SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON NUTRITION, NOVEL FOODS AND FOOD ALLERGENS

149th Plenary meeting

7th June 2024
09:00-18:00
MINUTES - Agreed on 18 June 2024

Location: Teleconference

Attendees:

- Panel Members:
  Torsten Bohn[1], Jacqueline Castenmiller, Stefaan de Henauw, Karen Ildico Hirsch-Ernst, Helle Katrine Knutsen, Alexandre Maciuk, Inge Mangelsdorf, Harry J. McArdle, Androniki Naska, Kristina Pentieva, Alfonso Siani[2], Frank Thies, Dominique Turck (Chair) and Marco Vinceti.
- Hearing Experts[3]:
  Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
  EC: Takis Daskaleros, Rafael Luis Perez Berbejal, and Stephanie Bodenbach.
- EFSA:
  Nutrition & Food Innovation (NIF) Unit: Reinhard Ackerl, Agnès de Sesmaisons, Wolfgang Gelbmann, Andrea Germini, Thibault Fiolet, Leng Heng, Emanuela Turla, Silvia Valtueña Martinez, and Ermolaos Ververis.
- Others:
  Not Applicable

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Sophia Tsabouri.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[4] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[5,] 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 on the minutes of the 148th NDA Plenary meeting held on 30th April 2024 by teleconference.

1 Participated in the morning only.
2 Participated in the afternoon only.
3 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
4 http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf
5 http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

The minutes of the 148th Plenary meeting were agreed by written procedure on 13 May 2024.

5. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion

5.1 Draft Opinion on "Citicoline" and support of the memory function: evaluation of a health claim pursuant to Article 13(5) of Regulation (EC) No 1924/2006". Applicant: Edge Pharma Sp. Z o.o. (EFSA-Q- 2022-00411)

The draft scientific opinion was presented. The Panel reviewed and discussed the sections in the opinion, particularly those related to characterisation of the food/constituent, the proposed claimed effect, and the scientific substantiation of the claimed effect. The scientific opinion was adopted by the Panel on 7 June, subject to the incorporation of editorial changes. The full text of the scientific opinion will be available in the coming weeks in the EFSA Journal.

5.2 Draft Opinion on "Joselito®" and lowering LDL-cholesterol concentrations, blood pressure, and reduction of coronary heart disease risk: evaluation of a health claim pursuant to Article 14 of Regulation (EC) No 1924/2006. Applicant: Cárnicas Joselito S.A. (EFSA-Q-2022-00412)

The draft scientific opinion was presented. The Panel reviewed and discussed the sections in the opinion, particularly those related to characterisation of the food/constituent, the proposed claimed effect, and the scientific substantiation of the claimed effect. The scientific opinion was adopted by the Panel on 7 June, subject to the incorporation of editorial changes. The full text of the scientific opinion will be available in the coming weeks in the EFSA Journal.

5.3 Draft Opinion on glucosyl-hesperidin as a Novel food pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2015/2283. Applicant: Nagase Viita Co., Ltd. (EFSA- -2021-00329)

The Panel discussed the draft scientific opinion, and in particular assessed data regarding product characterisation, production process, proposed uses and use levels, anticipated daily intake, toxicology, human studies and allergenicity. After amendments, the draft opinion will be presented at the next Plenary meeting on 26-28 June for further discussion and possible adoption.

6. Other scientific topics for information

6.1 Update on the feedback received on the draft Novel Food Guidance through public consultation. (EFSA-Q-2023-00442)

The Panel was informed of the comments received on the draft Guidance through the public consultation. The revised draft guidance including the outcome of the public consultation will be presented at the next Plenary meeting on 26-28 June for further discussion and possible adoption.

6.2 The interpretation of the age ranges applied for setting Dietary Reference Values (DRVs)

EFSA uses the age range of ≥ 1 year to < 4 years, as defined by the SCF in 1993[6], as the default category for establishing DRVs for young children. This categorisation differs from the definitions of 'young children' and 'toddlers' applied in the EU legislation[7], Codex standards[8] and EFSA's guidance for exposure assessment[9]. Practical implications were presented. Further discussion is needed regarding a potential revision of the default age groups for DRVs. The underlying scientific rationale needs consideration. International harmonisation is also desirable. As the definition of age categories impacts the selection of the reference body weights used for DRVs scaling, it was noted that this discussion is relevant in the context of EFSA's Scientific Committee upcoming review of its guidance on selected default values.[10]

7. Feedback from the Scientific Committee/ Scientific Panels/EFSA/European Commission

The Chairs of respective Working Groups (WG) reported back to the Panel:

- WG on Claims – Please see Agenda items 5.1 and 5.2. One Article 13(5) health claim related to 'Daily creatine consumption can improve cognitive function' is under evaluation (EFSA-Q-2024-00106).
- WG on Novel Foods - The Panel was informed on the ongoing workload of the WG. See also Agenda items 5.3 and 6.1.
- WG on Upper Levels – The WG discussed the draft scientific guidelines for the development of the Tolerable Upper Intake levels of vitamins and minerals, following the piloting phase over the past 2 years. The WG also discussed the outcome of the public consultation and changes introduced to the draft Guidance on new micronutrient sources based on comments received.
- WG on Protein Hydrolysates – Two applications related to the safety and suitability of a protein hydrolysate to be used in infant formula are under stop-clock for additional information/data request to the applicants (EFSA-Q-2021-00339, EFSA-Q-2019-00305).
- WG on Substances other than vitamin and minerals – The chair of the WG informed the Panel on results of the outsourced systematic reviews.
- WG on Food Allergy - No ongoing activity.
- WG on Traditional Foods from Third countries – The WG reviewed the comments received during the public consultation and discussed potential changes to be introduced in the 'update Guidance for notifications and applications for traditional foods from third countries' (EFSA-Q-2023-00444). A revised draft Guidance, including the outcome of the public consultation, will be presented for possible adoption at the NDA plenary on 26-28 June 2024.

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[6] SCF, 1993. Nutrient and energy intakes for the European Community. Available at: https://food.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2020-12/sci-com_scf_out89.pdf

[7] Regulation (EU) No 609/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 June 2013 on food intended for infants and young children, food for special medical purposes, and total diet replacement for weight control and repealing Council Directive 92/52/EEC, Commission Directives 96/8/EC, 1999/21/EC, 2006/125/EC and 2006/141/EC, Directive 2009/39/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and Commission Regulations (EC) No 41/2009 and (EC) No 953/2009 Text with EEA relevance. OJ L 181, 29.6.2013, p. 35–56

[8] CXS 74-1981; CXS 156-1987; CXG 8-1991. Available at: https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius

[9] European Food Safety Authority; Use of the EFSA Comprehensive European Food ConsumptionDatabase in Exposure Assessment. EFSA Journal 2011;9(3):2097. [34 pp.] doi:10.2903/j.efsa.2011.2097

[10] EFSA Scientific Committee; Guidance on selected default values to be used by the EFSA ScientificCommittee, Scientific Panels and Units in the absence of actual measured data. EFSA Journal 2012;10(3):2579. [32 pp.] doi:10.2903/j.efsa.2012.2579

Related to the Scientific Committee (SC), the Panel Chair reported back from the 119th Plenary meeting of the SC. The Guidance on appraising and integrating evidence from epidemiological studies for use in EFSA's scientific assessments and the Guidance on risk benefit assessment were adopted and will be published by end of June. The SC endorsed for public consultation: the scientific report for the feasibility study for a guidance on biomarkers of effect, and the draft guidance on read across. The Panel was also informed about the ongoing activities of the SC WG on Fluoride, and the SC WG on Bromide.

8. Any other business

- EFSA 2023-2024 Expert Feedback Survey - In December 2023 the experts of the EFSA Scientific Panels and of the Scientific Committee were invited to fill in a survey. The questions investigated the scientific and organisational support provided by EFSA and the expert's engagement in working with EFSA. The main findings of the survey, as well as the specific results for the Panel were presented and discussed. The results of the survey will be used as input for lesson learnt and follow-up actions by EFSA.

- The next NDA Plenary meeting will be held from 26th to 28th June 2024 in Parma: https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/150th-plenary-meeting-nda-panel-open-plenary.