

**MINUTES OF THE 17<sup>TH</sup> PLENARY MEETING OF THE  
SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON DIETETIC PRODUCTS, NUTRITION AND ALLERGIES  
HELD ON 5-6 JULY 2007**

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**PARTICIPANTS**

**Panel members:**

- Jean-Louis Bresson
- Albert Flynn
- Marina Heinonen
- Karin Hulshof
- Hannu Korhonen
- Pagona Lagiou
- Martinus Løvik
- Rosangela Marchelli
- Ambroise Martin
- Bevan Moseley
- Andreu Palou
- Hildegard Przyrembel
- Seppo Salminen
- John John (Sean) Strain
- 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 Osaer<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 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 Inge Tetens and Stephan Strobel.

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

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

## **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

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

The Scientific Co-ordinator introduced the new form of Annual Declaration of Interests (DoI) to the Panel. Members are requested to renew their Annual DoI by using the new form provided and return it to the Secretariat as soon as possible.

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

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

In relation to EFSA five year anniversary, a series of events and activities have been planned ([http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/about\\_efsa/efsa\\_5th\\_anniversary.html](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/about_efsa/efsa_5th_anniversary.html)), particularly:

- The two-day scientific forum (20-21 November) will give scientists and other interested parties to debate issues within EFSA's remit including nutrition, nanotechnology, animal cloning, and chemical and microbiological risks .
- The Food Safety summit (22 November) is for high-level decision makers from EU and non-EU countries, to consider jointly the future of food and feed risk assessment in Europe.

EFSA and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) had signed the first U.S./European agreement in the area of assessing food safety risk. This is the first formal step in cooperation between the two bodies. The agreement is designed to facilitate the sharing of confidential scientific and other information between EFSA and the FDA, such as methodologies to ensure that food is safe. The signed statement is posted on EFSA webpage: [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/press\\_room/press\\_release/pr\\_fda.html](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/press_room/press_release/pr_fda.html).

In addition, EFSA has also met with World Health Organisation (WHO) in Brussels to strengthen scientific co-operation between the two bodies.

In relation to EFSA mandate on nutrient profiles, the Panel was briefed about the ongoing work carried out by its expert Working Group on Claims in setting the nutrient profiles, and

the iterative approach established for close co-operation between EFSA and the Risk Manager.

A scientific colloquium on nutrient profiles is scheduled to take place on 11-12 October 2007 in Parma. The programme once available will be announced on EFSA webpage.

In relation to EFSA Management Board, during its 31<sup>st</sup> meeting on 19 June, Albert Flynn (Chair of the NDA Panel) was invited to give a presentation about the work carried out by the NDA Panel and on future focus. Positive and supportive feedbacks were received from the Management Board related to the work of the Panel. The meeting was live broadcasted: [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/mboard/mb\\_meetings/mb\\_31st\\_meeting.html](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/mboard/mb_meetings/mb_31st_meeting.html).

During its 31<sup>st</sup> meeting, the Management Board also discussed proposals to improve the efficiency of the scientific activities of the Scientific Committee and the Panels, resulting from the Away Day of the Management Board.

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

### **6.1 Food allergy – Permanent exemption for labelling of derivatives from allergenic foods**

In addition to 21 applications already received, EFSA received in May 2007 another request from the Commission to evaluate an application **on plant sterol esters from soybean oil submitted by industry pursuant to Article 6 paragraph 11 of Directive 2000/13/EC** in the framework of permanent exemption 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. 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://www3.efsa.europa.eu/register/qr\\_panels\\_en.html](http://www3.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 related to **Lycopene oleoresin from tomatoes and Zeaxanthin**, submitted in accordance with the Novel Foods Regulation 258/97/EC.

The requests have been allocated to the Panel's Working Group on Novel Foods. More information about these requests can be found on the EFSA Register of Questions ([http://www3.efsa.europa.eu/register/qr\\_panels\\_en.html](http://www3.efsa.europa.eu/register/qr_panels_en.html)).

## 7. NUTRITION AND HEALTH CLAIMS

### 7.1 Draft opinion on “Scientific and technical guidance for preparation and presentation of the application for authorisation of a health claim”

On 16 May 2007, EFSA released for public consultation a draft opinion on “Scientific and technical guidance for preparation and presentation of the application for authorisation of a health claim”. In addition, a technical meeting with the stakeholder consultative platform took place on 11 June for exchange of views on the draft opinion.

Extensive comments have been received resulting from the consultation. About 300 comments were received from and outside the EU, representing: industries, consumer organisations, the scientific community (institutions, academia), and regulatory bodies representing EU-health related organisation or Member State.

All comments received have been considered by the Panel. In the light of these comments received the draft opinion has been amended, which was introduced to the Panel 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/en/science/nda/nda\\_opinions/claims/ej530\\_guidance\\_health\\_claims.html](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/science/nda/nda_opinions/claims/ej530_guidance_health_claims.html)

## 8. FOOD ALLERGY: ARTICLE 6 PARAGRAPH 11 OF DIRECTIVE 2000/13/EC (PERMANENT EXEMPTIONS)

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

- **Draft opinion on isinglass used as a clarifying agent in brewing**
- **Draft opinion on fish products (isinglass) used in the manufacture of wine**
- **Draft opinion on fish gelatine or isinglass used as fining agents in wine**
- **Draft opinion on casein and potassium caseinate used in the manufacture of wine**
- **Draft opinion on milk used in the manufacture of wine**
- **Draft opinion on milk (casein) products used as fining agents in wine**

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

The full text of each of the opinions appears on the EFSA web site, available at: [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/science/nda/nda\\_opinions/food\\_allergy.html](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/science/nda/nda_opinions/food_allergy.html)

## **9. NOVEL FOODS**

### **9.1 Draft opinion on alpha-cyclodextrin**

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.europa.eu/en/science/nda/nda\\_opinions/novel\\_foods.html](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/science/nda/nda_opinions/novel_foods.html)

## **10. POPULATION REFERENCE INTAKES**

### **10.1 Draft statement on dietary fibre**

The draft statement prepared by the Working Group on Population Reference Intakes 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](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/science/nda/nda_statements.html)

## **11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

*Post-meeting notes* - NDA Plenary meeting dates scheduled for 2008:

- 30-31 January -1 February;
- 22-23-24 April;
- 9-10-11 July;
- 30 September -1-2 October;
- 2-3-4 December.

## **12. ADOPTION OF THESE MINUTES**

These minutes were adopted by written procedure on 20 August 2007.