

Minutes of the tenth meeting of the SCP, Brussels, 18 December 1998

ATTENDANCE LIST

Members

Prof. H. V. DAVIES , Dr. M.-P. DELCOUR-FIRQUET, Dr. R. HANS, Prof. A. R. HARDY (Chairman), Prof. S. O. KARENLAMPI, Dr. H. A. KUIPER, Prof. M. MARONI (Vice-Chairman) , Prof. F O' GARA (Vice-Chairman) , Dr. E. RODRIGUEZ-CEREZO , Prof. A. M. S. SILVA FERNANDES

Apologies

Dr. J. J. LEGUAY, Dr. H. G. NOLTING

Invited Experts

Mr. H. KOEPP, Dr. G. SPEIJERS, Dr. O. MEYER

Commission

Mr C. EDMUNDS (DG VI/B/2.1), Mr V. MATZEIT (DG XI/E/2), Mrs M. LJUNGSTROM (DG XI/E/2), Mrs M. DE SOLA (DG XXIV/B/2), Mr G. VAN DEN EEDE (JCR)

Secretariat

Mr M. WALSH (DG XXIV/B/2), Ms F. DRION (DG XXIV/B/2), Ms S. VAN IMPE (DG XXIV/B/2)

1. Welcome, Apologies and Introductory Remarks

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed the members.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The Secretariat requested that the following point be added to the agenda " Exchange of views on the codes of practice submitted by the notifiers for field management of herbicide tolerance relating to AgrEvo/PGS GM rape Falcon GS90/40 (Notification C/DE.96/5), AgrEvo/PGS GM oilseed rape MS8RF3 (Notification C/BE/96/01) and DLF-Trifolium, Monsanto and Danisco Seed fodder beet (Notification C/DK/97/01). The meeting agreed the request and the amended agenda was adopted.

(Doc. SCP/AGENDA/010-Rev. 3)

3. Declaration of interests by Members

All members present confirmed that they had no conflict of interests to report relative to the items for discussion.

4. Adoption of the minutes of the Ninth Plenary Meeting and matters arising (2 October 1998)

4.1 Adoption of the minutes of the Ninth Plenary Meeting

The draft minutes were approved with some minor textual amendments. The report is available as Document No. SCP/REPT/009-Final of 21 December 1998.

4.2 Matters arising.

- The Chairman reported on an SSC WG meeting organised to deal with emerging problems at which plant GMOs were taken as an example. He reported that he had explained the work of the SCP in this area and in this context referred to the Committee's initiative to prepare a 'Guidance Document' (see agenda item 9).
- The Secretariat updated the Committee on the situation regarding the non-publication of the full opinion of the SCP on the GM potato notified by AVEBE. The Committee reiterated its previously expressed regret at the situation.
- The Secretariat informed the Committee that a WG would meet on 13 January 1999 to finalise the opinion of the Bt monitoring programme.
- S. Karenlampi reported on progress SSC antibiotic resistance WG.

5. Internal organisation of the work of the SCP.

At the Ninth Plenary Meeting the incoming Chairman had indicated that he would reflect on the internal organisation of the Committee having regard to its first year of operation. In the context, he indicated that notwithstanding the wide scope of the mandate of the SCP, its work had to date dealt exclusively with matters relating to Directives 90/220/EEC and 91/414/EEC (plant GMs and plant protection product). He stated that he was satisfied with the organisation of the work on GMOs.

With regard to the plant protection products work of the Committee, he indicated that it was his intention to follow broadly a similar approach to that which had proved successful for GMOs. He noted that the Committee's work on plant protection products had been hampered by the unavailability of sufficient expertise to the Committee. However, this problem had been gradually alleviated during the course of the year as experts had been identified. In future a WG on plant protection products would be formed which would have the responsibility for co-ordinating and steering the Committee's work in this area. The Chairman felt that it was necessary to minimise the number of such meetings and that he himself would chair this WG. Three specialist WGs would continue to prepare the plant protection product opinions which are as follows:

Toxicology - Team Leader M. Maroni

Residues - Team Leader R. Hans

Environment - Team Leader A. Hardy

The membership of these WGs would be influenced by the items to be examined.

6. Opinion on the relationship between the elimination or strong reduction of the use of plant protection products in the cultivation of fruits and vegetables and the presence of, for example, of mycotoxins.

G. Speijers, who had agreed at the previous meeting to act as overall co-ordinator, informed the meeting that he had carried out an online search which revealed papers which had not been considered in the existing draft opinion. He stated that he would concentrate on mycotoxins in the draft opinion, and inherent plant components (toxins) and that his intention was to carry out this work before the next plenary meeting. However, he indicated that it had to be recognised that the preparation of opinions in the absence of submitted dossiers necessitated additional time due to the necessity to collect and review data.

7. Plant protection product active substances

7.1 Isoxaflutole

The Chairman summarised progress with this evaluation. He reminded the Committee that the questions addressed related to the metabolites, development and carcinogenic effects.

The Committee had prepared an internal background guideline document on its assessment methodology for ecotoxicological and fate effects of the metabolites. This document will be further elaborated in the coming months. H-G Nolting, as rapporteur for the environment effects will review the draft opinion in the light of the discussions in the environment WG of 17 December. Furthermore it was agreed that the input of the toxicologists was required: M. Maroni agreed to be responsible for this aspect of the report.

The draft report on the developmental toxicology effects which was prepared following the WG meeting of 30 July will be reviewed with particular attention to the conclusions. O. Meyer agreed to assume responsibility for finalisation of this aspect of the opinion.

7.2 Azimsulfuron

The Committee considered the draft opinion which had been updated at the environmental WG which met on the 17th December. Given that male reproductive effects exist for the active substance, the Committee exchanged views on the difficulties for testing for possible endocrine effects given the current lack of suitable test guidelines.

The Committee decided to defer adoption of its opinion until the next meeting to allow the environmental WG to check the original study reports on which the opinion was based.

7.3 Aldicarb, flurtamone and spiroxamine.

Following an exchange of views the three opinions were adopted and will be available respectively as document SCP/ALDIC/041 Final, SCP/FLURT/004 Final and SCP/SPIROX/004 Final.

8. Opinion on the GM male sterile chicory notified by Bejo-Zaden

Following an exchange of views the opinion was adopted and will be available as SCP/GMO/87 Final.

9. Plant GM Guideline document

Following an exchange of views the opinion was adopted and will be available as SCP/GMO/103 Final.

10. Progress Report on the availability of the Starch Potato by Amylogene and the Herbicide Tolerant and Bt resistant maize by Dekalb.

The representative of DGXI informed the Committee that the two dossiers should be delivered to the Committee members during the month of January.

11. Other Business

11.1 Exchange of views on the codes of practice submitted by the notifiers for field management of herbicide tolerance relating to AgrEvo/PGS GM rape Falcon GS90/40 (Notification C/DE.96/5), AgrEvo/PGS GM oilseed rape MS8RF3 (Notification C/BE/96/01) and DLF-Trifolium, Monsanto and Danisco Seed fodder beet (Notification C/DK/97/01).

A Hardy reported to the Committee that the three codes of practice were in line with the Committee's advice contained in the three published opinions. He indicated that the codes of practice are important parts of the stewardship plans of both companies covering the three crops and should provide growers with the guidance necessary to achieve best practice in a way, which can be monitored and supported. The Committee endorsed his appraisal of the situation

11.2 Date of next meeting:

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on 4 February 1998.