

Follow up to the 2nd Meeting of Chairs

Joint meeting of SCCP,
SCHER, SCENIHR

22 March 2007

2nd meeting of Chairs

- Took place on 24-25 October 2006
- Attended by Chairs of SCCP, SCHER, SCENIHR, EFSA (SCs and Panels), EMEA, ECDC, EEA
- Topics for discussion were: REACH, Risk Evaluation and Risk Management, Emerging Risks, Alternative Testing, Nanotechnology
- Also: discussion between co-ordinators on divergent opinions, exchange of data and confidentiality

A shared Approach to Best Practices in Risk Assessment (RA)

EU Risk Assessment Bodies operate within a global framework (e.g. Codex etc) and within distinct sets of EU legal requirements. Within these constraints, we have decided as Chairs and Co-ordinators of EU risk assessment process to work together more closely in pursuit of a common framework for RA.

Such a framework would generate greater public recognition of the value added of EU scientific RA, and would drive the pursuit of better quality Risk Management decisions.

The key element of our endeavour are :

- **An excellent, recognised common approach, including :**
 - ✓ *General principles for RA across sectors*
 - ✓ *Common methodological approach on complex issues*
 - ✓ *Engagement with stakeholders and internationally*
- **Clear and effective Risk Communication**
 - ✓ *Consistent and clear terminology*
 - ✓ *Clear description and expression of the scope and nature of risks, of uncertainties and their implications*
- **A framework for EU and international co-operation**
 - ✓ *Procedures, respectful of confidentiality, for the exchange of data and information*
 - ✓ *Co-operation for comprehensive (multi-source) risk assessment*

Follow up activities in progress

- Common paper on identification of emerging risks
- Comments on SCENIHR opinion on nano
- Network of correspondents on nano
- Checklist for RA of nanomaterials
- Nano-workshop

Follow-up of activities in progress

- Consistency and clarity of RA terms and expressions: report on experience SCCP/SCHER/SCHENIHR and glossary project
- Case studies on impact of ECHA
- Common approach on diverging opinions
- Common guidelines on exchange of information
- International RA conferences to promote dialogue on RA approaches and issues

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