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CC/2020/13

COMMITTEE ON CARCINOGENICITY OF CHEMICALS IN FOOD, CONSUMER PRODUCTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Horizon scanning 2020

Introduction

1. The Committee's Terms of Reference indicate that the primary role of the Committee is to advise on the carcinogenic risk of substances to humans at the request of Government departments and agencies.

2. Since 2001, the Committee has undertaken a regular Horizon Scanning exercise, in line with the Code of Practice for Scientific Advisory Committees, in which the Secretariat and/or Members have suggested areas/topics that may need consideration in the light of new and emerging evidence relating to cancer risk assessment.

3. This paper presents a brief update on work agreed at previous meetings and presents some new suggestions for discussion provided by the Secretariat and Assessors. In addition, it includes an update on topics being considered by IARC and the EU Scientific Committees.

Topics from horizon scanning 2019

4. Below are the topics agreed at the horizon scan in 2019, though in no specific order of priority:

- IARC assessment of shift work and how that might affect assessment of chemicals and carcinogenicity
- View on the future of assessment of carcinogenicity including use of animal models, in vitro and in silico data as well as new approaches encompassing artificial intelligence and analysis of big data.
- The cellular microenvironment and role in carcinogenicity

IARC assessment of shift work and how that might affect assessment of chemicals and carcinogenicity

5. Work on this topic has not commenced. Members are invited to comment on whether they still consider this a priority and how they would wish this topic to be taken forward.

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View on the future of assessment of carcinogenicity including use of animal models, in vitro and in silico data as well as new approaches encompassing artificial intelligence and analysis of big data

6. Work has commenced on this in the context of the new guidance statement on weight of evidence approach to assessing modification of cancer risk (see CC/2020/12 – updated). Members are invited to comment on whether there are any additional aspects that should be considered separately, and how they wish to take forward aspects with respect to artificial intelligence and big data.

The cellular microenvironment and role in carcinogenicity

7. The Committee has discussed this over the past year, and the Watching brief is being finalised for publication.

New topics

8. The Secretariat does not have any specific suggestions for new topic areas to add to the horizon scan list – do Members?

Upcoming IARC meetings

9. IARC have three upcoming meetings on their website with respect to the Monograph series (http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Meetings/index.php) :

- Meeting 129 (22 February-5 March 2021) is on:
  - Gentian Violet (CAS No. 548-62-9)
  - Leucogentian Violet (CAS No. 603-48-5)
  - Malachite Green (CAS No. 569-64-2)
  - Leucomalachite Green (CAS No. 129-73-7)
  - C.I. Direct Blue 218 (CAS No. 28407-37-6)
- Meeting 130 (5-12 October 2021) is on:
  - 1,1,1-Trichloroethane (CAS No. 71-55-6)
  - Hydrazobenzene (CAS No. 122-66-7)
  - N-Methylolacrylamide (CAS No. 924-42-5)
  - Diphenylamine (CAS No. 122-39-4)
  - Isophorone (CAS No. 78-59-1)

Upcoming EU Scientific Committee topics

10. The agenda of recent EU Scientific Committee on Consumer Safety (SCCS) Plenary meetings are attached in Annex A. In addition, the SCCS has working groups on:

- Cosmetic Ingredients (last meeting 06/10/2020)
- Nanomaterials in Cosmetic Products (last meeting 07/10/2020), and

- Methodologies (last meeting 05/10/2020).

11. The agenda of the recent EU Scientific Committee on Health, Environmental and Emerging Risks (SCHEER) Plenary meetings are attached in Annex B. In addition, the SCHEER has working groups on:

- Aluminium in toys (last meeting 27/09/2017)
- Anaerobic biodegradation of linear alkylbenzene sulphonates (last meeting 03/02/2020)
- Safety of breast implants in relation to anaplastic large cell lymphoma (last meeting 14/09/2020)
- E-cigarettes (last meeting 15/09/2020)
- Certain organic chemicals emitted from squishy toys (last meeting 21/10/2020)
- Emerging environmental risks (last meeting 11/09/2018)
- Emerging issues at the environment-social interface (last meeting 04/07/2019)
- Fuel marker (last meeting 09/01/2019)
- Guidelines on the benefit-risk assessment of the presence of phthalates in certain medical devices (last meeting 05-06/06/2019)
- Guidance on the structure and contents of SCHEER opinions (last meeting 17/06/2016)
- Potential risks to human health of light emitting diodes (last meeting 02/03/2018)
- Non-human primates testing (last meeting 02/05/2017)
- Onshore hydrocarbon exploration and production in the EU (last meeting 24/09/2018)
- Safety of PIP silicone breast implants (last meeting 10/10/2017)
- Rapid risk assessment (last meeting 26-27/11/2019)
- Sunbeds (last meeting 24-25/10/2016)
- Tobacco additives (last meeting 24/06/2016)
- UVC lamps (last meeting 18/01/2017)
- Weight of evidence and uncertainties (last meeting 08/02/2018)
- Water Framework Directive (last meeting 01/06/2017), and
- Water reuse (last meeting 12/05/2017).

12. The European Food Safety Authority has a substantial body of work across its Scientific Committee and Panels. More detail is available here: https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/science/scientific-committee-and-panels. EFSA currently has open consultations on a number of substances, and also on

methodological questions. The full list of open consultations is here: https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/calls/consultationshttps://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/calls/consultations. Expected upcoming consultations are here: https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/consultations/consultationsplanner, and includes updated guidance on the BMD approach, criteria for grouping of chemicals for assessment of combined exposures, and a proposed consultation on scientific guidance on appraising and integrating evidence from epidemiological studies for use in EFSA's scientific assessments.

Balance of expertise on the Committee

13. The balance of expertise required by the Committee, as confirmed at the last horizon scan in 2019, is provided in Annex C. It is not anticipated that individual members are required for each aspect of expertise as some people would have a combination of the required skills. Additional key experts can also be invited to attend meetings for specific topics to supplement missing knowledge within the Committee.

14. Members are invited to comment on whether this template is still appropriate and if there are important gaps amongst the current membership or in light of possible future developments.

Questions for the Committee

15. Members are asked to consider the list of topics from 2019 and other aspects summarised and in particular:

a. Are there any additional topics of interest or importance which the COC should consider?

b. Could the Committee to prioritise the topic areas for consideration?

Secretariat
November 2020

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CC/2020/13 Annex A

COMMITTEE ON CARCINOGENICITY OF CHEMICALS IN FOOD, CONSUMER PRODUCTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Horizon scanning 2020

Agenda and minutes of Scientific Committee on Consumer Safety Plenary Sessions 2016-2021 14th meeting

Available:
https://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/consumer_safety/minutes_plenary_en

This paper is attached. It is not being made publicly available for copyright reasons

Secretariat
November 2020

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CC/2020/13 Annex B

COMMITTEE ON CARCINOGENICITY OF CHEMICALS IN FOOD, CONSUMER PRODUCTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Horizon scanning 2020

Agenda and minutes of the Scientific Committee on Health, Environmental and Emerging Risks Plenary meetings 2016-2021 16th meeting.

Available:
https://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/scheer/minutes_plenary_en

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CC/2020/13 Annex C

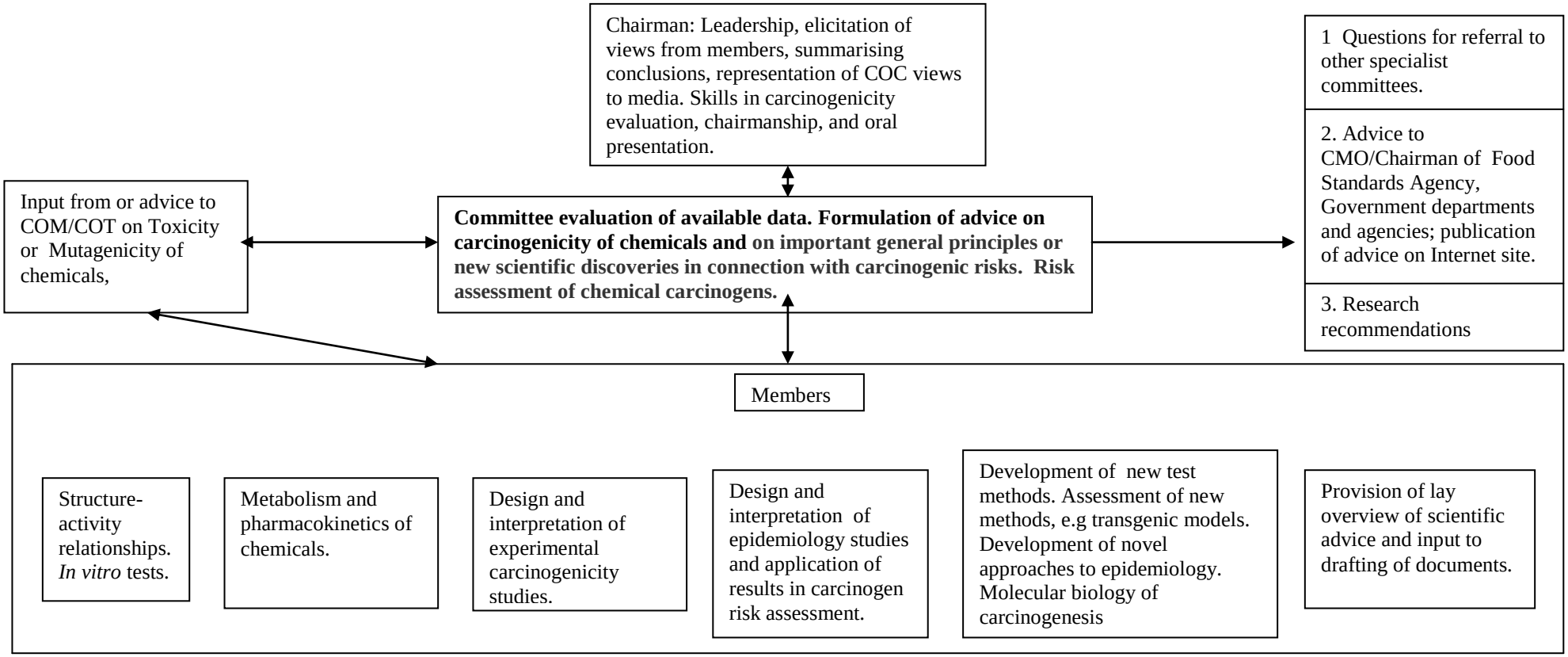
COMMITTEE ON CARCINOGENICITY OF CHEMICALS IN FOOD, CONSUMER PRODUCTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Horizon scanning 2020

Balance of Expertise for COC

Secretariat
November 2020

COMMITTEE ON CARCINOGENICITY OF CHEMICALS IN FOOD, CONSUMER PRODUCTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

TEMPLATE FOR COC 2012

The template is designed to show the skills and expertise required to deliver the business of the committee. The complement of the COC is 11 members (9 specialists and 2 lay members), a chairman and the COM chairman (ex-officio capacity). The committee aims to follow the guiding principles underpinning the humane use of animals in scientific research i.e. replacement, reduction and refinement ('the 3Rs').