



Meeting of the Inter-Committee Coordination Group

(ICCG)

24 March 2015

Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies

The Commission welcomed the participants and acknowledged two apologies.

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 to 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

The Commission informed about ongoing work on a new decision setting up Scientific Committees and the next call for membership (the current term will expire in April 2016).

The Commission updated the ICCG members about the work done by the EFSA concerning uncertainty in risk assessment.

The Commission informed about its visit to ECHA. Other meetings are planned with EFSA and JRC to exchange information and to improve collaboration with EU risk assessment bodies.

The Commission updated the group on its ongoing activities as regards increasing the visibility of the Scientific Committees and promote the distribution of the opinions. A list of recently published and ongoing articles in scientific journals was circulated among the members.

5. Exchange of information on the activities of the Committees

A list of published opinions/new mandates was circulated to the ICCG members. Representatives of the three committees provided short updates on the ongoing activities in the respective committee.

The members and the Commission gave a short feedback on the meeting/workshops organised since the last ICCG meeting:

- ECHA Workshop on risk assessment for nanomaterials on 23-24/10/2014
- Glore conference on 19-20/11/2014
- IDEA/IFRA annual review on 17/12/2014

In order to improve cooperation among the three non-food scientific committees, the ICCG agreed that Chairs/Vice-chairs will be invited to attend the plenary meetings of the other committees and of the WG on methodology.

The ICCG discussed ideas about organising a conference/ workshop to promote the activities of the scientific committees. Synthetic biology and on SynBio and new emerging risks were proposed as possible topics for such an event.

The ICCG discussed the usefulness and the effectiveness of public consultations/commenting periods with regard to improving the quality of the opinions and to increasing transparency of the work of the committees. The ICCG members agreed that public consultation/commenting period is a useful tool which enables them to be informed about new relevant scientific papers which may have been neglected in the preliminary opinion and engage in the stakeholders' dialogue. The ICCG also stressed that public consultation is important for the public to see that some comments are driven by different interests and that the opinions are based purely on scientific evidence.

6. Any other business

The Commission informed about the ongoing 2nd interim evaluation on the functioning of the SCs. The aim is to see the efficiency in running the committee; the chairs/vice-chairs and members will be contacted to provide feedback (interviews) on a voluntary basis.

Date of the next meeting:

4 December 2015