



NUTRITION UNIT

Scientific Panel on Nutrition, Novel Foods and Food Allergens

MINUTES OF THE 7th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON DIETARY FOLATE EQUIVALENT

Held on 19 July 2021 via web-meeting

(Agreed on 30 July 2021)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
Kristina Pentieva (Chair), Francesco Cubadda
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Stephanie Bodenbach, Fruzsina Nyemecz
- EFSA:
NUTRI Unit: Ester Artau Cortacans, Céline Dumas, Heng Leng, Ariane Titz
AMU Unit: Valeria Ercolano
- Others:
Not Applicable

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Group members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², 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

The minutes of the **6th Working Group meeting** were agreed by written procedure on 7 July 2021.

5. Scientific topics for discussion

5.1. Scientific opinion on the safety of Dietary Folate Equivalent, submitted by the European Commission (EFSA-Q-2020-00542)

The WG discussed possible approaches for presenting and discussing data from the various study types (i.e. human, animal and in-vitro gastrointestinal systems) in the draft opinion. The WG also discussed and solved minor discrepancies between reviewers on some questions included in the appraisal of studies and then discussed the tiers (per study and outcome) of overall risk of bias.

6. Any Other Business

Not applicable.

7. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 20 September 2021 as a web-meeting.

¹ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



NUTRITION UNIT

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MINUTES OF THE 6th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON DIETARY FOLATE EQUIVALENT

Held on 28 June 2021 via web-meeting

(Agreed on 7 July 2021)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
Kristina Pentieva (Chair), Francesco Cubadda
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
- EFSA:
NUTRI Unit: Ester Artau Cortacans, Céline Dumas, Ariane Titz
AMU Unit: José Cortiñas Abrahantes, Valeria Ercolano
- Others:
Not Applicable

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Group members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², 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

The minutes of the [5th Working Group meeting](#) were agreed by written procedure on 25 May 2021.

5. Scientific topics for discussion

5.1. Scientific opinion on the safety of Dietary Folate Equivalent, submitted by the European Commission (EFSA-Q-2020-00542)

The WG discussed and agreed on the content of a call for data that will be launched by mid-July. It was decided that the NDA Panel members will be informed during the 116th Plenary meeting (6-8 July 2021). The WG was presented with visualisation plots of the biomarkers investigated in chronic studies in humans. The next steps of the data analysis were discussed and agreed.

6. Any Other Business

Not applicable.

7. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 19 July 2021 as a web-meeting.

¹ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



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MINUTES OF THE 5th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON DIETARY FOLATE EQUIVALENT

Held on 18 May 2021 via web-meeting

(Agreed on 25 May 2021)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
Kristina Pentieva (Chair), Francesco Cubadda
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Carolin Bendadani, Stephanie Bodenbach
- EFSA:
NUTRI Unit: Ester Artau Cortacans, Céline Dumas, Leng Heng, Ariane Titz
AMU Unit: Valeria Ercolano
- Others:
Not Applicable

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Group members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², 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

The minutes of the 4th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 26 April 2021.

5. Scientific topics for discussion

5.1. Scientific opinion on the safety of Dietary Folate Equivalent, submitted by the European Commission (EFSA-Q-2020-00542)

The WG had an initial discussion on a draft structure of the opinion. The criteria to be considered for the appraisal of the studies on in-vitro gastrointestinal systems were discussed. The WG also discussed an update on the approach to be taken for the analysis of the data from the included longitudinal studies in healthy humans, missing data and the possible approach to fill the gaps, as well as the next steps for this analysis.

6. Any Other Business

Not applicable.

7. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 28 June 2021 as a web-meeting.

¹ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



NUTRITION UNIT

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MINUTES OF THE 4th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON DIETARY FOLATE EQUIVALENT

Held on 19 April 2021 via web-meeting

(Agreed on 26 April 2021)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
Kristina Pentieva (Chair), Francesco Cubadda
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not Applicable
- EFSA:
NUTRI Unit: Ester Artau Cortacans, Céline Dumas, Leng Heng, Ariane Titz
- Others:
Not Applicable

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Group members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², 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

The minutes of the 3rd Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 30 March 2021.

5. Scientific topics for discussion

5.1. Scientific opinion on the safety of Dietary Folate Equivalent, submitted by the European Commission ([EFSA-Q-2020-00542](#))

The WG discussed the data extracted from the animal studies included after literature search. Possible criteria for appraisal of the risk of bias of the animal studies were also further discussed. A preliminary proposal of the approach to be taken for the analysis of the data from the included chronic studies in humans and the possible next steps for this analysis were also discussed.

6. Any Other Business

Not applicable.

7. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 18 May 2021 as a web-meeting.

¹ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



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MINUTES OF THE 3rd MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON DIETARY FOLATE EQUIVALENT

Held on 23 March 2021 via web-meeting

(Agreed on 30 March 2021)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
Kristina Pentieva (Chair), Francesco Cubadda
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not Applicable
- EFSA:
NUTRI Unit: Ester Artau Cortacans, Céline Dumas, Leng Heng, Ariane Titz
- Others:
Not Applicable

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Group members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², 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 topics for discussion

4.1. Scientific opinion on the safety of Dietary Folate Equivalent, submitted by the European Commission (EFSA-Q-2020-00542)³

The WG discussed the data extracted from the acute studies in humans and the in-vitro studies included after literature search. Appraisal of the risk of bias of the included studies, considering various types/designs, was also further discussed.

5. Any Other Business

Not applicable.

6. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 19 April 2021 as a web-meeting.

¹ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

³ Please be aware that EFSA's Register of Questions is unavailable from 21 January until mid-February. The temporary suspension of the tool is necessary to allow us to implement the launch of our new OpenEFSA portal. We apologise for the inconvenience. Further information is available [here](#)



NUTRITION UNIT

Scientific Panel on Nutrition, Novel Foods and Food Allergens

MINUTES OF THE 2nd MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON DIETARY FOLATE EQUIVALENT

Held on 18 February 2021 via web-meeting

(Agreed on 22 February 2021)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
Kristina Pentieva, Francesco Cubadda
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not Applicable
- EFSA:
NUTRI Unit: Ester Artau Cortacans, Céline Dumas, Leng Heng, Charlotte Salgaard Nielsen, Ariane Titz
- Others:
Not Applicable

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Group members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², 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 6 November 2020 via web conference.

The minutes of the 1st Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 6 November 2020.

5. Scientific topics for discussion

5.1. Scientific opinion on the safety of Dietary Folate Equivalent, submitted by the European Commission (EFSA-Q-2020-00542)³

The WG discussed the data extracted from the chronic studies in humans included after literature search, and further discussed on the sections on the appraisal of the risk of bias of the studies and the approach for evidence synthesis in the draft protocol.

6. Any Other Business

Not applicable.

7. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 23 March 2021 as a web-meeting.

¹ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

³ Please be aware that EFSA's Register of Questions is unavailable from 21 January until mid-February. The temporary suspension of the tool is necessary to allow us to implement the launch of our new OpenEFSA portal. We apologise for the inconvenience. Further information is available [here](#)



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MINUTES OF THE 1st MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON DIETARY FOLATE EQUIVALENT

Held on 06 November 2020 via web-meeting

(Agreed on 06 November 2020)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
Kristina Pentieva, Francesco Cubadda
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Fruzsina Nyemecz
- EFSA:
NUTRI Unit: Ester Artau Cortacans, Janusz Ciok, Céline Dumas, Leng Heng, Charlotte Salgaard Nielsen, Ariane Titz
- Others:
Not Applicable

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Group members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², 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 topics for discussion

4.1. Scientific opinion on the safety of Dietary Folate Equivalent, submitted by the European Commission (EFSA-Q-2020-00542)

The WG was provided with background information on the mandate on the assessment of the scientific evidence on the conversion factor of calcium-L-methylfolate and (6S)-5-methyltetrahydrofolic acid, glucosamine salt into dietary folate equivalent. The WG also discussed a draft protocol for the assessment, including the type of evidence that will be used. The protocol will be further discussed in the next WG meeting. The secretariat informed the WG about the status of the screening of the literature.

5. Any Other Business

Not applicable.

6. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 07 December 2020 as a web-meeting.

¹ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf