



**INTER-COMMITTEE CO-ORDINATION GROUP**

*Meeting of 25 June 2009*

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**PARTICIPANTS**

*Have attended:*

*Prof. Greim, Dr. Tarazona (SCHER), Prof. Bridges, Dr. De Jong, Prof Hartemann (SCENIHR), Dr. White, Prof. Sanner (SCCS)*

*Prof. Calow (SCHER), invited part time.*

*B. Delogu, T. Daskaleros, Ph. Martin (part time), K.Kilian, G. Fontanesi, K. Bromen, A. Kanellopoulou, L. Bontoux, V. Garkov, (DG SANCO-European Commission)*

**1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

*Apologies were received from Prof Autrup, and Prof. Rogiers.*

*The Chair opened the meeting underlining the increased role of the ICCG under the new rules and the many planned initiatives, notably in relation to the various risk assessment dialogues, on which the assistance of the ICCG will be vital. He also mentioned the need for further work on procedural and methodological aspects of risk assessment and the contribution expected from the ICCG in that respect.*

**2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

*The Agenda was approved without changes.*

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

*No interest was declared.*

## 4. INFORMATION EXCHANGE

### 4.1. Administrative, procedural, methodological and general matter. Horizontal activities and issues.

- Tasks and functioning of the ICCG based on Decision 2008/721/EC and the new Rules of Procedure

*The new formulation of the tasks of the ICCG was considered. It was noted that in addition to the co-ordination tasks, the ICCG is now requested to produce, as necessary, guidance on methodological aspects. It was concluded that while it is appropriate for the Commission to chair the meetings of the ICCG on issues related to co-ordination and general matters, discussions on methodological aspects of risk assessment should take place between the Chairs and Vice-Chairs without a representative of the Commission as Chair. Therefore, the revised version of the rules of procedure will clarify that for methodological discussions, the Chairs and Vice-Chairs will decide the most appropriate organisation.*

- Tentative programme and planning of ICCG work during the current term of office

*It was decided that the ICCG will hold regular meetings (3-4 times per year). For the year 2009, two meetings are planned for the second half, on 12 October and 7 December.*

*The following items were announced for future consideration by the ICCG:*

- *Criteria for managing declarations of interests*
  - *Templates for minute*
  - *Check list for quality control of opinions in relation to requirements on transparency*
  - *Guidance on how to manage public consultations and address and refer to comments received.*
- Functioning of the new Rules of Procedure and possible needs for clarification

*Some comments received on the new Rules of Procedures were considered. It was concluded that a revised version would be produced, taking on board the suggestions already agreed as well as, as appropriate, additional comments presented by members directly or through the Chairs. Further discussion will take place at the 12 October meeting of the ICCG. A final version will be sent to all members one month in advance to the joint meeting of the three committees, planned for 20 November 2009, where the revised Rules of Procedures are expected to be adopted.*

*The various types of documents produced by the Committees and the types and modalities of public and stakeholders consultations were briefly discussed. It was agreed to simplify the terminology used. Moreover, DG SANCO would revise the part of the rules of procedure referring to "interim opinions" and related consultation procedure. The subject will be re-considered at next ICCG meeting.*

– Risk Assessment training

*The Commission services provided a short update on activities in this area which covered three main subjects: The preparation of guidelines for the structuring of Risk Assessment courses which is under development by a group of experts; the two projects (TRISK and ASSETS) on Risk Assessment Training which are funded by the Public Health Programme and; the avenues that are being explored concerning the accreditation of trainees as this is a critical catalysing step in the process.*

– Review of risk assessment practices (presentation of Prof. Calow and discussion)

*Prof. Peter Calow presented the results of a reflection developed within SCHER on the need for a review of risk assessment practices, with a view to improve the connexion between the risk assessment output and the protection objectives of policy makers. The objective is to make risk assessment practice more appropriate to support effective management and communication.*

*It was agreed to establish a cross-committee group,, to organise the involvement of experts covering socio-economic disciplines as appropriate and to organise a thematic workshop that will produce a report with a review of the relevant issues and related recommendations. To that aim, DG SANCO will present proposals to the ICCG.*

– Dialogue with stakeholders and reply to complaints

*Following a meeting with stakeholders in relation to the opinions on dental amalgam by SCENIHR and SCHER, DG SANCO had received a letter of some participants on issues that had also been discussed at that meeting. SCENIHR had suggested a suitable response to this letter and to related requests. To that end a self-standing document would be prepared describing the methodology used by the SCENIHR when developing opinions.*

– Communication activities

*Several initiatives to improve communication and visibility of the work of the SCs are currently being discussed. This would encompass both interactions with the press, policy makers, stakeholders, citizens as well as increasing visibility in scientific circles.*

- Agenda and planning for the Risk Assessment Day 2009 (20 November 2009)

*The draft Agenda for the Risk Assessment Day planned for 20 November 2009 was presented. The event will in particular include presentations of research activities under the 7<sup>th</sup> FP relevant for risk assessors and a stakeholder dialogue session. It was noted that certain members may be interested in attending the special session on alternative methods which will take place on the previous day (afternoon).*

- Revision of indemnities

*DG SANCO plans to conclude the process for the revision of the special indemnities very soon. The new indemnities will be applicable as of the date of publication of the relevant Commission Decision in the Official Journal. The revision includes an increase of the daily indemnity to compensate the devaluation since 1997, the abolition of half-day indemnities and a modulation of the rapporteur indemnities in three levels, depending on the work load.*

## **4.2. Information from/to Chairs On the Committees' activities**

### **4.2.1. JOINT ACTIVITIES**

- Status of the nano-WG ( collaboration SCCS-SCENIHR)

*The WG has been established, comprising members from SCCS, SCENIHR as well as external experts. Current tasks at hand are safety evaluations of nano-sized Titanium dioxide and an organic proprietary UV-filter, ETH-50. In addition to this, general principles for the safety evaluation of nano-sized ingredients in cosmetics should be developed using the experience from the first two concrete examples.*

- Finalisation of the joint opinion on TTC

*Plans are for a hearing of the WG with the stakeholders who contributed to the public consultation so that the draft final opinion can be finalised for adoption by the 3 SCs in the Fall of 2009.*

- Risk Assessment of allergens (3 SC)

*The quantitative risk assessment of allergens is a challenge both from the methodological and the policy (risk management) points of view. To review the state of the art and obtain guidance from the SCs, a mandate will be submitted to the three SCs.*

- Alternative methods (3 SC)

*A number of hazard characterisation methods alternative to the use of animals (in vitro, in silico) are being developed at present. To review the state of art in particular as it pertains to the applicability*

*of the various methods in risk assessment and obtain guidance from the SCs, a mandate will be submitted to the three SCs.*

- Risk assessment of mixtures (3 SC)

*Increasing epidemiological evidence points the effects of chemical mixtures as a major methodological challenge for risk assessors. To review the state of the art and obtain guidance from the SCs, a mandate will be submitted to the three SCs.*

- Particulate emissions from laser printers (SCHER and SCCS?)

*A number of studies in the literature and reports in the Commission's Risk Watch system indicate that consumers may be exposed to chemicals and particulate matter emitted from laser printers. A joint mandate for SCHER and SCCS will be submitted to assess the potential health risks.*

- Mercury in energy saving light bulbs (SCHER and SCCS?)

*A joint mandate will be submitted to SCHER and SCCS on the potential risks that may be associated with the release of mercury when energy saving bulbs are accidentally broken.*

#### **4.2.2. SCCS**

*The chairman of SCCS reported on the ongoing work in the SCCS working groups.*

#### **4.2.3. SCHER**

*The Chairman of SCHER reported on ongoing work in the SCHER relating to fluoride, depleted uranium, and polycarboxylates in detergents.*

#### **4.2.4. SCENIHR**

*The chairman of SCENIHR presented the ongoing discussion in relation to the mandates on EMF, Tobacco Additives, and Sphygmomanometers.*

### **4.3. New requests to the Scientific Committees**

- See above

## **5. COLLABORATION WITH OTHER COMMUNITY BODIES**

- Participation of SC in work with other EU Agencies (joint mandates). AMR as an example

*The Secretariat informed about the ongoing discussion on the joint mandate. A proposal for a scientific framework had been developed by SCENIHR and would be*

*further discussed at the next meeting of the Overarching WG. It was suggested to discuss the practical experience gained from this collaboration at the next Meeting of Chairs.*

- Agenda and planning for the 5<sup>th</sup> Chairs meeting (SANCO-Brussels 18-19 November 2009)

*The draft Agenda for next Chairs meeting planned for 18-19 November 2009 was presented. It was concluded that working paper should be circulated well in advance in order to prepare for the discussion. It was clarified that the overall objective of the special session on alternative testing methods is to review both the current state of development and the short and long term perspectives of alternative methods with a particular focus on innovative approach. The aim is to provide policy makers with a clear perspective of the current situation and what can be realistically expected in this area as well as the time scale of the relevant possible developments.*

- Emerging risk projects

*DG SANCO presented briefly the three strands of the discussions on emerging risks; pro-active monitoring; reacting and assessing emerging scientific developments which have implications for risk assessment – DG SANCO informed of a forthcoming meeting of the DGER.*

- EMEA discussion paper on identification of issues of common interest

*EMEA has recently drafted a discussion paper on the general principles governing relationships between Committees and Agencies involved in similar tasks. This is a follow-up to previous initiatives with an aim to facilitate a more efficient collaboration between the different Bodies/Committees involved in risk assessment (for example on the topic of antimicrobial resistance). The paper will be further discussed at the 5th meeting of Chairs on 18-19 November.*

## **6. THE INTERNATIONAL RISK ASSESSMENT DIALOGUE**

- First International Conference on Risk Assessment and the Transatlantic Risk Assessment Dialogue: follow up activities

*DG SANCO updated the Group on the ongoing discussions with the other Commission services, EU risk assessment agencies and the USA and Canada to organise and structure the work on the issues that have been identified as possible topics during the 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Risk Assessment (November 2009). The groundwork has been laid, concrete issues have been identified, and work is expected to start in the Fall of 2009.*

## **7. COLLABORATION WITH JRC AND RTD**

## **8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**