

Parma, 18/11/2015

Note on the establishment of a Standing Working Group on Food Allergy 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 Food Allergy. 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 69th Plenary Meeting the need of a Standing Working Group on Food Allergy in order to assist the Panel in issuing opinions in the context of the re-examination of Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011, as requested in Article 21(2) of that Regulation, including any subsequent amendments or implementing legislative measures thereof.

Terms of reference:

The objective(s) of the Standing Working Group on Food Allergy is to perform the following preparatory work for consideration by the Scientific Panel in relation to requests falling under the framework of Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 or any subsequent amendments or implementing measures thereof:

- Preparation of draft opinions related to risk assessment of food allergens.
- Assistance in updating the existing opinion on the evaluation of allergenic foods for labelling purposes, if requested by risk managers.

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).

- Assistance in relation to any other request related to risk assessment of allergens.

In order to fulfil its objectives, the above-mentioned Standing Working Group should consist of members with long-standing experience in safety (risk) assessment of food allergens and expertise in the following scientific areas: food chemistry, food technology and food processing, exposure assessment, epidemiology of food allergy, clinical diagnosis of food allergy, (paediatric) gastroenterology, (paediatric) immunology, immunology of allergic diseases, immuno-toxicology, and coeliac disease.

Members:

The Chair of the Scientific Panel on Dietetic Products, Nutrition and Allergies appointed (in consultation with EFSA) the Chair of the Standing Working Group on Food Allergy. 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 Food Allergy is available on the EFSA website².

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 Members 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 Food Allergy 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:

Scientific contribution(s) which will be submitted to the NDA Panel for consideration/possible adoption.

SIGNED

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² <https://ess.efsa.europa.eu/doi/doiweb/doisearch>