EFSA Novel Food Draft Guidance – Ad-Hoc Meeting of Sub-Committee on Novel Foods

25 March 2024

Attendees

Nigel Baldwin – Uncommon – Chairman
Beth Loberant – Supermeat
Valeria Teloni – Mosameat
Lucy Racault/ Yamurai Zhou – Nestle
Cana Eisenhauer – Bluu Seafood
Wayne Bonadie – Uncommon Bio
Claude Rescan – Vital Meat
Christiaan Kalk – lsbi life science-based innovations and Meatable
Hanita Levran – Aleph Farms

Apologies
Hannah Lester - Gourmey

Minutes

- Antitrust Statement
  Members all confirmed adherence to the CAE Antitrust Statement
- Chairman's Summary of EFSA Information Session on Novel Food Draft Guidance
  - Slide deck attached
  - Deadline for comments to public consultation 15 April 2024
  - Anticipated EFSA Adoption NDA Panel Meeting June 2024
  - Publication by the fall 2024
  - Adoption from January 2025?
  - Administrative Guidelines and Portal to be amended to match in meantime
- Member comments (5 minutes per Member max)
  - *Overall impression of the draft guidance compared to previous version*
    - The consensus was that the new draft is much better than the old one, but also the detail adds many more points for which EFSA App Desk can block progress on the dossier to the EFSA Panel for assessment.
    - It gets harder and harder
  - EFSA Information Session on 21st March 2024 – did you learn anything new?
    Concerns raised were:
    - Still so many "case by case" situations
    - Accreditation and validation requirements can be a problem for culture media. What specific accreditations?
    - The level of characterisation data
    - How variable can your compositional data be
    - How far to go with specifications/CoAs for food contact materials and equipment
    - Pharma specifications where food not available for excipients and processing aids etc
    - What is the level/timeline of stability data required
    - The decision point between compositional vs. toxicological data is still not as clear as it could be

        - Is it easier anyway to do toxicology studies rather than so many analytical tests etc
        - Application of the threshold of toxicological concern (can genotoxicity data facilitate)

    - Have you added you comments to the CAE comments table. What are the major areas relative to cell agri to focus on
      NF Guidance Draft Revision Comments.docx - Google Docs
    - Will you be adding comments to the table – by when
        - Comments still to come from Nestle and Gourmet
- Focus on key areas of the guidance
    - See above Member comments
- Deadline for comments
    - Deadline for comments – ideally 29th March
- Logistics for response to EFSA
    - Chairman has discussed with Secretarial and agreed that the comments will be submitted by Caroline through CAE Open EFSA account to use etc.
- EuropaBio and Food Fermentation Europe
    - It was agreed not to spend too much time and resource on this and not to seek a joint set of comments. Merely to share experience and general concern. Chairman will likely attend this meeting.