



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.17.12.2002 Final

**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON
TOXICITY, ECOTOXICITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT (CSTEE)
34th PLENARY MEETING**

**Held on 31st October 2002
Brussels**

Minutes

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

The chair of the Committee, Prof. Bridges, welcomed the participants. Prof. Cantelli Forti and Prof. Janssen sent their apologies.

Declaration of interest:

Prof. Dybing indicated that one of his co-workers was working on the risk assessment of n-Pentane and so he would abstain when point 5d of the agenda arose. No other interests were declared.

Mr. Walsh informed the committee of the recruitment of V. Rolland and G. Fontanesi, who introduced themselves, to reinforce the support to this Committee.

2. Adoption of the draft agenda

The revised draft agenda was adopted as written in Annex I.

3. Approval of the draft minutes of the 33rd CSTEE plenary meeting

The draft minutes of the 33rd CSTEE plenary meeting were adopted with some editorial corrections.

It is available in:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/sc/sct/out167_en.pdf

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

No feed back was received on any recent opinions adopted.

5. Regulation 793/93 on Existing substances (ESR): Status reports/opinions (Human Health and/or Environment):

Octabromodiphenyl ether

The opinion on the results of risk assessment of Diphenyl ether, octabromo derivative was adopted and is available on the Internet at http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/sc/sct/out166_en.pdf

Bis (pentabromophenyl) ether

The opinion on the results of risk assessment of Bis (pentabromophenyl) ether was adopted and is available on the Internet at http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/sc/sct/out165_en.pdf

Mr. Braganza (DG ENV) gratefully thanked the committee for preparing these opinions in such a short delay.

Chlorinated Alkanes

A background document will be prepared for the next plenary meeting.

Benzene

The Secretariat will enquire and communicate a deadline for this opinion.

n-Pentane

Two members of the committee will undertake the task.

New substances will be submitted soon. The chairman of the committee suggested that the list of new substances be circulated together with the minutes.

6. Request for an opinion from the SCTEE concerning risks to health from asbestos (chrysotile)

The draft opinion on risk to health from asbestos (chrysotile) is almost finalised and will be proposed for adoption at the next plenary meeting. Requests were received from external scientists/organisations to share preliminary results on long-term studies on chrysotile biopersistence. The committee considered that it was not necessary to invite external experts. Anyhow, due to current time constraints, any relevant study results should be provided to the Working Group within two weeks to be considered.

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

Mr. de Bruijn (JRC) thanked the members of the Committee for their thorough review and comments on both Technical Guidance Documents on Risk Assessment –Human Health Effects Assessment and –Workplace Exposure Assessment.

Prof. Calow mentioned that some fundamental issues were still remaining in the documents. In particular he was of the view that the link between PBT analysis and risk assessment was tenuous. Although the committee acknowledged the difficulty to collect

good exposure data, the committee strongly advised to change the title of the documents and to focus on risk characterisation. In addition, the committee agreed that a clarification on the definition, use and strategy relating to the PBT approach would be useful. In this respect, Prof. Calow will prepare a short list of major key points on this concept to be then discussed in a working group. An appropriate representative from JRC may be involved in the working group.

Furthermore, the committee felt that not all their comments were taken into account despite the intensive revaluation of the documents. It was clarified that all CSTEE comments were considered, although they could not all be incorporated at this stage due to time constraints. They will nevertheless be considered again, when the documents are revised in the future.

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

A draft opinion will be presented at the next plenary meeting.

9. Emerging issues identified by the SSC and for which the CSTEE is the leading committee

Endocrine disruption

IPCS expressed interest in co-funding a metanalysis on the quality of sperm. The Secretariat will check, whether DG SANCO B is still interested in supporting this activity as well. A summary of a 6-month project with costs involved will be provided.

Indoor air quality

Briefs resulting from the working group discussions were distributed at the meeting. A few changes on the composition of the subgroups were suggested. JRC will be involved in the task. Furthermore, Prof. Bridges will inform the SSC and seek for additional involvement from SSC. Meanwhile, the working group briefs will be sent to the Commission services to seek for their interest in working further on this topic.

10. Strategies for dealing with additional opinion requests submitted by other DGs of the Commission

Short-chain Chlorinated Paraffins

The members of the committee will carefully review the draft opinion, as distributed at the meeting, prior to the next plenary meeting for adoption.

Drinking water

A working group was set up and will meet before the next Plenary Meeting.

Phosphate in household detergents

A new working group was set up. Dr. Tarazona will propose the name of an additional expert in this area.

Lead-containing candle-wicks

A draft document is being prepared.

Organostannic compounds

Prof. Bridges will discuss the topic with the chair of the SCF, since it is also addressed in by the SCF.

11. Health effects of Radio Frequency and Electromagnetic Fields - Considerations of research proposals on Electromagnetic fields

Following the adoption of the opinion in the last meeting, WHO and ICNIRP sent some comments that were considered by CSTEE, despite the authors' names were not declined. The CSTEE agreed that the opinion does not require further revision, however, a few points will be clarified in an appendix with priorities for research identified by the Committee. A new version of the appendix will be circulated among the members of the working group before further circulation to the whole committee for comments.

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

Prof. Vighi briefly reported back on the working groups of the SCAN on the environmental effects of Additives and other Chemical Substances present in Animal Feed : Copper, Undesirable Substances, Zinc, and Coccidiostats.

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

Harmonisation of Risk Assessment Task Force and Working groups

Prof. Bridges reported back that the SSC work on the Harmonisation of Risk Assessment is likely to be available early next year.

BSE/TSE

The issue of BSE contamination in sheep was raised. SSC receives many questions on procedures for disposing of animal waste.

14. Arrangements for the next plenary meetings of the CSTEE

The next plenary meetings will be held on 17 December 2002, 6 February 2003, 12 June 2003 and 10 September 2003. A list of dates will be circulated to a fix a meeting in April 2003.

15. Any other business

The Committee raised the question of the future of the CSTEE in light of the changes of the structure of the scientific committees with the establishment of the EFSA. The committee proposes that some of its members meet with EC officers to discuss non-food public health needs and organisational placing in the near future. Prof. Bridges will bring forward this concern to the SSC.

Furthermore the committee expressed its concern that the area of environment and health were not well taken into consideration in the 6th Framework plan. Prof. Kyrtopoulos will write down major related issues and circulate the document to the whole Committee before it is given to the Secretariat. The Secretariat will then enquire whether a representative from DG Environment and DG Research could attend the next plenary meeting.

Last, Dr. Sanabria thanked the Committee for their help and understanding in the recent transition period.

Annex I: Agenda.

Annex II: List of Participants.

Annex I



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

Brussels,
CSTEE/00/plen.age.31.10.2002 Final

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON
TOXICITY, ECOTOXICITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT (CSTEE)
34th PLENARY MEETING

**31 October 2002, starting at 10H00 in
CCAB – Rue Froissart, 36
B-1040 Brussels**

- AGENDA -

1. **Welcoming address, apologies for absence, declarations of interest**
2. **Adoption of the draft agenda**
3. **Approval of the draft minutes of the 33rd CSTEE plenary meeting**
4. **Feedback from the relevant services of the Commission on the follow up to the opinions adopted previously by the CSTEE**
5. **Regulation 793/93 on Existing substances (ESR):
Status reports/opinions (Human Health and/or Environment) on:**
 - a) *Octabromodiphenyl ether* (ENV-HH) and *Decabromodiphenylether* - for discussion
 - b) *Chlorinated Alkanes* (ENV) – for discussion
 - c) *Benzene* (ENV) – new request
 - d) *Pentane* (ENV, HH) – new request
6. **Request for an opinion from the SCTEE concerning *risks to health from asbestos (chrysotile)* – for discussion and possible opinion.**
7. **CSTEE recommendations for revision of the Technical Guidance Document in Support of Regulation 793/93 – feedback from Commission services**
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. **Emerging issues identified by the SSC and for which the CSTEE is the “leading” committee:**
 - a) Endocrine disruption (Human Health)*
 - b) Indoor air quality*
10. **Strategies for dealing with additional opinion requests submitted by other DGs of the Commission:**
 - a) Chlorinated Paraffins*
 - b) Drinking Water*
 - c) Phosphate in household detergents*
 - d) Lead containing candle-wicks*
11. **Health effects of Radio Frequency and Electromagnetic Fields - Considerations of research priorities**
12. **Participation of the CSTEE in activities/working groups of other scientific committees of the Commission**
Joint Committee SCF on canned tin
13. **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 collaboration*
14. **Arrangements for the next (35th) plenary meeting of the CSTEE.**
Draft Calendar of Plenary and Working Group Meetings for 2003
15. **Any other business**

Annex II

**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON
TOXICITY, ECOTOXICITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT (CSTEE)
34th PLENARY MEETING
31st October 2002
Brussels**

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

CSTEE:

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

EUROPEAN COMMISSION:

Health & Consumer Protection DG:

Dr. G. FONTANESI
Ms. V. ROLLAND
Dr. A. SANABRIA
Mr. M. WALSH

Enterprise DG:

Mr. S. PICKERING

RTD DG

Mr. M. WILKKI

Environment DG

Mr. L. BRAGANZA

JCR

Mr. J. de BRUIJN
Mr. S. KEPHALOPOULOS