The European Commission Scientific Committees

Working methods of the Scientific Committees

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Health and Consumers

European Commission

Functioning of the Commission Scientific Committees

- Plenary sessions (3 - 4 per year, one to two days each)
- Working Group meetings (as many as needed, on average 6-7 one day meetings per opinion)
- Physical presence meetings in Luxembourg
- Extensive use of e-conferencing will be encouraged

Working procedures

- Mandate (Commission)
- Review by SC and creation of WG
- Composition of WG:
  - **SC experts**
  - **Experts from the pool, database, external (calls of interest, internet, suggestions)**
- Data mining (submissions, calls for info, etc.)
- Elaboration of opinion by the WG
- Discussion at SC plenary and either: 1) adoption or 2) adoption after resending to WG for improvement + discussion at plenary
- Public consultation on draft opinion (optional), public or targeted hearings (optional)
- Adoption and publication of final opinion

Rapid procedures for health threats

The Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks

It shall provide opinions on questions concerning emerging or newly identified health and environmental risks and on broad, complex or multidisciplinary issues requiring a comprehensive assessment of risks to consumer safety or public health and related issues not covered by other Community risk assessment bodies.

(from Annex 1, Commission Decision 2008/721/EC)

Cooperation with other RA bodies

1)Diverging opinions: all scientific advisory body have a crossing reference in their legislation on diverging opinions – Art. 14 of COM Decision 721/2008/EC . This is necessary in order to ensure consistency and promote coordination between the various scientific advisory structures/bodies.

2) Common guidelines on "Practical arrangements for the sharing of scientific data between the scientific Committees and Panels of European Agencies and the Scientific Committees of the Commission" were agreed under the umbrella of the 'Chairs meetings'. This allows for exchange of information between the EU Scientific Committee(s) / Panels (when necessity arise).

3)The non-food SCs are part of the task force on independence, managed by SANCO, in collaboration with the agencies (for which it is responsible for – mainly ECDC, EFSA, EMA and CPVO) – the objective is to increase policy coherence across and to identify best practises and options for further improvement of DoI /CoIs procedures.

Relations with Secretariat

Secretariat is responsible for providing scientific and administrative support to SC

- **SANCO-C2-SCCS@ec.europa.eu**
- **SANCO-C2-SCHER@ec.europa.eu**
- **SANCO-C2-SCENIHR@ec.europa.eu**

When communicating with media, stakeholders or the general public on a matter that falls within the SC's remit, always contact the Secretariat.

Participation criteria

- Members are expected to attend at least 70% of the meetings of the relevant Committee and Working Groups in which they have been invited

- Members are expected to contribute actively to the discussion and deliberations on subjects within their field of competence

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Quality

- Availability of competent and independent experts
- Independence of experts
- Selection of external experts
- Quality of process versus timeliness of opinions
- Peer review and quality control
- Access to data and confidentiality
- Collaboration between EU, National, International and non-EU country bodies
- Stakeholder participation/dialogue

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Methodological aspects

- Animal models and their limitations (e.g. low bioavailability)
- Ban on animal testing (cosmetics)
- New methods to identify hazards and exposure (in silico tox, -omics)
- RA terminology, expression of uncertainties, weighing of evidence
- Risk/benefit assessment

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Transfer to Luxembourg challenges

- Reduction of members: from 17 to 15 (SCCS and SCHENIR) and 11 (SCHER)
- Reduction of budget
- Participation in meetings through audio or video link will be highly encouraged and authorised by the Secretariat

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Expert's Reimbursement Rules

- When attending a physical meeting, the Commission will reimburse the full journey coming to the meeting and returning to the place of origin.
- The means of transport are;
- Air Travel – Economy Class
- Railway – First Class
- Private Car – 0,22€ per KM / equivalent to first class railway ticket

Expert's Reimbursement Rules 2

- If you require some other form of transportation to arrive to the meeting place and return to the place of origin, kindly note that we also reimburse public transport receipts.
- However, please note that taxi receipts or parking tickets are not reimbursed by the Commission.
- Apart from the reimbursement of your travel expenses you will also receive:
  - **Daily Allowance – 92€ per meeting day**
  - **Allocation Allowance – 100€ per meeting day**
  - **Special Indemnities Fee – 385€ per meeting day**

Expert's Reimbursement Rules 3

- In order to process the reimbursement we will need;
- Reimbursement Claim (duly filled and signed)
- If you are a new expert we will need the legal entity form and a copy of your passport as a supporting document. We also need the financial identification form signed and stamped by your bank and a bank statement as supporting document.
- If you are an existing expert you need to put your sticker on the reimbursement claim and sign it.
- Original Supporting documents (Ticket showing price, boarding passes, hotel bill, any other receipts)

Expert's Reimbursement Rules 4

- Travel can only be reimbursed in full if you travel to and from the meeting place from and to your place of origin.
- If this is not possible due to a different meeting in another country, please note that we cannot commit to full reimbursement.
- The rules stipulate that we can reimburse the full price only if the price of travelling from a different location to the meeting is equivalent to or less than the price of travelling to the meeting from the place of origin.

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THANK YOU

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