



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
 HEALTH & CONSUMER PROTECTION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
 Directorate C - Public Health and Risk Assessment
C7 - Risk assessment

ICG/Minutes 13.10.2004

Scientific Committees
2nd Meeting of the Inter-committees Coordination Group
13 October 2004 (10:00 -16:00)

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Prof. Hartemann, Prof Rogiers, Prof Sanner and Prof Tarazona.

2. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT AGENDA

The draft agenda was approved with minor timetable changes to allow the participation of Dr A Knaap (Genotoxicity) and Mr Sauer. Dr White asked for inclusion of a brief discussion on recent publications on possible connections between the prolonged use of hair dyes and certain types of cancers under AOB.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 1ST MEETING OF THE ICG

The minutes of the meeting were approved without changes.

5. HARMONISED APPROACH FOR GENOTOXIC AND CARCINOGENIC SUBSTANCES, INCLUDING ASSESSING LIFETIME CANCER RISK FOR CHEMICALS

The Chair introduced the background to the question and requested the Coordination Group's advice on the drafting of a practical mandate and the optimum use of the Scientific Committees' expertise. It was explained that Dr Knaap, Chair of EFSA working group "GENTOX" on this issue, had offered to present the work of the EFSA to the meeting following contacts with the EFSA secretariat.

Dr Knaap informally presented to the Coordination Group the current state and views of the EFSA WG GENTOX. The exchange of points of view with members of SANCO Scientific Committees was welcomed. Two members of the Committees were invited to participate, as external experts, in the working group meetings

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Commission européenne, B-1049 Bruxelles / Europese Commissie, B-1049 Brussel - Belgium. Telephone: (32-2) 299 11 11. Office: 01/063. Telephone: direct line (32-2) 2956535. Fax: (32-2) 2957332.

Internet: Pilar.AGUAR@cec.eu.int

foreseen for 21st and 22nd October 2004. Other future potential areas for collaboration were identified, in particular related to emerging risks.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the SCHER would be the lead Committee and would organise a working group with members drawn from SCCP and SCENIHR. A draft mandate will be prepared by the Secretariat for discussion with the group.

Mr Sauer stressed the potential impact on numerous regulatory processes of an opinion of the Scientific Committees on the issue of assessing genotoxic and carcinogenic substances.

Mr Sauer cited the organisation of this meeting as an example of the firm commitment to collaborative work between the Committees and other risk assessment bodies. He underlined the need to improve collaboration and to avoid, when possible, diverging opinions with respect to those adopted by other risks assessment bodies, in particular with EFSA and the European Medicines Agency (EMA). Steps were being undertaken to identify contact points in both institutions to enhance cooperation in areas of potential overlap.

Mr Sauer underlined the importance of taking advantage of already existing networks producing scientific information.

6. INFORMATION EXCHANGE

a. INFORMATION FROM CHAIRS AND VICE CHAIRS

The Group agreed to circulate new questions to the Chairs and Vice Chairs who would inform the Secretariat of any potential overlaps that they noticed the work programme

b. WORKING PROGRAMME OF THE THREE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES

The working programme of the three Scientific Committees was distributed.

c. SCHEDULES OF MEETINGS: CURRENT AND REMAINDER OF 2005

Meetings for 2005 were agreed:

- 16th February 2005
- 27th April 2005
- 22nd June 2005
- 14th September 2005
- 23rd November 2005

7. COMMON TEMPLATES FOR OPINIONS, AGENDA AND MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEES

The common templates for opinions, agenda and minutes were presented to the Group.

In the heading 3 of the Opinion template, the word ‘Opinion’ was changed for ‘Assessment’

It was also agreed that diverging views of external experts should be conveyed from the working group and presented to the plenary which would consider if appropriate to include them in the adopted scientific opinion. Complex opinions may include abstracts.

8. COHERENCE AND CONSISTENCY IN THE EXPRESSION OF SCIENTIFIC OPINIONS

It was agreed to review a small number of selected scientific opinions to identify areas for improvement (clarity of the question, unambiguous language, separation between risk assessment and management, conclusions clearly linked to the discussion and opinion tackling the question). The Scientific Secretariats would also be involved in this exercise.

9. INVENTORY OF RISK ASSESSMENT BODIES IN MEMBER STATES

The Chairs and Vice Chairs were requested to help the Commission to draw up a list of national risk assessment bodies that could help the Risk Assessment Unit to respond to urgent requests for preliminary scientific advice. The Secretariat will prepare a questionnaire for presentation to the Committees.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Dr. White informed the members of new scientific publications on a possible correlation between the use of hair dyes and a higher risk of suffering certain cancer types. An expert in the reserve list was suggested for possible assistance with an initial evaluation.
- A scientific opinion on tobacco additives was identified as one of the next potential requests for the SCs.
- Dr Greim reminded the Group of the need for environmental toxicologists in the SCHER. The chair confirmed that this fact would be given consideration when filling the current vacancy in this Committee.

Annex I: List of participants

Annex I

INTER COMMITTEE COORDINATION GROUP

2ND MEETING

13 October 2004
in Brussels

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Chairs and vice-Chairs of the Scientific Committees

Prof. J. BRIDGES, Dr. W.H. DE JONG, Prof. EM. H GREIM, Dr. I WHITE, Prof. O. B JANSSON

Apologies

Prof. P. HARTEMANN, Prof. V M ROGIERS, Prof. T SANNER, Dr. J TARAZONA

Commission

Mr F SAUER, Director SANCO C

Mr. P WAGSTAFFE (Chair), SANCO C/7

Ms. P AGUAR (Secretariat of SCENIHR and the ICG), SANCO C/7

Ms T. PEETSO, Mr. A. VAN ELST, SCCP Secretariat, SANCO C/7

Ms. G. FONTANESI, SCHER Secretariat, SANCO C/7

Ms M MARINI, SANCO C/7

Others

Ms Ada KNAAP, Chair of the EFSA's Scientific Committee Working Group GENTOX.