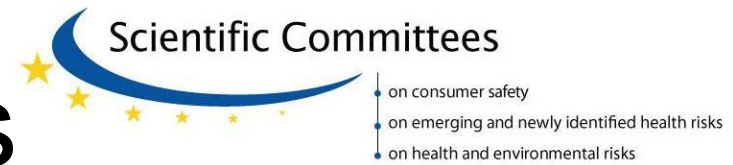


## Improving the Risk Assessment process – Meeting the needs of Risk managers

*Prof. Peter CALOW*

*Vice Chair of the European Commission Scientific Committee on Health and Environmental Risks (SCHER)*

# Quotes



- *Adam Smith*: Science is the great antidote to the poison of enthusiasm and superstition
- *Albert Einstein*: Science is a wonderful thing if one does not have to earn ones living at it

# Working Group

Scientific Committees

- on consumer safety
- on emerging and newly identified health risks
- on health and environmental risks

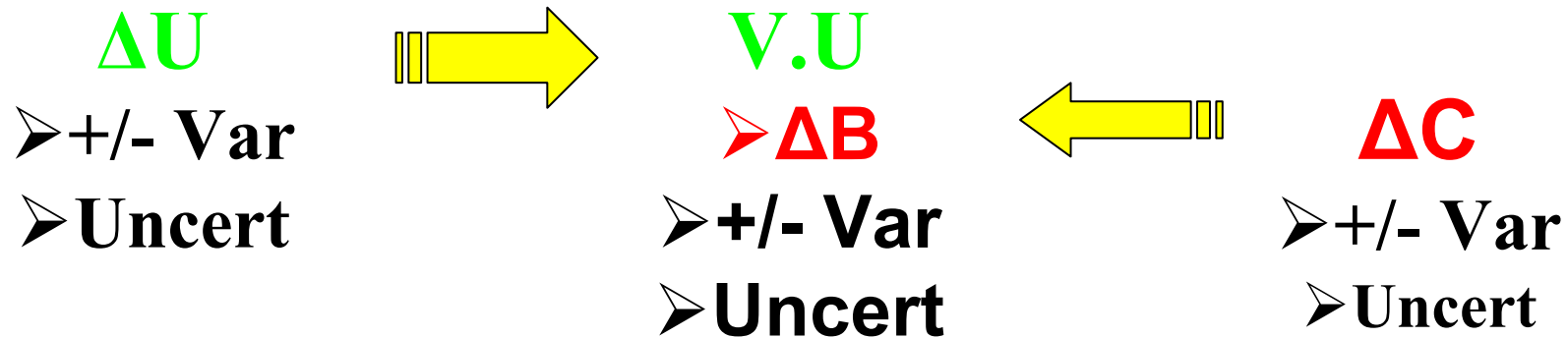
- Ursula Ackermann (SCHER)
- Anssi Auvinen (SCHER)
- Denis Bard (SCHER)
- Roy Brouwer
- Jim Bridges (SCENIHR)
- Mats Forkman
- Helmut Greim (SCHER)
- Peter Calow (SCHER) – Chair
- Stavros Georgiou (UK HSE)
- Colin Janssen (SCHER)
- Mats-Olof Mattsson (SCENIHR)
- Stella Michaelidou (SCHER)
- Tomas Oberg (EFSA)
- Christophe Rousselle (SCCS)
- Tore Sanner (SCCS)
- Jose Tarazona (ECHA)
- Ann Thuvander (ECHA)
- Theo Vermeire (SCENIHR)

- Ask risk managers
  - Small sample
  - Quality if not quantity
- Three Rs:
  - ***Relevance, relevance, relevance***
  - ***More management relevant***
  - ***More broadly relevant***
  - ***More value relevant***

- **First R: *Be more management relevant***
- Our outputs are often so technical they are only understood by specialists
- Eg. Do you really know what a PEC/PNEC ratio is?
- And they are not obviously related to things that matter
- Eg. Extrapolating from water fleas to biodiversity protection

- **Second R: *Be more broadly relevant***
- Consider alternatives/substitutes
- Consider combinations in products and environment
- Consider different effects on different targets
- EG. Energy-saving light bulbs
- A more integrated approach

***Third R : Risks should be expressed in terms of things the public value***



- Why so important ?

- Conclusion: ***Our risk characterisations don't do the job***
- the outputs are technical
- exposure/effect ratios not obviously related to  $\Delta U$
- risk assessors judge cause for concern – involves some  $V$
- we need impact assessment
- that is transparent



- Bottom line: ***More dialogue***
- **All this does not undermine the important separation of risk assessment and risk management.**
- **Make our assessments value relevant not value biased.**
- **ADVERT!!!**

Calow, P. & Forbes, V.E.(2010)

Ecological risk assessment should be value-relevant but not value-biased. *Integrated Environmental Assessment and Management* **6**, 784-785.

**This paper was produced for a meeting organized by Health & Consumers DG and represents the views of its author on the subject. These views have not been adopted or in any way approved by the Commission and should not be relied upon as a statement of the Commission's or Health & Consumers DG's views. The European Commission does not guarantee the accuracy of the data included in this paper, nor does it accept responsibility for any use made thereof.**