



INTER-COMMITTEE COORDINATION GROUP

16TH MEETING

20 June 2007

MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair of ICCG welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Dr. Wim de Jong.

2. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT AGENDA

The draft agenda was accepted.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 15^H MEETING OF THE ICCG

The minutes were approved and are available at
http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_risk/committees/coordination/docs/coord_mi_015.pdf.

5. INFORMATION EXCHANGE

5.1. ADMINISTRATIVE AND GENERAL MATTERS

Prolongation of the Terms of Office:

The Chair informed about the progress and planning for the prolongation of the terms of office of the current members of the SCs. Most of the members have confirmed their intention to remain in office until end of 2008. The present configuration will continue until the approval of the restructuring of the mandates in 2008.

The Chairs were invited to finalise the identification of possible needs for certain expertise profiles. In light of needs identified, it will be considered how to proceed to close possible gaps, including for SCENIHR whose maximum membership is now increased from 13 to 17.

The internal process for the prolongation of the current members is foreseen to be finalised by Autumn 2007.

The revision of the mandates for SCs:

The process will take place in 2008 with the aim of a new Commission Decision in time for the new Committees to be in place in 2009. The scoping of the new mandates and possible options are under preliminary discussion. In particular, the revision will take into account that some of the current tasks of SCHER will in future be covered by ECHA.

The revision of the mandate of the SC may also offer an opportunity for considering how to address the relation between risk assessment and socio-economic assessment (SEA) which may require input from the appropriate experts, possibly addressing assessment of risk-benefit and also risk perception. The Chair proposed that risk-benefit should be suggested for the agenda of the forthcoming Meeting of Chairs, in early November 2007.

On the subject socio-economic assessment, a revised SEA paper was considered: The members discussed the challenges and requirements for the SEA and highlighted a need for a science based approach. The Commission agreed to bring it up for further discussion when reviewing the Scientific Committees in 2008.

Use of Confidential data:

The chair emphasized the need for a common approach to the confidential data in different SCs. It will be necessary to request data providers to specify and justify their needs for confidentiality according to fixed rules and to agree on the summary prepared by the SCs. In case data has not gone through a peer review, it may need to be weighted by the SCs. The draft paper on Stakeholder Dialogue includes conditions for data submission. The approach developed by SCENIHR was considered a good basis for dealing with the confidentiality issue. Possible comments to the SCENIHR approach were invited from SCCP and SCHER.

Meeting of the EMF Working Group of governmental experts, 13-14 June 2007: The Chair informed about the meeting of the governmental experts on the implementation of the Council Recommendation on limitation of the public exposure to EMF. The Commission will send a questionnaire to the Member States about the implementation and will finalise a 2nd implementation Report on the issue early in 2008.

5.2. INFORMATION FROM/TO CHAIRS AND VICE CHAIRS

5.2.1. SCCP

The key points of discussion were the situation in Nanocosmetics, hydrogen peroxide and the memorandum on alternative methods. It was proposed to have a joint working group of the 3 SCs on the status of progress of alternative methods. The SCHER would lead the work whilst the SCCP would be the rapporteur.

5.2.2. SCHER

The main issues mentioned were Mercury in dental amalgam, risk assessment, zinc and the follow-up to the indoor air opinion.

5.2.3. SCENIHR

The main issues mentioned were smokeless tobacco products, DEHP in medical devices, nanomaterials in TGDs, review of definitions related to the risk assessment of nanomaterials, dental amalgam, noise from personal music players, the situation in the pending requests on biocides and the future tasks of the SCENIHR.

5.3. NEW REQUESTS TO THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES

New mandates have been received by the SCCP on hair dyes in regard to the 2nd step in the Commission Hair Dye Strategy, tea tree oil.

With regard to the SCHER, new mandates have been received on RARs under Regulation 973/93. In addition, the SCHER, in coordination with the other two committees, will work on a mandate on genotoxicity. This follows-up to its previous comments to the EFSA opinion.

Mandates to SCENIHR on antimicrobial resistance and to SCENIHR and SCHER on certain AMT substances (antimicrobial resistance and environmental impact) are under finalisation.

6. COLLABORATION WITH OTHER COMMUNITY BODIES

6.1. EFSA

The Secretariat informed about the EFSA emerging risk working group (with participation of the Chair of the SCENIHR) and the ongoing activities on benchmark dose, cloning and animal welfare and alternative testing. The EFSA Scientific Committee Plenary meeting will take place on 9-10 July 2007.

6.2. FOLLOW-UP OF MEETING OF CHAIRS OF EU SCs AND PANELS

On the follow-up activities to the 2nd Chairs meeting, the following developments were presented:

Emerging risks: Draft paper to be presented at a working group meeting on 20 September.

SCENIHR: Nanotechnology Workshop on 25-26 October by invitation.

RA Terminology: A presentation will be provided to the Meeting of Chairs in 2007.

US/EU RA approaches: The 1st conference in June 2008, preparatory meeting in November-December 2007.

The next Meeting of Chairs will take place in ECDC in Stockholm on 6-7 November 2007. Possible proposals to ECDC for the Agenda were Emerging risks, Rapid Risk Assessment and RA terminology. Issues related to risk assessment framing might be discussed during the dinner.

6.3. OTHER

6.3.1. RISK ASSESSMENT DAYS 2007

The Chair informed that EP ITRE Committee has agreed to meet with the representatives of the 3 SCs on 11 September. In addition, a separate presentation of the SCCP will take place on 12 September at the EP IMCO Committee. The investigations about the possibility of organising a meeting with ENVI are undergoing.

The Chair informed about the structured approach envisaged for the stakeholder dialogue enabling stakeholders to contribute to the public consultation, hearings and calls for information.

6.3.2. PROGRESS WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN

The second issue of the Newsletter will be published in the second week of September. It was agreed to include a contribution from the experts on specific topics. Next edition will report on nanotechnologies. A contribution is expected in time to close the text by the first week of September.

A Compendium of opinions will be published and the CD version will also include a search function.

It was noted that C7 intends to improve the procedures to ensure that SCs receive more systematic information on all the relevant developments related to their opinions, in particular on the follow-up to the Scientific Opinions by the Commission and in general a regular feedback from users of the Scientific Opinions.

The Chair presented C7 plans for an ad hoc meeting to discuss needs and suggestions for risk assessors' training initiatives, in the end of November or early December 2007, and if possible, to include the subject in the agenda of the next Meeting of Chairs.

The Chair informed briefly about the 1st SC Newsletter as well as about advancements made with regard to video, publication of opinions, logo and the brochure and posters of SCs.

7. COLLABORATION WITH JRC + RTD

The C7 is in a process of discussing arrangements JRC/IHPC for technical support to SCs and follow-up of opinions.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The next ICCG meeting will take place on 26 September 2007.

Annex I: List of participants

Annex I

INTER COMMITTEE COORDINATION GROUP

16TH MEETING

20 June 2007
in Brussels

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Chairs and vice-Chairs of the Scientific Committees

Prof. J. BRIDGES, Prof. H GREIM, Prof. P. HARTEMANN, Prof. B. JANSSON, Prof. V. ROGIERS, Prof. T. SANNER, Dr. J. TARAZONA and Dr. I. WHITE.

Apologies: Dr. W. de JONG.

European Commission

SANCO C7 'RISK ASSESSMENT'

Mr. B. DELOGU (Chair), Ms. M. PUOLAMAA (ICCG Secretariat), Ms. M. MARINI, Mr. P.H. MARTIN, Mr. T. DASKALEROS, Ms. K. BROMEN (SCENIHR Secretariat), Ms. G. FONTANESI (SCHER Secretariat), Ms. K. KILIAN and Mr. A. VAN ELST (SCCP Secretariat).