NUTRITION UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON NUTRITION, NOVEL FOODS AND FOOD ALLERGENS

MINUTES OF THE 10th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON PROTEIN-HYDROLYSATE-BASED FORMULA

Held on 05 October 2020, web conference

(Agreed on 13 October 2020)

Participants

- Working Group Members:

  Jean-Louis Bresson, Laurence Castle, Mary Fewtrell, Hildegard Przyrembel, Dominique Turck (chair)

- Hearing Experts[1]:

  Not applicable

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

  Not applicable

- EFSA:

  NUTRI Unit: Ester Artau Cortacans, Céline Dumas, Charlotte Salgaard Nielsen, Ariane Titz

- Others:

  Not Applicable

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

[1] As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf

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2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[2] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[3], EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 9th Working Group meeting held on 14 July 2020 via web-conference.

The minutes of the 9th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 21 July 2020.

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

5.2 Draft opinion on the safety and suitability of a formula based on protein hydrolysates – *Applicant: DANONE Trading ELN B.V.* (EFSA-Q-2019-00652)

The draft opinion was discussed, and it was decided to present it for discussion/possible adoption to the NDA Panel during its meeting of 22 October 2020.

5.3. Draft opinion on the safety and suitability of a formula based on protein hydrolysates – *Applicant: FrieslandCampina Nederland B.V.* (EFSA-Q-2020-00025)

The response of the food business operator to the stop clock letter was discussed. It was considered that additional clarification with respect to the human intervention studies submitted was needed. Therefore, a request for additional information and clarification will be sent to the applicant and a stop-the-clock procedure will be applied.

6. Any Other Business

Not applicable

7. Next meeting

For the time being no other meeting has been scheduled.

[2] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf
[3] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

NUTRITION UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON NUTRITION, NOVEL FOODS AND FOOD ALLERGENS

MINUTES OF THE 9th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON PROTEIN-HYDROLYSATE-BASED FORMULA

Held on 14 July 2020, web conference

(Agreed on 21 July 2020)

Participants

- Working Group Members:

  Jean-Louis Bresson, Laurence Castle, Mary Fewtrell[1], Hildegard Przyrembel, Dominique Turck (chair)

- Hearing Experts[2]:

  Not applicable

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

  Fruzsina Nyemecz

- EFSA:

  NUTRI Unit: Ariane Titz, Céline Dumas, Charlotte Salgaard Nielsen, Silvia Valtueña Martínez

- Others:

  Not Applicable

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

[1] Mary Fewtrell participated from 14:00 to 15:30.

[2] As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[3] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[4], EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 8th Working Group meeting held on 25 June 2020 via web-conference.

The minutes of the 8th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 29 June 2020.

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

5.1 Draft opinion on the safety and suitability of a formula based on protein hydrolysates – *Applicant: Nestlé Nutrition UK & I* (EFSA-Q-2019-00547)

Contrary to what was indicated in the minutes of the previous meeting of the WG, an additional web-conference of the WG was scheduled for July 2020. Therefore, the revised draft opinion for this application was discussed during this WG meeting, rather than by written procedure as originally indicated. The draft opinion will be submitted for discussion/possible adoption to the NDA Panel in September 2020 (22-24/09/2020).

5.2 Draft opinion on the safety and suitability of a formula based on protein hydrolysates – *Applicant: DANONE Trading ELN B.V.* (EFSA-Q-2019-00652)

A draft of the stop-clock letter related to the request for additional data on the characterisation of the protein hydrolysate was discussed. A request for additional information and clarification will be sent to the applicant and a stop-the-clock procedure will be applied.

5.3. Draft opinion on the safety and suitability of a formula based on protein hydrolysates – *Applicant: FrieslandCampina Nederland B.V.* (EFSA-Q-2020-00025)

A draft opinion was discussed. The WG noted that clarification with respect to the human intervention studies submitted was needed. Therefore, a request for additional information and clarification will be sent to the applicant and a stop-the-clock procedure will be applied.

[3] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf
[4] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

6. Any Other Business

The WG discussed further issues with respect to clinical trials conducted with infant formulae.

7. Next meeting

The next meeting will take place on 5 October 2020 via web conference.

NUTRITION UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON NUTRITION, NOVEL FOODS AND FOOD ALLERGENS

MINUTES OF THE 8th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON PROTEIN-HYDROLYSATE-BASED FORMULA

Held on 25 June 2020, web conference

(Agreed on 29 June 2020)

Participants

- Working Group Members:

  Jean-Louis Bresson, Laurence Castle, Mary Fewtrell, Hildegard Przyrembel, Dominique Turck (chair)

- Hearing Experts[1]:

  Not applicable

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

  Not applicable

- EFSA:

  NUTRI Unit: Ariane Titz, Céline Dumas, Charlotte Salgaard Nielsen, Ester Artau

- Others:

  Not Applicable

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

[1] As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf

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2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[2] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[3], EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 7th Working Group meeting held on 11 May 2020 via web-conference.

The minutes of the 7th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 18 May 2020.

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

5.1 Draft opinion on the safety and suitability of a formula based on protein hydrolysates – *Applicant: Nestlé Nutrition UK & I* (EFSA-Q-2019-00547)

The additional data submitted by the applicant with respect to the human data and the characterisation of the protein hydrolysate were discussed. Amendments to the draft opinion will be proposed by the secretariat according to the outcome of this discussion. The revised draft opinion will then be submitted for written procedure to the WG with a view to submit the draft opinion for discussion/possible adoption to the NDA Panel in September 2020 (22-24/09/2020).

5.2 Draft opinion on the safety and suitability of a formula based on protein hydrolysates – *Applicant: DANONE Trading ELN B.V.* (EFSA-Q-2019-00652)

The additional data submitted by the applicant with respect to the human data and the characterisation of the protein hydrolysate were discussed. It was considered that additional pieces of information in relation to the characterisation of the protein hydrolysate were needed. Therefore, a request for additional information and clarification will be sent to the applicant and a stop-the-clock procedure will be applied.

6. Any Other Business

Not applicable.

[2] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf
[3] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

7. Next meeting

The next meeting will take place end of September/early October 2020 via web conference. A specific date has not been fixed yet.

NUTRITION UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON NUTRITION, NOVEL FOODS AND FOOD ALLERGENS

MINUTES OF THE 7th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON PROTEIN-HYDROLYSATE-BASED FORMULA

Held on 11 May 2020, web conference

(Agreed on 18 May 2020)

Participants

- Working Group Members:

  Jean-Louis Bresson, Laurence Castle, Mary Fewtrell, Hildegard Przyrembel, Dominique Turck (chair)

- Hearing Experts[1]:

  Not applicable

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

  Not applicable

- EFSA:

  NUTRI Unit: Ariane Titz, Céline Dumas, Federico Morreale, Charlotte Salgaard Nielsen

- Others:

  Not Applicable

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

[1] As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf

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2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[2] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[3], EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 6th Working Group meeting held on 2 April 2020 via web-conference.

The minutes of the 6th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 17 April 2020.

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

5.1 Draft opinion on the safety and suitability of a formula based on protein hydrolysates – *Applicant: Nestlé Nutrition UK & I* (EFSA-Q-2019-00547)

The additional data submitted by the applicant with respect to the human data were discussed. It was considered that additional information was needed both with respect to the human intervention data submitted and the characterisation of the hydrolysate. Therefore, a request for additional information and clarification will be sent to the applicant and a stop-the-clock procedure will be applied.

5.2 Draft opinion on the safety and suitability of a formula based on protein hydrolysates – *Applicant: FrieslandCampina Nederland B.V.* (EFSA-Q-2020-00025)

A draft opinion was discussed. The WG noted that additional information was needed with respect to the characterisation of the hydrolysate and with respect to the human intervention studies submitted. Therefore, a request for additional information and clarification will be sent to the applicant and a stop-the-clock procedure will be applied.

6. Any Other Business

Not applicable.

[2] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf
[3] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

7. Next meeting

The next meeting will take place on 25 June 2020 via web conference.

NUTRITION UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON NUTRITION, NOVEL FOODS AND FOOD ALLERGENS

MINUTES OF THE 6th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON PROTEIN-HYDROLYSATE-BASED FORMULA

Held on 2 April 2020, web conference

(Agreed on 17 April 2020)

Participants

- Working Group Members:

  Jean-Louis Bresson, Laurence Castle, Mary Fewtrell, Hildegard Przyrembel, Dominique Turck (chair)

- Hearing Experts[1]:

  Not applicable

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

  Not applicable

- EFSA:

  NUTRI Unit: Ariane Titz, Céline Dumas, Leng Heng, Federico Morreale

- Others:

  Not applicable

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. This meeting, originally scheduled as a physical meeting, was converted into a teleconference to avoid traveling to EFSA in line with the measures established to reduce the risk of coronavirus infection.

[1] As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf

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2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[2] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[3], EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 5th Working Group meeting held on 6 March 2020 via web-conference.

The minutes of the 5th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 8 March 2020.

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

5.1. Draft explanatory note to the scientific and technical guidance for the preparation and presentation of an application for authorisation of an infant and/or follow-on formula manufactured from protein hydrolysates (EFSA-Q-2019-00805)

The draft explanatory note was discussed. It was proposed to submit it for endorsement, after further revision, to the NDA Panel, ideally for its meeting of 21 April 2020.

The WG also discussed proposals that were provided by food business operators who have to date submitted dossiers to EFSA following a clarification teleconference to suggest approaches on how to characterise a protein hydrolysate that are different from the one discussed with food business operators by EFSA during that teleconference. The WG noted that the suggestions received related to risk management, in particular the type of non-confidential information that could be included in the Annex of Regulation EU 2016/127, rather than to the list of scientific items identified by the WG as necessary to characterise a protein hydrolysate in the context of an EFSA assessment.

Among the proposals, a suggestion was made to provide food business operators with the possibility to ask for an assessment of 'technical equivalence' of a not-yet-assessed protein hydrolysate to a protein hydrolysate which has already been favourably evaluated by EFSA. The WG noted that the scientific assessments performed are only applicable to the specific protein hydrolysates which have been investigated in the human intervention studies submitted. They cannot be extrapolated to other protein hydrolysates not investigated in these studies. Therefore, in order to establish, from a scientific point of view, that a protein hydrolysate manufactured by another food business operator is 'technically equivalent', theoretically, it would need to be shown that the manufacturing process and the specifications

[2] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf
[3] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

of the not-yet-assessed protein hydrolysate are the same as of the one already favourably assessed, i.e. that both products are the same protein hydrolysates.

However, the WG understood, from food business operators that submitted dossiers to EFSA, that substantial pieces of the manufacturing process and some characteristics of the protein hydrolysates are confidential and will therefore not be available to the public in the published scientific opinion. The WG thus considered it unlikely that the favourably assessed protein hydrolysate will be reproduced by another manufacturer (trial and error). The WG also noted that minor variations in some of the parameters of the manufacturing process (e.g. temperature and pH), or some characteristics of the protein hydrolysate (e.g. degree of hydrolysis or molecular weight distribution of peptides), can be accounted for by reporting ranges within which these parameters/characteristics may vary (product specifications). Finally, the WG remarked that regulatory aspects (risk management aspects such as whether or not it is desirable to establish a system of 'technical equivalence') are outside the remit of EFSA and the WG in charge of the scientific assessment.

6. Any Other Business

Not applicable.

7. Next meeting

The next meeting will take place on 11 May 2020 via web conference.

NUTRITION UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON NUTRITION, NOVEL FOODS AND FOOD ALLERGENS

MINUTES OF THE 5th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON PROTEIN-HYDROLYSATE-BASED FORMULA

Held on 6 March 2020, web conference

(Agreed on 08 March 2020)

Participants

- Working Group Members:

  Jean-Louis Bresson, Laurence Castle, Mary Fewtrell, Hildegard Przyrembel, Dominique Turck (chair)

- Hearing Experts[1]:

  Not applicable

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

  Fruzsina Nyemecz (DG SANTE)

- EFSA:

  NUTRI Unit: Ariane Titz, Céline Dumas, Leng Heng, Federico Morreale, Charlotte Salgaard Nielsen

- Others:

  Not Applicable

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

[1] As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf

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2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[2] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[3], EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 4th Working Group meeting held on 17 February 2020 via web-conference.

The minutes of the 4th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 2 March 2020.

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

5.1. Draft explanatory note to the scientific and technical guidance for the preparation and presentation of an application for authorisation of an infant and/or follow-on formula manufactured from protein hydrolysates (EFSA-Q-2019-00805)

The draft explanatory note was discussed. It was proposed to submit it, after further revision, to the NDA Panel, ideally for its meeting of 21 April 2020.

5.2. Draft opinion on the safety and suitability of a formula based on protein hydrolysates – *Applicant: Nestlé Nutrition UK & I* (EFSA-Q-2019-00547)

The additional data submitted by the applicant with respect to the human data were discussed. It was considered that additional information was needed. Therefore, a request for additional information and clarification will be sent to the applicant and a stop-the-clock procedure will be applied.

5.3. Draft opinion on the safety and suitability of a formula based on protein hydrolysates – *Applicant: Danone Trading ELN B.V.* (EFSA-Q-2019-00652)

A draft opinion was discussed. The WG noted that additional information was needed with respect to the characterisation of the hydrolysate/formula and with respect to the human intervention studies submitted. Therefore, a request for additional information and clarification will be sent to the applicant and a stop-the-clock procedure will be applied.

[2] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf
[3] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

6. Any Other Business

Not applicable

7. Next meeting

The next meeting will take place on 2 April 2020.

NUTRITION UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON NUTRITION, NOVEL FOODS AND FOOD ALLERGENS

MINUTES OF THE 4th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON PROTEIN-HYDROLYSATE-BASED FORMULA

Held on 17 February 2020, web conference

(Agreed on 2 March 2020)

Participants

- Working Group Members:

  Jean-Louis Bresson, Laurence Castle, Mary Fewtrell, Hildegard Przyrembel, Dominique Turck (chair)

- Hearing Experts[1]:

  Not applicable

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

  Fruzsina Nyemecz (DG SANTE)

- EFSA:

  NUTRI Unit: Ariane Titz, Céline Dumas, Federico Morreale, Charlotte Salgaard Nielsen

- Others:

  Not applicable

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

[1] As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf

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2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[2] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[3], EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 3rd Working Group meeting held on 14 January 2020 via web-conference.

The minutes of the 3rd Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 17 January 2020.

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

5.1. Draft explanatory note to the scientific and technical guidance for the preparation and presentation of an application for authorisation of an infant and/or follow-on formula manufactured from protein hydrolysates (regarding the submission of dossiers with a view to request modifications of the compositional requirements applicable to infant and/or follow-on formula manufactured from protein hydrolysates) (EFSA-Q-2019-00805)

The scientific discussion focussed on data required and the approach to be taken for the scientific assessments to be carried out by the WG and the NDA Panel.

In this context, the WG discussed:

(i) whether the conclusions of an assessment of the safety and suitability of a formula manufactured from protein hydrolysate has to be necessarily linked to the specific formula that is used in the human intervention studies investigating measures of growth (as required in the guidance) presented by the applicant, or

(ii) whether it is possible to conclude on the safety and suitability of the specific protein hydrolysate that is used in the manufacture of the formula investigated in the submitted studies, but which may also be used in other formulae.

It was decided to propose to the NDA Panel to perform the assessments of the safety and suitability of the specific protein hydrolysate rather than the formula. This is because the composition of the formula with respect to substances other than the protein hydrolysate fraction should comply with the existing compositional requirements laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2016/127. Complying with the compositional requirements of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2016/127 ensures that the formula with respect to substances other than the protein hydrolysate is safe and suitable for use by infants.

[2] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf
[3] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

It was noted that if the proposal is accepted by the NDA Panel, it will need to be clarified if certain data requirements of the EFSA guidance would be applicable to the protein hydrolysate rather than to the final formula and it was discussed which types of data would be concerned. It was also debated how certain characteristics that are related to the final formula, such as its amino acid profile (as amino acids may be added to the formula), its minimum protein content and the formation of Maillard reaction products during the production of the formulae, should be dealt with.

In this relation, the WG discussed whether (and if so how) the existing amino acid profiles laid down in Annex III of Regulation (EU) 2016/127[4] could be used in the scientific evaluation. The WG agreed that, if the amino acid profile of the formula manufactured from protein hydrolysates that was used in the studies to demonstrate safety and suitability meets the profile for formula manufactured from intact protein laid down in Annex IIIA[5], no new amino acid profile needs to be established by the WG and reference to that of Annex IIIA can be made in the scientific opinion. This does not change the need for applicants to provide at least one clinical study. If the amino acid profile of the formula that was tested does not meet the profile of Annex IIIA, a new amino acid profile for the formula, in which the hydrolysate is to be used, i.e. different from Annex IIIA, may need to be proposed by the WG and the NDA Panel.

Following clarifications requested by applicants in exchanges with EFSA during the risk assessment process, it was further discussed which Maillard reaction products should be analysed by applicants, as the guidance requested "information on (type and amount of) degradation products or new products formed during the manufacturing process of the hydrolysate [..] (e.g. Maillard reaction products, modified amino acids)" without specifying the list of substances to be analysed. The WG noted that there is to date no scientific consensus on the specific Maillard reaction products that should be systematically tested nor is there currently a scientific consensus on the maximal concentration that would be tolerable. However, the WG decided to propose to the NDA Panel to clarify in the explanatory note that at least analytical data on furosine, carboxymethyllysine (CML) and total/blocked/available lysine as markers of Maillard reaction, should be submitted (with corresponding certificates of analysis and description of the analytical method(s), on preferably at least 5 independently produced batches). In this context, the WG noted that in the present guidance, information on Maillard reaction products are only explicitly requested for the hydrolysate, but not for the formula that could still undergo processing, in particular heat treatments. It was noted that it would, however, be informative to have the information for the final formula and therefore this should be provided as well. These analytical data should be discussed by the applicant with regard to data from a relevant comparator. This discussion is necessary, because the additional heating steps applied to formulae manufactured from protein hydrolysates in comparison to those manufactured from intact protein may lead to the formation of additional Maillard reaction products.

The WG also clarified that the required information for the amino nitrogen content of the hydrolysate relates to the total amino nitrogen content (and not to the free amino nitrogen content) after hydrolysis, and therefore should be provided.

[4] Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2016/128 of 25 September 2015 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 609/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the specific compositional and information requirements for food for special medical purposes. OJ L 25, 2.2.2016, p. 30–43

[5] rather than the profile of Annex IIIB that is only applicable to a formula manufactured from the specific protein hydrolysate regulated by Regulation (EU) 2016/127

With respect to the pending assessment of the safety of the food enzymes that is currently being performed by the EFSA Panel on Food Contact Materials, Enzymes and Processing Aids (CEP), it was agreed with the representative of the European Commission that the assessments of the safety and suitability of protein hydrolysates used in the manufacture of formulae will be processed independently by the NDA Panel. If the safety assessment of the food enzyme(s) by the CEP Panel is not yet finalised at the time of finalisation of the NDA Panel opinion on the protein hydrolysate, the NDA Panel will conclude its assessment by indicating in the opinion that the safety assessment of the food enzyme(s) is pending.

Finally, the WG agreed to revise the text of the explanatory note on the appropriate control formula to be used in clinical studies to substantiate the safety and suitability of a protein hydrolysate/a formula in order to provide more explanation on:

1) why for the time being the only appropriate control formulae are formulae manufactured from intact protein sources permitted for use by Regulation (EU) 2016/127;

2) why formulae manufactured from protein hydrolysates can only be considered to be an appropriate control after their safety and suitability has been established based on a scientific assessment conducted after adoption of Regulation (EU) 2016/127, and why the formula that has been evaluated for its safety and suitability by the EFSA NDA Panel in 2005[6] does not fulfil this requirement;

3) why comparisons to historical controls (either to growth reference charts or to control groups of other studies) are not appropriate to establish the safety and suitability of a protein hydrolysate/a formula.

The WG also deemed it necessary to clarify the request in the guidance (Sections 3.4 and 4.3) to indicate in which way(s) the control formula deviates from Regulation (EU) No 609/2013 and delegated Regulation (EU) 2016/127 and whether it complies with the compositional requirements laid down in Commission Directive 2006/141/EC. The WG wished to clarify that the purpose of such a request was to easily identify those control formulae, used in the clinical studies submitted, for which the nutrient content had not yet been adapted to Regulation (EU) 2016/127, but which were compliant with Directive 2006/141/EC. This information constitutes an information requirement. The extent to which any deviation from the compositional requirements of Regulation (EU) 2016/127 is acceptable for a control formula used in intervention studies to demonstrate the safety and suitability of a protein hydrolysate/formula, even if their composition complies with Directive 2006/141/EC, is a scientific judgement. In particular, the WG wants to highlight that this information requirement cannot be used as an argument that a control formula not compliant with the protein sources explained in points 1 and 2 above (and already outlined in Section 3.4 of the guidance and further clarified by the NDA Panel in its minutes of the meeting of 27-29 November 2019[7]) is an appropriate control.

6. Any Other Business

Not applicable

[6] EFSA (European Food Safety Authority), 2005. Opinion of the Scientific Panel on Dietetic Products, Nutrition and Allergies on a request from the Commission related to the safety and suitability for particular nutritional use by infants of formula based on whey protein partial hydrolysates with a protein content of at least 1.9 g protein/100 kcal The EFSA Journal (2005) 280, 1-16, doi.10.2903/j.efsa.2005.280.

[7] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/event/nda-96-plenary-minutes.pdf

7. Next meeting

The next meeting will take place on 6 March 2020.

NUTRITION UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON NUTRITION, NOVEL FOODS AND FOOD ALLERGENS

MINUTES OF THE 3rd MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON PROTEIN-HYDROLYSATE-BASED FORMULA

Held on 14 January 2020, web conference

(Agreed on 17 January 2020)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
  Jean-Louis Bresson, Mary Fewtrell, Hildegard Przyrembel, Dominique Turck (chair)
- Hearing Experts[1]:
  Not applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
  Fruzsina Nyemecz (DG SANTE)
- EFSA:
  NUTRI Unit: Ariane Titz, Céline Dumas, Leng Heng, Federico Morreale, Charlotte Salgaard Nielsen
- Others:
  Not Applicable

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Laurence Castle.

[1] As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf

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2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[2] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[3], EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 2nd Working Group meeting held on 13 December 2019 in Parma.

The minutes of the 2nd Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 16 December 2019.

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

5.1. Draft opinion on the safety and suitability of a formula based on protein hydrolysates – *Applicant: meyer.science GmbH* (EFSA-Q-2019-00304)

The additional data submitted by the applicant with respect to the characterisation of the formula and the human intervention study were discussed. It was considered that additional information was needed with respect to the human data. Therefore, a request for additional information and clarification will be sent to the applicant and a stop-the-clock procedure will be applied.

6. Any Other Business

The WG was informed about the application related to the safety and suitability of a formula manufactured from protein hydrolysates that is still under validation, but for which the receipt of missing information is expected shortly. Information about the mandates received and their status are available on EFSA Register of Questions.

7. Next meeting

No new meetings dates have been set yet.

[2] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf
[3] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

NUTRITION UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON NUTRITION, NOVEL FOODS AND FOOD ALLERGENS

MINUTES OF THE 2nd MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON PROTEIN-HYDROLYSATE-BASED FORMULA

Held on 13 December 2019, web conference

(Agreed on 16 December 2019)

Participants

- Working Group Members:

  Jean-Louis Bresson, Laurence Castle, Mary Fewtrell, Hildegard Przyrembel, Dominique Turck (chair)

- Hearing Experts[1]:

  Not applicable

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

  Not applicable

- EFSA:

  NUTRI Unit: Ariane Titz, Céline Dumas, Leng Heng, Federico Morreale, Charlotte Salgaard Nielsen

- Others:

  Not Applicable

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

[1] As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf

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2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[2] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[3], EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 1st Working Group meeting held on 30 September 2019 in Parma.

The minutes of the 1st Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 8 October 2019.

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

5.1. Draft opinion on safety and suitability of a formula based on protein hydrolysates: - *Applicant: Nestlé Nutrition UK* (EFSA-Q-2019-00547)

An overview of the data that were submitted for the characterisation of the formula was presented and discussed. In addition, the Working Group discussed the information that was provided in relation to the human intervention study that was submitted by the applicant for the substantiation of the safety and suitability of the formula.

It was considered that additional information was needed with respect to the characterisation of the formula. In addition, it was deemed necessary to seek further clarification from the applicant on the human intervention study. Therefore, a request for additional information and clarification will be sent to the applicant and a stop-the-clock procedure will be applied.

5.2. Draft opinion on the safety and suitability of a formula based on protein hydrolysates – *Applicant: meyer.science GmbH* (EFSA-Q-2019-00304)

A preliminary discussion on the supplementary information provided by the applicant following a request for supplementary information (stop-clock) made by EFSA took place.

[2] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf
[3] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

6. Any Other Business

The Working Group discussed an explanatory note to the scientific and technical guidance for the preparation and presentation of an application for authorisation of an infant and/or follow-on formula manufactured from protein hydrolysates. This explanatory note is related to the appropriate study design to substantiate safety and suitability of a formula, and the information that should be submitted when food enzymes are used in the hydrolysis process. In this context, the Working Group also highlighted the need to clarify the specific criteria needed for characterisation of a formula based on protein hydrolysates.

The Working Group was also briefed about some recent publications related to infant nutrition.

7. Next meeting

The next meeting will take place on 14 January 2020.

NUTRITION UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON NUTRITION, NOVEL FOODS AND FOOD ALLERGENS

MINUTES OF THE 1ST MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON PROTEIN-HYDROLYSATE-BASED FORMULA

Held on 30 September 2019, web conference

(Agreed on 08 October 2019)

Participants

- Working Group Members:

  Jean-Louis Bresson, Laurence Castle, Mary Fewtrell, Hildegard Przyrembel, Dominique Turck (chair)

- Hearing Experts[1]:

  Not applicable

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

  Fruzsina Nyemecz (DG SANTE)

- EFSA:

  NUTRI Unit: Ariane Titz, Céline Dumas, Leng Heng, Federico Morreale, Charlotte Salgaard Nielsen, Silvia Valtueña Martínez

- Others:

  Not Applicable

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

[1] As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[2] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[3], EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

4.1. Draft opinion on the safety and suitability of a formula based on protein hydrolysates – *Applicant: meyer.science GmbH* (EFSA-Q-2019-00304)

An overview of the data that were submitted for the characterisation of the formula was presented and discussed. In addition, the Working Group discussed the information that was provided in relation to the human intervention study that was submitted by the applicant for the substantiation of the safety and suitability of the formula.

It was considered that additional information was needed with respect to the characterisation of the formula. In addition, it was deemed necessary to seek further clarification from the applicant on the human intervention study submitted. Therefore, a request for additional information and clarification will be sent to the applicant and a stop-the-clock procedure will be applied.

4.2. Draft opinion on the safety and suitability of a formula based on protein hydrolysates - *Applicant: Mead Johnson B.V.* (EFSA-Q-2019-00305)

An overview of the data that were submitted for the characterisation of the formula was presented and discussed. In addition, the Working Group discussed the information that was provided in relation to the human intervention studies that was submitted by the applicant for the substantiation of the safety and suitability of the formula.

It was considered that additional information was needed with respect to the characterisation of the formula. In addition, it was deemed necessary to seek further clarification from the applicant on the human intervention studies submitted. Therefore, a request for additional information and clarification will be sent to the applicant and a stop-the-clock procedure will be applied.

[2] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf
[3] http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

5. Any Other Business

The Working Group was informed about a new mandate that was received by EFSA related to the assessment of the safety and suitability of a formula based on protein hydrolysates. Information about the mandates received and their status are available on EFSA Register of Questions.

6. Next meeting

No new meetings dates have been set yet.