



EFSA
European Food Safety Authority

Panel on Dietetic products, Nutrition and Allergies

23 February 2007

**MINUTES OF THE 15TH PLENARY MEETING OF THE
SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON DIETETIC PRODUCTS, NUTRITION AND ALLERGIES
HELD ON 14-15 FEBRUARY 2007**

PARTICIPANTS

Panel members:

- Jean-Louis Bresson
- Albert Flynn
- Marina Heinonen
- Karin Hulshof
- Pagona Lagiou
- Martinus Løvik
- Rosangela Marchelli
- Ambroise Martin
- Andreu Palou
- Hildegard Przyrembel
- John 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
- Silvia Valtueña Martínez

European Commission:

- Sabine Osaer¹

¹ DG Health and Consumer Protection

1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chair welcomed all participants to the plenary meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Bevan Moseley and Seppo Salminen.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted with some changes in the order of items discussed.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In relation to the Agenda item 6.2, Hans Verhagen declared being the co-author of an article on the reproduction toxicology of γ -cyclodextrin, a chemical congener of alpha-cyclodextrin, together with the applicant, which was published 10 years ago (1998). This was not considered as a conflict of interests and therefore no action was taken.

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

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

The Scientific Co-ordinator briefed the Panel about the new mandate of the Scientific Committee (SC) to give an Opinion, i.e. for a guidance document on human health risk-benefit assessment of foods. A new working group will be composed of members of the various EFSA Scientific Panels, including the NDA Panel.

In addition, as a follow-up of the SC Opinion related to the early identification of emerging risks, a new SC working group was charged to prepare an action plan in order to help EFSA in building-up EFSA's capability to identify and evaluate emerging risks. Regarding nature and sources of information required, the broad knowledge of the members of the Scientific Committee and Panels was considered an invaluable source. In this context, Panel members were requested to review key indicators for identifying food-related emerging risks and to describe possible emerging issues that members are aware of including the nature and magnitude of the issue.

5. GENERAL INFORMATION BY EFSA ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE PANEL

The Scientific Co-ordinator informed the Panel on the following:

At its last meeting in January 2007, the EFSA Management Board (MB) appointed two new members for the NDA Panel, i.e. Dr. Inge Tetens (Denmark) and Dr. Hannu Korhonen (Finland). The new members have accepted the Panel membership and will therefore join the NDA Panel for its forthcoming meetings.

The MB also adopted in December 2006 the List of competent organisations designated by the Member States under Article 36 framework, which may assist/collaborate with EFSA in its mission related to scientific matters. It was emphasised that this list can be extended at a

later stage and that the absence of an institute on the list does not mean that this institute is not suitable for working with EFSA. This List will be regularly updated and published on EFSA webpage.

In relation to declarations of interests, Panel members were reminded to submit any update in relation to their annual declarations to the Secretariat. More guidance on this matter will be provided to members.

6. NEW REQUESTS FOR SCIENTIFIC OPINIONS

6.1 Food allergy – Permanent exemption for labelling of allergenic foods

EFSA has been requested by the Commission to evaluate 21 applications submitted by industry pursuant to Article 6 paragraph 11 of Directive 2000/13/EC concerning derivatives of food allergens in order to allow the Commission to establish a list of those derivatives that will be permanently exempted from mandatory labelling.

This permanent exemption is the second stage of the two-step procedure, which follows on from the first stage (i.e. temporary exemption) which was completed by the Commission in 2006 following an assessment by the NDA Panel of 22 applications. This permanent exemption procedure should be completed by 25 November 2007; particularly, the Commission should adopt the list of food ingredients or substances that will be permanently exempted from labelling. In order to adopt such a list, the Commission has to consult EFSA.

The Panel will continue the evaluation of the applications and provide scientific opinions as requested by the Commission over the coming months. The estimative timeframe to complete the task is October 2007. More information about these requests can be found on the EFSA Register of Questions (http://www.efsa.europa.eu/register/qr_panels_en.html).

6.2 Novel foods

The scientific co-ordinator informed the Panel about two new requests for opinion from the European Commission on two novel food applications, one on **α -Cyclodextrin** and another one on ***Morinda citrifolia* leaf**, submitted in accordance with the Novel Foods Regulation 258/97/EC.

The requests have been allocated to the Novel Foods Working Group of the Panel. More information about these requests can be found on the EFSA Register of Questions (http://www.efsa.europa.eu/register/qr_panels_en.html).

7. NOVEL FOODS

7.1 Draft statement on fruit juices and nectars with added phytosterol

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

8. FOOD ALLERGY: APPLICATIONS PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 6 PARAGRAPH 11 OF DIRECTIVE 2000/13/EC (PERMANENT EXEMPTION)

8.1 Draft opinion on glucose syrups based on barley

The draft opinion prepared by the Working Group on Food Allergy 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.europa.eu/science/nda/nda_opinions/catindex_en.html

9. POPULATION REFERENCE INTAKES

This undertaking is in relation to the request from the European Commission to EFSA to establish recommended nutrient intakes for the European population, and in particular to review the existing advice of the Scientific Committee on Food (SCF²) on Population Reference Intakes (PRI) for energy, nutrients and other substances with a nutritional or physiological effect in the context of a balanced diet which, when part of an overall healthy lifestyle, contribute to good health through optimal nutrition.

As the first part of the undertaking on macronutrients, the Working Group submitted to the Panel for discussion draft opinions on 1) principles / introduction to the task; 2) PRI for carbohydrates and dietary fibre; and 3) PRI for water.

The draft opinions prepared by the Working Group on Population Reference Intake were introduced and discussed. Comments raised will be put back to the Working Group for consideration and for finalisation. Revised draft opinions will be re-submitted to the Panel for adoption at a future meeting.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

² <http://ec.europa.eu/comm/food/fs/sc/scf/out89.pdf>

11. ADOPTION OF THESE MINUTES

These minutes were adopted by written procedure on 13 March 2007.