



EFSA
European Food Safety Authority

Panel on Dietetic products, Nutrition and Allergies

31 August 2006

**MINUTES OF THE 14TH PLENARY MEETING OF THE
SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON DIETETIC PRODUCTS, NUTRITION AND ALLERGIES
HELD ON 5-6 JULY 2006**

PARTICIPANTS

Panel members:

- Jean-Louis Bresson
- Albert Flynn
- Marina Heinonen
- Karin Hulshof
- Pagona Lagiou
- Martinus Løvik
- Rosangela Marchelli
- Ambroise Martin
- Bevan Moseley
- Andreu Palou
- Hildegard Przyrembel
- Seppo Salminen
- John Sean Strain
- Stephan Strobel
- Henk van den Berg
- Hendrik van Loveren
- Hans Verhagen

EFSA staff:

- Wolfgang Gelbmann
- Leng Heng
- Cecilia Lloyd
- Pilar Rodríguez Iglesias

European Commission:

- Sabine Osaer¹

¹ DG Health and Consumer Protection

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF EXPERTS

The scientific co-ordinator welcomed the participants and congratulated the Panel members on their nomination. Participants introduced themselves, focusing on their areas of interest and expertise.

2. GENERAL INTRODUCTION OF EFSA

The Executive Director, Ms. Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle, welcomed the participants and presented a general introduction about the mission of EFSA, particularly highlighting the new challenges with the upcoming adoption of the Regulation on Health and Nutrition Claims, and outlining the recent recommendation of the Management Board for EFSA development in the field of nutrition and enhancement in scientific co-operation and networking with Member States.

Dr. Herman Koëter (acting as Science Director) stressed the important principles of EFSA: transparency, independence and close communication between risk assessors and risk managers.

The different EFSA departments presented to all Panel members the general activities of EFSA:

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|--|---------------------------|
| - Introduction of the scientific work | <i>Djien Liem</i> |
| - Communication strategy | <i>Anne-Laure Gassin</i> |
| - Institutional and international relations | <i>Christine Majewski</i> |
| - Legal aspects including declarations of interest | <i>Dirk Detken</i> |

3. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIRS

The Scientific Co-ordinator introduced the procedures for the election of the chair and vice-chairs² and outlined their roles and responsibilities.

Prof. Albert Flynn was unanimously re-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.

4. ADOPTION OF THE REMAINING AGENDA

The remaining agenda was adopted.

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/mboard/statutory_texts/internal_rules/409/decision_panels_mb_04_en11.pdf

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Scientific Co-ordinator explained that Panel members are required to inform 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.

All members were requested to submit all documents in relation to declarations on confidentiality, commitment of independence and annual declaration of interests to the secretariat.

In relation to the Agenda item 8.2, Karin Hulshof indicated that she was involved in the preparation of the intake exposure calculations made for the application on DHA-rich oil from micro-algae. This was not considered as a conflict of interests and she was invited to participate in the discussion.

No other declarations of interest were made in relation to the remaining items of the agenda.

6. INTRODUCTION TO WORK PROGRAMME AND WORKING GROUPS FOR THE NDA PANEL

The Scientific Co-ordinator outlined the current work programme of the NDA Panel. To assist the Panel in fulfilling the current existing and the upcoming work programme, five Working Groups (WG) have been established on the following subjects:

- **WG on Population Reference Intakes** – the mandate comprises: establishment of nutrient-based recommendations for macronutrients; guidance on translation of nutrient-based recommendations into food-based recommendations; establishment of nutrient-based recommendations for micronutrients;
- **WG on Novel Foods** for applications made under Regulation (EC) N° 258/97;
- **WG on Food Allergy** – in charge of the evaluation of dossiers for inclusion of food ingredients or substances in a positive list of allergens exempt from mandatory labelling (pursuant to Article 6 paragraph 11 of Directive 2000/13/EC);
- **WG on Infant Formulae** for questions related to Directive 91/321/EEC;
- **WG on Claims** – a new expert group has been established to take up the tasks related to the forthcoming Regulation on nutrition and health claims.

7. NEW REQUESTS FOR SCIENTIFIC OPINIONS

- The European Commission has requested EFSA to issue an opinion concerning a novel food application on fruit juices and fruit nectars with added phytosterols. In particular, EFSA is asked to consider whether, in the light of the existing availability of a range of foods with added phytosterols, the addition of phytosterols to the proposed “fruit juices” and “fruit nectars” may lead to an intake of phytosterols exceeding 3 g of added phytosterols per day. This request has been allocated to the Working Group on Novel Foods.

8. NOVEL FOODS

8.1 Draft Opinion related to the safety of noni juice (juice of the fruit of *Morinda citrifolia* L.)

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.

Post-meeting notes: Shortly after the plenary meeting a new case report of liver adverse effects in a patient consuming noni juice was published. In order to take the new case into consideration it was decided to amend the opinion, which was adopted by written procedure on 1 September 2006.

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

8.2 Draft statement on the addition of DHA-rich oil from micro algae to an extended range of foods

The draft statement prepared by the Working Group on Novel Foods was introduced and discussed. The statement was adopted subject to the incorporation of modifications agreed upon by the Panel.

The text of the full statement appears on the EFSA web site, available at: http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/science/nda/nda_statements.html

9. MEETING DATES FOR 2006-2007

The following Plenary dates were set:

13-14 December 2006

14-15 February 2007

18-19 April 2007

5-6 July 2007

3-4 October 2007

28-29 November 2007

Post-meeting notes: The plenary of 4-5 October 2006 was cancelled.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

9. ADOPTION OF THESE MINUTES

These minutes were adopted by written procedure on 22 September 2006.