

## **Workshop on "the State of the Art Report on Mixture Toxicity"**

**Brussels 21/22 June 2010**

**Conference Centre Albert Borschette, room AB - 2D, Rue Froissart 36, 1049, Brussels**

### **Structure of the Workshop**

The meeting will be split up into a series of sessions. All of the sessions will take place in plenary.

The contractor responsible for producing the report will make an introductory presentation at the start of each session. Each session will be based on a theme or core conclusion from the report. Stakeholders will then have the opportunity to ask questions for clarification. This will be followed by opportunities for participants to comment or make statements. The nature of the workshop will be a mix of science and policy. Within the short time of the meeting it will not be possible to address all of the detailed scientific information presented in the report. Similarly, it is not the purpose of the meeting to decide upon the appropriate policy direction for the EU in relation to combination effects. What we would like to do is to get a general appreciation on how solid and reliable the scientific evidence base now is in relation to combination effects and to assess the need and opportunity for addressing the challenge of combination effects in the context of EU chemicals' legislation.

### **DRAFT AGENDA**

#### **Monday 21 June**

**10:30 to 11:00 - Introduction and Welcome from Commission Services.**

**11:00 to 12:30 - Thematic Session I- The Evidence Base for Combination Effects**

There now exists a considerable body of scientific literature regarding the combination effects of chemicals. How solid and how comprehensive is this evidence base? Where are the knowledge gaps and are these knowledge gaps a sufficient to delay policy action?

LUNCH

**14:00 to 16:00 - Thematic Session II- Low Dose effects**

There is mounting scientific evidence for combination effects of chemical substances at concentrations below the threshold or reference concentration of individual components. What is the scientific basis for these observations and how can such effects be taken into account in chemical assessments.

**16:00 to 18:00 - Thematic Session III. Are existing assessment methods sufficient for addressing combination effects?**

Current assessment methods used in chemicals regulation are typically designed to examine single chemicals. Can they be used for examining combination effects or will they need to be developed/adapted ?

**Tuesday 22 June**

**9:00 to 11:00 - Thematic Session IV- Finding the Right Framework**

Dose addition and independent action represent the most promising frameworks for addressing mixture toxicity within a regulatory setting. As a default option, dose addition is precautionary without implying massive and costly over-protection.

**11:00 to 13:00 - Thematic Session V- Where to Start-the possible combinations of chemicals is immense**

Proposition-A pragmatic approach to dealing with mixture toxicity based on progressive refinement of estimates of exposure and toxicity applied for example to identified mixtures or groups of chemicals is feasible and could be developed and applied in the short-term.

LUNCH

**15:00 to 17:00 - Major Issues and Conclusions identified in the Workshop concerning how to deal with the challenge of combination effects in the European Union.**