



5th Meeting of Chairs and Secretariats of Commission and Agency Scientific Committees and Panels involved in Risk Assessment

Action Points decided upon at the 4th Meeting:

A Progress Report



Report on the aims, progress and achievements of the collaboration within Chairs and Secretariats Group

- o Report was circulated with documents for the 5th Chairs/Secretariats meeting
- o A similar information note was circulated to the Chairs of the EP ENVI, IMCO and ITRE Committees in May 2009
- o The report confirms the terms of reference for the Chairs/Secretariat collaboration
- o It provides some perspective on the expected development of such collaboration
- o Comments are welcome



Transparency in Risk Assessment

- o EFSA adopted two opinions on transparency, covering both processes and contents
- o Those opinions were circulated by DG SANCO to all Agencies (also available as meeting documents)
- o Main elements of EFSA opinions have been incorporated into the new rules of procedure of SCCS, SCHER and SCENIHR
- o Experience shows the need for continuous improvement in the implementation of EFSA transparency guidelines
- o Ad hoc discussion between secretariats on experiences and problems?



Systematic feedback to Scientific Committees

- o DG SANCO has introduced arrangements with other Commission services to ensure systematic feedback on the scientific opinions delivered
- o The Secretariat is systematically monitoring implementation
- o To be reviewed regularly with the Inter-Committee Co-ordination Group

"Terminology"

- o A Working Group on "Evaluating uncertainty, weighing evidence and using the appropriate terminology in risk assessment" is in place and working (report, templates, proposals available in the meeting documentation)
- o Templates and concrete proposals for conducting a common exercise are presented today for validation and decision

Nanotechnology

- o A network of nanotech risk assessors was established in March 2009
- o A second meeting was held at the occasion of the 3rd Safety For Success Nanotechnology Workshop (Brussels, 2-3 November 2009)
- o A joint project was launched within the Public Health Programme



International Dialogue

- o 1st International Risk Assessment Conference took place on 13-14 November 2008
- o Conclusions were disseminated via the Conference website.
- o Arrangements with the US and CAN for participation in projects emerging from the 1st RA Conference
- o Results and further initiatives to be discussed at the 2nd Conference (tentatively planned for 1-3 December 2010 in Brussels)



Handling opinions of common interest

- o EMEA paper on the identification of issues of common interest was circulated and comments were received
- o SANCO circulated a draft for common guidelines on co-operation for the identification and management of potential divergences over scientific opinions
- o It is proposed to endorse the guidelines today for practical implementation

Data sharing

- o Common guidelines on data sharing were finalised and disseminated after the 4th meeting in Parma
- o No much experience yet with implementation
- o It is proposed to continue the pilot stage of implementation, with a more pro-active approach

Sharing of practice

- o The first stage of the compilation project is being completed (covering three aspects of the risk advice management process: relation with stakeholders; relationship risk assessors/risk managers; independence of risk assessment)
- o Proposed to make the results visible soon of the websites of the participating agencies (also available in the meeting documentation)
- o It is proposed to continue the development of the project by including in the inventory additional aspects

Emerging risks

- o The discussion group on emerging risks (DGER) has met twice since the Parma meeting
- o The exchange of information on the relevant approaches is completed (report is included in the meeting documentation)
- o Proposals produced by the DGER for discussion, and decision today



Proposed issues for discussion and feedback (today and tomorrow)

- o Comments on the experience and perspectives of Chairs/Secretariats collaboration
- o How to develop a sustained dialogue on transparency in risk assessment
- o Comments and final endorsement for practical application of the common guidelines for the identification/management of potential divergences (follow up by the secretariats)
- o Data sharing: to decide to continue with the implementation of the guidelines
- o Compilation project: to decide to gradually increase the aspects covered (possible additional subjects: use of confidential data; quality control and peer review; indemnities for members, experts and rapporteurs)

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