



Inter-Committee Coordination Group (ICCG) Meeting

Luxembourg, 16 October 2014

Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies

The participants were welcomed by the Commission (COM), by the Deputy Head of C2 Unit. There were two members following by audio link, the Vice-Chairs of SCHER and SCENIHR.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as it was presented with the addition of a point on the 'declaration of interest guidelines'.

3. Declaration of interests on matters in the agenda

No declaration of potential conflict of interest was made by the participants.

4. Exchange of information on the activities of the Committees

o Newly published opinions, ongoing opinions and future mandates of the 3 Committees: the Chairs of the three Scientific Committees (SCs) presented the ongoing work of their respective Committees, including the follow-up of SYN BIO opinions.

COM informed the group about changes in the portfolio of DG SANCO, namely that the cosmetic and medical devices unit will move outside SANCO.

o Handling of declaration of Interests guidelines (draft): COM would like to develop guidelines on the handling of declarations of interests in order to make the independence policy for the experts working for the Scientific Committees more transparent. Inspiration for this guideline is being drawn from other EU risk assessment agencies, such as EFSA, EMA, and ECHA. It is planned to share a first draft with the members this year.

o Forthcoming/past meetings: representatives from each SC will participate in the ECHA Workshop on RA for Nanomaterials 23-24/10, SCENIHR will participate in GLORE 19-20/11 focusing on EMF field, and SCCS will participate in the IDEA annual review meeting (17/12), dealing with the issue of fragrances allergens (politically supported by COM). GASTEIN/ EU Health Forum (1-3/10) invited SCs for roundtable sessions to learn more about their work and to brainstorm ideas on specific issues (SCCS on fragrance allergens and SCENIHR on dental amalgam) together with NGO/industry representatives. The work of SCs was well acknowledged.

- Follow-up involvement of SCs' member in stakeholders' dialogue of validation process in EURL ECVAM-JRC: COM informed about the SCCS representation in this above JRC meeting and about the bilateral meeting held between C2/JRC, in order to identify better ways of collaboration.

5. Future new mandate on safety of sunbeds

COM presented the new DRAFT mandate received. It was decided that this mandate will be in the remit of SCENIHR, and the specific working group will include members from the other two committees.

6. Promotion of opinions in scientific journals

The aim is to promote the opinions in the scientific world, informing about their publication and referring to the Scientific Committees' website. It was decided that the Secretariat should contact each SC to select adequate journals. The Secretariat is also disseminating SC work through other EU agencies but it remains up to them to publish SCs' opinion work.

7. Rapid risk assessment in the context of the cross-border health threats decision. Involvement of the Scientific Committees.

COM highlighted the need for a rapid risk assessment for chemical and environmental threats following the entry into force of the Decision 1082/2013/EU. According to Article 10.2, risk assessments for threats that are not communicable diseases and for which no EU Agency is in charge should be provided by the Commission (which will use the existing expertise within scientific committees).

The Quicksilver exercise which took place on 24 – 25 September was discussed. The purpose of the exercise was to test the implementation of the Decision, including the capacity and capability of scientific committees to provide rapid risk assessment. Evaluation of this exercise will become available in November. Lessons learned will be discussed in the respective committee's meetings.

8. Any other business: next ICCG meeting is foreseen on 24/03/2015.