

ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH INFORMATION

***Working Party on Environment and
Health***

19th September 2005

Update on developments

ROADMAP

Implementation Plan for the E&H Information System

- 1. Technical preparation*
- 2. Financial preparation*

ROADMAP: (1) *Technical preparation*

- **Series of meetings focusing on four main exposure routes**
 - Ambient air
 - Indoor air
 - Drinking water/bathing water
 - Food
- **Objectives**
 - To work with the policy leads and their technical contacts
 - To analyse the existing information framework and develop actions to improve it for the short, medium and long term
 - To focus on actions on information, analysis and presentation
 - To identify cross-cutting issues

ROADMAP: (1) *Technical preparation*

Outcome

- Detailed Implementation Plan for E&H Information System (by early 2006)
- **Support: two contracts**
 - Technical support : about to be awarded: will run until April 2006
 - Scientific Support for Policy: in fifth call, to be published late 2005

First output

on ambient air quality

- Draft document discussed a first meeting on 4/8, revised draft produced, and second revision about to be finalised.

on drinking water/bathing water

- Draft based on ENHIS outcome. First meeting on 15/9, revised draft by end Sept.

on exposure through food

- Draft based on analysis of current monitoring and EFSA reports. First meeting on 28/9, revised draft subsequently.

Public availability of first drafts for the three exposure routes

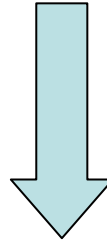
Ambient air

21/9

Drinking water/bathing water

Food

10/10



Member States meeting on afternoon of 18/10
Consultative Forum on 19/10

Next steps in technical preparation

- **Second public drafts of reports on ambient air, DW/BW and food, plus further meetings if necessary**
 - End November 2005
- **First meetings and first public drafts of reports on indoor air, and physical stressors (noise, EMF, radiation)**
 - End November 2005
- **Final reports and consultation arrangements for all five subjects, and integration into an Implementation Plan**
 - February/March 2006

Provisional outcome of discussions on ambient air quality

- **Exposure: Many areas well-covered. Possible additions are**
 - network of superstations
 - potential underestimation of rural exposure
 - Need for validation of models at different geographic scales.
- **Exposure-response:**
 - Potential to use superstations as framework for long-terms and short-term studies
 - Urgent need for programme of EU studies on long-term effects of air pollution.

Provisional outcome of discussions on ambient air quality

- **Health effects:**
 - Mortality well-documented
 - Comparability is improving: use of ICD should reduce problems with classification
 - However, morbidity studies using existing data, which are based on activities of providers of medical case (hospitals, clinics, doctors) depend on organisation of services in a country and on reporting of those services. For this reason, comparability is still limited here.
- **Suggestion:**
 - Develop a detailed standardised protocol for a survey of morbidity health endpoints of interest
- **Related activities:**
 - European Community Respiratory Health Survey (Funded under FP5,6)
 - Implementation of ECHI shortlist.

Provisional outcome of discussions on drinking water

- **Issue:**
 - Most DW supplies are compliant and most limit values are set so as to have wide safety margins
 - Hence in general a dose-response function within the compliance range does not exist.
 - No point in elaborate exposure/health impact assessment.
- **Exceptions:**
 - Biological contamination: faecal indicator not perfect, but monitoring individual pathogens v expensive and no substitute.
 - Chemical contamination: possible cases are lead, arsenic, copper and disinfection breakdown products.
- **Possible actions:**
 - More research, particularly on biological contamination
 - Assess whether better use can be made of existing chemical information.

Provisional outcome of discussions on food

- **Scope:**

- Pesticides
- Contaminants
- Biocides
- Veterinary medicines (MRLs) ?

- **Main issue:**

- As for DW: largely compliant and most limit values are set so as to have wide safety margins
- Also, large-scale infrastructure (EFSA, Scientific Committee on Food and its panels) for further assessment.
- Must be careful that additional measures are well-justified.

ROADMAP: (2) *Financial preparation*

- **Support in FP7, Environment theme**
 - **Possible scope for Research Infrastructure budget line**
 - **Possible scope for use of E budget lines of DG INFSO, for presentation aspect**
- More clarity on funding possibilities will be included in the documents as the information needs become clearer**

Time table

- 21/9: First public draft on AAQ**
- 28/9: Technical meeting on food**
- 10/10: First public drafts on food, DW**
- 18/10: MS meeting**
- 19/10: Consultative Forum**
- 24/10-30/11: Second meetings on AAQ, food, DW if needed. First meetings on indoor air, physical stressors**
- 30/11: Second public drafts on AAQ, food, DW. First public drafts on IAQ, physical stressors**

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