

Minutes of the Scientific Steering Committee Meeting of 6-7 July 2000

1. Welcome, apologies, introductory remarks, declaration of interest in relation to the current agenda

Prof.Dr.Pascal welcomed the participants. He apologised Prof.Dr. M.Gibney. The list of participants is attached as annex 1.

Declarations of interest:

No member declared an interest that could prevent him from participating in the discussion on any of the items on the meeting agenda.

2. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved with minor changes. The final agenda is attached as annex 2.

3. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 25-26 May 2000.

The minutes of the meeting of 25-26 May were adopted without changes.

4. Multidisciplinary matters:

a. "Emerging health issues"

Last meeting, the SSC members accepted to redraft their contributions according to the format and structure proposed by Prof.Bridges. Profs. Bridges and Kroes accepted to act as a mini-editorial board. So far, 7 revised contributions had been received. It is now expected that an updated draft opinion will be available for discussion and possible adoption, at the meeting of 14-15 September 2000.

b. "Emerging health issues: pilot exercise applied to GMOs"

A new update of the draft Working Group report "*Emerging Health Issues: the case of genetically modified organisms*" was presented and discussed. It was agreed that an additional Working Group meeting would be convened, to finalise the draft report on the basis of all contributions and comments received. Possible adoption of a report is now expected for the September 2000 meeting.

c. Harmonisation of risk assessment procedures

Prof.Bridges, chairman of the Working Group, provided a detailed progress report. A final draft report is expected to be submitted for adoption at the September meeting.

5. Multidisciplinary matters relating to TSE/BSE

5.1. Report by the chairman of the TSE/BSE ad-hoc group

Prof.Osterhaus reported briefly on the meeting of the TSE/BSE *ad hoc* Group of 22 June 2000. All items addressed by the *ad hoc* group, as well as the tentative planning of some of the pending requests for opinions, are further dealt with in detail under point 5.2 of these minutes.

5.2. Reports on specific issues:

a. Handling and storage of possibly BSE contaminated MBM

Prof.W.Bridges presented a brief account of the comments received so far, following the public consultation process via Internet. The consultation period will end on 28 July and the TSE/BSE *ad hoc* Group at its meeting of 31 August 2000 will discuss a final draft document. Adoption by the SSC may then follow at its meeting of 14-15 September.

b. Geographical BSE-risk (annexes 3 and 4):

A working group met on 20-23 June to inventory, discuss and analyse the comments received on the pre-opinion on the GBR and the country reports adopted on 25-26 May 2000. Where appropriate the comments were integrated in the reports and opinion. The changes to the opinion are mainly editorial and clarifications, but no changes in substance. The SSC discussed the updated draft opinion and proposed certain further amendments. These have to be realised and SSC-members have time until Thursday to react on it. After that the opinion will be finalised and put on the Internet, together with the country reports, presumably on Monday, 17/7/2000. Prof. Silano accepted to be responsible for the final editing of the opinion.

One member of the SSC congratulated the rapporteur for the many further improvements introduced in the preliminary version of the GBR opinion, but manifested his reserve on some points of the document. Another member, whilst declaring that his position was not negative with regard to the opinion, expressed some reserve on the document as a whole.

The discussion on the reports focussed on changes of either the GBR-level assignment or the assessment of the GBR-trend. The reasons for such substantial changes were explained and the SSC agreed to the modifications proposed by the working group that had analysed the comments in detail.

Accordingly the reports of AU and Chile will be modified in the light of the new information received and in order to conclude on a GBR-level I.

For PT and SP the GBR-level remains unchanged but the trend estimation becomes more positive, i.e. in both countries the GBR is assumed to decrease already. This is justified because new and additional information by both countries confirms that they are indeed stable since 1999 at the latest. For Spain it was also agreed to indicate in the report, but not in summary of the opinion, should provide all the data which indicate that it could be seen as a borderline case between levels III and II. Prof. Silano accepted to be in charge for the finalisation of all reports in line with the guidance given by the SSC and in the light of the final opinion on the GBR.

Handling of future applications:

The SSC was concerned about being confronted with a demand to assess the GBR for 40-50 additional TCs who want to receive a satisfactory risk assessment before 01/04/2001. It considers it impossible to realise this task with the same resources and procedures that have been used for the assessment of the first 25 countries. It therefore proposes to the Commission to install a specialised task force who should be responsible for appropriately applying the SSC-methodology. The role of the SSC should be limited to supervising the process without getting involved into the day-to-day "routine". The SSC would also remain responsible for up-dating its methodology in the light of new scientific information.

The SSC adopted a communication to the Commission on this point (see annex ...) that concludes that without adequate resources the task cannot be properly done and that, given the normal workload of the secretariat, additional resources would be needed.

c. TSE and culling

No progress was made in this field, as priority had been given to the Geographical BSE Risk (GBR) assessment. The item is now expected to be finalised at the September meeting.

d. Origin of BSE and preparation of a discussion paper on the hypothesis of "the 3rd route of transmission of BSE", in the light of the SSC opinion of 28-29 October 1999.

No progress was made in either one of these fields. The TSE/BSE *ad hoc* Group decided to merge them into one item "*Origin of BSE (including a section on the hypothesis of "the 3rd route of transmission of BSE", in the light of the SSC opinion of 28-29 October 1999)*". A working group was established, which will meet for a first time on 4 September 2000.

e. Export from the UK of bone-in veal (see also item 5.2.n of these minutes)

The draft report and opinion on the *Export from the UK of bone-in veal* prepared by the TSE/BSE *ad hoc* Group were introduced by Dr.E.Vanopdenbosch and discussed. The SSC considered, however, that prior to the possible final adoption of the opinion, it was indicated to wait for the final outcome of the further investigations presently being undertaken by the UK authorities on the complete epidemiology and possible explanation of the first case of BSE in an animal "born after the real ban" (BARB) of 1 August 1996. The SSC considered its attitude of waiting was justified because a major basis of the SSC's DBES-related opinions was the assumption that the feed ban was fully effective. It was thus not justified to adopt a new DBES-related opinion while still awaiting the outcome of ongoing investigations. Final adoption of the opinion is therefore now expected for September 2000.

f. Quantitative risk assessment (vertebral column);

The Preliminary Report on *Quantitative Risk Assessment on the Use of the Vertebral Column for the production of Gelatine and Tallow*, adopted on 13-14 April 2000, was open for public comments until 10 June. Although the number of contributions received was rather limited (3 in total), their content was important as for several of the boundary conditions, default values and assumptions in the report, alternatives were proposed or field data were provided. The working group discussed all comments received where and if appropriate, they are presently being integrated by the rapporteurs into an updated version. This update will, however, only be available for the SSC meeting of 14-15 September 2000.

g. Update of certain opinions (including on cross-contamination) in the light of the opinions on Human Exposure Risk and Infective Dose and Species Barrier.

This task is presently being dealt with by the same workgroup that is finalising the above Report on *Quantitative Risk Assessment on the Use of the Vertebral Column for the production of Gelatine and Tallow*. A report to the SSC is expected for a next SSC meeting.

h. The use of ruminant-derived tallow in bovine feed.

In its opinion of March 1998 on the safety of tallow, the SSC suggested to address the issue of the safety of tallow used as a feed for bovines (in bovine feed, in feed for calves fattening and in milk replacers). Now some quantitative data have become available as a spin-off of the Preliminary Report on *Quantitative Risk Assessment on the Use of the Vertebral Column for the production of Gelatine and Tallow*. The SSC is therefore able to proceed on this matter. A Working Group, including also people from the rendering, fat melting and calf feed industry, met on 8 June 2000. Reports and draft opinions are expected to be available for adoption at the September 2000 meeting.

i. Update of the opinion of December 1997 listing risk tissues, in the light of the recent opinions on safety of bones and on SRMs in small ruminants.

The SSC agreed that this item would be dealt with as a permanent exercise of monitoring scientific developments with regards to tissue infectivity and possibly updating the list of SRMs if the need would arise.

j. Pro-active opinion on risk scenarios, should BSE in sheep be found under natural conditions. Monitoring of research results on experimental BSE in small ruminants.

Following the recommendation made in the SSC opinion on *Specified Risk Materials of Small Ruminants*, adopted at the meeting of 13-14 April, a working group was established by the TSE/BSE *ad hoc* group to address these issues. The WG met for a first time on 7 June and the next meeting is scheduled for 26 September 2000. In-between, the WG members will draft various chapters of a report. It is however not expected that the draft report will be ready for discussion before October 2000.

k. Update of the annexes to the opinion of May 1999 on the evolution of the BSE epidemic in the UK.

At its meeting of 22 June, the TSE/BSE *ad hoc* Group discussed a first draft update of the epidemiological annex to the SSC opinion of May 1998 on the evolution of the BSE epidemic in the UK. Following this discussion, the secretariat contacted the UK Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (SEAC), with a request for additional information. It is expected that the draft update will be available for discussion by the SSC at its meeting of either September or October 2000.

l. Removal of the vertebral column: report on a method under development.

The SSC secretariat informed the TSE/BSE *ad hoc* Group (at its meeting of 22 June 2000) and the SSC (at the present meeting) of ongoing R&D work co-ordinated by the Livestock Engineering Group of Silsoe Research Institute (UK) aiming at the development of saws for the automated removal of spinal cords before splitting. Without pronouncing itself on the proposed tools as such, the SSC welcomed such R&D work, because contamination with spinal cord material (and other vertebral column related tissues such as dorsal root ganglia) is one of the major TSE-related hazards in the production of ruminant derived products such as gelatine, tallow, dicalcium phosphate, etc.

m. The inactivation of BSE-like agents by rendering procedures

The Scientific Steering Committee took note of the Report on *The inactivation of BSE-like agents by rendering procedures*, prepared by Dr. D.M. Taylor and

previously discussed at the meeting of 22 June of the TSE/BSE *ad hoc* Group. This report provides an overview of the results of TSE agent inactivation experiments and of some of the ongoing research.

The SSC considered that its conclusions regarding the efficiency of BSE infectivity inactivation by rendering, formulated in various opinions and reports adopted since March 1998, remained valid. It further concluded that it was unwise to describe procedures as completely effective when no infectivity is detected: they should more accurately be described as having produced test-material with no remaining detectable infectivity.

The SSC re-expressed its concern about the equivalency of the "133°C / 20minutes / 3 bars" conditions directly applied on fresh (wet) material and on material that was previously dried. It considered that much care should be taken when considering whether both processes are equivalent. It is indeed not excluded that TSE agents may be (much) more resistant to inactivation if the material had previously been dried. This phenomenon had already been mentioned in the SSC opinions on "Fallen Stock" (July 1999), on the production of gelatine by using steam (January 1999) and in the Updated report on the safety of meat-and-bone meat (September 1998)

The SSC finally very much encouraged the ongoing research on alternative inactivation processes and recommended that such research should receive the appropriate attention and means. However, before being approved for general use, they should also be tested and validated under real-scale industrial conditions. This should be carefully done, as the efficacy of inactivation by rendering very much depends upon the way it is done (e.g., with regard to the homogeneity of the material, the complete removal of all air, the heat penetration and its distribution in all parts of the material.

n. A case of BSE in an animal born after the real ban (BARB) in the UK (for information)

The secretariat informed the SSC of the first case of BSE in an animal born after the real ban (BARB) in the UK, which had been confirmed on 27 June 2000. A copy of the information note provided by the UK authorities on 4 July to the participants of the Animal Health working group of the Standing Veterinary Committee, was distributed.

From a *preliminary* discussion appeared that the members considered that this case did not affect the risk assessments the SSC had carried out so far with regard to the DBES, because the animal would not have been eligible under the DBES (it was 44 months old, its dam had not survived for at least six months after birth) and because it had been expected in any case that (small) numbers of BSE cases as a result of vertical transmission would occur in animals born after 1 August 2000. The SSC also made the *preliminary* consideration that this case was not likely to affect the safety of veal carcasses of 6-9 month old animals eligible under the DBES as defined in the pending opinion on the export of bone-in veal (see above).

However, before pronouncing itself in a definitive way, the SSC requested the TSE/BSE *ad hoc* Group to address, once the outcome of the ongoing investigations by the UK authorities had become available, the issue also in the light of the aforementioned preliminary SSC considerations.

The Secretariat informed the SSC that the Commission Services were in the process of submitting a formal question to the SSC for an opinion on the first BARB case. The exact phrasing and mandate would be communicated in due time.

o. Discussion of various comments received on the SSC opinions on Hydrolysed Proteins and on the production of gelatine under “133°/20’/3 bars heat/pressure conditions.

Prof.Piva, member of the TSE/BSE ad hoc Group, invited the SSC, through the secretariat, to consider amending the *Updated Report and Scientific Opinion on the safety of hydrolysed proteins produced from bovine hides* adopted on 25-26 May 2000, so as to exactly specify in a foot note what (range of) fraction(s) of hydrolysed proteins with a Molecular Weight above 10.000 Daltons would be acceptable. The SSC considered that such amendment was not necessary as the accompanying scientific report contained sufficient elements clarifying this issue.

As part of the public consultation exercise on the *Preliminary Report on Quantitative Risk Assessment on the Use of the Vertebral Column for the production of Gelatine and Tallow*, adopted on 13-14 April 2000, the secretariat received a request from GSB Gelatine Smits Beheer B.V. (The Netherlands) to consider the autoclaving manufacturing process of gelatine as having the same capacity of TSE infectivity reduction as the classical (long) alkaline production process. The SSC considered this as a request to amend the SSC Report and Opinion of 21-22 January 1999 on the *Evaluation of the “133°/20’/3 bars heat/pressure conditions” for the production of gelatine regarding its equivalency with commonly used industrial gelatine production processes in terms of its capacity of inactivating/eliminating possible TSE infectivity in the raw material*. The SSC concluded that there was no need to amend this opinion, as the argumentation provided by GSB did not provide experimental evidence nor additional or new literature.

6. Organisational matters.

a Scientific experts in toxicology, ecotoxicology and Environmental (Public) Health

At its previous meeting, the SSC asked Profs. Bridges, Bories, Knudsen, Jones and Hardy to enlarge the scope of and to include also other scientific disciplines in their jointly submitted discussion paper "*Scientific experts in toxicology, ecotoxicology and environmental (public) health: planning for the future*".

A Revised Version of the paper was presented, discussed and amended. Its title is "*Scientific experts in general risk assessment as illustrated by the area of toxicology, ecotoxicology and environmental (public) health: planning for the future*". It will be made available to all Commission Services involved in or concerned by scientific advice for health and consumer protection.

7. Co-ordination: Reports of the Chairmen of the 8 Scientific Committees.

The chairmen of all Scientific Committees provided written reports on the activities of their committees since the last SSC meeting (see annex 5).

8. Information by the Commission services on matters related to consumer health: follow-up given by Commission services to the BSE-related opinions adopted on 13-14 April and 26-26 May 2000.

In the absence of a simple majority of Member States against the proposal, the Commission adopted, on 29 June 2000, a decision introducing harmonising rules for the

removal of specified risk materials presenting a BSE risk as of October 1st. Slaughterhouses and meat cutting and processing plants in the UK and Portugal will have to take out more tissues given their higher BSE risk. In all Member States, including those countries where so far no BSE case has been detected, the tissues most likely to present a BSE risk will need to be discarded.

The measures reflect the key recommendations of the Commission's Scientific Steering Committee, which has repeatedly insisted on the need to remove specified risk materials (SRM's) from the food and feed chain in all EU countries. The Decision requires all Member States to make slaughterhouse and authorised meat cutting and processing plants remove (short list):

- the skull (including the brains and eyes), the tonsils, the spinal cord and the ileum of cattle above 12 months;
- the skull (including the brains and eyes), the tonsils and the spinal cord of sheep and goat above 12 months or of younger animals that have a permanent incisor erupted through the gum;
- the spleen of sheep and goat of all ages.

In the UK and Portugal slaughterhouses and authorised meat cutting and processing plants will in addition be required to remove (long list):

- the entire head (excluding the tongue and including the brains, eyes, trigeminal ganglia and tonsils), the thymus, the spleen, the intestines and the spinal cord of cattle above 6 months;
- the vertebral column (including dorsal root ganglia) of cattle above 30 months.

The vertebral column may also be removed at the point of sale. The short list of SRMs to be removed will apply equally to third countries from 1 April 2001 onwards if their BSE-free status is not established by a scientific risk assessment. The Decision also prohibits the use of certain slaughtering techniques which entail a risk of contamination of animal blood by the release of BSE infected tissue into the bloodstream as of 31 December 2000.

This Decision replaces a previous Commission Decision 97/534/EC on the use of risk BSE materials. It will be subject to review in the light of new scientific evidence and in function of progress made in controlling and preventing BSE infectivity through risk management measures.

9. Any other business.

The secretariat was requested that, at the next meeting, the 5th Framework Programme for R&D would be put on the agenda in order to obtain clarifications on or discuss issues such as the mechanisms for funding, long term commitments for research items that require long term attention, etc. A representative from the Research Directorate General should be invited to attend the meeting.

The meeting ended on Friday 7 July 2000, at 13h00.

The next meeting will be held in Brussels, on 14-15 September 2000, starting at 10h00.

Annex 1: List of participants of the Scientific Steering Committee meeting of 6-7 July 2000

List of presence

Members of the SSC:

- Ing. Georges Bories
- Prof. James W. Bridges
- Dr. Fulgencio Garrido Abellán
- Prof. Anthony R. Hardy
- Prof. Philip T. James
- Dr. Keith H. Jones
- Prof. Fritz H. Kemper
- Prof. Werner Klein
- Dr. Ib Knudsen
- Prof. Robert Kroes
- Prof. Albert Osterhaus
- Prof. Gérard Pascal
- Prof. Vittorio Silano
- Prof. Marcel Vanbelle
- Prof. Martin Wierup

Invited Expert:

- Dr Emmanuel Vanopdenbosch (afternoon of 6 July 2000 only)

Apologies: Prof. Michael Gibney

Participants from the Commission:

DG SANCO: B. Carsin, C. Berlingieri, P. Vossen, J. Kreysa, J.L. Jouve, J. Vergnettes, G. Morrison, J.J. Rateau, A. Klepsch, S. Gamsjäger (Stagiaire).

DG ENV: H. Aichinger, V. Matzeit,

Annex 2: Agenda of the Scientific Steering Committee Meeting of 6-7 July 2000

1. Welcome, apologies, introductory remarks, declaration of interest.
2. Approval of the agenda.
3. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 25-26 May 2000
4. Multidisciplinary matters:
 - a. - "Emerging health issues" (further discussion)
- Information on the Danish report on "Top priority on Food Safety" (March 2000)
 - b. "Emerging health issues: pilot exercise applied to GMOs" (discussion).
 - c. Harmonisation of risk assessment procedures (progress report)
5. Multidisciplinary matters relating to TSE/BSE
 - 5.1. Report by the chairman of the TSE/BSE ad-hoc group
 - 5.2. Reports on specific issues:

Production systems and products.

 - a. Handling and storage of possibly BSE contaminated MBM (progress report)
 - b. Quantitative risk assessment (vertebral column) (progress report)
 - c. The use of ruminant-derived tallow in bovine feed (progress report)
 - d. Update of certain opinions (including on cross-contamination) in the light of the opinions on Human Exposure Risk and Infective Dose and Species Barrier. (progress report)
 - e. The inactivation of BSE-like agents by rendering procedures (state of affairs)

Geographical risk.

 - f. Geographical risk: opinion and country reports (information on comments received and amendments introduced, final adoption).

Specified risk materials

 - g. Update of the opinion of December 1997 listing risk tissues, in the light of the recent opinions on safety of bones and on SRMs in small ruminants. (progress report)
 - h. Export from the UK of bone-in veal (for opinion)
 - i. Pro-active opinion on risk scenarios, should BSE in sheep be found under natural conditions. Monitoring of research results on experimental BSE in small ruminants. (progress report)

Other issues:

 - j. TSE and culling (progress report).
 - k. Origin of BSE (including a section on the hypothesis of "the 3rd route of transmission of BSE", in the light of the SSC opinion of 28-29 October 1999) (progress report).
 - l. Update of the annexes to the opinion of May 1999 on the evolution of the BSE epidemic in the UK. (progress report)
 - m. Removal of the vertebral column: report on a method under development (for information).
 - n. A case of BSE in an animal born after the real ban (BARB) in the UK (for information)
 - o. Discussion of various comments received on the SSC opinions on Hydrolysed Proteins and on the production of gelatine under vapour pressure conditions.

6. Organisational matters.
 - a. Scientific experts in toxicology, ecotoxicology and Environmental (Public) Health (further discussion and possible adoption).
7. Co-ordination: Reports of the Chairmen of the 8 Scientific Committees.
8. Information by the Commission services on matters related to consumer health.
9. Any other business.



**Opinion of the
Scientific Steering Committee
on the**

**GEOGRAPHICAL RISK OF BOVINE
SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY (GBR)**

Adopted on 6-7 July 2000,

following a public consultation via Internet between 30 May and 19 June 2000

(Distributed separately)



**25 reports on the assessment of
the geographical BSE-risk of
14 EU Member States
and
11 Third Countries**

6-7 July 2000

(Amended and re-edited, following a public consultation via Internet)

(Distributed separately)

Annex 5: Reports from the secretariats of Scientific Committees on the major activities and milestones since the SSC meeting of 2-3 March 2000.

Scientific Committee on Animal Nutrition (SCAN)

The Working Groups continue their work. The Committee examined several draft opinions and adopted one relating to the safety of use of a product including micro-organisms, in animal nutrition.

Scientific Committee Veterinary Measures relating to Public Health

The Committee and the Working Groups continue their work. Two draft reports were examined at the June plenary meeting but still need improvements before possible adoption.

Scientific Committee for Toxicity, Ecotoxicity and the Environment (since March 2000)

Since the last briefing on CSTEE's activities (to be included in the minutes of the SSC plenary meeting held in 25/26 May 2000) the 16th plenary meeting of the CSTEE took place on the 19th of June 2000. In terms of progress made on the opinion requests submitted to the CSTEE and other CSTEE initiatives the outcome was the following:

- A. Opinions were adopted on the following substances evaluated under **Regulation 793/93** and whose risk assessments had to be peer-reviewed by the CSTEE. The substances were: **Human health risk assessment of Pentabromodiphenyl ether** and **Environmental risk assessments of Octabromodiphenyl ether** and **Decabromodiphenyl ether**.
- B. On **"Methylene chloride and textile dyes"** (where a CSTEE opinion of the CSTEE on risk assessments on Methylene chloride and certain chemicals in textiles has been requested) a working group meeting took place on the 23rd of May 2000. The group had concluded that, for methylene chloride, there was enough information available to reach an opinion. For the textile dyes there was a serious lack of data. A series of final amendments have been decided at the 16th plenary and the opinion will shortly after be adopted by written procedure.
- C. On the subject **"Terrestrial environment - Available scientific approaches to assess the potential effects and risks of chemicals on terrestrial ecosystems"** the working group meeting foreseen for the 16th of June took place. A series of draft chapters were presented for discussion and progress made augurs for an adoption of the opinion by the September 2000 CSTEE plenary. In any case a final working group meeting will take place on the 9th of August 2000.
- D. The 16th CSTEE plenary was also the opportunity to submit two new opinion requests, on the subjects:
 - i) **"Towards the establishment of a priority list of substances for further evaluation of their role in endocrine disruption"** (opinion request submitted by DG Environment). This one benefited from a presentation made by the consultants (BKH Consulting Engineers) who have produced the report that the CSTEE is being asked to analyse. The CSTEE working group will count on the collaboration of one SCP member and another external expert, both of which will ensure that the SCP's fields of competence are covered.
 - ii) **"Validation of testing methods for phthalate migration"** (opinion request submitted by DG Enterprise). This one is the corollary of the now long debate over what proper risk management measure is in order to address the potential concern posed by the presence of phthalates in toys/childcare articles. As one of the options (setting of migration limits) needs a validated test method before, the JRC, together with the

collaboration of Industry, will try to carry out the programme through. For that, however, the views of the CSTEE were considered necessary, in particular to “validate” the approach to be followed and also sort out some outstanding problems stemming from the views expressed by the CSTEE in its opinion of September 99 on the TNO and LGC validation exercises.

- E. With regard to the ongoing subject of “**Measured exposure data in risk assessment**” a working group meeting took place on the 7th of June where the main table of contents was extensively discussed. Another is foreseen to take place possibly back to back with the September CSTEE plenary. Liaison with the new working sub-group of the **Harmonisation of Risk Assessment** working party of the **SSC** is set to continue.
- F. On the opinion requests submitted to the CSTEE on “**Cadmium in fertilisers**” (where a CSTEE opinion on a report on the subject of a “**Programme of procedures for the assessment of risk to health and the environment from cadmium in fertilisers**” had been requested) a working group meeting was held on the 23rd of May. Tasks were assigned to WG members and the decision was taken to hold another working group meeting possibly also back to back with the CSTEE September 2000 plenary in view of adopting the opinion shortly after.
- G. The next (17th) CSTEE plenary meeting is due to take place on the 4th/5th of September 2000.

Scientific Committee for Cosmetics and Non-Food Products

Since the last SSC plenary meeting, six Working Party meetings and one Plenary meeting took place, during which the following items were discussed :

1. Alternatives : DG ENTR is preparing a “Guidance for SME’s on the safety evaluation of cosmetic products without the use of animal testing”. The Committee despite in general does not see a necessity for such a paper, strongly recommended that clear reference should be made in the document to the “SCCNFP Notes of Guidance”. In order to avoid misinterpretation by industry, the merit and reference of the document should be clearly stated.
2. Hair Dyes : An opinion was adopted on the use of amino acids obtained by hydrolysis of human hair. Partic ular attention was given to TSE infectivity. The co-operation with the SSC is gratefully acknowledged.
3. Inventory : An opinion was adopted concerning the 1st update of Section I of the Inventory of ingredients used in cosmetics. Nearly 10 000 improvements have been made.

However, as an inventory is an evolving document, the SCCNFP proposes already in their opinion a series of recommendations for future updates.

Concerning section II on perfume and aromatic raw materials, a proposal was prepared which will be discussed with the industry concerned in the near future. An opinion on section II is foreseen before the end of the present mandate of the Committee.

4. Preservatives, Colorants & Fragrances : The Committee was asked to evaluate the safety of bi-distillated refined coal tar for use in anti-dandruff shampoos. The preparation was considered unsafe because of an unacceptable high lifetime cancer risk.

A position paper on the use of alfa Hydroxy acids was adopted. The paper will be put in the internet inviting interested parties to comment.

5. UV Filters : the evaluation of the safety of Titanium dioxide, coated/uncoated, is still on-going.

Scientific Committee for Medicinal Products and Medical Devices

At the Plenary Meeting of 27.06.2000, the follow two opinions were adopted:

- Natural rubber latex allergy.
- Toxicological Data on Colouring Agents for Medicinal Products: Silver.