



Brussels, 10 March 2008

Meeting report on the possibility for an EU training course in Risk Assessment, Brussels, 10 March 2008

This meeting was convened in follow to the first informal brainstorming meeting on Risk Assessment capacity in the EU and following bilateral contacts with the EUROTOX (European Association of Toxicology Societies) secretariat on the possibility for a post graduate training course in Risk Assessment.

Participating in the meeting were representatives from the EUROTOX secretariat, from academic institutions offering courses in Risk Assessment (RA) from the United Kingdom, Sweden, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, and representatives of the Commission's non food Scientific Committees and T. Daskaleros from the Risk Assessment Unit of DG SANCO.

Following a brief introduction by Mr. Daskaleros, the EUROTOX representatives presented a first idea for a modular post graduate course in Risk Assessment. In addition the members of the academic institutions present provided short presentations of the courses their institutions offer. In the ensuing discussion, the following points and action steps were noted:

- In order to reverse the shortage of trained risk assessors in the EU, actions will be needed on three interlinked areas: 1) University training and academic research in toxicology; 2) post-graduate training in Risk Assessment; 3) certification of trained Risk Assessors.
- Exploring the possibilities for the establishment of an EU certification/accreditation system for trained Risk Assessors is seen as the catalyst for improving/increasing efforts on pillars 1 and 2 above;
- It was agreed that the Commission should organise a specific meeting (possibly in the second half of 2008) with the appropriate stakeholders inside the Commission (DG EAC, RTD) and outside (MS education ministries, academia, industry) to address the specific issue of university training/studies in (eco)toxicology.
- Focusing on the post graduate training in Risk Assessments, there exist a number of short modular courses. Participants presented their own activities in the area. All agreed that training toxicology does not equal training in Risk Assessment and vice-versa, and hence specific post graduate training is needed. In addition to training, practical experience ('stage') with national, EU Scientific Advice bodies, and/or

industry should also be included in any training activities as it is judged to be essential.

- Eurotox with the help of the persons participating in the meeting and input from the Inter Committee Coordination Group of the non Food Scientific Committees will prepare a document setting out the specifications for a pilot EU RA training course. The document will be sent to participants by end of April in order to be discussed in the next group meeting.
- It was agreed that the key elements of the course will be a series of thematic modules in Risk Assessment that will add up to two months in total, followed by 6-8 months practical training ('stage') with either EU Scientific Advice bodies, or MS Risk Assessment agencies, and/or industry. Specific prerequisite training and/or experience in toxicology for admission, course content and structure, and certification will be established.
- The RA course will be linked to optional complimenting specialised modular training (e.g. cosmetics, etc).
- The document will also address feasibility in terms of administration, logistics and budget that may be necessary both to start the programme and for its long term sustainability.