



## **SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES**

### **10<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE INTER-COMMITTEE COORDINATION GROUP**

**5 April 2006**

#### **MINUTES**

#### **1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

P. Wagstaffe, Chair of the Inter-Committee Coordination Group opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Dr. Ian White, Prof. Philippe Hartemann and Prof. Vera Rogiers.

#### **2. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT AGENDA**

It was decided to have the presentations from ECETOC and RTD first in the meeting.

#### **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

#### **4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 9<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE ICCG**

The draft minutes from the 9th meeting were adopted with minor modifications and are available at

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph\\_risk/committees/coordination/docs/coord\\_mi\\_009.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_risk/committees/coordination/docs/coord_mi_009.pdf).

#### **5. PRESENTATION OF ECETOC ACTIVITIES IN RISK ASSESSMENT**

Dr. Michael Gribble and Prof. Geoff Randall gave a presentation on ECETOC and, in particular, its activities in risk assessment. Discussion evolved around the structure of ECETOC and its work including prioritisation, measures to answer the integrity and independence of scientific advice and collaboration with stakeholders. Potential cooperation and exchange of information and knowledge were discussed. Members of the Scientific Committees are invited to participate in the ECETOC 'Futures workshop' scheduled for 23 May 2006. Related information can be found on the ECETOC website (<http://www.ecetoc.org/>).

#### **6. PRESENTATION OF THE DRAFT ACTION PROGRAMME FOR EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP FOR ALTERNATIVE METHODS**

DG RTD provided a presentation on the Draft Action Programme for the European Partnership for Alternative Methods. Members expressed their interest and wish to be informed about on-going research activities and in particular the results of research projects that are relevant for the work of the scientific committees. Furthermore, members suggested the risk assessment bodies and relevant Commission services be involved in the establishment of the programme and be consulted in planned and ongoing research activities.

## **7. INFORMATION EXCHANGE**

### **7.1. ADMINISTRATIVE AND GENERAL MATTERS**

Members raised the problem of the successive delays in payments of travel and subsistence costs which were still taking 3 to 4 months. The Chair said that SANCO was continuing to press the Commission service responsible to accelerate the payments.

### **7.2. INFORMATION FROM/TO CHAIRS AND VICE CHAIRS**

#### **7.2.1. SCCP**

The key points of the discussion were the public consultation on sunbeds, nanosubstances in cosmetics, updates of the Notes of Guidance, guidance document on clinical and epidemiological studies on tooth whitening products and the situation in hair dyes. The latter forms the heaviest work load for the Committee this year.

#### **7.2.2. SCHER**

The main discussion points were the work on indoor air, organotins, TGD on risk assessment of human health, EMEA Public Consultation on VICH Guidelines and the current situation in the EFSA's work on Gentox. As regards the TGDs, especially the tiered approach was considered problematic.

It was decided that the SCHER, with the possible collaboration of the EFSA FEEDAP and PPR panels will send comments to the EMEA public consultation on the VICH guidelines. The EFSA opinion on Gentox has been adopted and is publicly available, but it doesn't include all the SCHER comments. However, it might be possible that the EFSA will use the comments in its future work, especially on the Benchmark Dose. It was decided that the Chair of the SCHER will respond to the BUAV letter.

#### **7.2.3. SCENIHR**

The main current requests refer to EMF, Smokeless Tobacco Products (STP) and DEHP. The calls for information on STP and DEHP have been launched and the results are expected by mid May. The modified opinion on nanotechnology was adopted in the last plenary meeting and the Secretariat is finalising the Synthesis Report together with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the working group. The modifications to the vCJD opinion as well as the vCJD Synthesis Report will be discussed in the next plenary in May after the additional working group meeting on 28 April.

Although, the consultation processes are fully justified by the given active stakeholder participation, they bring considerable additional work for the Members and the Secretariat.

DG Environment will organise a Consultative Forum on Environment and Health on 19 April and the Chair of the SCENIHR will present a SCENIHR Discussion paper “Emerging issues and the role of SCENIHR”

### **7.3. NEW REQUESTS TO THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES**

New requests on hair dyes, allergens, UV filters, and release of nitrosamines from children’s balloons were expected for the SCCP. The SCHER is expecting a mandate on meta-analysis of sperm quality. The SCENIHR is starting the work on the BSE in cosmetics in relation to trade with China (technical requirements) and the second mandate on nanomaterials in TGDs in close co-operation with SCHER.

### **7.4. POSITION STATEMENT ON ALTERNATIVE TESTING METHODS**

The position statement was agreed after discussion and modification to bring into account the proposals made by the Committees. The position statement is annexed.

## **8. COLLABORATION WITH OTHER COMMUNITY BODIES**

### **8.1. EFSA**

The Secretariat reported about the EFSA’s on-going work on the emerging risks.

### **8.2. MEETING OF CHAIRS OF SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES AND PANELS OF THE COMMUNITY RISK ASSESSMENT BODIES**

The date for the next Meeting of Chairs of the Scientific Committees and Panels will take place on 24-25 October 2006. Possible issues include emerging issues and REACH.

### **8.3. OTHER**

The Secretariat reported on progress on the administrative arrangements for sharing confidential data between Community bodies and co-operation with EMEA on fragrances in herbal products.

## **9. COLLABORATION WITH JRC + RTD**

The Secretariat gave an update of the situation in the FP7 and its Specific Programmes.

## **10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The meeting discussed the principles to be used in the selection of external experts, associated members and co-operation between working groups. The issue of raising the profile of the work of Scientific Committees was agreed as being key to attracting future Members. It was agreed to investigate possibilities to have summaries of scientific opinions published in scientific journals to increase their citation and international recognition. It was decided that each Committee will identify the key journals for their work and discuss the process needed for the scientific citations. The Chairs of the committees also recommended that the name of the reserve list would be changed to something more appealing such as ‘panel of experts’.

The C7 Risk Watch is now being sent to the members of the Scientific Committees on a regular basis.

Next meeting will take place on 3<sup>rd</sup> July instead of 19 June and will make a mid-term review of the work in the Scientific Committees.

Annex I: Position statement of alternative testing methods

Annex II: List of participants

## Annex I

### ALTERNATIVES TO ANIMAL TESTS:

#### SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE POSITION STATEMENT

Periodically, the Scientific Committee on Consumer Products (SCCP), on Health and Environmental Risks (SCHER) and on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks (SCENIHR) are requested to give advice concerning alternative methods to animal testing in relation to safety assessment.

The Committees have frequently identified substantial limitations when assessing alternative methods that they have been asked to consider.

The three Committees recognise that their primary responsibility is to contribute to the attainment of a high level of public health and environmental protection through the provision of scientifically based risk assessments. The Committees fully encourage the continued development of improved risk assessment methodologies. To be clear, when validated as being as effective as currently accepted methods for safety assessment, alternative methods should be used to replace, reduce or refine animal experimentation.

It is, therefore, important to note that any critical concerns of the Scientific Committees on the validity of 3R-alternatives (Replace, Reduce, Refine) and non-animal tests should not be interpreted as reflecting opposition to the implementation of alternatives to animal experimentation as a matter of principle.

#### Relevant opinions

SCCNFP [Memorandum](#) concerning “The Actual Status of Alternative Methods to the Use of Animals in the Safety Testing of Cosmetic Ingredients”, adopted by the SCCNFP during the 20<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting of 4 June 2002.

SCTEE [Opinion](#) on the BUAV-ECEAE report on “The way forward - action to end animal toxicity testing”, adopted by the CSTEET during the 41<sup>st</sup> plenary meeting of 8 January 2004.

SCCNFP [Opinion](#) concerning the “Report for Establishing the Timetable for Phasing out Animal Testing for the purpose of the Cosmetics Directive” issued by ECVAM (30/04/2004), adopted on 1 July 2004 by means of the written procedure.

SCHER [Opinion](#) on “Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals: a Non-animal Testing Approach” (BUAV report - 2004), adopted by the SCHER during the 8<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting of 25 November 2005.

## **Annex II**

<b>INTER COMMITTEE COORDINATION GROUP</b>
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<b>10<sup>TH</sup> MEETING</b>
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5<sup>th</sup> April 2006  
in Brussels

### **LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

#### **Chairs and vice-Chairs of the Scientific Committees**

Prof. J. BRIDGES, Prof. H GREIM, Dr. B. JANSSON, W. de JONG, Prof. T. SANNER (partly) and Dr. J. TARAZONA

#### **Apologies:**

Prof. P. HARTEMANN, Prof. V. M. ROGIERS and Dr. I. WHITE.

#### **European Commission**

##### **SANCO C7 'RISK ASSESSMENT'**

Mr. P. WAGSTAFFE (Chair), Ms. M. PUOLAMAA (ICCG Secretariat), Ms. Katja BROMEN (SCENIHR Secretariat), G. FONTANESI (SCHER Secretariat), Ms. Marina MARINI, Ms. T. PEETSO and Mr. A. VAN ELST (SCCP Secretariat) and Mr. P.H. MARTIN