



ICG/Minutes 22.06.2005

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES
6TH MEETING OF THE INTER-COMMITTEES COORDINATION GROUP (ICG)

22 June 2005

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

P. Wagstaffe, chair of the Inter-Committees Coordination group, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. Apologies from Mr. Jansson.

2. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT AGENDA

The [draft agenda](#) was approved.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 5TH MEETING OF THE ICG

The draft minutes of the 5th meeting were adopted and are available at

http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_risk/committees/coordination/docs/coord_mi_005.pdf

5. INFORMATION EXCHANGE

5.1. Administrative and general matters

The chair announced that prepaid tickets would be available on an exceptional basis only. The chair highlighted the importance of speeding up the reimbursement.

The chair informed the group about the changes in staff: Ms. Pilar Aguar was leaving for DG RTD and Ms. Maila Puolamaa would take over her tasks until a permanent replacement arrived. Mr. Philippe Martin would assist SCENIHR, especially in opinions related to nanotechnology and electromagnetic fields.

5.2. Information from/to chairs and vice chairs

The chair raised the general issue of grading uncertainty in scientific opinions. This was considered a delicate issue due to the multitude of aspects associated with

overall uncertainty. If grading was done, it should be very simple. Prof. Bridges offered to write a paper on the issue.

5.2.1. SCCP

The key points for discussion were the forthcoming 90 mandates on hair dyes, SCCP opinion on fluoride, percutaneous absorption, allergies, sun beds, UV radiation and tooth whiteners as well as shortage of data on use patterns of cosmetics.

5.2.2. SCHER

The main on-going requests concerned risk assessment reports, Gentox opinion, alternative methods, biodegradability of detergents and indoor air. In the discussion, ionising radiation from radon was raised as a potential new area of work for the SCHER.

5.2.3. SCENIHR

The SCENIHR was finalising opinions on nanotechnology and variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (vCJD) and preparing an opinion on electromagnetic fields, which was expected by spring 2006.

The chair informed the group that the Secretariat had established regular monitoring of media reports related to emerging issues.

5.3. New requests to the WP of the three Scientific Committees

5.3.1. SCCP

90 requests on hair dyes were expected after July 2005 as a consequence of the Commission review of the safety of those products and a possible update of the fluoride opinion.

5.3.2. SCHER

None.

5.3.3. SCENIHR

None.

5.3.4. Collaboration with EFSA

The group discussed the participation of non-food Scientific Committees in respect to the invitation from the EFSA concerning Benchmark Dose.

6. OTHER SCIENTIFIC ISSUES

An update of the opinion from 2002 might be necessary in SCENIHR in the light of the substantial number of recent publications particularly relevant to exposure of neonates. In the United States, a review of DEHP toxicity was being undertaken and results were expected in October 2005.

The recent study (Stall et al, 2005) on vinclozolin and the transfer of genetic changes between generations was done with an extremely high intra-peritoneal dose. The dose had no relevance for normal human exposure, but the phenomenon as such was scientifically important. This could be an issue for SCENIHR, and the SCs would remain attentive to this issue.

The group was informed about the IARC evaluation of snus (a non-smoking tobacco product) in the context of a possible question for the SCs.

7. POTENTIAL NEW REQUESTS

Potential new requests refer, in addition to phthalates, to allergies, follow-up on the foreseen EFSA Gentox opinion and on the framework for methodologies for quantitative risk assessment for genotoxic and carcinogenic substances as well as Threshold for Toxicological Concern (TTC). The last item was postponed to the next meeting.

8. COLLABORATION WITH OTHER COMMUNITY BODIES

8.1.1. EFSA

The chair informed the group that the inauguration of EFSA took place on 20 June 2005.

8.1.2. MEETING OF CHAIRS OF SCS IN THE COMMUNITY RISK ASSESSMENT BODIES

It had been decided that the meeting with the chairs of the SCs in the Community Risk Assessment Bodies would take place in early December.

The chair informed the group on the discussion in SANCO concerning the role of science in policy making.

8.1.3. BILATERAL DISCUSSION ON DIVERGING OPINIONS

The Secretariat informed the group about the EMEA work on Guidelines on diverging opinions.

The group noted the successful co-operation with EFSA on the Gentox opinion and emphasised the importance of proactive initiatives for avoiding diverging opinions. The SCENIHR work on nanotechnology was a good example of this.

9. COLLABORATION WITH JRC & RTD

The group was updated on the progress on the 7th Framework Programme for Research and on the Nanotechnology Action Plan, undertaken in close cooperation with DG RTD.

The presentation of the Unit of Chemical Risks in JRC was postponed to the next meeting.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

Annex I: List of participants

Annex I

INTER COMMITTEE COORDINATION GROUP

6TH MEETING

22nd June 2005
in Brussels

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Chairs and vice-Chairs of the Scientific Committees

Prof. J. BRIDGES, Dr. W. de Jong, Prof. EM. H GREIM, Prof. P. HARTEMANN, Prof. V. M. ROGIERS, Prof. T. SANNER, Dr. J. TARAZONA, Dr. I. WHITE

Apologies

Dr. B. JANSSON

European Commission

SANCO C7 'RISK ASSESSMENT'

Mr. P. WAGSTAFFE (Chair), Ms. P. AGUAR (Secretariat of SCENIHR and the ICG), G. FONTANESI (SCHER Secretariat), Ms. M. PUOLAMAA and Mr. A. VAN ELST (SCCP Secretariat), Ms M. MARINI (C7)