



Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks

SCENIHR

1st Audio Meeting of the Working Group on Synthetic Biology

Venue: HITEC building, Rue Eugène Ruppert 11, L- 2453 Luxembourg

Meeting room HTC 03/383

Meeting date: 11 July 2013, starting at 10.00

Minutes

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed the participants and announced 2 apologies.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as presented.

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS ON MATTERS ON THE AGENDA

No declaration of interest was made.

4. SELECTION PROCESS OF THE EXTERNAL EXPERTS

The WG members have discussed a short list containing 17 applications (out of a total of 34 applications received) and concluded that 8 candidates have the necessary expertise and knowledge so as to become members of the working group. 2 candidates are on the reserve list.

The Secretariat will check the potential conflict of interest and then will take a decision with regards to their appointment.

5. GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE MANDATE AND ORGANISATION OF THE WG

Mandate: The general impression of the WG is that the mandate is very ambitious. Some points should be checked (point 2.1.3) to know if there was previous work done on that point. A thorough analysis of the mandate will be done during the first physical meeting and some modifications may be done.

For the time being, it is considered that the WG has the necessary expertise to start the work.

Organization of the WG: the exact organization of the WG will be established only during the first physical meeting. Probably there will be 3 subgroups according to the main themes of the mandate: Scope and definition of the phrase “Synthetic Biology”, Methodological and safety aspects and Research priorities. The first physical meeting will take place in September or October, as to start the concrete activity of the group as soon as possible.

Literature review is available and should be checked by the experts.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Secretariat will launch a doodle so as to set up a meeting when appropriate for the majority of the members.

The Secretariat is going to send to the WG members the information on Synthetic biology from web searches, the bibliographic details for identified papers on synthetic biology and the abstracts.