

**MINUTES OF THE 19TH PLENARY MEETING OF THE
SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON DIETETIC PRODUCTS, NUTRITION AND ALLERGIES
HELD ON 30-31 JANUARY 2008**

PARTICIPANTS

Panel members:

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|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| • Albert Flynn | • Andreu Palou |
| • Karin Hulshof | • Hildegard Przyrembel |
| • Hannu Korhonen | • John John (Sean) Strain |
| • Pagona Lagiou | • Stephan Strobel |
| • Martinus Løvik | • Henk van den Berg |
| • Rosangela Marchelli | • Hendrik van Loveren |
| • Ambroise Martin | • Hans Verhagen |
| • Bevan Moseley | |

EFSA staff:

- Wolfgang Gelbmann
- Leng Heng
- Jorge Jorda Calero
- Cecilia Lloyd
- Pilar Rodríguez Iglesias
- Maria Skarp
- Silvia Valtueña Martínez

European Commission:

- Christophe Didion¹

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 Jean-Louis Bresson, Marina Heinonen and Seppo Salminen.

On behalf of the Panel the Chair expressed its acknowledgement to Pilar Rodríguez Iglesias for her co-ordinating role and her excellent support and contribution to the work of the Panel since its creation in 2003.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Panel members were invited to declare possible interests by filling and signing a form linked to specific items included on the Agenda (6.1, 6.2, 6.3 and 7.1) at the beginning of the meeting. The declarations received were not considered as conflicts 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 informed the Panel that EFSA is launching a public consultation until 25 February 2008 on its draft scientific opinion on the implications of animal cloning on food safety, animal health and welfare and the environment (http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178676922939.htm). The work follows a request from the European Commission (EC) to EFSA for advice on this issue in February 2007. EFSA's Scientific Committee (SC) has led this work and has been assisted by a Working Group of scientists with relevant expertise to consider the different aspects of the Commission's request.

The Scientific Co-ordinator also briefed the Panel about EFSA's Scientific Panel on food additives, flavourings, processing aids and materials in contact with food (AFC Panel), which will soon branch into two separate Panels, in order to increase further EFSA's pool of expertise and to accelerate processes in a field where output is particularly high. EFSA had launched a call for experts to constitute the two new Panels (http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178680029932.htm).

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

The Panel was given an overview on the 2008 Workplan about the expected activities related to nutrition and health claims. In 2008, in addition to existing mandates, the NDA Panel is expected to undertake a large amount of work related to:

- General scientific advice on nutrient profiles and advice to EFSA for development of a suitable food composition database and its use in testing any proposed scheme.
- Evaluation of individual applications for authorisation of health claims (Articles 14 and 18), with 5 months legal deadline.
- Scientific advice on the list of health claims (i.e. Article 13: function claims) to be received from the Commission.

Dr. Riitta Maijala, Director of EFSA's Risk Assessment Department, presented to the Panel the staff resource planning for 2008 to provide support to the NDA Panel.

In relation to the secretariat support to the Panel and considering the challenging activities outlined above, the Panel expressed its deep regret and disappointment about the EFSA decision not to renew the contract of Pilar Rodríguez Iglesias, given her excellent support for the work of the Panel over the past 5 years.

6. NEW REQUESTS FOR SCIENTIFIC OPINIONS

6.1 Novel Foods

Three new requests for opinion were from the European Commission on three novel food applications related to **Fungal oil, synthetic lycopene** and ***Morinda citrifolia* (noni) fruit puree and concentrate**, 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://www.efsa.europa.eu/registerofquestions>).

6.2 Infant Formulae

A request for opinion was received from the European Commission related to the evaluation of the safety and suitability of **lutein** for the particular nutritional use by infants and young children.

The request has been allocated to the Panel's Working Group on Infant Formulae. More information about this request can be found on the EFSA Register of Questions (<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/registerofquestions>)

6.3 Health Claims - Applications pursuant to Article 14 of Regulation (EC) No 1924/2006

The Panel was updated about applications pursuant to Article 14 of **Regulation (EC) No 1924/2006** submitted via the National Competent Authority of a Member State, which **have been received by EFSA**.

Upon receipt of the application, EFSA will proceed with its administrative checking (i.e. clearance of the scope and completeness check of the data). During this phase EFSA may consult the NDA Panel on the need for action relating to matters such as completeness of data. If relevant, the Commission Services will be consulted on points of interpretation of EU

legislation particularly in relation to the scope. In the event that EFSA requires additional data, information or clarification in order to consider an application valid, the applicant will be asked to supply these data, information or clarification within a notified time limit.

The Scientific Scientific Co-ordinator also stressed that applications submitted under the wrong scope, non-adherence of the application to the EFSA “scientific and technical guidance for the preparation and presentation of the application for authorisation of a health claim”, incompleteness of data (e.g. missing “summary of application”) are contributors to delays in the start of the scientific evaluation procedure by the Panel.

Once validated, the summary of application and details on the time schedule are published on EFSA webpage: http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/ScientificPanels/NDA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178684448831.htm.

7. NUTRITION AND HEALTH CLAIMS

7.1 Draft opinion on the setting of nutrient profiles for foods bearing nutrition and health claims pursuant to article 4 of Regulation 1924/2006

The draft opinion prepared by the Working Group on Claims 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/EFSA/ScientificPanels/NDA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_Opinions465.htm

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

9. ADOPTION OF THESE MINUTES

These minutes were adopted by written procedure on 26 February 2008.