



Meeting of the Inter-Committee Coordination Group (ICCG)

4 December 2015

Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies

One member apologised for his absence.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as it was presented.

3. Declaration of interests on matters in the agenda

The Chair requested the participants to declare any interest on the matters on the agenda. No declarations of any conflict of interest were made by participants.

4. Information from the Commission

Update on the Call for applications

The secretariat informed that the call for applications for membership in the two committees – SCCS, SCHEER was closed on 2 November. The Evaluation Panel met in November and was working on the list of suitable candidates which is expected to be ready in early 2016.

According to the provisions of Decision C (2015) 5383, the members of the new Committees will be appointed by the Director General of the DG SANTE from the list of suitable candidates. Candidates not appointed as members stay on the list as a reserve.

The list is expected to be posted in March and the new Committees will enter into service in April 2016.

Ongoing evaluation of the Scientific Committees (2009-2014)

The secretariat provided an update about the ongoing evaluation of the scientific committees which aims to assess the value of the advice provided by the Scientific Committees' scientific to the Commission decision-making process and to the community of external stakeholders overall and to assess their working methods.

The evaluation has also a formative nature as it is to inform the Commission about the possible future of the Committees, their scope and long term sustainability. This evaluation will also guide the Commission Services in a possible revision of the Rules of procedure of the Scientific Committees for the term 2016-2021.

New opinions/mandates from other Scientific Committees

A list of published opinions/new mandates was circulated to the ICCG members.

The secretariat informed that the Opinion on SynBio III was adopted by the SCHER and SCENIHR. The SCHER suggested reconsidering the title of the Opinion to address also environmental issues and biodiversity and the SCENIHR proposed some editorial changes.

The SCCS adopted also the Opinion by written procedure on 4/12.

The DHoU informed that SCHER and the SCENIHR adopted 2 new mandates on:

- 'Guidance on the structure and content of SCHEER opinions'
- Revision of the 'Memorandum on weight of evidence and uncertainties'

These Opinions aim is to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and expertise from the current SCs to the new one and to foster the integrated approach which should regulate the new Committee SCHEER.

The SCCS expressed the interest to be part of the WG and to be involved in the revising the Memorandum on weight of evidence and uncertainties.

5. Exchange of information on the activities of the Committees

Future of the ICCG

The secretariat recalled that the ICCG is not included in the new Decision on scientific committees. The ICCG expressed the wish to continue coordination meetings as informal group with the current frequency – twice a year.

Publication in scientific journals

The secretariat informed about new articles published in scientific journals in the period from September to December 2015.

The ICCG exchanged views on the authorship in their respective scientific committees.

Access to documents

The secretariat informed the ICCG about the request for access to documents concerning the ongoing SCHER Opinion on estimated amounts of toys ingested by children.

ICCG stressed that the Opinions are not a result of work of single persons but the result of a collegial work, that they are committees' Opinions.

Research needs in the area of chemicals

The secretariat recalled the email sent to the SCs concerning 9 topics from the STOA (the Parliament's Panel on Science and Technology Options Assessment) and a request to provide input regarding future involvement of the SCs.

SCCS Notes of guidance on testing of ingredients and their safety evaluation (9th revision)

The document is available on the website and under commenting period until 8 January 2016 (due to the holiday period soon):

http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/consumer_safety/docs/sccs_o_190.pdf

A factsheet is planned to be prepared.

SCOEL public consultation on recommendations for Formaldehyde

The secretariat informed that the SCOEL launched a public consultation on recommendations for Formaldehyde. The ICCG may comment it. Deadline is on 17/02/2016.

6. SCs term 2013-2016: Lessons learnt

The secretariat informed that this point was discussed in all scientific committees to collect suggestions from current members on the objectives, value and working methods of the Scientific Committees. It has been three-folded: brainstorming, questions mirroring those of the evaluation, items following the chapters of the Rules of procedure

The aim of the discussion in this meeting is to focus on the Rules of procedure, especially:

- Stakeholders dialogue
- Functioning of the committee (establishment of WG, role and tasks of the chair/rapporteur of the WG, selection of experts)

7. Any other business

Date of the next meeting: *Tbc*