



Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks

SCENIHR

2nd Meeting of the Working Group on Synthetic Biology

Venue: HITEC building, Rue Eugène Ruppert 11, L- 2453 Luxembourg

Meeting room HTC 02/280

Meeting date: 15 October 2013, starting at 9:00

Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies

The Deputy Head of Health Information Unit welcomed the participants and a tour the table was made to introduce the participants to each other regarding the professional background, affiliations and areas of scientific expertise. 3 apologies; 6 members joined the meeting by audio. 2 representatives from DG ENV joined also the meeting by audio.

A short introduction of the role of SCENIHR was made so as to familiarise the new members of the WG with the principles of excellence, independence, transparency and confidentiality, as well as with the principles for scientific advice on risk assessment. Commitment is necessary to meet the deadline for the opinion while ensuring the quality standard requested.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented.

3. Declaration of interests on matters on the agenda

The Chair requested to participants to declare any interest on matters on the agenda. No declarations of any conflict of interest were made by participants.

4. Discussions on the mandate

At this point the Chair gave the floor to DG ENV representatives to introduce the mandate and to explain their interest in this activity. It was stressed that, in preparation for discussions on this topic at the 12th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in October 2014, this opinion is very important so as to formulate the EU input into the discussions of SBSTTA 18.

The deadline for the opinion was also discussed. It was proposed to split the mandate in 2 opinions. The definition part has to be ready before June 2014 and it will address the question 2.1 from the mandate. The second opinion will address points 2.2 Methodological and safety aspects and 2.3 Research priorities of the mandate. The members of the WG agreed with this proposal.

These modifications should be sent to DGs which requested the mandate for their approval/agreement.

5. Outline of the Opinion

The outline of the Opinion was discussed and some comments and modifications proposed by the members of the WG and representatives from DG ENV had been noted.

6. Distributions of tasks

The document prepared by the Chair of the WG was discussed and tasks distributed based on the volunteering of WG members. Some of the tasks have been allocated for the members excused and these should send their availability to take over the tasks. A table with the workload of each member of the WG will be elaborated and distributed to all members.

7. Planning of meetings and teleconferences

Next meeting towards the end of November (audio). The Secretariat will launch a doodle to set up the date.

8. Any Other Business

Secretariat will launch the procedure for updating the literature search. The members of the WG have been asked to send to the Secretariat the updated search terms as soon as possible;

Secretariat will check for the procedure of getting the permission to use different information from scientific papers in the opinion;

The deadline of the opinion being tight, would be useful to organise monthly meetings of the WG, alternatively audio and physical, and for the physical one it was proposed to have 2 days meeting instead of 1 day meeting.

The colleagues from DG ENV asked the Secretariat to receive the invitations to attend the WG meetings

Secretariat to check the availability of information about the closed and on-going projects on Synthetic Biology with DG RTD.