



EFSA

European Food Safety Authority

Panel on Dietetic products, Nutrition and Allergies

25 May 2004

**MINUTES OF THE 4TH PLENARY MEETING OF THE
SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON DIETETIC PRODUCTS, NUTRITION AND ALLERGIES
HELD ON 28-29 APRIL 2004**

PARTICIPANTS

Panel members:

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|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| • Wulf Becker | • Hildegard Przyrembel |
| • Albert Flynn | • Salminen Seppo |
| • Pagona Lagiou | • Stephan Strobel |
| • Bevan Moseley | • Hendrik van Loveren ¹ |
| • Andreu Palou | |

EFSA staff:

- | | |
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| • Maud Pâques | • Pilar Rodríguez Iglesias |
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European Commission:

- Helen Lee²
- Sabine Osaer²
- Ana Nieto Nuez³
- Jürgen Lucas³

¹ Present on 28 April

² DG Health and Consumer Protection

³ DG Research

1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Daniel Brasseur, Jean-Louis Bresson, Alan Jackson, and Geltrude Mingrone.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted subject to rearrangement of some agenda items.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS PLENARY MEETING

The scientific co-ordinator briefed the Panel on the follow-up of the opinions adopted at the previous plenary meeting.

The Panel was also informed about a forthcoming new request(s) from the European Commission pursuant to Article 6, paragraph 11 of Directive 2000/13/EC, as amended by Directive 2003/89/EC[†]. This Article lays down a notification procedure allowing for a temporary labelling exemption of food ingredients derived from food allergens (Annex IIIa of the Directive). In order to grant such temporary exemption, applicants should notify the Commission not later than 25 August 2004. Subsequently, the Commission shall request EFSA to evaluate each of the dossiers submitted and to deliver an opinion. Following this, the Commission shall, not later than 25 November 2004, adopt a list of those ingredients, which shall be temporary excluded from Annex IIIa.

From the discussion it was clearly stated that the timeframe laid down in the Directive for the completion of this task by EFSA was completely unrealistic as it requires the Panel to carry out the evaluation of an unknown number of dossiers and to deliver the corresponding opinions within a time period of 2 months. In this context, the chair pointed out EFSA's position on timeframes recently endorsed by the EFSA Management Board at its meeting on 29 April 2004. The Board endorsed the Authority's position that meeting deadlines cannot be at the price of inferior science. The Board also confirmed EFSA's commitment to delivering independent, high quality scientific advice in reasonable timeframes.

The chair of the Working Group on Food Allergy introduced a general outline of the work programme for this forthcoming task. Given the complexity of the task from a scientific point of view, it has been considered valuable to get input from the relevant stakeholders before starting with the evaluation of the individual dossiers. For this purpose, a stakeholder hearing will take place during the next meeting of the Working Group.

[†] Directive 2003/89/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2000/13/EC as regards indication of the ingredients present in foodstuffs. OJ L 308, 25.11.2003, p. 15.

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

The chair briefed the Panel about a request from the European Parliament to deliver a scientific opinion on the health risks related to the human consumption of wild and farmed fish (salmon and other carnivorous fish species farmed in substantial quantities) marketed in the European Union. This request has been allocated to the Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain, which is in the process of setting up a working group. Members of the Panel were invited to join this working group.

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

The scientific co-ordinator briefed the Panel about the call for expression of interests in membership of the Panel, which closed on 15 March 2004. EFSA is currently carrying out the evaluation process of the applications. It is envisaged that a shortlist would be established, from which the new members would be selected for final approval by the Management Board.

The Panel was informed on the most recent developments of the move to Parma, in particular, on the sign of the Site Agreement between EFSA and the Italian Government on 27 April 2004. This is an essential step that would allow EFSA to move ahead with the preparations for a permanent move.

Information on the new EFSA web site, the monthly EFSA Newsletter as well as on the EFSA Register of Requested Opinions allocated to the Panels and Committee was also provided.

7. UPDATE ON RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK PROGRAMMES CONCERNING MATTERS RELATED TO THE PANEL

Dr. Jürgen Lucas from the Commission services gave a presentation on the sixth Framework Programme and, particularly, on research projects related to thematic priority 5 “Food Quality and Safety”.

8. UPPER LEVELS FOR VITAMINS AND MINERALS

8.1 Draft opinion on the tolerable upper intake level of vitamin C

The draft opinion prepared by the Working Group on Upper Levels for Vitamins and Minerals was introduced and discussed. The opinion was adopted subject to the incorporation of modifications agreed upon by the Panel.

The text of the full opinion appears on the EFSA web site on the Internet, available at: http://www.efsa.eu.int/science/nda/nda_opinions/catindex_en.html.

8.2 Draft opinion on the tolerable upper intake level of silicon

The draft opinion prepared by the Working Group on Upper Levels for Vitamins and Minerals was introduced and discussed. The opinion was adopted subject to the incorporation of modifications agreed upon by the Panel.

The text of the full opinion appears on the EFSA web site on the Internet, available at: http://www.efsa.eu.int/science/nda/nda_opinions/catindex_en.html.

9. NUTRITION

9.1 *Trans* fatty acids (TFA): oral report

The chair briefed the Panel about the current status of this request. A draft opinion on the presence of *trans* fatty acids in foods and the effects on human health of the consumption of *trans* fatty acids is currently being prepared by the Working Group on TFA. The Working Group intends to submit a draft opinion to the next Plenary meeting of the Panel in July.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

11. ADOPTION OF THESE MINUTES

These minutes were adopted by written procedure on 20 May 2004.