EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH AND CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Public Health and Risk Assessment
Risk assessment

INTER-COMMITTEE CO-ORDINATION GROUP

(ICCG)

2nd Meeting

12 October 2009, Brussels

MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Prof. V. Rogiers.

Dr J. Tarazona has taken up a position as Chair of the ECHA Scientific Committee and has therefore resigned from his post as vice-Chair of SCHER. Prof. Calow will take over the post as from this meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Agenda was approved without modifications.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interest in the items of the agenda was declared.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ICCG MEETING

The minutes were approved without modifications.

5. INFORMATION EXCHANGE

5.1. Administrative, procedural, methodological and general matter. Horizontal activities and issues.

(a) *Functioning of Scientific Committees: Attendance and preparation for working groups and Plenary meetings*

The Commission reminded the members that according to the rules of procedure, there is a 70% participation quota of members in meetings. The Chairs should raise this issue at their next plenary meeting of their committee. The Commission announced the intention to perform a statistical analysis of the Scientific

Committees' members participation in plenary and working group meetings as well as events related to the work of the Committees. This issue will be discussed at the forthcoming ICCG meeting.

(b) *Implementation of the revised rules on indemnities*

The Commission informed members about the revised rules on indemnities. In addition, it was noted that all current uncompleted work of the committees should fall under the new rules.

(c) *Forthcoming revision and approval of the Rules of Procedure.*

The Secretariat reminded the participants about the forthcoming joint plenary meeting of the 3 Committees, which will take place on 20 November (morning session). The Rules of Procedure will be adopted at that meeting. The relevant procedural aspects regarding the adoption were explained to the group.

(d) *Terms of reference for a working group and thematic workshop on Risks/benefits assessment and the optimisation of Risk Assessment in relation to Risk Managers' needs.*

A joint mandate will be sent to the three Committees. Members should identify any further needs for this work (eg. small hearings with stakeholder representatives, expertise from social sciences etc). Upon its revision, the mandate will be sent formally to ICCG members and a small working group will be created, with SCHER as the leading Committee.

(e) *Invitation to identify themes for the Scientific Committees work programme 2010*

Members were asked to identify areas of common interest with other agencies. A list of common activities should be prepared and circulated to the group for comments and finalisation.

5.2. Information from/to Chairs on the Committees' activities

5.2.1. Joint Activities

(a) *TTC: outcome of the hearing of 24 September 2009*

The Commission updated the group on the ongoing work of the working group, as well as the recent hearing with stakeholders on this issue. With the active participation of 15 stakeholders, this hearing has been considered very useful for the development of the work in this issue.

(b) *Nanotechnologies: outcome of the hearing of 10 September 2009*

The Commission updated the group on the recent scientific hearing on Nanotechnologies, which took place in Brussels on 10 September 2009. With the participation of a wide range of stakeholders, as well as members of the Scientific Committees working on this issue, the hearing has been a successful event. It help clarifying scientific issues and explaining the role of the scientific committees,

which is to perform risk assessments and are not involved in management decisions.

5.2.2. SCCS

The SCCS Chair and Vice-Chair updated members on the ongoing activities in the issues on hair dyes, cosmetic ingredients, vitamin K, nanomaterials in cosmetics, triclosan and food imitating products. The Chair made a remark on the need of more clarity of the mandates in order to improve the quality of the mandates

5.2.3. SCHER

The SCHER Chair and Vice-Chairs updated members on the ongoing activities in the issues of: depleted uranium, drinking water fluoridation and phosphates in detergents.

5.2.4. SCENIHR

The SCENIHR Chair and Vice-Chairs updated members on the ongoing activities in the issues of: Hg in Sphygmomanometers, tobacco additives and weight of Evidence/Methodology paper.

5.3. New requests to the Scientific Committees

The following new and forthcoming requests to the Committees were discussed:

SCHER:

(a) *Heavy metals in jewelleries*

(b)*Alternative methods (SCHER and SCENIHR)*

SCENIHR:

(a) *Safety of reprocessed single-use medical devices*

(b) *Research strategy to address knowledge gaps on the antimicrobial resistance effects of biocides*

(c) *Health effects of artificial light*

In addition to the above, it was mentioned that the Secretariat had received requests for risk assessment opinions under the provisions of the toy safety directive.

6. COLLABORATION WITH OTHER COMMUNITY BODIES

The following activities were discussed:

SCENIHR:

(a) *Antimicrobial resistance-zoonotic infections (joint mandate with EMEA, EFSA, ECDC)*

The SCENIHR Vice-Chair participating in the joint WG preparing the document updated members on the status of the work. While certain issues in relation to wording and definitions used would still need to be resolved between the different bodies involved, it is expected that the deadline (31 October 2009) would be kept.

The Secretariat would investigate and try to resolve these issues in collaboration with the Secretariats of the participating agencies.

SCENIHR and SCHER:

(b) *Guidance document on antimicrobials used in food decontamination (EFSA self-tasking mandate)*

The SCENIHR Vice-Chair representing the SCENIHR in the WG preparing the document updated members on the status of the work. Certain issues considered relevant by SCENIHR and SCHER that were agreed within the WG were changed after discussion of the draft document in the BIOHAZ panel. Therefore, the Secretariat would send joint comments from SCENIHR and SCHER to EFSA for the attention of the BIOHAZ panel.

7. THE EU AND INTERNATIONAL RISK ASSESSMENT DIALOGUES

(a) *EMRISK: Discussion group Meeting of 24 September 2009*

The Commission updated members of the proceedings of this meeting, as well as future planning in the context of the International risk assessment dialogue in 2010.

(b) *Terminology WG: meeting of 14 October 2009*

The Commission updated members on the progress of this group, especially on the validation and collection of templates, as well as the launching of the sharing of practical implementation practises with interested agencies.

(c) *Preparation for the 5th Chairs meeting 18-19 November 2009*

Members were informed about the forthcoming meeting of Chairs, which will take place in Brussels on 18-19 November 2009, as well as the issues of special interest for the Scientific Committees which will be discussed at that meeting.

(d) *Preparation for the Risk Assessment Day 20 November 2009*

The Secretariat reminded the participants about the forthcoming Risk Assessment Day activities, which will take place in the afternoon of 20 November 2009. A wide range of stakeholders is provisioned to participate at this meeting, with a main purpose to inform them about the role and work of the Scientific Committees, as well as the stakeholder dialogue procedures.

(e) *Re-launch of the Transatlantic and International Risk Assessment Dialogue*

The Commission informed members about the activities with regard to the 2008 Transatlantic and International Risk Assessment Dialogue follow-up, as well as the preparations for the forthcoming 2nd International Risk Assessment Dialogue, which will take place in 2010.

8. COLLABORATION WITH JRC AND RTD

(a) *Ways to facilitate the up-taking of research recommendations from the SCs into the calls for the Research Framework Programme*

So far, there is no established way to have research recommendations formulated by the SCs taken up by the FP. Everything happens on an ad hoc basis. DG SANCO must reflect on this issue.

(b) *Research strategy on nanotechnology safety aspects*

This item was not discussed.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) *Nanotechnology workshop: "Safety for Success". Brussels, 2-3 November 2009*

The Commission informed members about the forthcoming 3rd annual Nanotechnology "Safety for Success" workshop, which will bring together a wide range of stakeholders -including scientists, risk assessors, public authorities, industry, and consumer and environmental NGOs- in order to discuss on how to ensure the safety of the nanoproducts and how to build public trust in nanotechnology.

Annex I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Scientific Committees:

Prof. GREIM (SCHER), Prof. AUTRUP (SCHER), Prof. CALOW (SCHER), Prof. BRiDGES (SCENIHR), Dr. de JONG (SCENIHR), Prof HARTEMAN (SCENIHR), Dr. WHITE (SCCS), Prof. SANNER (SCCS).

Apologies received from and Prof. ROGIERS (SCCS)

European Commission:

B. DELOGU, T. DASKALEROS, Ph. MARTIN, K.KILIAN, G. FONTANESI, K. BROMEN, L. BONTOUX, V. GARKOV, A. KANELLOPOULOU.