



Institute for Health and Consumer Protection (IHCP)

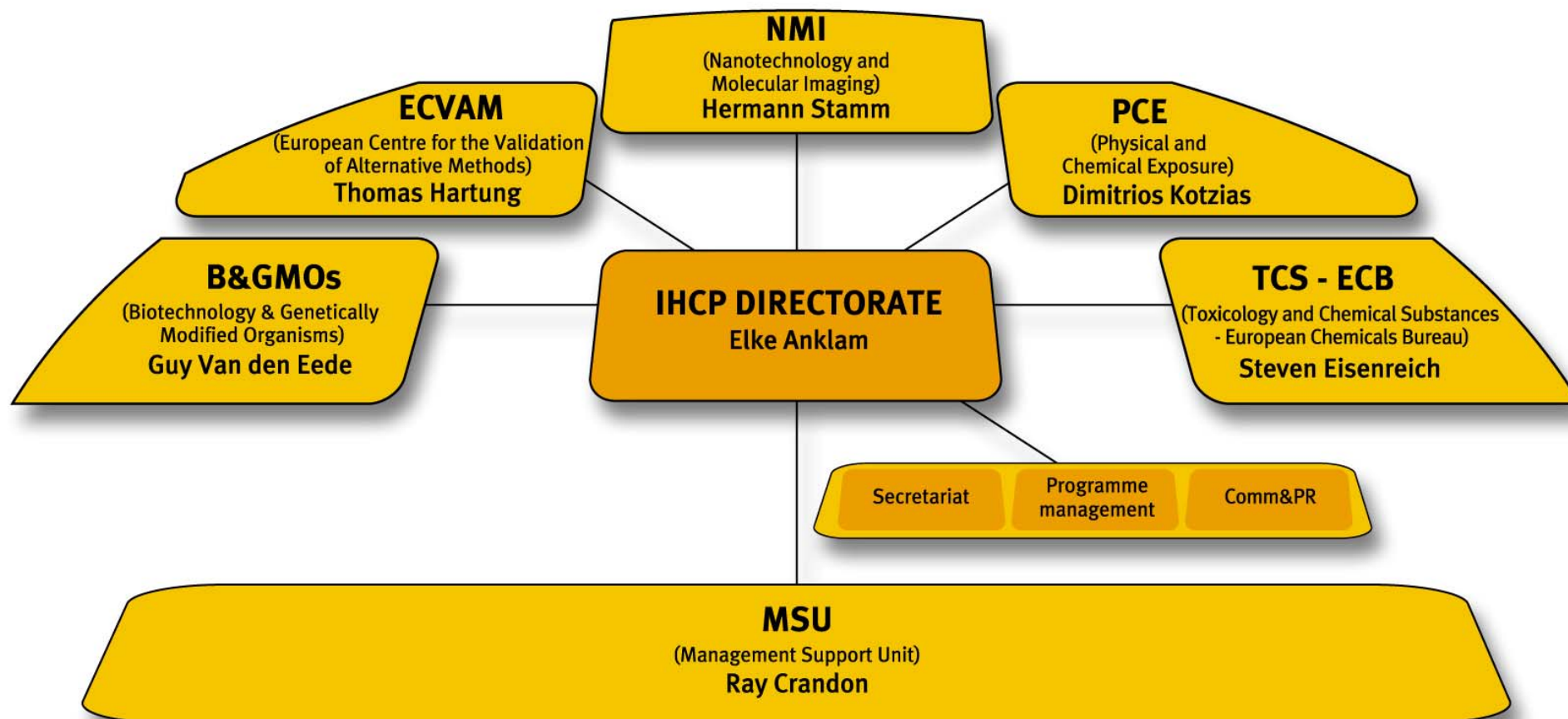
“Science for a healthier life”

Mission of IHCP

The mission of the IHCP is to provide scientific support to the development and implementation of EU policies related to health and consumer protection.

The IHCP carries out research to improve the understanding of potential health risks posed by chemical, physical and biological agents from various sources to which consumers are exposed.

5 Scientific + 1 Administrative Units



~ 300 staff (ratio of permanent to temporary ~ 65% : 35%)

Gender balance Male (52%): Female (48%) (all staff categories)

IHCP Main Areas of Activity

Consumer Products Safety (Chemicals point of view)

Chemicals and Biocides (classification, labelling, risk assessment)

Alternative Methods to Animal Testing

Nanotechnology for health applications

Genetically-Modified Organisms (GMOs)

Consumer Products Safety

BEVABS (European Office for Wine, Alcohol, and Spirits)

- Development of analytical methods to identify origin and authenticity
- Coordinating network of MS laboratories
- Quality control, disputes arbitration



Community Reference Laboratory



Food Contact Materials

- Coordination of network of NRL
- Harmonised analytical tools
- Information exchange
- Capacity building, training

Community Reference Laboratory for Food Contact Materials

- Dec 2006

Consumer Products Safety

New Fibres – Textile Labelling – Support to Directives 96/73/EC and 96/74/EC:

- Analytical methods for identification, quantification and evaluation of key properties (e.g. elasticity)
- Finalised for Polylactide, Elastomultiester and Elastoolefin
- On-going for Basofil and Aquafil

Release of chemicals from textiles for exposure assessment

- Formaldehyde
- Azo-dyes and other components



Chemical & Biocides (ECB)

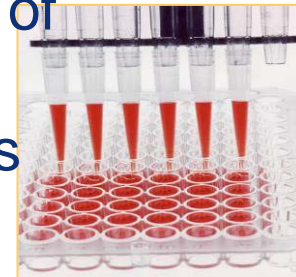


- Phase-out support to current chemicals regulations for New and Existing substances, and C&L by end 2008
 - Adoption of harmonised templates by OECD, completion of IUCLID5, training and capacity building
- Hand-over file to ECHA
- Reduce support to new chemicals policy REACH (RIPs 3.8 and 3.6 (GHS) finalised by Dec 2008).
- Continue/increase support to chemicals policy (Import/Export, Biocides, support to REACH –RIPs, Test Methods
- Reinforce role as focal point for COM and EU-MS collaboration regarding in particular for the OECD Programmes (Test Guidelines, and QSARs) and Training.
- QSARs developing technical guidance and computational tools

Alternative Methods to Animal Testing

European Centre for the Validation of Alternative Methods (ECVAM)

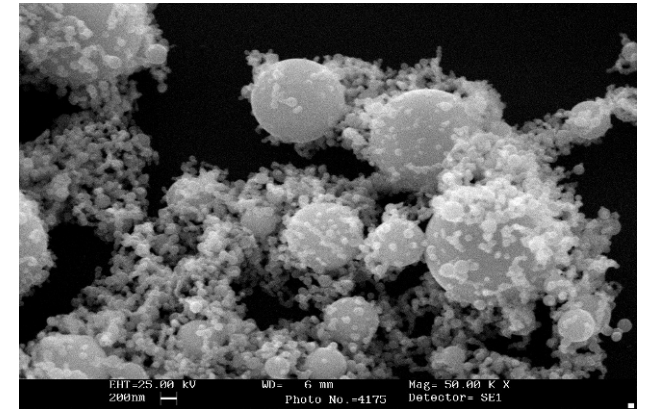
- Established 1991 - International reference centre – primary focus on animal tests for toxicological assessment
 - “3Rs” Principle (Replacement, Reduction, Refinement)
- Coordinate the validation of alternative test methods
- Exchange of information on the development of alternative test methods
- Promote dialogue between legislators and industries for the development, validation and international recognition of alternative test methods
- Manage a database service on alternative procedures



Increasing focus on “evidence-based Toxicology”

Nanotechnology and Medical Imaging

- Study of interfaces and interactions between biological and non biological systems
- Development of biosensors
- Toxicity of nano-particles
- Cyclotron: safe medical applications of nuclear technologies for diagnosis, monitoring and treatment of disease



GMOs

Community Reference Laboratory for GM Food and Feed (2004)

- Validation of methods for GMO analysis (50 dossiers 1st yr)
- Key role in implementation of emergency measures (BT10, LLRice601)
- Certification, accreditation, Quality Management System

Research topics address:

- Sampling procedures
- Molecular characterisation
- Development of new methods for quantification of GMO related proteins



GMOs

Operation of the EC Biosafety Clearing House for information exchange on living modified organisms (LMOs)
- Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

Technical support to exchange and dissemination of information on GMOs (Dir 2001/18/EC)

Plenary and Steering Committee meetings of ENGL (over 100 members and international observers)

Training and capacity building on GMO Detection Methods

For more information:

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