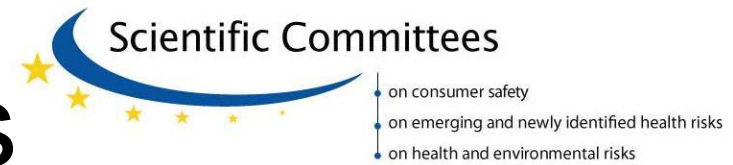


Improving the Risk Assessment process – Meeting the needs of Risk managers

Prof. Peter CALOW

Vice Chair of the European Commission Scientific Committee on Health and Environmental Risks (SCHER)

Quotes



- *Adam Smith*: Science is the great antidote to the poison of enthusiasm and superstition
- *Albert Einstein*: Science is a wonderful thing if one does not have to earn ones living at it

Working Group

Scientific Committees

- on consumer safety
- on emerging and newly identified health risks
- on health and environmental risks

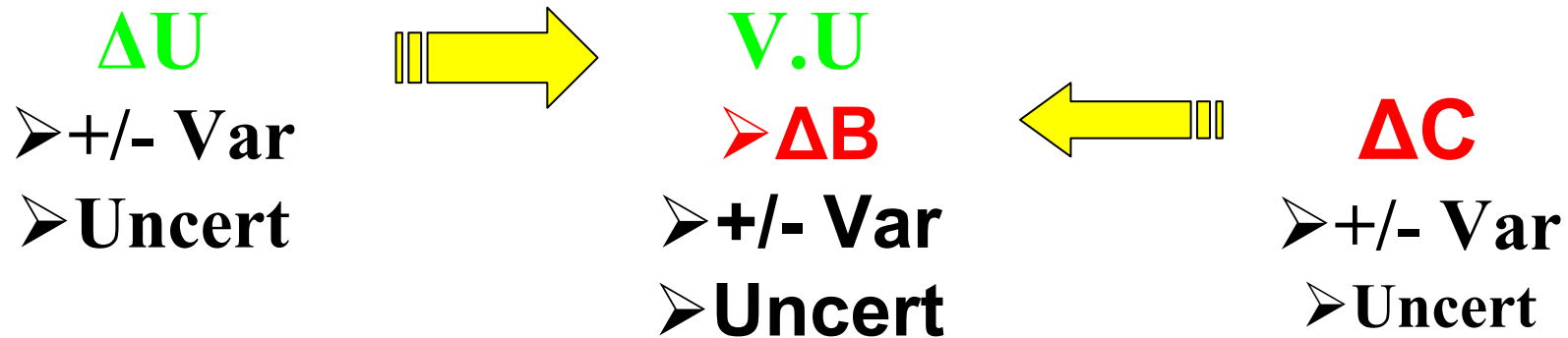
- Ursula Ackermann (SCHER)
- Anssi Auvinen (SCHER)
- Denis Bard (SCHER)
- Roy Brouwer
- Jim Bridges (SCENIHR)
- Mats Forkman
- Helmut Greim (SCHER)
- Peter Calow (SCHER) – Chair
- Stavros Georgiou (UK HSE)
- Colin Janssen (SCHER)
- Mats-Olof Mattsson (SCENIHR)
- Stella Michaelidou (SCHER)
- Tomas Oberg (EFSA)
- Christophe Rousselle (SCCS)
- Tore Sanner (SCCS)
- Jose Tarazona (ECHA)
- Ann Thuvander (ECHA)
- Theo Vermeire (SCENIHR)

- Ask risk managers
 - Small sample
 - Quality if not quantity
- Three Rs:
 - ***Relevance, relevance, relevance***
 - ***More management relevant***
 - ***More broadly relevant***
 - ***More value relevant***

- **First R:** *Be more management relevant*
- Our outputs are often so technical they are only understood by specialists
- Eg. Do you really know what a PEC/PNEC ratio is?
- And they are not obviously related to things that matter
- Eg. Extrapolating from water fleas to biodiversity protection

- **Second R: *Be more broadly relevant***
- Consider alternatives/substitutes
- Consider combinations in products and environment
- Consider different effects on different targets
- EG. Energy-saving light bulbs
- A more integrated approach

Third R : Risks should be expressed in terms of things the public value



- Why so important ?

- Conclusion: ***Our risk characterisations don't do the job***
- the outputs are technical
- exposure/effect ratios not obviously related to ΔU
- risk assessors judge cause for concern – involves some V
- we need impact assessment
- that is transparent

- Bottom line: ***More dialogue***
- **All this does not undermine the important separation of risk assessment and risk management.**
- **Make our assessments value relevant not value biased.**
- **ADVERT!!!**

Calow, P. & Forbes, V.E.(2010)

Ecological risk assessment should be value-relevant but not value-biased. *Integrated Environmental Assessment and Management* **6**, 784-785.

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