

PARALLEL SESSION 3: EMERGING ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

OVERALL GOAL

The aim of this session is to identify and discuss the most important risk assessment emerging issues and challenges of common interest where international / global collaboration at an early stage, before governments determine their approaches, leaves open the opportunity for developing a common framework. It is suggested to consider both substantive risk issues which are currently emerging or re-emerging, and new methodological challenges that risk assessors are likely to be faced with. The results of the discussion and the recommendations concerning priorities for collaboration will be reported to the Plenary.

SUGGESTED ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

It is suggested to address in particular the following issues:

- New, emerging, re-emerging risks/risk areas which may pose specific challenges to risk assessors including:
 - Nanotechnology;
 - Microbiology;
 - Endocrine disruption;
 - Pharmaceuticals in the environment;
- Methodological challenges, in particular those related to:
 - Reduction/replacement of animal tests;
 - Interpretation of information provided by toxicogenomics and other "omics";
 - Combined effects of multiple stressors
 - Assessing impacts of chemicals with common mechanisms of toxicity;
 - Uncertainty, providing information in a manner that enables effective decision-making;
- How to identify and address emerging risks in an anticipatory perspective: discussion on experience with monitoring systems, establishment of indicators etc.

PROPOSED OBJECTIVES FOR PARALLEL SESSION 3

It is proposed to participants in this Session:

- Regarding emerging risk areas and methodological challenges:
 - Have the substantive areas and methodological challenges been identified? Is anything missing?
 - Are there existing fora for international / global collaboration in these areas?
 - Are there recommendations needed to make existing fora more inclusive or, if no relevant fora exists, to create a new forum for specific areas/challenges?
- To exchange information and experiences concerning systems for identification of emerging risks, including the setting and monitoring of relevant indicators;
- To report conclusions, recommendations and proposals to the Plenary.