas. In particular, there was a need:

- (i) to develop and make open and transparent the science of risk assessment. The Scientific Committee would have a particular role in this;
- (ii) to provide greater opportunity for stakeholder participation in the risk assessment process;
- (iii) to provide public and realistic timeframes for work which was undertaken and, except in exceptional circumstances, to adhere to these;
- (iv) to engage, in liaison with national authorities, in more timely and meaningful communication of risk assessments. This would in itself require considerable dialogue between EFSA and its Scientific Committee and Panels;
- (v) to ensure that the best expertise available was used. The Scientific Committee and Panels should be ready to form Working Groups or use other means to obtain the external expertise they needed.

In concluding his opening remarks, the Executive Director took the opportunity of congratulating the members of the Scientific Committee and Panels on their selection by the EFSA Management Board. The standard of selection had been high and many very good candidates had unfortunately had to be disappointed, although it was hoped there might be opportunities for them to participate in Working Groups. EFSA staff very much looked forward to working with and supporting those present.

II. PLENARY MEETING OF THE PANEL (AFTERNOON SESSION)

1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The scientific co-ordinator welcomed the participants and congratulated the Panel members on their nomination. Apologies for absence were noted.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

3. ROUND TABLE INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS

A brief round table introduction was made.

4. ELECTION OF THE CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIRS

The scientific co-ordinator introduced the modalities of the election procedure adopted by the Management Board in its Decision concerning the establishment and operations of the Scientific Committee and Panels¹. The Chair and the Vice-chairpersons had to be elected separately.

Prof. Albert Flynn was unanimously elected as Chair for the coming term.

Prof. Andreu Palou and Prof. Hildegard Przyrembel were unanimously elected as Vice-chairs of the Panel.

The members and the scientific co-ordinator congratulated the chairpersons, and Prof. Flynn took over the chair. Prof. Flynn thanked the members for their confidence in him.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/CONFIDENTIALITY/INDEPENDENCE

The scientific co-ordinator explained that Panel members are required to inform the EFSA of any direct or indirect interests which may be considered prejudicial to their independence. These declarations should be made annually in writing. Furthermore, members are required to declare at each meeting any specific interests in relation to the items on the agenda.

Members are also required to respect confidentiality and to not divulge to third parties information identified by the EFSA as “restricted” or “confidential”.

They should also undertake to act independently of any external influence.

6. WORKING PROGRAMME

¹ MB 17.10.2003-3 adopted (http://www.efsa.eu.int/pdf/decision_panels_mb_04_en.pdf)

The scientific co-ordinator presented a status report on the requests for opinions which are presently under consideration by, or are being officially submitted by the Commission to the Panel.

7. ORGANISATION OF WORKING GROUPS

According to the rules of procedure, the Scientific Committee and Panels may create Working Groups (WGs) whenever they deem it necessary for reasons related to the need for external expertise or their capacity to fulfil their mandates. WGs should be entrusted by the Panel with tasks which are clearly defined. In particular, the WG may be asked to undertake all necessary preparatory tasks in relation to a draft opinion. The Panel can require the WG that these tasks be completed within a set period.

In view of the current working programme of the Panel, the scientific co-ordinator proposed setting up of several WGs covering the areas of food allergy, novel foods and human nutrition. Panel members were invited to indicate their availability for participating in and contributing to the individual WG. The Panel appointed chairpersons for the WGs as follows:

- WG on Novel Foods: Prof. Bevan Moseley
- WG on Upper Levels for Vitamins and Minerals: Prof. Albert Flynn
- WG on Food Allergy: Prof. Strobel
- WG on Infant Formulae: Prof. Hildegard Przyrembel

8. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR 2003

The next Plenary meeting of the Panel was scheduled for 24 November 2003.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

10. ADOPTION OF THESE MINUTES

These minutes were adopted by written procedure on 16 September 2003.