



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH & CONSUMER PROTECTION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Directorate C - Scientific Opinions

**C2 - Management of scientific committees; scientific co-operation and networks
Scientific Committee on Toxicity, Ecotoxicity and the Environment**

CSTEE/GEN2/Minutes 06.02.2003 Final

**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON TOXICITY, ECOTOXICITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT
(CSTEE)
36TH PLENARY MEETING**

*Held on 6 February 2003
in Brussels*

DRAFT MINUTES

1. WELCOMING ADDRESS, APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE, DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Prof. Bridges, chair of the Committee, opened the meeting by welcoming the participants to the first meeting of the New Year. Apologies were received from Prof. Janssen, Prof. Kyrtopoulos and Prof. Soares.

Declaration of interest:

No declarations of interests were made.

2. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA

The draft agenda was adopted as written in Annex I, although some items had to be discussed in a different order.

3. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 35TH PLENARY MEETING

The draft minutes of the 35th CSTEE plenary meeting were adopted with minor corrections and are available at:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/sc/sct/out175_en.pdf

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)

Aniline and 3,4-Dichloroaniline

A draft opinion on aniline (human health) was presented and will be reviewed by the committee members by the next plenary meeting. A draft opinion on the environmental risk assessment of Aniline and the human health part of 3,4-Dichloroaniline should be presented at the next meeting. In parallel, a working group will discuss the mutagenicity and its relationship to carcinogenicity of aromatic amines to ensure a consistent general approach for these substances.

Benzene

The draft opinions on the results of risk assessment of benzene (environment) were adopted after inclusion of a few comments raised in the last meeting and during this meeting. It is available at:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/sc/sct/out177_en.pdf

Phenol

The draft opinion on the results of risk assessment of phenol (environment) was adopted after some exchange of views. The committee underlined insufficient quantitative information on the releases from some emission sources. Mammalian data could provide additional useful information especially regarding the atmospheric levels, and may then lead to a revision of the opinion at a later stage. The adopted opinion is available at:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/sc/sct/out178_en.pdf

Chromium Trioxide, Sodium Chromate, Sodium Dichromate, Ammonium Dichromate, Potassium Dichromate

The draft opinion on the results of risk assessment of the chromates above-mentioned (human health) were adopted with a few changes. It is available at:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/sc/sct/out179_en.pdf

Sodium Perborate

A rapporteur has been appointed to work on a new request on the results of the risk assessment of sodium perborate.

6. REQUESTS FOR OPINION FROM THE CSTEE BY DG SANCO

Safety and quality of drinking water

The working group has to meet again to be able to finalise its work. However, a draft opinion will be circulated before the next plenary meeting. The rapporteur indicated that further work was needed on the assessment of the health risks (microbiological and chemical), on the conclusions of the studies and on the comments from water companies. The working group faces some difficulty with the question addressing health risks to specific subgroups of the population. Mr. Daskaleros (DG SANCO) acknowledged that some questions could not be fully

answered, even though, partial answers would be useful in the light of future activities that the Commission would launch.

Potential human health risks of lead-containing candle-wicks

The rapporteur presented a revised draft opinion, which was adopted at the meeting with a few corrections. It concluded that frequent indoor burning of candles with lead wick cores may result in a high additional exposure to lead and represents a health hazard especially in sensitive groups (children), for whom PTWI may already be reached by exposure to lead in diet and in dust. This opinion is available at: http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/sc/sct/out176_en.pdf

7. REQUESTS FOR OPINION FROM THE CSTEE BY OTHER COMMISSION SERVICES ON:

Questions arising from a study on Risks to Health and the environment related to the Use of Lead in Products

The rapporteur presented the work prepared by the working group. The committee was asked to respond to questions relating to the accumulation of lead in the environment, the methodological validity of the substance flow analysis approach to assess long-term trends used in the report, the specific risks posed by lead shot and lead sheet, and the specific risks posed by lead intake from dust in young children. After some exchange of views, modifications will be made to clarify the meaning of the reference value given and to underline the CSTEE recommendation to focus on high exposure situations (e. g. by indicating the major sources of lead) in line with previous CSTEE opinions. In addition a reference to the opinion on potential health risks associated with the use of lead containing candle-wicks will be included.

WRC report on phosphate in household detergents

The rapporteur of the working group mentioned that the WRC report did not provide sufficient information to conclude neither on the quantitative contribution of phosphate based detergents to eutrophication, nor on the impact of alternatives to phosphate based detergents on the environment.

In agreement with the Mr. Pickering (DG ENTR), the committee will only respond to the question relating to the assessment of the WRC report in a first step. The working group will revise the draft opinion accordingly, before it is further circulated to the whole committee for written adoption. In a second step, the committee will be asked to express its views on the risks to the environment posed by the use of phosphate based detergents and possible alternatives with a more complete literature review to be provided by DG ENTR.

Risks to health and the environment posed by the use of Organostannic compounds

The working group convened the day before the plenary meeting to discuss the questions raised in relation to exposure to organostannic compounds from food and non-food products and their impact on human health and the environment. An *ad-hoc* working group of the SCF has started reviewing the relevant organotin food sources and their possible effects on health. Both CSTEE and SCF reports will be compiled when finalised. Some concern arose due the fact that most information sources in the report are unpublished data. Furthermore, information is lacking on

the mechanism of action of such compounds (possible additive effects) and endocrine disruption was not considered as an important factor in the environment section.

Report on heavy metals and organic compounds from wastes used as organic fertilisers

Mr. Marmo (DG ENV) introduced a new request to the CSTEE on a peer-review of an expert study on heavy metals and organic compounds from wastes used as organic fertilisers. In the context of a new Directive for the biological treatment of biodegradable wastes by end 2004, the Commission intends to use the results of this study to propose appropriate threshold levels of potential pollutants in composts for protecting the environment. A working group was set up.

8. EMERGING ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY THE SSC AND FOR WHICH THE CSTEE IS THE LEADING COMMITTEE

Endocrine disruption (Human Health)

DG SANCO/B agreed to support a systematic review of epidemiological evidence of temporal changes of sperm quality and associated risk factors. An official call for tender will be launched. In addition, Mr. Daskaleros will contact IPCS, who expressed interest in co-funding a meta-analysis on the quality of sperm.

Indoor air quality

The CSTEE had proposed to undertake a review of the current knowledge on the impact on health of indoor air quality and future trends, and to identify important gaps in knowledge. The Commission services agreed with the proposal. This work will be helpful in the light of the legislative initiative to reduce asthma and allergies by improving air quality. DG ENV, DG RDT, DG JRC and DG SANCO have interest in this area. They will publish a communication on the future Commission Strategy in the fields of environment and health in May.

PBT criteria

A proposal for an activity on persistence, bioaccumulation and toxicity criteria was presented. Major issues to be addressed would relate to the definition and use of PBT criteria, how PBT analysis compares to a proper risk assessment procedure, and the identification of other possible alternative approaches for persistent substances. The Secretariat will contact the most appropriate Commission services to bring forward and discuss further this proposal.

9. PARTICIPATION OF THE CSTEE IN ACTIVITIES/WORKING GROUPS OF OTHER SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES OF THE COMMISSION

The collaborative work between of a few members of the CSTEE and the SCAN on the environmental effects of some substances present in animal feed is ongoing.

10. UPDATE ON THE LATEST MEETINGS OF THE SSC ON MATTERS OF INTEREST TO THE CSTEE

Prof. Bridges indicated that the task force on the harmonisation of risk assessment would meet early March. The draft report is expected to be circulated to the CSTEE.

In the context of the animal waste regulation, a new activity has started with a review of every method for animal waste disposal that could contain pathogens. CSTEE members are likely to be involved, especially on some environmental issues.

11. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE NEXT (37TH) PLENARY MEETING OF THE CSTEE

The next meeting of the Committee was confirmed on 1st April 2003.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The call for expression of interests in membership of the scientific committee or a scientific panel of the European Food Safety Authority is open until 14 March 2003. In this context, Prof. Bridges indicated that reflections were ongoing in relation to the imminent expiry of the mandates of the three non-food Scientific Committees. A brainstorming meeting will be organised with the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of these Committees to discuss the existing structures and possible larger scope and mandate of these committees in the future. As the future committee(s) mandate will be new, all members of the CSTEE will be eligible. Prof. Bridges encouraged the committee to make suggestions for the future structure and to raise any issue that they felt should be addressed.

Furthermore, Prof. Tarazona informed the audience of a forthcoming meeting in relation to the Water Framework Directive. The assessment of several chemicals may be submitted to the CSTEE for review around June.

Last, Prof. Skåre informed the committee of an ongoing research programme in Sweden focussing on the interface between Risk Assessment and Risk Management. Prof. Bridges will discuss this with the chairmen of other scientific committees, since it is of interest to most of the committees.

Prof. Dr. Bridges closed the meeting with thanking all the members of the committee for their contributions.

Annex I: Agenda.

Annex II: List of Participants.

Annex I



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH & CONSUMER PROTECTION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Directorate C - Scientific Opinions
C2 - Management of scientific committees; scientific co-operation and networks
Scientific Committee on Toxicity, Ecotoxicity and the Environment

CSTEE/00/Plen.age.6.02.2003 Final

<p style="text-align: center;">SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON TOXICITY, ECOTOXICITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT (CSTEE) 36TH PLENARY MEETING</p>

*Held on 6 February 2002-3, starting at 10h00
CHARLEMAGNE – Rue de la Loi, 170
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 35th 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 and new request (Human Health and/or Environment)
 - (a) *Aniline* (ENV, HH) and *3,4-Dichloroaniline* (ENV) – for discussion
 - (b) *Benzene* (ENV) – for adoption
 - (c) *Phenol* (ENV) – for discussion
 - (d) *Chromium Trioxide, Sodium Chromate, Sodium Dichromate, Ammonium Dichromate* and *Potassium Dichromate* (ENV, HH) – for discussion
 - (e) *Sodium Perborate* – new request
- (6) Requests for opinion from the CSTEE by DG SANCO on:
 - (a) Studies relating to the *quality of drinking water in selected European countries* – progress report
 - (b) Potential human health risks of *lead-containing candle-wicks* – for adoption

- (7) Request for opinions from the CSTEE by other Commission services on:
 - (a) Questions arising from a study on *Risks to Health and the environment related to the Use of Lead in Products* – progress report
 - (b) WRC report on *phosphate in household detergents* – for adoption
 - (c) Risks to health and environment posed by the use of *Organostannic compounds* – report back from working group meeting
 - (d) Report on *Heavy metals and organic compounds from wastes used as organic fertilisers* – new request

- (8) Emerging issues identified by the SSC and for which the CSTEE is the leading committee:
 - (a) *Endocrine disruption (Human Health)*
 - (b) *Indoor air quality*
 - (c) *Persistence, bioaccumulation and toxicity criteria*

- (9) Participation of the CSTEE in activities/working groups of other scientific Committees of the Commission

- (10) Update on the latest meetings of the Scientific Steering Committee on matters of interest to the CSTEE

- (11) Next plenary meeting (37th) of the CSTEE.

- (12) Any other business

Annex II

<p style="text-align: center;">SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON TOXICITY, ECOTOXICITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT (CSTEE) 36TH PLENARY MEETING</p>

*Held on 6 February 2003
in Brussels*

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

MEMBERS OF THE CSTEE:

Prof. Jim BRIDGES, Prof. Peter CALOW, Prof. Giorgio CANTELLI FORTI, Prof. Dr. Wolfgang DEKANT, Prof. Erik DYBING, Prof. Dr. Helmut GREIM, Prof. Bo JANSSON, Prof. Claude LAMBRE, Prof. Janneche Utne SKÅRE, Prof. José TARAZONA, Prof. Benedetto TERRACINI, Prof. Katarina VICTORIN, Prof. Marco VIGHI and Prof. Joseph VOS.

Apologies: Prof. Colin JANSSEN, Prof. Soterios KYRTOPOULOS, and Prof. Amadeu SOARES

EUROPEAN COMMISSION:

CSTEE Secretariat (DG Health & Consumer Protection):

Ms. G. FONTANESI, Ms. V. ROLLAND, Mr. A. SANABRIA- TIENZA

DG Health & Consumer Protection:

Mr. T. DASKALEROS

DG Enterprise:

Mr. S. BRION, Ms. K. GRODZKI, Ms. E. GUSTAFSSON, Mr. S. PICKERING

DG Environment:

Mr. M. BLAINEY, Mr. L. MARMO

DG Research:

Ms. K. HAAVISTO

JRC:

Ms. S. MUNN, Mr. S. KEPHALOPOULOS