

Scientific Committee on Consumer Products

Minutes of the 1st Plenary Meeting

Brussels, 7-8 September 2004

A. Joint session

7 September 2004

Mr Robert Madelin welcomed members to the first joint meeting of the Scientific Committees and congratulated them on their appointment to the Committees. He stressed the importance of scientific advice in the policy making of the Commission. Excellence, transparency and independency were highlighted as key points in the work of the Committees. Mr Madelin drew particular attention to the importance of the clarity of their opinions and the role of the Committees in establishing confidence with stakeholders.

The full presentation is available at:

[The importance of scientific advice in the Community decision making process](#)

The Chair explained that, in accordance with Article 10 of Commission Decision 2004/210/EC setting up the Scientific Committees, the Committees are required to adopt common rules of procedure in consultation with the Commission. The draft rules were prepared taking into account the rules of the former scientific committees, the rules of the European Food Safety Authority and the need to improve clarity and transparency. The draft rules were presented to members for discussion.

The main innovation in relation to the co-ordination of the three new Scientific Committees is the introduction of an “inter-committee group”, involving the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the three Scientific Committees, which will be chaired by the Commission. The objective of this group is to ensure harmonised approaches in the risk assessment and ordinary tasks of the Committees, particularly in areas such as common questions, diverging scientific opinions, coherence and consistency, methodological approaches, and cooperation with other Community bodies.

Concerning transparency, additional information will be now published on the web site of DG Health and Consumer Protection, in particular regarding members’ declarations of interests and commitment, as well as the requests received by each of the scientific committees.

The rules have also included a chapter on diverging opinions, in line with Commission Decision 2004/210/EC and the Food Safety Authority’s Regulation. Minority opinions, although already included in the previous rules of procedure, will now have to be attributed together with supporting argumentation, to members or associated members concerned.

Finally attention has been paid to relations with stakeholders. A section has been added to cover both needs, e.g. request for additional information from the Scientific Committee or a request for hearings from stakeholders.

The draft rules of procedures were unanimously adopted with very minor editorial changes.

Additional administrative information was provided to the members of the Committees.

8 September 2004

Welcoming address to the Members by Commissioner David Byrne

Commissioner David Byrne addressed the members of the Committees urging them to work together to provide the Commission with unambiguous scientific advice that would enable the risk managers to take the adequate and required actions in order to guarantee consumer protection. He stressed the importance of independent scientific advice not only within the EU but in the international arena.

The full speech is available at:

[Inaugural joint meeting of the members of the non-food scientific committees](#)

B. Separate meetings of the 3 Committees

1. Introduction by the Commission

The meeting was opened by Mrs. Peetso who welcomed the members and congratulated them on their nomination to the Scientific Committee for Consumer Products.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted

3. Election of the Chairman and vice-Chairmen

3.1. Introduction of members

The members were invited to introduce themselves briefly regarding their professional background, affiliations and areas of scientific expertise.

3.2. Election procedures

Mrs. Peetso explained that, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure as required by Article 10 (1) of Commission Decision 2004/210/EC of 3 March 2004 setting up Scientific Committees in the field of consumer safety, public health and the environment, the committee should elect a Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen by simple majority of the members that make up the committee.

She said that candidates could either nominate themselves for consideration or be nominated by another member of the Committee.

Chairman

Dr. Ian R. White was unanimously elected as the Chairman. The members agreed to vote by show of hands.

Vice-chairmen

Prof. Vera Rogiers and Prof. Tore Sanner were elected as vice-Chairmen in two separate votes. The members voted by ballot.

4. Declaration of interest

There were no declarations of interest concerning items on the agenda.

5. Organisation and administrative matters

5.1. Annual declaration of interests, commitment and confidentiality

According to the Rules of Procedure, the members are asked to inform the Commission each year in writing of any interest which could be regarded as prejudicial to their independence. Moreover, a declaration of interest on matters on the agenda is required at the beginning of each meeting of the Committee.

Mrs Peetso stressed that having an interest in a specific item is not regarded negatively and stressed the importance of making complete declarations. She reminded members of the obligation to abide by the rule of confidentiality of the debates.

5.2. CVs

The members were asked to submit as soon as possible a 1 to 2 page CV for publication on the SANCO home page.

5.3. Mission expenses and indemnities

Mrs Philippe outlined the modalities for reimbursement of travel and subsistence costs.

Members and external experts are entitled to a special indemnity for attendance at meetings as set out in Annex II of Commission Decision 2004/210/EC.

Rapporteurs are entitled to an indemnity as set out in Annex II of Commission Decision 2004/210/EC.

6. Work programme of the SCCP

In his inaugural speech, Dr. I.R. White, the new elected chairman of the SCCP, thanked members for their confidence.

He illustrated the principal areas of activity as well as the on-going issues. He described the working group structure that had been developed under the previous committee (SCCNFP).

In accordance with the work programme, he proposed, for the time being, the creation of the following working groups: Alternatives to Animal Testing & Dossier, Hair Dyes & Colorants, Preservatives & Fragrances and ad-hoc Substances.

The chairman invited the members to indicate which working groups they would like to consider joining in the light of the information given. He stressed that the structure of Working Groups is of a dynamic nature and that other working parties will be set up for particular issues if required. Member's preferences for working group participation would be collated by the secretariat and distributed as soon as possible.

8. Any other business

The SCCP provisionally agreed on the following dates for plenary meetings:

2004 : 7 December
 2005 : 15 March, 21 June, 20 September and 13 December

Participants

Members	:	Mrs C. Chambers	Mr J-P. Marty
		Mrs G. Degen	Mr T. Platzek
		Mrs R. Dubakiene	Mr S. Rastogi
		Mr C. Galli	Mr J. Revuz
		Mr R. Grimalt	Mrs V. Rogiers
		Mrs B. Jazwiec-Kanyion	Mr T. Sanner
		Mr V. Kapoulas	Mr G. Speit
		Mr J. Krutmann	Mrs J. van Engelen
		Mrs C. Lidén	Mr I.R. White (chairman)
		Mr N. Loprieno	
Commission	:	Mrs B. Gianfreda-Reiter	DG SANCO
		Mrs T. Peetso	DG SANCO
		Mrs M. Phillipé	DG SANCO
		Mr A. Van Elst	DG SANCO
		Mr P. Wagstaffe	DG SANCO