



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL HEALTH AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
Directorate C - Scientific Opinions
Unit C2 - Management of Scientific Committees; scientific co-operation and networks

Scientific Committee on Toxicity, Ecotoxicity and the Environment

CSTEE/00/Minutes.27.06.2002 Final

**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON
TOXICITY, ECOTOXICITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT (CSTEE)
32nd PLENARY MEETING**

**Held on 27 June 2002
Rue de Geneve 1
Brussels**

Minutes

1. Welcoming address, apologies for absence, declarations of interest

Apologies for absence were received from Profs. G. Cantelli Forti, W. Dekant, C. Janssen and M. Vighi.

No specific interests were declared by any CSTEE member in respect of any of the points in the draft agenda.

2. Adoption of the draft agenda

The revised draft agenda was adopted with the addition of a brief presentation by Mr Peter Wagstaffe, Head of Unit C 2, on the development of the EFSA and the problem of understaffing of the CSTEE.

3. Approval of the draft minutes of the 31st CSTEE plenary meeting

a) The draft minutes of the 31st CSTEE plenary meeting were adopted with some editorial corrections. The Chairman reported that, as agreed at the last meeting, with Profs Tarazona and Greim he had written a letter to Mr Byrne the Commission on 23rd May regarding the serious under-resourcing of the CSTEE, but no response had yet been received.

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b) In his address to the Committee, Mr Peter Wagstaffe, Head of Unit SANCO/C2, gave a progress report on the establishment of the new European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). He reported that the legal basis was already in place and that considerable progress had been made in the preparatory work. A small number of staff had already been recruited on short-term contracts and are currently working closely with the staff of Unit C2 to set up the administrative and IT infrastructure of the new Authority. The Management Board has been nominated by the Council and the Executive Director should be appointed in September or October. Personnel with scientific training will be recruited in the coming months for the future scientific committee and panels to work in parallel with the existing scientific committees to ensure continuity in the provision of scientific advice. Calls for applications for membership of the EFSA Scientific Panels will be launched in October.

Mr Wagstaffe went on to explain that the ongoing reorganisation within the Unit resulting from the EFSA has contributed to staff shortages which have had a serious effect on the secretarial support made available to the Scientific Committees. The CSTE and SCP had been particularly badly affected. The Commission services have made strenuous efforts to recruit replacements. For the CSTE, an administrative secretary had already taken up her duties and the post of CSTE Scientific Secretary had been advertised twice without success. Mr Wagstaffe said that it was now planned to recruit two scientifically-trained personnel on the basis of temporary contracts to support the CSTE.

He added that the reply from Mr. Byrne to the letter sent by the Chairman and Vice chairmen of the CSTE will be sent in the next few days.

4. Health effects of Radio Frequency and Electromagnetic fields:

- i) Recommendations of the CSTE for research – for opinion**
- ii) New opinion request from DG Sanco – for opinion**

The chairman of the Working Group has reported to the members of this group on the questions which had been raised at the previous CSTE plenary. Replies so far received have been limited. The Committee therefore agreed to postpone the adoption of the opinion till the plenary meeting of September or October.

5. Regulation 793/93 on Existing substances (ESR):

Status reports/opinions (Human Health and/or Environment):

- a) 3,4-dichloroaniline (HH) – for opinion**
- b) Bisphenol-A (HH and Env) – for opinion**
- c) Aniline-for discussion**

The adoption of the opinion on *3,4-dichloroaniline* was postponed to a future meeting.

With regard to *Bisphenol A*, certain members of the Committee made comments on the risk assessment report. The Committee adopted the opinion after inclusion of these comments.

The discussion on *Aniline* pointed out the controversial nature of the genotoxicity and carcinogenicity data for aniline and a number of other aromatic amines. It was, therefore, decided that a working group should be set up to address the relationship between genotoxicity and carcinogenicity for all the aromatic amines which are due to be evaluated by the CSTEE (including 3,4 dichloro aniline) and report back to the SCTEE at the next plenary meeting.

6. CSTEE recommendations for revision of Technical Guidance Document in Support of regulation 793/93-feedback from Commission services

The representative of DG Environment said that the legal document was in principle adopted. However, the committee members requested that the responses expressed by the national authorities to the CSTEE opinions should be presented to CSTEE.

7. Member State's assessments of the risk to health and the environment from Cadmium in fertilisers.

The working group had not met since the last plenary meeting; hence no further contribution had been made. The opinion was postponed till the next plenary meeting in September.

8. Request for an opinion from the CSTEE on certain questions arising from a study on Risks to Health and Environment Related to the Use of Lead in Products – Progress report

The rapporteur summarised the discussions of the working group on this issue. Several points of serious concern were identified by the working group, such as trends of increasing lead levels in blood in some population groups. It was therefore considered imperative to address not just the general trends in the opinion, but also specific trends which might be related to local emissions of lead. The multidisciplinary nature of these issues emphasised the need for additional experts with appropriate expertise to be recruited to the working group.

9. Questions to the CSTEE relating to *scientific evidence of risks to health from chromium VI in cement* – for opinion.

The opinion was adopted following the modifications made during the meeting.

10. Justification of a notification by The Netherlands to introduce national measures concerning wood treated with copper substances – progress report.

The rapporteur explained the interim report and informed the Committee on the need for consideration of an additional paper, which has a direct bearing on the matter at hand. This information had been requested from the services of DG Enterprise in order to facilitate progress in the formulation of the opinion.

Several members raised questions and made comments on the interim report.

The Committee agreed to discuss the final draft report at the next plenary meeting.

11. Emerging issues identified by the SSC and for which the CSTEE is the “lead” committee:

- a) Endocrine disruption (Human Health)
- b) Indoor climate

It was agreed that the Working Group on “Endocrine disruption” would meet on 23rd September.

With regard to Indoor climate, the strategy for the work of the WG was described. The representative of JCR in Ispra proposed that JCR would be willing to provide the scientific secretarial support for the WG. CSTEE members welcomed this.

12. Strategies for dealing with additional opinions requests, if any, submitted by other DGs of the Commission.

A request for an opinion had been received from DG Enterprise. Two questions were included in the request.

The committee was of the view that the question regarding the health risks associated with the release of asbestos after the collapse of the New York towers did not fall within the remit of the CSTEE.

With regard the second question of updating, in the light of new evidence, the CSTEE opinion on risks to human health of substitute fibres to chrysotile asbestos, the Committee agreed to set up a working group to deal with the matter.

13. Feedback from the relevant services of the Commission on the follow-up to the opinions adopted previously by the CSTEE.

No information was available from the Commission services on the follow-up given to CSTEE opinions adopted in the recent past.

14. Participation of the CSTEE in activities/working groups of other scientific committees of the Commission.

Dr Lambré informed the Committee that he has been asked to participate in a Working Group of the Scientific Committee on Food on the risk assessment of Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH) in food, where he would be responsible for addressing the immunotoxicity of PAH in food. He has also received a request to attend a SCF Working Group meeting on organotin compounds, which is due to be held in the middle of July.

Two members of the CSTEE are involved in Working Groups addressing the risks from Copper and Zinc in animal feed.

Dr Tarazona reported on the discussion held in the SSC’s working group on “Risk Assessment on Anticoccidiostatics”.

15. Update on the latest meetings of the Scientific Steering Committee on matters of interest to the CSTEE

- a) Harmonisation of Risk Assessment Task Force and Working groups
- b) Cross-committee's collaboration

On first subject, the chairman informed the committee that two documents, 'Harmonisation of Ecological Risk Assessment for Chemicals' and 'Harmonisation of Risk Assessment for Animal Populations', are currently being considered. The documents will soon be available on the website for consultation and CSTEE members were encouraged to make a contribution.

He also informed the committee that the Second Report by the Task Force, covering human risk, environmental risk, integrated risk and a wide range of other issues, is currently under preparation and due for completion in October. Considering the wide scope of this document, a copy of the chapter headings will be circulated to CSTEE members and any opinions and input would be highly appreciated.

The chairman also announced that two other documents, 'The Quality of Life' report and 'The Quantitative Assessment to Microbial Pathogens', are available for consultation on the web.

16. Arrangements for the following (33rd) plenary meeting of the CSTEE

The next plenary meeting will be held on 24th September as scheduled.

17. Presentation of CIRCA by member of SANCO/C/2

Mrs C. Fabre, from DG SANCO, addressed the Committee with a presentation on 'the CIRCA system' which allows Scientific Committee members and their Working Groups to access on-line all the documents made available by the secretariats concerning matters of interest. Meeting schedules and other relevant information on the work done by a particular Committee can also be found on CIRCA. The site will only be available to the Committee members and to the members of the Commission services who request an individual password. The period between this and the next plenary will be a period for testing the system by the members of the CSTEE.

Several questions were raised and it was agreed that the feedback by CSTEE members on CIRCA would be discussed at the next plenary meeting.

18. Any other business

- a) Chrysotile asbestos and substitutes:

The CSTEE has been requested to comply with Directive 1999/97/EC, which stipulates that new scientific evidence ought to be reviewed by January 1, 2003.

The terms of reference were discussed and it was noted that these terms should be the same as those which formed the basis of the CSTEE opinion in 1998, as follows:

"On the basis of the available data, do any of the following substitute fibres pose an equal or greater risk to human health than chrysotile asbestos?"

- Cellulose fibres

- PVA fibres

- P-aramid fibres

Particular consideration should be given to the relative risk to para-occupational workers and other users of the asbestos-containing products in comparison to non-asbestos products"

A Working Group, formed by Prof. Greim, Prof. Kyrtopoulos, Prof. Lambré and Prof. Terracini, was created.

b) No other matters.

Annex I: Agenda.

Annex II: List of Participants.

Annex I



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Scientific Committee on Toxicity, Ecotoxicity and the Environment

Brussels,
CSTEE/00/plen.age.27.06.2002

**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON
TOXICITY, ECOTOXICITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT (CSTEE)
32nd PLENARY MEETING**

**27 June 2002, starting at 10H00 in
Rue de Genève 1, room 1/330 (D)
B-1140 Brussels (Evere)**

- AGENDA -

- 1. Welcoming address, apologies for absence, declarations of interest**
- 2. Adoption of the draft agenda**
- 3. Approval of the draft minutes of the 31st CSTEE plenary meeting**
- 4. Health effects of Radio Frequency and Electromagnetic fields:**
 - i) Recommendations of the CSTEE for research – for opinion**
 - ii) New opinion request from DG SANCO – for opinion**
- 5. Regulation 793/93 on Existing substances (ESR):**

Status reports/opinions (Human Health and/or Environment) on:

 - a) 3,4-dichloroaniline (HH) - for opinion**
 - b) Bisphenol-A (Env) - for opinion**
 - c) Aniline – for discussion**
- 6. CSTEE recommendations for revision of the Technical Guidance Document in Support of Regulation 793/93 – feedback from Commission services**
- 7. *Member States' assessments of the risk to health and the environment from cadmium in fertilisers***
- 8. Request for an opinion from the SCTEE on certain questions arising from a study on *Risks to Health and the environment Related to the Use of Lead in Products* – progress report**
- 9. Questions to the CSTEE relating to *Scientific evidence of risks to health from chromium VI in cement* – opinion**

- 10. Justification of a notification by The Netherlands to introduce national measures concerning wood treated with copper substances – progress report**
- 11. Emerging issues identified by the SSC and for which the CSTEE is the ‘lead’ committee:**
 - a) Endocrine disruption (Human Health)**
 - b) Indoor climate**
- 12. Strategies for dealing with additional opinion requests, if any, submitted by other DGs of the Commission**
- 13. Feedback from the relevant services of the Commission on the follow up to the opinions adopted previously by the CSTEE**
- 14. Participation of the CSTEE in activities/working groups of other scientific committees of the Commission**
- 15. Update on the latest meetings of the Scientific Steering Committee on matters of interest to the CSTEE**
 - a) Harmonisation of Risk Assessment Task Force and Working groups**
 - b) Cross committee’s collaboration**
- 16. Arrangements for the following (33rd) plenary meeting of the CSTEE**
- 17. Presentation of CIRCA by member of SANCO/C/2**
- 18. Any other business**

Annex II

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON TOXICITY, ECOTOXICITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT (CSTEE)

32nd PLENARY MEETING

27th of June 2002

Brussels

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

CSTEE:

Prof. James BRIDGES, Prof. Peter CALOW, Prof. Erik DYBING, Prof. Dr Helmut GREIM, Prof. Bo JANSSON, Prof. Soterios KYRTOPOULOS, Dr Claude LAMBRE, Prof. Amadeu SOARES, Dr José TARAZONA, Prof. Benedetto TERRACINI, Prof. Janneche Utne SKARE, Prof. Katarina VICTORIN and Prof. Joseph VOS.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION:

Health & Consumer Protection DG:

Mr P. WAGSTAFFE

Mr T. DASKALEROS

Mr. M. SEGUINOT

Dr. A. SANABRIA

Ms M. BREGU

Enterprise DG:

Mr. S. BRION

Mr. S. PICKERING

Mr. M. SCHMAHL

RTD DG

Mr. M. WILKKI

Environment DG

Mr. U. FALK

Mrs L.F. BRAGANZA

JCR:

Mr. S. KEPHALOPOULOS

Mr. D. PAPAMELETIOU