

The EU Scientific Advice Structure

Information Session for the
EP on Risk Assessment and
the EC Scientific Committees

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The EU Scientific Advice Structure: Aims and Principles

- Several scientific bodies assist the EU institutions on a variety of risk-related issues
- The main aim is to provide the EU with independent scientific risk assessment advice
- The underlying principle is that EU policies are based on best available and independent scientific knowledge
- The scientific advice structure is based on the principles of separation between Risk Assessment and Risk Management: independence, competence and transparency

The EU Scientific Advice Structure: Main Areas of Competence

- Health risks posed by non-food consumer products
- Health risks related to the food chain
- Health and environmental risks posed by chemicals, waste and environmental pollutants
- Health and environmental risks posed by radiation and by risk-factors of new or emerging technologies
- Occupational health risks
- Animal health risks
- Effectiveness and safety of medicines
- Communicable diseases risks

The EU Risk Analysis Structure

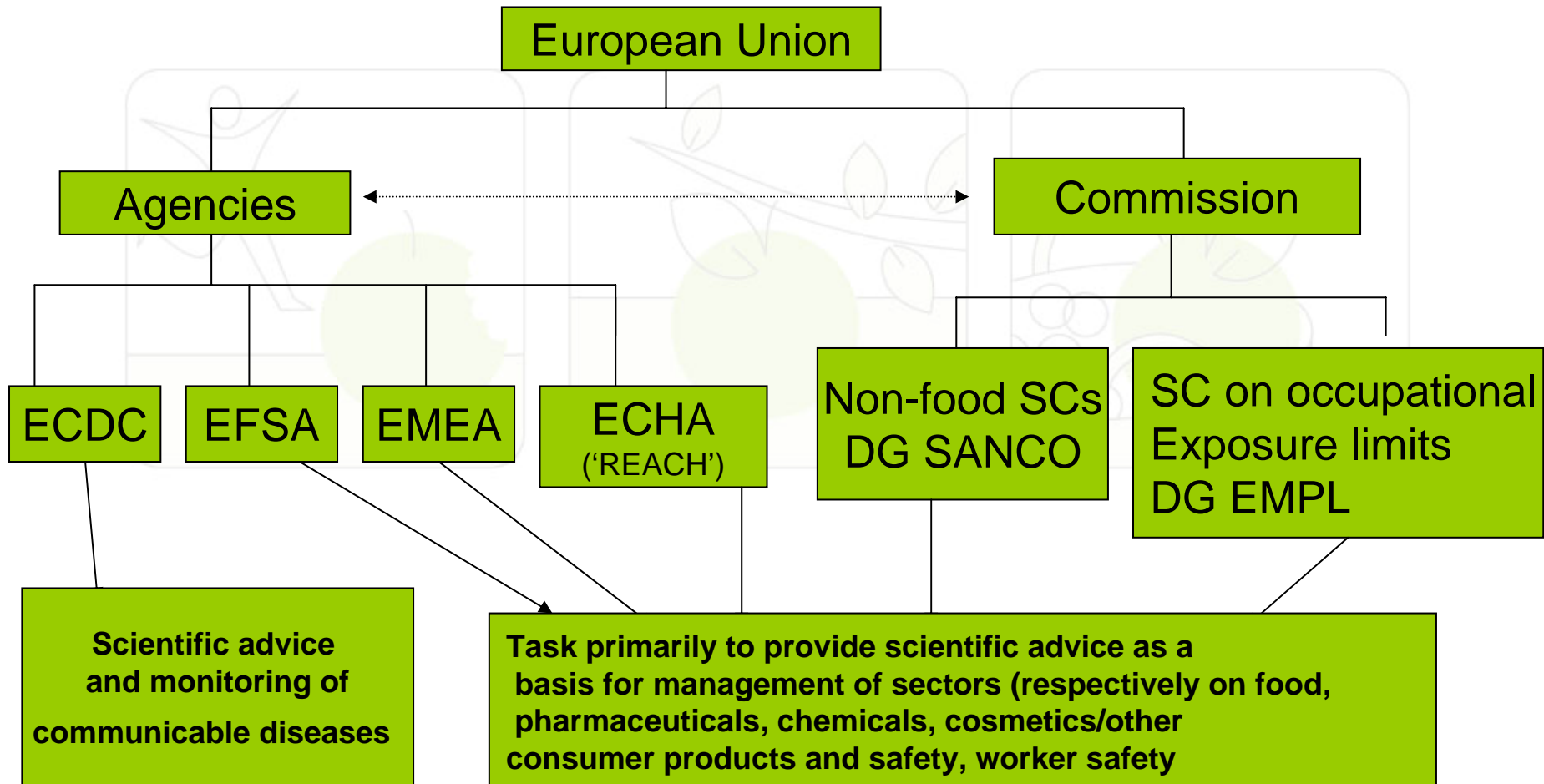
Risk Management:

Parliament- Council- Commission

Risk Assessment:

EFSA- EMEA-EEA-ECDC-ECHA-
SCENIHR/SCCP/SCHER and SCOEL

Organisation of the EU Scientific Advice in the EU



Areas of Competence of EU RA Bodies

RA Body	Area of Competence
EFSA	Food and feed safety, Animal health and welfare, Plant health
EMA	Safety/effectiveness medicines human use; Safety/effectiveness medicinal products for veterinary use, Pharmaco-vigilance
ECHA	Registration, evaluation of chemicals (REACH)
ECDC	Communicable disease, surveillance, preparedness and response
EEA	Air, water, soils pollution, climate change, natural resources and bio-diversity
SCENIHR	Emerging or newly identified health risks
SCHER	Risks related to toxicity and eco-toxicity of chemical, bio-chemical and biological compounds
SCCP	Health risks of non-food consumer products
SCOEL	Occupational exposure to chemicals

Relationships between EU Risk Assessment Bodies

- EU bodies are independent, but
- committed by legislation to resolve or clarify diverging opinions
 - Have many areas and subjects of common interest
 - Commission promotes collaboration, while respecting independence

Main Issues for the Future of the EU Scientific Advice Structure

- Ensure collaboration between RA bodies
- Guarantee effective communication on RA
- Develop a common RA framework and ensure international and stakeholder dialogue
- Establish collaboration with ECHA and adapt structure and mandate of Commission Committees
- Ensure sustainability of RA structure (in particular need to train risk assessors)

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