



INTER-COMMITTEE COORDINATION GROUP

14TH MEETING

31 January 2007

MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair, Mr. Bernardo Delogu welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Prof. B. Jansson, Prof. V. Rogiers and Prof. J. Tarazona.

2. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT AGENDA

The draft agenda was accepted.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None. The Chair informed that the assessment of practices in other institutions will be discussed in the next ICCG meeting.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 13^H MEETING OF THE ICCG

The minutes were approved and are available at
http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_risk/committees/coordination/docs/coord_mi_013.pdf.

5. INFORMATION EXCHANGE

5.1. ADMINISTRATIVE AND GENERAL MATTERS

The Chair presented the new staff: Mr. Takis Daskaleros from SANCO/B3, Ms. Kilian (replacing Ms. Peetso in the SCCP), Ms. Manuela Gaggini (publications and communication) and the unit secretaries Ms. Amelia Acosta and Ms. Marketta Viitaniemi.

The necessary actions for the prolongation for the Terms of Office of the Scientific Committees are being taken: the limited modifications will refer to the extension of the renewal up to the end of 2008 and increase of the number of members in the SCENIHR.

The Secretariat estimated that the administrative process could be finalised by the end of April. The Call for Evaluation Committee and the limited Call for Experts will take place after that and the overall process renewal process is estimated to be finished by September.

The Chair invited the Committees to react promptly to the forthcoming letter about the extension and continuation as well as later on to consider, if appropriate, the profiles of additional expertise needed. It will be also necessary to prepare a dissemination strategy for the Call for Experts.

As regards the liability issues, it was considered necessary to clarify the situation in regard to scientific opinions which may refer to sensitive information to economic operators.

The Chair informed about the definition of a framework for public consultations on scientific opinions, which will accompany all forthcoming consultations and refer to request for relevant additional scientific information, data or considerations enabling possible improvement on content or clarity of the opinion.

The Chair of the SCENIHR presented the considerations related to practices with the management of confidential information, in particularly as regards business requests of confidentiality either on whole submitted dossier or special items in a dossier. The SC Rules of Procedures provide for the management of confidential dossiers and consequent opinions, but common rules and legal advice in regard to 1049/2001/EC on access to information would be desirable as the scientific conclusions have to be supported by sufficient data. Meanwhile, the opinions under finalisation will be approved for public consultation or adopted only after consultation with the companies involved.

As regards very specialised expertise, it was considered very probable that there will always be cases where high quality expertise is limited to a few key persons and a conflict of interest cannot be excluded from the work of the Committees. In those cases, it is recommended to document the conflict of (commercial or scientific) interest, balance and/or limit it with a choice of additional expertise in the working group and make it transparent for users of the scientific opinions

According to the members, the speed of reimbursements has considerably improved but may vary temporarily. The Secretariat will keep on monitoring the situation and the feedback from members is most welcome.

As regards to the travel insurances, it was considered important to ask all SCs about the current situation.

As regards the visibility of the scientific opinions, it was decided that abstracts of all opinion will be included in the forthcoming SC newsletter. The new logo and template for scientific opinions were distributed for information.

The Chair highlighted the importance to ensure arrangements for ad hoc scientific advice on risk assessment in case of crisis. The Secretariat will prepare a proposal for that (including a scheme for practical arrangements with members and how to coordinate the process with other potential contributors).

The Chair informed the meeting about the establishment of the intra-Sanco network on nanotechnology issues, in particular in regard to risk assessment and regulatory issues.

5.2. INFORMATION FROM/TO CHAIRS AND VICE CHAIRS

5.2.1. SCCP

The key points of discussion were the situation in sensitisation, hair dyes, nanocosmetics and other cosmetics.

5.2.2. SCHER

The main discussion points were indoor air and zinc as well as practices applied with external experts.

5.2.3. SCENIHR

The main points of discussion were EMF, Smokeless Tobacco Products, Nanomaterials in TGDs, DEHP in medical devices and dental amalgam and the situation in the request for biocides. After the public consultation of the EMF, especially from ordinary citizens, it has been considered useful to add methodological details to the opinion and to prepare a SCENIHR guidance document on the risk assessment of EMF.

5.3. NEW REQUESTS TO THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES

New mandates have been received on hydrogen peroxide and oakmoss.

5.4. WORK PROGRAMME 2007

The Secretariat presented the work programme: it was considered important to further discuss the potential impacts of the forthcoming Chemical Agency on the work programme.

6. COLLABORATION WITH OTHER COMMUNITY BODIES

6.1. EFSA

The Secretariat presented the on-going work in EFSA. It was considered necessary to ensure the SC contributions on the bench mark dose, botanicals and work on alternative testing methods and welfare of experimental animals. Furthermore, there is a need for close co-operation on nanotechnology issues between the SCENIHR and EFSA. The Secretariat will also distribute to the members the forthcoming document on Uncertainties in the food safety: the need for joint actions will be assessed after that.

6.2. MEETING OF CHAIRS OF SCs IN THE COMMUNITY RISK ASSESSMENT

The on-going actions in different Scientific Committees and Panels after the Meeting of Chairs on 24-25 October 2006 are the following.

Terminology of risk assessment: The technical arrangements have been done and it will be necessary to prepare a working document and to engage experts to a working group.

Emerging risks: The SCENIHR-EFSA working paper is under finalisation and will be sent for comments to Members of the break out group.

Nanotechnologies: The SCENIHR has associated other SCs to its on-going work on the technical guidance document for chemicals' legislation and invited comments on its opinion on risk assessment methodologies. The workshop with stakeholder will be organised during 2007 with participation from all the SCs.

ECHA impacts: Co-operation with non-food SCs and EFSA necessary especially on borderline issues and cases. C7 will make the necessary arrangements for this.

Diverging opinions: EMEA reflection paper send for comments.

US-EU risk assessment approaches: The first regulatory conference on risk assessment methods foreseen to take place in early 2008: will facilitate a dialogue on risk assessment issues.

Alternative testing methods: The discussion on-going on the current developments.

6.3. OTHER

6.3.1. RISK ASSESSMENT DAYS 2007

The Secretariat informed about the draft programme and practical arrangements made for the Risk Assessment Days - meeting with all SANCO Scientific Committees on 21-22 March. The Chairs and Vice-Chairs were invited to pay special attention in their preparations to the needs of the Members of the Parliament for scientific advice in the non-food area.

6.3.2. SC EVENT 2007

The Chair emphasised the importance to consider possibilities for a bi- annual SC event that would improve the visibility of the SC work and its contribution to policy making in the EU and promote international dialogue and co-operation on risk assessment. The forthcoming workshop on the follow-up of the Finnish Presidency conference Nanotechnologies – Safety for Success (<http://www.fmnt.fi/ntss>) will provide that kind of opportunity, but other fields will need to follow.

6.3.3. PROGRESS WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN

The Chair informed about the progress made in regard to SC-video, leaflet, logo and plans for the Newsletter.

6.3.4. LONG-TERM WORK PROGRAMME

The Chair highlighted needs for proactive SC contributions to the policy making as well as better links to the RTD research activities and structured co-operation with national risk assessment bodies. Furthermore, there will be foreseeable changes in the demands for scientific advice on risk assessment of e.g. emerging and converging technologies, changes in population structure and life-style, cumulative risks, interaction of chemicals, risk assessment tools.

The Chair invited SC inputs to the identification and the prioritisation of relevant themes in regard to health and the environment, data needs and future research needs.

7. COLLABORATION WITH JRC + RTD

The Secretariat informed about the FP7 Calls for proposals on specific projects as well as infrastructures and invites all SCs to identify relevant areas for the 2008 calls in their fields of work.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The next ICCG meeting will take place on 19 April 2007.

Annex I: List of participants

Annex I

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| INTER COMMITTEE COORDINATION GROUP |
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| 14TH MEETING |
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31st January 2007
in Brussels

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Chairs and vice-Chairs of the Scientific Committees

Prof. J. BRIDGES, Prof. H GREIM, Prof. P. HARTEMANN, W. de JONG, Prof. T. SANNER, and Dr. I. WHITE.

Apologies: Dr. B. JANSSON, Prof. V. ROGIERS and Dr. J. TARAZONA.

European Commission

SANCO C7 'RISK ASSESSMENT'

Mr. B. DELOGU (Chair), Ms. M. PUOLAMAA (ICCG Secretariat), Ms. Marina MARINI, Mr. P.H. MARTIN, Mr. T. DASKALEROS, Ms. Katja BROMEN (SCENIHR Secretariat), Ms. G. FONTANESI (SCHER Secretariat), Ms. K. KILIAN and Mr. A. VAN ELST (SCCP Secretariat) and M. MUYLDERMANS.