

# Health and Environment Working Party

**Update on activities on indoor air quality**

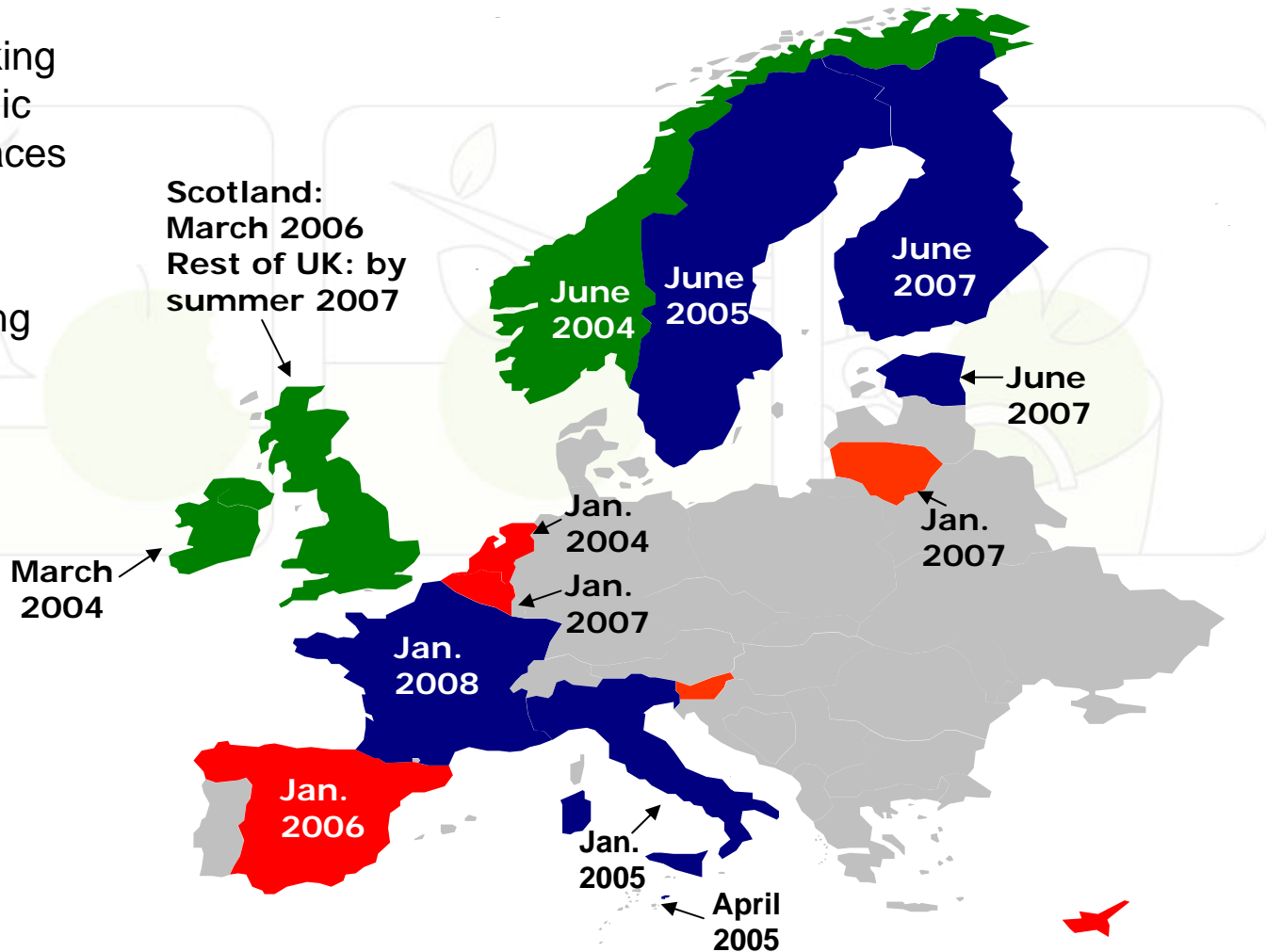
Giulio Gallo, European Commission

# National smoke-free regulations

**Total ban** on smoking in all enclosed public places and workplaces

Total ban with the possibility of creating **special smoking rooms**

Various exceptions for the **hospitality sector**



Smoke-free environments

Tobacco is the single largest cause of avoidable death in the EU. About 650 thousand people die each year because of smoking. Over 79,000 adults are killed by second-hand tobacco smoke.

A Eurobarometer survey found more than 80% of EU citizens in favour of a ban on smoking in workplaces and indoor public places.

In order to launch a broad public consultation on the best way to promote smoke-free environments in the EU, the European Commission adopted on 30 January a Green Paper "Towards a Europe free from tobacco smoke: policy options at EU level"

The Commission is particularly interested in stakeholders' views on the scope of measures to tackle passive smoking and the extent of EU involvement in promoting smoke-free environments.

Stakeholders are invited to submit their comments to the Green Paper until 1 June 2007. The consultation deadline has been extended by a month in order to allow for more contributions.

All responses to this Green Paper will be published on the Commission's website unless respondents make a declaration to the contrary.

1st June 2007

printable version

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HELP Newsletter Last edition: March 2007

## SCHER Opinion on indoor

- Published for public consultation
- Final opinion expected in July
- Three questions
  - risk assessment strategy
  - adequacy of information and data
  - identify area of concern

# SCHER opinion on indoor air pre-adoption

1. To identify a Risk Assessment Strategy to support policy taking into account: vulnerable groups and combined exposure and cumulative effects of specific air pollutants

➤ **Toxicological RA used for chemicals** (hazard identification, dose- response assessment, exposure assessment and risk characterisation)

➤ when possible using the paradigm **Vulnerable groups should be taken into account** flexibly (e.g. case-by-case approach)

➤ Combined effects can only **seldom be assessed** due to limitation on data availability and methodology

# SCHER opinion on indoor air pre-adoption

2. To identify the adequacy of current information and data requirements for filling-in gaps (exposure/effect, dose/response relationships, existing measurement standards)

■ Most of the information are on classical pollutants. Effects and risk of them are known to the extend that **strategies to mitigate the problems can be created.**

■ SCHER **support** the development of **health based guideline values** and other guidance for key pollutants to help risk assessment and management.

## Information needs some examples

### ➔ Need for compilation of existing data:

- European database of indoor air pollutants and range of their concentrations in each Member States; quantification of exposure - short and long term in different environments

### ➔ Need for research

- Identification of main source of pollutants ++
- Emission of chemicals from consumer products ++
- Exposure patterns ++

### ➔ Gaps in knowledge related primary to health effects

- Effects of combined exposure ++
- Exposure effects relationship in vulnerable groups ++
- Contribution of indoor air pollutants to childhood respiratory diseases ++

SCHER 3. To identify potential areas of concern in relation to:

specific chemical  
compounds



Specific chemicals – compounds in the  
Index report  
Radon, ETS, particles, lead,  
organophosphate pesticide etc)

household – chemicals  
and other products



Lack of quantitative exposure data on  
emissions, methodology limited

**building  
dampness/moisture  
and microbial  
growth (moulds,  
bacteria)**



Association of adverse health effects with  
dampness and water damage in buildings  
is repeatedly shown in epidemiological  
studies but the causative factors and all  
health effects and consequences are not  
known.



## Expert working group on Indoor air quality

**Preparing for the next phase  
of the action plan on  
Environment and Health  
with regard to IAQ**



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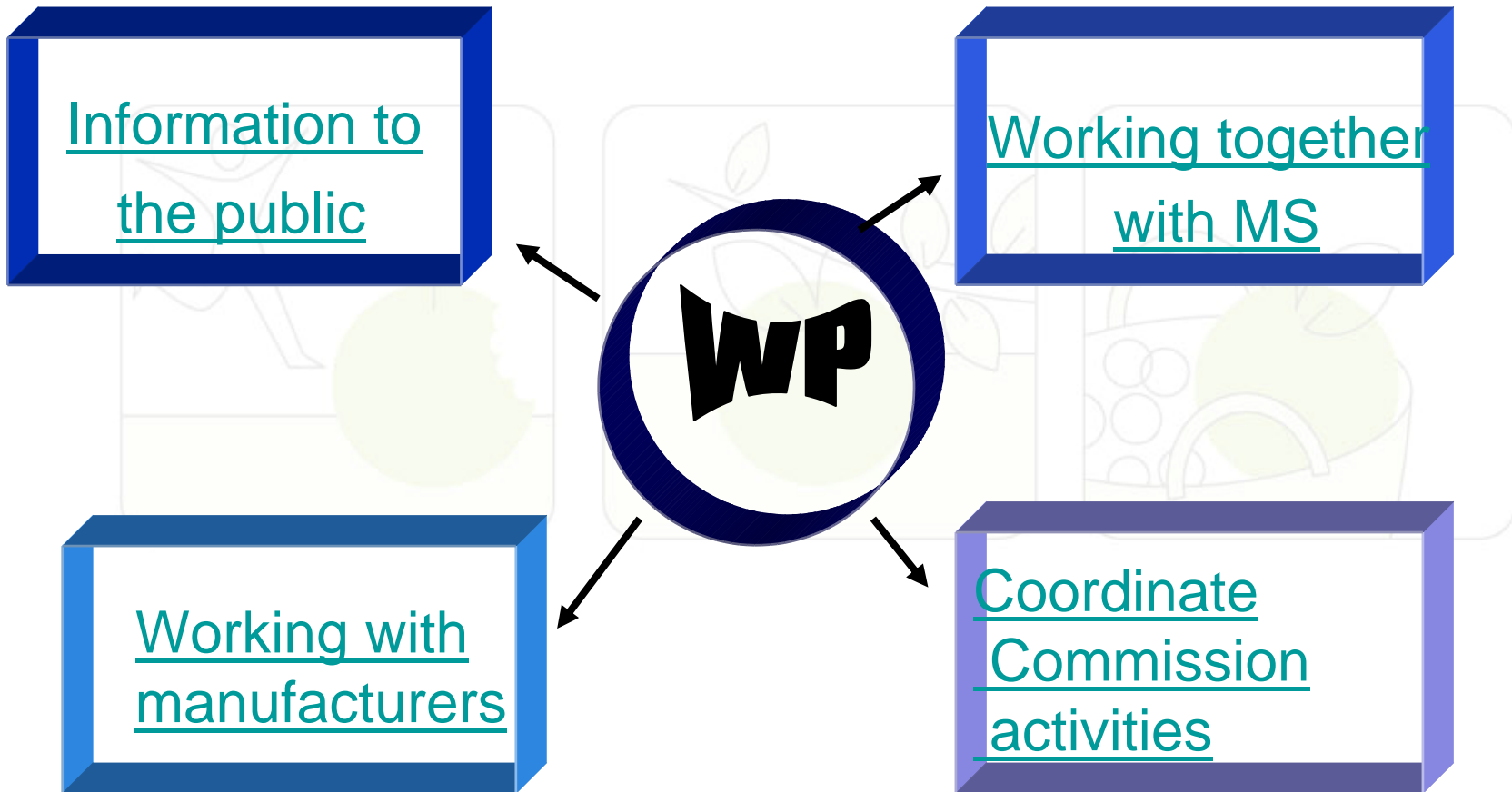
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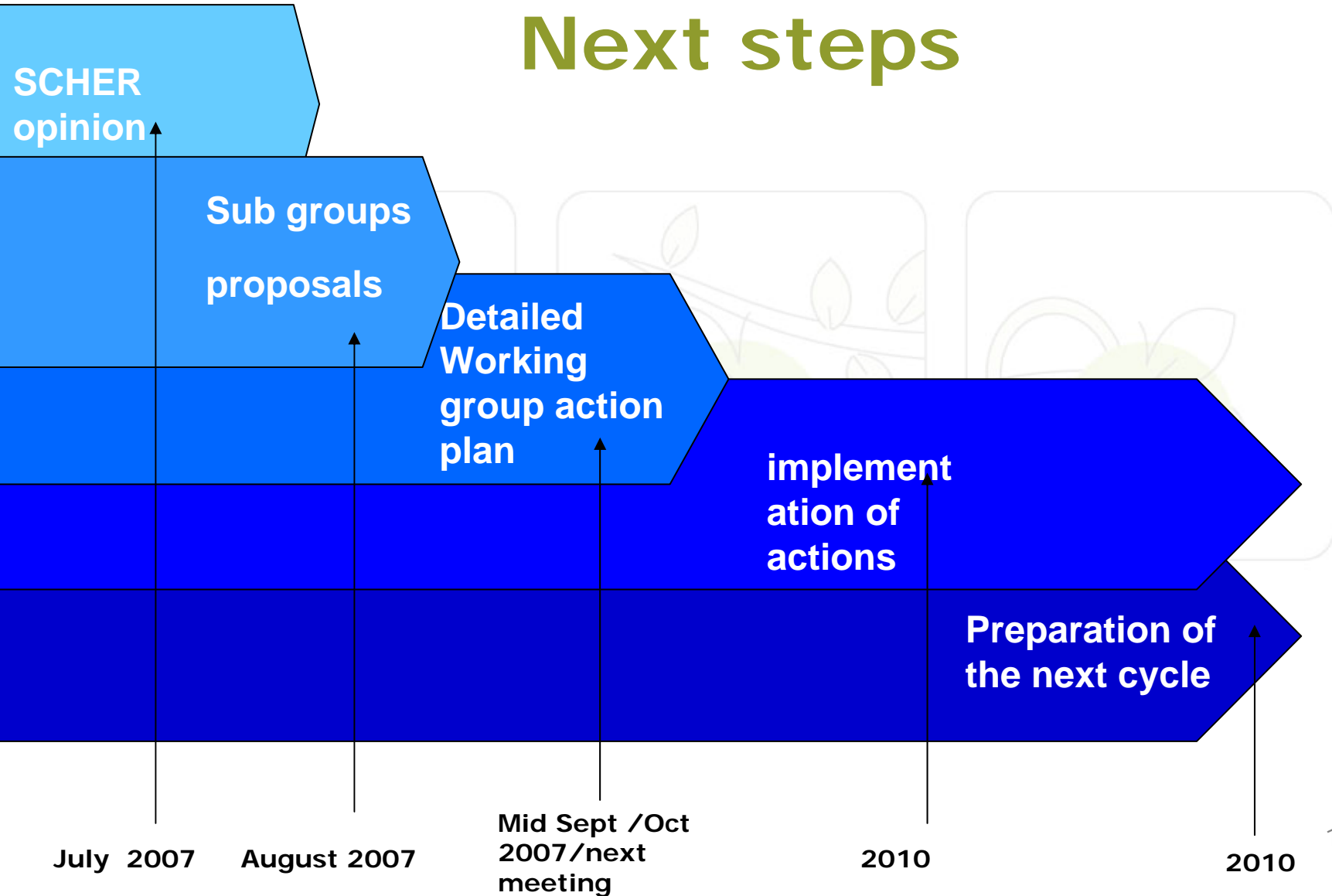
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# working plan for the group



# Next steps





Thank you for the attention

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