



**EFSA**  
European Food Safety Authority

**Panel on Dietetic products, Nutrition and Allergies**

16 December 2004

**MINUTES OF THE 7<sup>TH</sup> PLENARY MEETING OF THE  
SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON DIETETIC PRODUCTS, NUTRITION AND ALLERGIES  
HELD ON 1-2 DECEMBER 2004**

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**PARTICIPANTS**

**Panel members:**

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|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| • Wulf Becker                    | • Bevan Moseley        |
| • Francesco Branca               | • Andreu Palou         |
| • Albert Flynn                   | • Hildegard Przyrembel |
| • Alan Jackson <sup>1</sup>      | • Stephan Strobel      |
| • Pagona Lagiou <sup>1</sup>     | • Henk van den Berg    |
| • Martinus Løvik                 | • Hendrik van Loveren  |
| • Geltrude Mingrone <sup>2</sup> |                        |

**EFSA staff:**

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|-----------------|----------------------------|
| • Leng Heng     | • Pilar Rodríguez Iglesias |
| • Cecilia Lloyd |                            |

**European Commission:**

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|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • Andreas Klepsch <sup>3</sup>  | • Rosella Elisa Bettio <sup>3</sup> |
| • Jacques Humières <sup>3</sup> | • Sabine Osaer <sup>3</sup>         |

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<sup>1</sup> Present on the 1<sup>st</sup> December

<sup>2</sup> Present on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December

<sup>3</sup> DG Health and Consumer Protection

## **1. WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS, APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Daniel Brasseur, Jean-Louis Bresson and Seppo Salminen.

## **2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

The agenda was adopted following rearrangement of some items.

## **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Francesco Branca declared an interest in relation to agenda item 7.6. The Panel considered that Dr. Branca could attend during the discussion of this item. He has been carrying out work in collaboration with DSM but of general nature and not directly related to this particular application.

## **4. CO-ORDINATION WITH EFSA SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE AND OTHER EFSA PANELS**

The Panel was updated on those activities of the EFSA Scientific Committee related to the Panel, and in particular on the Working Group on Exposure Assessment. The WG is preparing a draft opinion for discussion at the December plenary meeting of the Scientific Committee; and it is also preparing a second draft opinion dealing with uncertainties in exposure assessment. In addition, a draft template for a table of national food consumption data has been circulated to the Scientific Panels and Committee to look for their input on the proposed approach. After the consultation round, a call for tender will be launched aimed at extending the food consumption table with data from other Member States.

The Panel was also informed of the discussion on animal welfare that took place at the previous plenary meeting of the Scientific Committee. In particular, further steps to develop and implement a pro-active and science-based animal welfare policy in EFSA were considered. The Scientific Committee has now been invited to contribute to the existing EFSA document entitled “Food and feed safety and the use of animals” with a more detailed views on EFSA’s animal welfare policy.

## **5. GENERAL INFORMATION BY EFSA ON MATTERS RELATED TO THE PANEL**

The scientific co-ordinator briefed the Panel about the EFSA work plan for 2005. A draft text will be discussed at the December meeting of the Management Board. The final version will be submitted to the Board meeting in January 2005. In addition to the projects for 2004, EFSA would like to give priority to activities on transparency in risk assessment, an evaluation of the benchmark dose approach, the organisation of four-five scientific colloquia, to more network building and to the creation of an expert database.

Following the legal obligation stated in Article 61 paragraph 1 of the founding Regulation\* EFSA is currently considering an evaluation of the Authority, which will be outsourced to an independent consultant. The terms of reference of this evaluation are currently being prepared by the Authority and the European Commission and are expected to be formally approved by the Management Board at its meeting in December.

## **6. NEW REQUESTS FOR SCIENTIFIC OPINION**

The European Commission has requested EFSA to give a scientific opinion on the safety of the novel food ingredient lycopene from *Blakeslea trispora*, for which a request for placing on the market was submitted under the Novel Food Regulation (EC) N° 258/97 by Vitatene to the competent authorities of the United Kingdom.

This request has been allocated to the Working Group on Novel Foods. The expected date of completion of this request is April 2005.

## **7. FOOD ALLERGY: APPLICATIONS PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 6 PARAGRAPH 11 OF DIRECTIVE 2000/13/EC**

The following draft opinions prepared by the Working Group on Food Allergy were introduced and discussed:

- Draft opinion on fully refined soybean oil and fat
- Draft opinion on isinglass
- Draft opinion on nuts (almonds, walnuts) extracts used as flavour in distillates
- Draft opinion on fish gelatine for use as a formulation aid (carrier) in vitamin and carotenoid preparations
- Draft opinion on fish gelatine used as carrier for flavour
- Draft opinion on fish gelatine for different uses in food
- Draft opinion on fish gelatine
- Draft opinion on hydrolysed wheat gluten used as fining agent in wines
- Draft opinion on celery leaf oil, celery seed oleoresin, celery seed oil
- Draft opinion on mustard seed oil, mustard seed oleoresin
- Draft opinion on mustard seed oil
- Draft opinion on lactitol

The opinions were adopted subject to the incorporation of modifications agreed upon by the Panel.

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\* This article states: "Before 1 January 2005 and every six years thereafter, the Authority, in collaboration with the Commission, shall commission an independent external evaluation of its achievements on the basis of the terms of reference issued by the Management Board in agreement with the Commission. The evaluation will assess the working practices and the impact of the Authority. The evaluation will take into account the views of the stakeholders, at both Community and national level. The Management Board of the Authority shall examine the conclusions of the evaluation and issue to the Commission such recommendations as may be necessary regarding changes in the Authority and its working practices. The evaluation reports and the recommendations shall be forwarded to the Council and the European Parliament and shall be made public."

The text of each of the full opinions appears on the EFSA web site, available at: [http://www.efsa.eu.int/science/nda/nda\\_opinions/catindex\\_en.html](http://www.efsa.eu.int/science/nda/nda_opinions/catindex_en.html).

## **8. NOVEL FOODS**

### **8.1 Draft opinion on Enova oil**

The draft opinion prepared by the Working Group on Novel Foods 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, available at: [http://www.efsa.eu.int/science/nda/nda\\_opinions/catindex\\_en.html](http://www.efsa.eu.int/science/nda/nda_opinions/catindex_en.html).

### **8.2 Draft opinion on betaine**

As there was not enough time, the discussion of the draft opinion was deferred until the next plenary meeting of the Panel.

## **9. UPPER LEVELS FOR VITAMINS AND MINERALS**

### **9.1 Draft opinion on the tolerable upper intake level of nickel**

There was not enough time to discuss the draft opinion. The Panel agreed to circulate the draft opinion with a view to be adopted by written procedure.

## **10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

## **11. ADOPTION OF THESE MINUTES**

These minutes were adopted by written procedure on 17 January 2005.