



The role of EFSA in relation to nutrition in the European context

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Content of presentation

- Role of EFSA in nutrition
- Scientific advice on nutrition at EU level
- EFSA Scientific Panel on Dietetic Products, Nutrition and Allergies (NDA Panel)



EFSA Mission

- Provision of scientific advice and scientific and technical support for the Community's legislation and policies in all fields which have a direct or indirect impact on food and feed safety - including nutrition;
- Provision of independent information on all matters within these fields
- High level of scientific excellence, independence and transparency
- Risk communication



EFSA role in nutrition

To provide

- “Scientific advice and scientific and technical support on human nutrition in relation to Community legislation
- and, at the request of the Commission, assistance concerning communication on nutritional issues within the framework of the Community health programme.”

Regulation EC 178/2002, Article 22(5)(a)



EFSA Panel on Dietetic Products, Nutrition and Allergies (NDA)

Mandate:

- Questions on dietetic products (foods for particular nutritional needs), human nutrition and food allergy, and other associated subjects such as novel foods

Composition:

- 17 members; Chair (Prof. A. Flynn)
- Expertise: human nutrition, children nutrition, allergy, toxicology, exposure assessment, biochemistry, epidemiology, microbiology, food chemistry



EFSA Panel on Dietetic Products, Nutrition and Allergies (NDA)

Recent advice

- Upper levels of intake of vitamins and minerals
- Allergenic foods for labelling purposes
- Safety assessment of non-GM novel foods
- Dietetic foods: infant formulae
- *Trans* fatty acids
- Nutrition claims - mono/polyunsaturated fatty acids



EFSA Panel on Dietetic Products, Nutrition and Allergies (NDA)

Current advice:

- Allergenic foods for labelling purposes
- Novel foods
- Dietetic foods
- Nutrient based recommendations for Europeans

EFSA task on dietary intakes

- Establishment of nutrient based recommendations, i.e. recommended nutrient intakes (such as Population Reference Intakes - PRI)
- PRI for energy, protein, fats (including saturated, polyunsaturated, monounsaturated, and trans fatty acids), carbohydrates, and dietary fibre
- PRI for micronutrients
- Guidance on translation of nutrient-based recommendations into food-based recommendations

EFSA task on dietary intakes

- Huge undertaking
- NDA Panel's working group
- Timeframe:
 - Initiated in 2005
 - First part (macronutrients) - 2007
 - Second part (micronutrients) - from 2007 onwards



EFSA Panel on Dietetic Products, Nutrition and Allergies (NDA)

Future advice:

- Allergenic foods for labelling purposes
- Novel foods
- Dietetic foods
- Nutrient based recommendations for Europeans
- **Nutrition and health claims**



Regulation on Nutrition and Health Claims made on foods

Legal Background

- Commission's proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on nutrition and health claims made on foods (June 2003)
- Co-decision procedure



Forthcoming EFSA task on claims

Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on nutrition and health claims made on foods*

Whereas (23)

“Health claims should only be authorised for use in the Community after a scientific assessment of the highest possible standard. In order to ensure harmonised scientific assessment of these claims, EFSA should carry out such assessments.”

* 2003/0165 (COD)



Forthcoming EFSA task on claims

Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on nutrition and health claims made on foods*

Article 4: Conditions for the use of claims

“...the Commission shall establish specific nutrient profiles which food or certain categories of foods must comply with in order to bear nutrition or health claims.

In setting the nutrient profiles, the Commission shall request EFSA for scientific advice...”

* 2003/0165 (COD)



Forthcoming EFSA task on claims

Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on nutrition and health claims made on foods*

Article 15: Application for authorisation (reduction of disease risk claims and claims referring to children's development & health)

"To obtain authorisation, an application shall be submitted to a Member State...

...The Commission, having first consulted EFSA, shall establish implementing rules for the application of this Art., including rules concerning the preparation and presentation of the application.

The Commission, in close cooperation with EFSA, shall make available appropriate technical guidance and tools to assist food business operators, in particular SMEs, in the preparation and presentation of the application for scientific assessment. "

* 2003/4155 (COD)



Forthcoming EFSA task on claims

Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on nutrition and health claims made on foods*

Article 16: EFSA Opinion

“In giving its opinion, EFSA shall respect a time limit of 5 months from the date of receipt of a valid application...”

Article 17: Community authorisation

“Within 2 months after the EFSA opinion, the Commission shall submit a draft decision...
A final decision on the application [i.e. claim's authorisation] shall be adopted by comitology...”

* 2003/0165 (COD)



Forthcoming EFSA task on claims

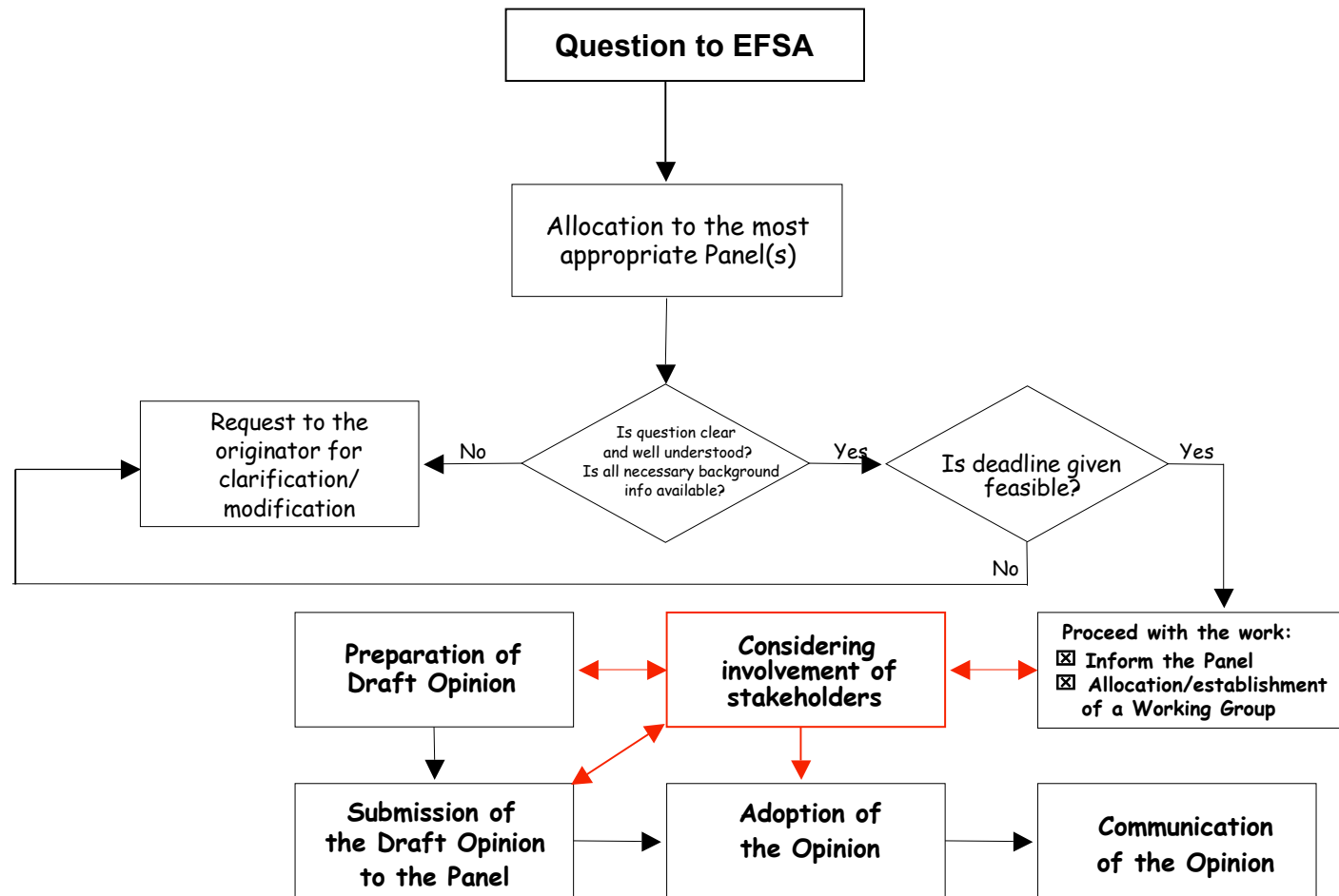
Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on nutrition and health claims made on foods*

Article 13: List of permitted claims (health claims other than reduction of disease risk & children's development and health)

“...After consulting EFSA, the Commission shall adopt a Community list of permitted claims describing the role of a nutrient or other substance in growth, development and normal functions of the body; psychological and behavioural functions; slimming/weight-control...”

* 2003/0165 (COD)

Flowchart Preparation of an 'Opinion'



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EFSA organizes November conference on health and nutrition claims

Last updated: 6 October 2006
Publication Date: 8 August 2006

EFSA Nutrition and Health Claims conference in Bologna, Italy, November 8-10.

Registration is closed.

EFSA will hold a three day conference in Bologna on November 8-10 on Nutrition and Health Claims in order to explain EFSA's scientific role within the context of future EU legislation on nutrition and health claims. The emphasis of the conference will be on scientific substantiation of claims as well as on the advantages and limitations of different systems for nutrient profiling. The conference will allow national food safety agencies and stakeholders to share with EFSA their views on these subjects.

Attendance at the conference is limited to 200 people and selection is based primarily on the principle of "first-registered-first-selected". However, as EFSA needs to ensure a good balance it reserves the right to select participants according to geography, fields of expertise and affiliation.

■ **Agenda**

Background

On 16th May 2006, the European Parliament concluded its second Reading on the Health and Nutrition Claims Regulation, which paves the way for the final adoption of this important piece of Community legislation. The final adoption of this Regulation by the Council is expected by this autumn, and the Regulation will enter into force within 20 days of its publication in the Official Journal.

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) supports the principle of Community wide legislation on nutrition and health claims. EFSA is preparing itself for the various scientific tasks and, in particular, to provide sound scientific advice to underpin the new Regulation on nutrition and health claims.

EFSA is committed to carrying out the challenging tasks together with its scientific Panel on Dietetic Products, Nutrition and Allergies (NDA) in co-operation with the Commission, national competent authorities, international organizations experienced in substantiation of claims, and interested parties.

Based on this framework, EFSA will organise on 8-10 November 2006 in Bologna, Italy, a conference on nutrition and health claims looking at such matters as the scientific substantiation of claims and nutritional profiles particularly in the context of the new Regulation.

Objectives of the conference

The objectives of this conference are: