

Parma, 25/09/2015

Note on the establishment of a Standing Working Group on Claims of the Scientific Panel on Dietetic Products, Nutrition and Allergies (2015-2018)

The Nutrition Unit is requested to manage the administrative and scientific activities of the Standing Working Group on Claims. The Nutrition Unit is also requested to organise the meetings of the Standing Working Group and assist in the preparation of the relevant EFSA scientific outputs in line with the tasks delegated to the Standing Working Group.

Background:

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) is the keystone of European Union risk assessment regarding food and feed safety, animal health and welfare, nutrition, plant protection and plant health. In close collaboration with national authorities and in open consultation with its stakeholders, EFSA provides independent and transparent scientific advice and clear communication on existing and emerging risks associated with the food chain. On request from the European Commission, European Parliament and Member States or on its own initiative¹, EFSA provides scientific opinions on issues falling under its remit.

The Scientific Panel on Dietetic Products, Nutrition and Allergies, which deals with questions on the scientific substantiation of health claims, dietary reference values, the safety of novel foods, the safety and suitability of substances for use in infant formulae, the potential of certain food ingredients to cause allergic or intolerance reactions, upper tolerable intake levels of vitamins and minerals, and other generic questions in relation to nutrition, confirmed during its 67th Plenary Meeting the need of a Standing Working Group on Claims.

Terms of reference:

The objective of the Standing Working Group on Claims is to perform the preparatory work for consideration by the Scientific Panel in relation to requests falling under the framework of Regulation (EC) No 1924/2006² (i.e. elaboration of draft opinions on the scientific substantiation of health claims made on foods, development of further draft guidance and/or update of existing guidance related to health claims, and assistance to any other request from the European

¹ Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and the Council of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety (OJ, L 31, 1.2.2002, p. 1-24).

² Regulation (EC) No 1924/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 December 2006 on nutrition and health claims made on foods. OJ L 404, 30.12.2006, p. 9-25. <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CONSLEG:2006R1924:20100302:EN:PDF>

Commission related to Regulation (EC) No 1924/2006). In order to fulfil its objective, the above-mentioned Standing Working Group shall consist of members with expertise in any of the following scientific areas: human medicine, human nutrition, paediatrics/infant nutrition, sport nutrition/weight management, food chemistry/biochemistry, physiology, (food) microbiology/gut microbiota, clinical immunology/gastroenterology, psychology, epidemiology, statistics, experience in the scientific substantiation of health claims.

Members:

During the 67th Plenary Meeting of the Scientific Panel on Dietetic Products, Nutrition and Allergies, the Chair appointed (in consultation with EFSA) the Chair of the Standing Working Group on Claims. The decision on the composition of the Standing Working Group was made by the Chair of the Standing Working Group upon proposal of the respective EFSA Head of Unit. The composition of the Standing Working Group on Claims is available on the EFSA website³.

Scope in EFSA's work and outsourcing programme:

The Standing Working Group will assess the available and relevant scientific information and data provided to EFSA by Member States and stakeholders, those submitted through the applicants' dossiers (when applicable), those collected through public calls for data, as well as those collected by EFSA itself. As appropriate, EFSA may outsource the collection, collation or analysis of scientific information, through its grant and procurement schemes, in order to support the scientific assessment of the Standing Working Group.

Timelines:

Provided the Standing Working Group on Claims is not closed earlier, as a result of a period of inactivity, then its mandate will terminate 3 months after the inaugural meeting of the subsequent Scientific Panel on Dietetic Products, Nutrition and Allergies (2018-2021).

Expected deliverables:

Draft EFSA scientific outputs, which will be submitted for consideration and possible adoption by the Scientific Panel on Dietetic Products, Nutrition and Allergies.

SIGNED

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³ <https://ess.efsa.europa.eu/doi/doiweb/doisearch>