



ICG/Minutes 15.12.2004

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES
3RD MEETING OF THE INTER-COMMITTEES COORDINATION GROUP

15 December 2004

MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Prof Greim and Prof Jansson.

2. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT AGENDA

The draft agenda was approved.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2ND MEETING OF THE ICG

Minutes of the 2nd meeting were approved.

5. INPUT OF THE SC MEMBERS IN EFSA WG GENTOX (HARMONISED APPROACH FOR GENOTOXIC AND CARCINOGENIC SUBSTANCES, INCLUDING ASSESSING LIFETIME CANCER RISK FOR CHEMICALS)

Collaboration with EFSA and input provided by the committees' members were seen as very useful. The EFSA WG has finally decided on a further review of the document. It was not to be presented at the meeting 15/16 December but in a forthcoming meeting.

Chairs should, nevertheless, inform the Committees and these should appoint members of the ad-hoc WG. Next steps will also include the preparation of a formal request with this particular mandate.

A JRC working group is reviewing the guidelines for risk assessment of threshold and non-threshold substances in the framework of new and existing chemicals. Two members of the Group agreed to assess potential points of discrepancy between this document and the EFSA document.

6. INFORMATION EXCHANGE

6.1. Information from chairs and vice chairs

The identification of a candidate for the vacant position in SCHER was under consideration. A formal procedure for the nomination would need to be followed.

Concerns were raised on a general environmental risk regarding waste of some chemical compounds and cosmetic ingredients which might not be adequately assessed.

6.2. Working programme of the three Scientific Committees

A list with new requests from the last plenary onwards was distributed for information and identification of potentially overlapping issues.

7. EMERGING ISSUES AS A REGULAR AGENDA ITEM IN ALL COMMITTEES

It was agreed to regularly include this item on all three Committees' agendas as a tool to identify emerging risks.

8. RELATIONS WITH EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS

The coordination group reviewed relations with stakeholders in the light of recent experiences on specific issues. It was noted that the Rules of Procedures provide for a procedure to deal with stakeholders who may wish to address information to a Scientific Committee or comment on an opinion. It was agreed that mechanisms for public consultation on sensitive issues should be developed including the use of the SANCO website.

The importance of maintaining public confidence in the Committees' independency, transparency and excellence was emphasised.

9. COLIPA EXPERTS GROUP ON "THRESHOLD ON TOXICOLOGICAL CONCERN"

Several members of the Committees have been invited to participate in an expert group sponsored by COLIPA (The European Cosmetic, Toiletry and Perfumery Association) to examine the application of the concept of "Threshold on Toxicological Concern" (TTC) for cosmetics ingredients. Since TTC is of broad interest for all three Committees, the coordination group proposed that it should be the subject of a general mandate to the committees in the framework of general principles of risk assessment.

The Coordination group stressed the importance of establishing clear principles concerning the involvement of members in other scientific groups which were examining subjects which were in the mandates of their committee. The following general principles were provisionally agreed

- Members of the scientific committees are completely free to participate in any technical meeting they choose subject to the usual requirements for declarations of interest where applicable.

- Members involved in such meetings should make it clear that they are participating in a strictly personal capacity and are not representing the views of their scientific committee.
- Where Members take part in external meetings which results in them being associated with “consensus statements” on contentious issues, they should not contribute to decision making on related issues in the scientific committee (Members cannot be expected to independently assess their own work).
- Attendance of such meetings by Members as “observers” was highly undesirable because of the risk of “association with a consensus statement” but without even the right to express a view.

10. ECETOC PROPOSAL FOR A RISK ASSESSMENT WORKSHOP

ECETOC had proposed a joint workshop involving the JRC and the scientific committees to present its “Targeted risk assessment approach”. Members of the Coordination Group concluded that it was impractical to organise a meeting of all 3 Committees. However, the group felt that members with a specific interest in the approach would welcome the opportunity to participate in an ECETOC workshop and would like to be kept informed of developments.

11. COHERENCE AND CONSISTENCY IN THE EXPRESSION OF SCIENTIFIC OPINIONS

Postponed for revision at the next meeting.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Dr Sanner gave an overview of recent publications on possible connections between the prolonged use of hair dyes and certain types of cancers. SCCP will continue to monitor the literature on this subject.

Annex I: List of participants

Annex I

INTER COMMITTEE COORDINATION GROUP

3RD MEETING

16 December 2004
in Brussels

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Chairs and vice-Chairs of the Scientific Committees

Prof. J. BRIDGES, Dr. W.H. DE JONG, Prof. P. HARTEMANN, Prof. V M ROGIERS,
Prof. T SANNER, Dr. J TARAZONA, Dr. I WHITE

Commission (DG SANCO)

DG SANCO C/7: Mr. P WAGSTAFFE (Chair), Ms. P AGUAR (Secretariat of
SCHENIR and the ICG), Ms T. PEETSO and Mr. A. VAN ELST (SCCP Secretariat),
Ms. G. FONTANESI (SCHER Secretariat), Mr M MARTIN