



SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES

9TH MEETING OF THE INTER-COMMITTEE COORDINATION GROUP (ICCG)

24 January 2006

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

P. Wagstaffe, chair of the Inter-Committees Coordination group, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. Apologies from Prof. Bo Jonasson and Prof. Philippe Hartemann

2. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT AGENDA

It was decided to have the presentation and discussion on REACH before item 5. With these changes the draft agenda was approved.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 8TH MEETING OF THE ICCG

The draft minutes of the 8th meeting were adopted and are available at http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/coordination/docs/coord_mi_008.pdf.

5. INFORMATION EXCHANGE

5.1. ADMINISTRATIVE AND GENERAL MATTERS

The chairs of the Committees highlighted the importance of speeding up the reimbursement of payments to the Committee members and external experts.

5.2. INFORMATION FROM/TO CHAIRS AND VICE CHAIRS

5.2.1. SCCP

The key points for discussion were the SCCP opinions on tooth whiteners, alternative testing methods and hair dyes, upcoming work on nanotechnology substances in cosmetics as well as the public consultation on sun beds.

5.2.2. SCHER

The main on-going requests concern air fresheners, indoor air, organotins and about 130 forthcoming mandates from the Existing Substances Regulation.

5.2.3. SCENIHR

The main discussion points were the public consultations on nanotechnology and variant Creutzfeldt - Jakob disease (vCJD), the opinion on electromagnetic fields and upcoming work on smokeless tobacco, DEHP (di-2-ethylhexyl-phthalate) and biocides.

5.3. NEW REQUESTS TO THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES

New requests on hair dyes, allergens, toluene and sunscreen were expected for the SCCP, cadmium in fertilizers for the SCHER as well as biocides and possibly mercury in dental amalgam for the SCENIHR.

The updated Work Programme 2006 was distributed to the participants.

5.4. REACH AND ITS IMPLICATIONS TO THE WORK OF SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES

Officials from DG Enterprise and from DG Environment presented the current status of the REACH. The meeting discussed the procedures, the independence of the forthcoming Scientific Committees on risk governance and socio-economic impacts as well as about the implications of REACH to the work of Scientific Committees, especially on SCHER. It was decided to continue the discussion in one of the ICCG meetings later in 2006.

5.5. ALTERNATIVE TESTING METHODS – POSITION OF SCs

The Chairs of the Scientific Committees noted the letter from European toxicologists to Commissioner Verhaugen and drafted a Position Paper on Alternatives to Animal Tests. The Scientific Committees will discuss the Position Paper in the forthcoming plenary meetings and paper will be reviewed at the next ICCG meeting.

5.6. USA FEDERAL STANDARDS FOR ANALYSING HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

The proposal for the new US standards on analysing health and environmental risks was discussed. The proposal is open for public consultation until 15 June 2006. If accepted, the proposal would merge the currently independent processes of risk assessment and management in USA.

6. COLLABORATION WITH OTHER COMMUNITY BODIES

6.1. EFSA

The chair informed the group about the extension of the deadline for the Call for Experts in EFSA.

6.2. MEETING OF CHAIRS OF SCs IN THE COMMUNITY RISK ASSESSMENT

The chair thanked the chairs for their active contribution to the first ever Meeting with Chairs of the Community Risk Assessment Bodies of the Scientific Committees on 7-8 December 2005. The next meeting is proposed to take place late October this year, but the Secretariat is still waiting for the responses from the different institutions.

6.3. OTHER

None.

7. COLLABORATION WITH JRC + RTD

None.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was decided that for the next meeting the Secretariat will invite the ECETOC (European Centre for Ecotoxicity and Toxicity of Chemicals) to present their work and DG Enterprise to present the draft Action Plan of the European Partnership to promote Alternatives Approaches to Animal testing (EPAA).

Annex I: List of participants

Annex I

INTER COMMITTEE COORDINATION GROUP

9TH MEETING

24th January 2006
in Brussels

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Chairs and vice-Chairs of the Scientific Committees

Prof. J. BRIDGES, Prof. H GREIM, W. de JONG, Prof. V. M. ROGIERS, Prof. T. SANNER (partly), Dr. J. TARAZONA, Dr. I. WHITE

Apologies:

Dr. B. JANSSON, Prof. P. HARTEMANN,

European Commission

SANCO C7 'RISK ASSESSMENT'

Mr. P. WAGSTAFFE (Chair), Ms. M. PUOLAMAA (Secretariat of the ICCG), G. FONTANESI (SCHER Secretariat), Ms. T. PEETSO and Mr. A. VAN ELST (SCCP Secretariat) and Mr. P.H. MARTIN

SANCO B3 'PRODUCT AND SERVICE SAFETY'

Mr. P. DASKALEROS

DG ENTERPRISE

Mr. G. WILLMOTT

DG ENVIRONMENT

Mr. B. HANSEN