

# European Commission Directorate-General Health and Consumers

*2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Risk  
Assessment:*

## **Background, Themes and Organisation**

## Objectives of this introduction

- o To provide some background on the steps leading to this Conference
- o To introduce the programme and the practical organisation of the Conference

# Preparation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Conference

- Conference co-organised with US OMB and Canada TBS
- Crucial support from EU, USA, Canada scientific bodies and agencies
- Steering groups identified for each Workshop theme to develop complete and complimenting 'plenary lecture-workshop discussion theme' packages

# Themes for collaboration identified following the 1st Conference

- Focus on three interlinked areas as being primary sources of 'uncertainty' in the risk assessment process
  - Risk Assessment Terminology
  - Uncertainty in Risk Assessment
  - Exposure Assessment
- Evaluation of weight of evidence being an underlying parameter common to all

# Collaborative activities

- Working groups comprising of scientists from the EU, US and Canadian bodies and agencies
- Work Virtual meetings (teleconferencing, e-mails, etc)
- Face to face mid-term meetings in Ottawa, Canada (June 2010) on the occasion of a RA Conference organised by the Canada Treasury Board Secretariat
- Collaborative project outputs at various stages of maturity – 2<sup>nd</sup> Conference an opportunity for public scrutiny and commenting to allow for further refinement and completion

# New Themes for the Conference

- Need for new Risk assessment approaches – case of biological risks
- Risk Governance – integrative approaches and the role of science, technology and civil society
- Improving the Risk Assessment process
- Evaluating Scientific Evidence in Risk Assessment
- Risk assessment of mixtures

# Structure, themes and organisation of the various sessions

- **Session 1 (plenary):** Lecture presentations setting out the grand themes of the Conference
- **Session 2 (plenary) :** Lecture presentations setting the Workshop scene
- **Session 3 (workshops) :** 5 in total. 3 in the morning and 2 in the afternoon of 27.01. Short presentations of areas to be covered followed by discussion
- **Session 4 (plenary) :** Reports from workshops and panel discussion to formulate Conference conclusions and recommendations

# Practical information

- All **plenary** sessions : **Ballroom**
- Workshops **2** (Uncertainty) and **4** (Evaluating evidence) : **Ballroom**
- Workshops **1** (Terminology) and **5** (Mixtures) : **Klimt room (ground floor)**
- Workshop **3** (Exposure assessment) : **Vision room (8th floor)**
- Dinner (26.01.11) : **Ballroom**





**THANK YOU!**

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