

The EU Scientific Advice structure



Providing scientific advice on consumer
safety, public health and environmental
risks

Stakeholders dialogue session

Brussels, 22 March 2007

The EU Scientific Advice Structure: Objectives and Principles

- To support risk management decisions of EU institutions across a variety of policies by identifying and assessing risks to consumer safety, human health and the environment
- Based on a high level of competence, independence and transparency.

The EU Scientific Advice Structure Objectives and Principles

- The underlying principle is that EU policy must be based on best available and independent scientific knowledge
- Several scientific bodies assist EU institutions on a variety of risk-related issues
- The scientific advice structure is based on principles of separation between RA and Risk Mgt, independence, competence and transparency.

The EU Scientific Advice Structure: main areas of competence

- Health and environmental 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

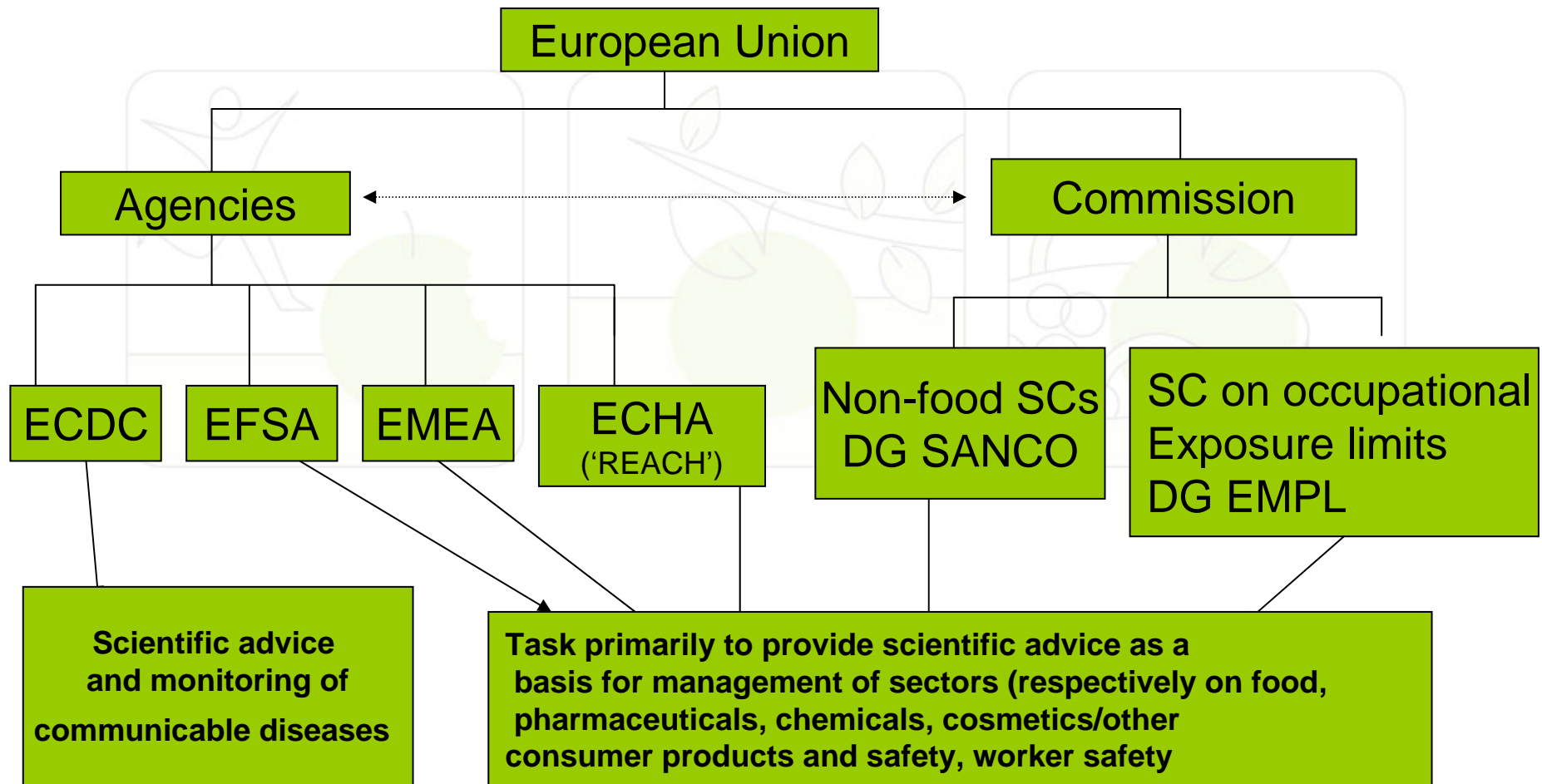
Risk Assessment:

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

The EU Risk Assessment Bodies

- The Commission Scientific Committees:
SCENIHR, SCHER, SCCP
- The Commission Scientific Committee on
Occupational Exposure Limits- SCOEL
- EFSA
- EMEA
- EEA
- ECDC
- ECHA

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	8

Relationships between EU Risk Assessment Bodies

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

Co-ordination between EU Risk Assessment bodies

- Objectives: to prevent divergent opinions; facilitate comprehensive assessment; exchange data and expertise, make use of potential synergies; and ensure consistent RA approach.
- Meetings of Chairs: started in 2005. Next one (organised by ECDC) planned for November 2007
- Common RA framework: aimed at developing a shared approach to best practices in RA
- Ongoing activities

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)

The Scientific Committees of the Commission

- 3 Committees (SCENIHR, SCHER, SCCP) established by the Commission in 2004
- Have replaced pre-existing committees
- Committees are consulted on the basis of mandates issued by the Commission
- Mandatory consultation of a scientific committee foreseen by the Cosmetics Directive and the Directive on consumer product safety

SCENIHR: Mandate

The Scientific Committee on Emerging or Newly Identified Health Risks provides advice on:

- Emerging risks
- Newly-identified risks
- Broad, complex or multidisciplinary issues requiring comprehensive assessment
- Issues not covered by other bodies

Examples: Nanotech, EMF, Medical Devices, Tissue engineering, Blood products, interaction of risk factors, synergic effects...

SCHER: Mandate

The Scientific Committee on Health and Environmental Risks provides advises on:

- Toxicity and eco-toxicity of chemical, biochemical and biological products
- New and existing chemicals
- Biocides
- Waste
- Environmental contaminants
- Drinking water quality
- Indoor and ambient air quality
- Endocrine disruptors

SCCP: Mandate

The Scientific Committee on Consumer Products provides advice on non-food Consumer products, in particular:

- Cosmetics
- Toys
- Textile
- Clothing
- Personal care products
- Household products
- And consumer services, (for example tattooing)

Composition of SCENIHR, SCHER, SCCP

- Scientists from academia, research or other scientific bodies, appointed by the Commission following an open call.
- Criteria: competence and independence. As far as possible, geographical balance.
- SCHER and SCCP: 19 members each
- SCENIHR: 13 members + up to six associated members
- External experts may be invited to WG

SCENIHR-SCHER-SCCP: Future developments

- Impact of the establishment of ECHA:
 - Need for advice on risks of chemical substances (SCHER) expected to decrease
 - Need for collaboration between RA bodies expected to increase
- Future focus should be on strategic priorities
- A prolongation of terms of office for current members is needed to prepare for the future.

This paper was produced for a meeting organized by Health & Consumer Protection DG and represents the views of its author on the subject. These views have not been adopted or in any way approved by the Commission and should not be relied upon as a statement of the Commission's or Health & Consumer Protection DG's views. The European Commission does not guarantee the accuracy of the data included in this paper, nor does it accept responsibility for any use made thereof.