



**INTER-COMMITTEE CO-ORDINATION GROUP  
(ICCG)**

**Meeting date: 1 February 2010, starting at 10:00**  
**Room B232 02/17A (Rue Breydel 4, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor), Brussels**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Prof. Bridges and Prof. Calow

**2. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA**

The Agenda was approved without modifications.

**3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST ON MATTERS ON THE AGENDA**

No interest in the items of the agenda was declared.

**4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved without modifications.

**5. INFORMATION EXCHANGE**

**5.1. Administrative, procedural, methodological and general matters, horizontal activities and issues.**

- (a) Statistics of attendance in working group and Plenary meetings.

The attendance of members in working group and plenary meetings, as well as other events in relation to their membership in the Scientific Committees was discussed.

- (b) Revised rules on indemnities regarding participation in meetings via audio link or electronic means.

The Commission informed the group about the modification of Commission Decision 2008/721/EC in regard to indemnities paid to members of Scientific Committees and experts in the field of consumer safety, public health and the environment. The modified text will include provisions with regard to participation in meetings from distance by electronic means.

## **5.2. Information from/to Chairs on the Committees' activities**

### **5.2.1. Joint activities**

#### **(a) TTC**

The chair of the WG informed the members about the status of the joint opinion on TTC. Comments on the current drafts were still expected from SCHER. Once these comments have been received, the WG will call a WG meeting to finalise the opinion

#### **(b) Nanotechnologies**

The chair of the WG informed the members about the status of the joint opinion on nanodefinitions.

### **5.2.2. SCCS**

The SCCS Chair and Vice-Chair updated members on the ongoing activities.

### **5.2.3. SCHER**

The SCHER Chair and Vice-Chairs updated members on the ongoing activities in the issues of: depleted uranium, drinking water fluoridation and phosphates in detergents.

### **5.2.4. SCENIHR**

The SCENIHR Vice-Chairs updated members on the ongoing activities in the issues of: reprocessing of medical devices, artificial light, tobacco additives, biocides (AMR research), and weight of evidence/methodology paper.

## **5.3. Relevant changes under the new Commission**

The Commission representatives explained the changes in DG SANCO following the investiture of the new, Barroso II Commission and what these changes may mean for the Risk Assessment Advisory Structure:

- *The Pharmaceutical Products and Cosmetics Units ENTR F.2 and F.3 move to DG SANCO from DG Enterprise and Industry (ENTR), consequently the European Medicines Agency comes under the Health and Consumer portfolio;*
- *The Biotechnology, Pesticides and Health Unit ENV D.4 moves to DG SANCO from DG Environment (ENV).*
- *The Consumer Contract and Marketing Law SANCO B.2 moves from DG SANCO to DG Justice, Liberty and Security (JLS) as part of the Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship portfolio.*

#### **5.4. Follow-up to the 5th Chairs Meeting**

The Commission informed the group on the follow-up actions related to the items discussed at the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of Chairs, held on 18-19 November 2009 in Brussels. In particular, more details were given on the current actions and future planning concerning the projects on: prevention of divergences between Scientific Committees and bodies; emerging risks; terminology; exposure assessment and on the inventory of practises of the different EU committees and bodies involved in risk assessment.

Furthermore, computational toxicology and the new challenges for risk assessment were among the issues to be discussed as well, with a presentation of the expected involvement of the 3 non-food scientific committees to the group.

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

#### *SCENIHR and SCHER:*

Guidance document on antimicrobials used in food decontamination (EFSA self-tasking mandate)

The SCENIHR Vice-Chair representing the Committee in the Working Group of the EFSA BIOHAZ panel, updated members on the ongoing discussion and activities of that group. A public consultation on the draft report was currently ongoing.

#### *Implementation of the guidelines for preventing/managing divergences.*

The Commission informed the group about the advances in the prevention/management of divergences guidelines project. This project aims to reinforce the exchange of information between the different EU committees and bodies involved in risk assessment, in order to prevent and/or better manage any possible divergences in their opinions.

Following the identification of contact points at the different committees and bodies, the foreseen involvement of the 3 non-food Scientific Committees on this project was discussed.

### **7. THE EU AND INTERNATIONAL RISK ASSESSMENT DIALOGUES**

#### *Planning and organisation of the 2nd International Risk Assessment Conference, and related activities.*

The Commission representatives updated the meeting about the activities around the three on-going projects that are to culminate at the RA Conference in January 2011: on terminology harmonization, emerging risks, and exposure assessment.

## **8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **8.1. SCENIHR proposal: Definition of independence, categorization of interests and experts' involvement in Working Groups.**

The SCENIHR Vice-Chairs and the Secretariat described the background of the draft proposal. It outlines different potential mechanisms for involving external experts in WGs and the meaning of independent advice. Following additional revision, it was foreseen to share the document with the 3 SCs for further feedback before discussion at a future meeting of the ICCG.

### **8.2. Information on Synthetic Biology workshop: Brussels, 18-19 March 2010**

The Commission informed members about a workshop on synthetic biology: "from science to governance", which will be held on 18-19 March 2010 in Brussels. Among the issues to be discussed at the workshop will be the role and the challenges of risk assessment approaches in the developments of this emerging technology.

Members were already introduced to this new field of research as a presentation on synthetic biology was given at the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of Chairs by Prof. Serrano.

Annex I

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

Scientific Committees:

Prof. GREIM (SCHER), Prof. AUTRUP (SCHER), Prof. CALOW (SCHER), Dr. de JONG (SCENIHR), Prof HARTEMAN (SCENIHR), Dr. WHITE (SCCS), Prof. SANNER (SCCS), Prof. ROGIERS (SCCS)

European Commission:

B. DELOGU, T. DASKALEROS, Ph. MARTIN, K.KILIAN, K. BROMEN, L. BONTOUX, V. GARKOV, A. KANELLOPOULOU.