



EFSA
European Food Safety Authority

Panel on Dietetic products, Nutrition and Allergies

SP/NDA/PLEN/MIN/2 Final
19 December 2003

**MINUTES OF THE 2ND PLENARY MEETING OF THE
SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON DIETETIC PRODUCTS, NUTRITION AND ALLERGIES
HELD ON 24-25 NOVEMBER 2003**

PARTICIPANTS

Panel members:

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|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Wulf Becker | • Bevan Moseley |
| • Daniel Brasseur ¹ | • Andreu Palou |
| • Jean-Louis Bresson | • Hildegard Przyrembel |
| • Albert Flynn | • Seppo Salminen ² |
| • Alan A. Jackson ¹ | • Stephan Strobel |
| • Pagona Lagiou | • Hendrik van Loveren |
| • Geltrude Mingrone | |

Experts:

- Annette Pöting²

EFSA staff:

- | | |
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| • Marie-Nöelle Costa | • Pilar Rodríguez Iglesias |
| • Maud Paques | |

European Commission:

- | | |
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| • Elke Anklam ³ | • Helen Lee ⁵ |
| • Rosanna D'Amario ⁴ | • Josephine Mc Court ³ |
| • Jacques Humières ⁵ | • Ana Nieto Nuez ⁴ |
| • Andreas Klepsch ⁵ | • Sabine Osaer ⁵ |

¹ Present on 24 November

² Present on 25 November

³ Joint Research Centre

⁴ DG Research

⁵ DG Health and Consumer Protection

1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence. The chair welcomed Mrs. Maud Paques as the new administrative secretary of the Panel and thanked Mrs. Marie-Noëlle Costa for her valuable support over the last months.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS PLENARY MEETING

The Panel was informed that EFSA moved premises in early October to Rue de Genève 10.

The Panel noted the adoption of the minutes of the previous 1st Plenary meeting of 21 May by written procedure.

5. CO-ORDINATION WITH EFSA SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE AND OTHER EFSA PANELS

The chair briefed the Panel about the previous meetings of the Scientific Committee, and in particular, about the recently created Working Group on Exposure Assessment, of which Dr. Becker is a member.

6. GENERAL INFORMATION BY EFSA ON MATTERS RELATED TO THE PANEL

The Panel was informed about the EFSA proposal for a general format of scientific opinions. Based on this proposal, a scientific opinion will include a short summary of the opinion, the background of the request to EFSA, the question or terms of reference given to the Panel, an assessment chapter, and a section with the conclusions and, if any, recommendations. The opinion will also list the references and documentation made available to EFSA.

The scientific co-ordinator presented the outcome of the Management Board meeting of 16 September focusing on issues that could be relevant for the Panel, such as the decision concerning access to documents and the concepts of openness, transparency and confidentiality.

The Panel was also informed about the Colloque EFSA organized in Ostend, Belgium, from 23-25 October. The main objective of this Colloque was to start a dialogue with EFSA's

stakeholders. The audience was composed of consumer and industry representatives, the chairs of the Scientific Panels and Committee, Commission representatives and EFSA staff. The main conclusions drawn from the Colloque will be presented to the Management Board and they will also be communicated to the Panel.

The Panel agreed with the scientific co-ordinator's proposal for adoption of minutes by written procedure, whenever possible, rather than adopt them at the following Plenary meeting of the Panel.

The scientific co-ordinator briefed the Panel on the new developments of the Sixth Framework Programme for Research and Development (2002-2006), and particularly, on the 2005 and 2006 Annual Work Programmes. Members were invited to send their suggestions on research areas related to the work of the Panel to the scientific co-ordinator.

7. WORK PROGRAMME OF THE PANEL

The Work Programme of the Panel was introduced and discussed. The Panel has been asked to give an opinion on the following questions: 1) Scientific basis supporting the identification of foods which induce allergic reactions for labelling purposes; 2) Upper levels of daily intakes of 12 individual vitamins and minerals, and safety factors for their use in fortified foods and food supplements; 3) Suitability of goats' milk protein as a source of protein in infant formulae and in follow-on formulae; 4) Safety and suitability for particular nutritional use by infants of fructo-oligosaccharides (FOS) at the conditions specified by the manufacturer in infant formulae and follow-on formulae; 5) Reducol as a novel food ingredient based on phytosterols; and 6) Presence of *trans* fatty acids in foods and on the effects on human health of the consumption of *trans* fatty acids.

As to the request on *trans* fatty acids, it was agreed that a new *Ad hoc* Working Group would be set up to deal with the preparatory work required for this question.

The Panel was informed that the request on fractions of cereal brans for use as fat replacers and sources of fibre has been deleted from the existing Work Programme following the withdrawal of this novel food application by the petitioner.

The Commission service responsible for the legislation on labelling briefed the Panel on a future consultation of EFSA in relation to a Directive amending Directive 2000/13/EC[§] adopted on 22 September 2003 by the Council of the European Union. This new Directive establishes a notification procedure to the Commission on studies which are currently being carried out by third parties to determine which substances derived from allergenic ingredients, are not likely to trigger allergic reactions. Third parties will have 9 months to notify the

[§] Directive 2000/13/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the labelling, presentation and advertising of foodstuffs. OJ L 109, 6.5.2000, p. 29.

Commission and the Commission will have 3 additional months to adopt a list of those derived ingredients/substances which will be excluded from being mandatorily declared in the label. To adopt that “negative list” the Commission will have to consult EFSA.

8. DIETETIC PRODUCTS

8.1 Draft opinion on goats’ milk protein as a protein source for infant formulae and follow-on formulae

The chair of the Working Group on Infant Formula introduced the draft opinion. A number of editorial and presentation changes were identified. On the basis of the various issues identified during the discussion the Panel agreed to refer the draft opinion to the Working Group for incorporation of the changes suggested by the Panel and to consider a revised draft opinion at its next Plenary meeting.

8.2 Draft opinion on fructo-oligosaccharides in infant formulae and follow-on formulae

The chair of the Working Group on Infant Formula introduced the draft opinion. A number of editorial and presentation changes were identified. On the basis of the various issues identified during the discussion the Panel agreed to refer the draft opinion to the Working Group for incorporation of the changes suggested by the Panel and to consider a revised draft opinion at its next Plenary meeting.

9. FOOD ALLERGY

9.1 Evaluation of allergenic foods for labelling purposes

The chair of the Working Group on Food Allergy presented the mandate given to the Panel for this request. Given that the review of the scientific basis of allergenic food ingredients for labelling purposes implies a large task, and in view of the size of the draft opinion, the Panel agreed with the chair’s proposal of presenting the draft opinion in two main parts: a first part consisting of the review of each of the individual allergenic food ingredients specified in the new Directive amending Directive 2000/13/EC (Annex IIIa); and a second part composed of general aspects on food allergy and conclusions. The first part was then presented and extensively discussed. This part was adopted subject to incorporation of the changes suggested by the Panel. The remaining part will be submitted for possible adoption to the next Plenary meeting and, together with the first part already adopted, it will constitute the scientific opinion of the Panel on this question.

10. NOVEL FOODS

10.1 Draft opinion on Reducool

The draft opinion prepared by the Working Group on Novel Foods was introduced and discussed.

The Panel noted that the results of the analytical studies to determine the composition and purity of phytosterol mixtures varied depending on the methods applied. This should be taken into account when phytosterol mixtures are evaluated with regard to their contents of total and minor sterols.

During the discussions, the Panel reached agreement on the inclusion of a number of modifications to improve the clarity of the text. The draft opinion was adopted subject to the incorporation of the changes proposed by the Panel.

The text of the full opinion appears on the EFSA web site (<http://www.efsa.eu.int>) on the Internet.

11. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS IN 2004

The Panel agreed on the following dates for Plenary meetings in 2004: 18/19 February, 28/29 April, 8/9 July, 18/19 October, and 1/2 December.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The chair informed the Panel that EFSA Scientific Panels were requested to indicate to EFSA if the Panels would need additional expertise in a specific area. EFSA intends to launch a call for additional experts if the chairs identify such a need. If an additional call for experts is launched, it will provide an opportunity to address the geographical and gender balance issues that were raised in the meeting of the Management Board of 29 April 2003.

13. ADOPTION OF THESE MINUTES

These minutes were adopted by written procedure on 19 December 2003.