



NUTRITION UNIT

# Scientific Panel on Nutrition, Novel Foods and Food Allergens

## MINUTES OF THE 3<sup>rd</sup> MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON UPPER LEVELS

**Held on 21 December 2020 via web-meeting**

**(Agreed on 4 January 2021)**

### Participants

- Working Group Members:  
Naska Androniki (Chair), Cubadda Francesco, Pentieva Kristina, Crous Bou Marta, Aggett Peter, Vinceti Marco
- Hearing Expert:  
Not applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:  
Bodenbach Stephanie
- EFSA:  
NUTRI Unit: de Sesmaisons Lecarré Agnès, Fabiani Lucia, Craciun Ionut  
AMU Unit: Ciccolallo Laura, Martino Laura
- 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 Independence<sup>1</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management<sup>2</sup>, 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Working Group meeting held on 11 and 14 December 2020 via web-conference.

The minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 18 December 2020.

## 5. Scientific topics for discussion

### 5.1. Scientific opinion on the revision of the UL for Selenium, submitted by the European Commission (EFSA-Q-2020-00618)

The Working Group (WG) pursued the development of the protocol for the review of the tolerable upper intake levels for selenium ([EFSA, 2020](#)). The following aspects were addressed: data and methods to estimate selenium intake in European populations (exposure assessment); formulation of the risk assessment questions regarding the hazard identification and hazard characterisation; identification of relevant types of data that could inform the risk assessment. The protocol will be elaborated by EFSA staff and reviewed and refined by the WG at its next meeting.

## 6. Any Other Business

Not applicable

## 7. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 25 January 2021 as a web-meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/policy\\_independence.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/competing\\_interest\\_management\\_17.pdf](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 2<sup>nd</sup> MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON UPPER LEVELS

**Held on 14 December 2020 via web-meeting**

**(Agreed on 18 December 2020)**

### Participants

- Working Group Members:  
Naska Androniki (Chair), Cubadda Francesco, Pentieva Kristina, Crous Bou Marta, Aggett Peter, Vinceti Marco
- Hearing Expert:  
Not applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:  
Bodenbach Stephanie
- EFSA:  
NUTRI Unit: de Sesmaisons Lecarré Agnès, Fabiani Lucia  
AMU Unit: Martino Laura
- 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 Independence<sup>1</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management<sup>2</sup>, 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 Tolerable Upper Intake Level for Selenium (EFSA-Q-2020-00618)

The secretariat presented the risk assessment by the [SCF \(2000\)](#) for setting the tolerable upper intake level (UL) for selenium, which EFSA is requested to update. The mandate was triggered following the NDA Panel's assessment of a selenium rich novel ingredient ([NDA Panel, 2020](#)). The secretariat provided an overview of risk assessments of selenium conducted by other authoritative bodies and of the epidemiological evidence on adverse effects related to selenium excess consumption which have become available since 2000. In line with EFSA's principles for carrying out the scientific assessment process,<sup>3</sup> a protocol for the risk assessment will be developed ([EFSA, 2020](#)). The Working Group (WG) discussed the problem formulation and the risk assessment questions which will inform the drafting of the protocol.

## 5. Any Other Business

Not applicable

## 6. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 21 December 2020 as a web-meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/policy\\_independence.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/competing\\_interest\\_management\\_17.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/methodology/evidence>



NUTRITION UNIT

# Scientific Panel on Nutrition, Novel Foods and Food Allergens

## MINUTES OF THE 1<sup>st</sup> MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON UPPER LEVELS

**Held on 11 December 2020 via web-meeting**

**(Agreed on 18 December 2020)**

### Participants

- Working Group Members:  
Naska Androniki (Chair), Cubadda Francesco, Pentieva Kristina, Crous Bou Marta, Aggett Peter, Vinceti Marco
- Hearing Expert:  
Not applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:  
Bodenbach Stephanie
- EFSA:  
NUTRI Unit: de Sesmaisons Lecarré Agnès, Fabiani Lucia
- 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 Independence<sup>1</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management<sup>2</sup>, 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. Round of presentations.

All participants introduced themselves to the Working Group.

## 5. How we work

The secretariat provided the WG with information on the responsibilities of WG coordinators, WG members and the Panel and practical information on meeting organisation and on the management of meeting and scientific documents.

## 6. Scientific topics for discussion

### 6.1. Scientific opinion on the UL for Selenium (EFSA-Q-2020-00618)

The secretariat introduced the background and terms of references of the Mandate from the European Commission on the revision of the tolerable upper intake levels (ULs) for selenium. The first meeting of the WG was dedicated to introductory presentations in which the secretariat introduced EFSA's framework for setting Dietary Reference Values (DRVs). In 2000, the Scientific Committee on Food (SCF) – EFSA's predecessor – issued [guidelines for the development of ULs for vitamins and minerals](#). These guidelines outline general principles which have served as the basis for the evaluation of the adverse effects of micronutrients on humans and the setting of ULs carried out by the SCF and EFSA's Panel on Dietetic Products, Nutrition and Allergies (NDA). The secretariat presented some of the challenges faced in setting ULs, based on past assessments, and relevant methodological developments at EFSA. Conceptual and methodological developments in other authoritative bodies in charge of establishing nutrient reference values were also presented.

The WG discussed the work programme. The deadline for the publication of the scientific opinion on the UL for selenium is March 2022. Meeting dates for the first half of 2021 were agreed.

## 7. Any Other Business

Not Applicable

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/policy\\_independence.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf)

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## **8. Next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 14 December 2020 as a web-meeting.