

Minutes of the Scientific Steering Committee Meeting of 21-22 February 2002

1. Welcome, apologies, introductory remarks and declaration of interest in relation to the current agenda.

Chairman Prof.Pascal welcomed the participants of the Scientific Steering Committee. He apologised Profs. White, Skerving (for both 21 and 22 February), Prof.Jones for 21 February 2002 and Prof.Bridges and Prof.Fink-Gremmels for 22 February. The list of participants is attached as **Annex 1**.

Declarations of interest:

No declarations of interest were made for this specific meeting.

2. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved without changes. It is attached as **Annex 2**.

3. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 10-11 January 2002.

The minutes of the meeting of 10-11 January 2001 were adopted without changes.

4. Procedural matters:

4.1. Format of short CVs of members of Scientific Committee;

The members of the SSC were invited to urgently provide the secretariat with a recent update of their CV, in view of putting them on the Commission's Internet website providing information on the Scientific Committees. A common format was agreed upon and the updates were to be provide before the next SSC meeting of 4-5 April 2002.

4.2. Access to documents request

Commission Services asked the SSC members for their opinion regarding the possibility that all documents submitted to the prospective participants of all Committee's meetings (working groups or plenary sessions) would be made publicly available.

Following discussion, the SSC concluded as follows:

SSC recognises the importance of stakeholder dialogue and refers explicitly to its contribution of 25-26 may 2000, for the intention of the services of the European Commission, to the reflection on: procedures for enhancing the effectiveness of the interface between scientific committees and Commission officials.

Science is in continued evolution and almost daily new facts, confirmations of existing hypotheses or doubts on what was thought to be a proven fact, emerge. It is therefore very important that the discussions in Scientific Committee meetings are between scientists with different, but complementary, fields of expertise and backgrounds.

When necessary, specific working groups are established, which include external experts providing complementary experience.

Building an opinion is mostly not a straightforward exercise of adding and subtracting scientific evidence and a swift reaching of a consensus. On the contrary, the process may be laborious and involve: summary and critical analysis of relevant scientific facts and careful identification of the various views existing within the committee, feedback to subgroups (working parties) for specific details to be considered fully, searches for additional information, evaluation and weighting within the overall context of each one's arguments, discussions to verify whether or not a particular argument should be taken into account and to what extent. Opinions on complex issues may go through many drafts

before they can be viewed as in a final form. On a number of occasions opinions have gone through 20 or more draft forms. To circulate each of these widely would be a source of confusion rather than clarification. In the course of such a process it is not uncommon that arguments that initially seemed to be of minor importance, suddenly gain in importance and vice versa once they are put in a certain context. Sometimes they even require re-examination from first principles of a tediously built rationale. To be trustworthy, it is essential that the opinions are prepared by the best scientists, who can contribute to the process independently from other scientific interests. The scientists in the EC's advisory system have therefore been appointed on the basis of their personal expertise and excellence and have to act independently.

Opinions adopted by an EC scientific committee are promptly made available publicly via internet and upon request. In this way they are not only widely accessible but also open for permanent scientific scrutiny and criticism. In addition to this Committees may adopt "pre-opinions" that are published on the internet and open for scientific comments within a specified deadline. These are then reviewed and taken into account before an opinion is finally adopted.

The SSC considers that preliminary scientific exchanges (draft viewpoints, notes, remarks, etc) expressed by scientific committee members, in either written or oral form, during discussions before the adoption of a final report or opinion are of an intermediate scientific nature and not of an administrative one.

The SSC has the following additional concern on the eventual public access to those draft viewpoints for the following reasons:

- Disclosing the preliminary viewpoints could undermine the independence of the scientific committee's members, as this will increase pressure on the members by interest groups.
- Draft viewpoints are not an advice to the Commission. As the Committees are currently constituted, they belong to the Committee members and are covered by intellectual property rules. Disclosing them would be contrary to the member's obligation not to disclose information they get during the meetings which is covered by commercial confidentiality.

The SSC further noted that members of scientific committees are already under an obligation to declare their interests in each topic and if these are deemed to prejudice their position they are excluded from involvement with that topic. In this context the SSC refers to the "Guidance for the expression of opinions and other outputs of scientific advisory committees" it adopted during the meeting (**Annex 4**) which emphasises the expression of alternative views and high scientific quality.

If the current status of confidential discussions is modified to grant public access to the written or oral form of those discussions, the Committee members will, most probably, feel constraint from freely expressing their scientific viewpoint. This will have far reaching implications for the quality of scientific opinions and also for the efficacy of the process.

4.3. European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)

Mr.C.Berlingieri, Head of Unit within the SANCO Directorate for Scientific Opinions, provided an update on the state of advancement of the establishment of the EFSA and on the transitional phase from the current scientific advisory system to an operational EFSA.

The SSC reiterated its recommendation made at its meeting of 6-7 September 2001 that "Commission Services should already now start reflecting on how the transitional phase from the current advisory system to an operational European Food Authority (EFA) will

be organised. Questions such as how the opinions will be finalised that are already under preparation at the time of the start of the EFSA and how to assure continuity in the risk assessment approaches will need to be addressed.”

5. Multidisciplinary matters:

a. Co-ordination: Reports of the Chairpersons of the 8 Scientific Committees

- **Activities of the Scientific Committees.** The chairpersons reported on the work of their respective Scientific Committees, whilst emphasising on matters that are of a multidisciplinary nature and/or require co-ordination. Information on the activities of the various Scientific Committees is attached as **Annex 3**.
- Prof.J.Bridges, chairman of the SSC’s Task Force on *Harmonisation of risk assessment methods*, presented the state of the progress made by the Task Force and its various working groups. Prof.I.Knudsen presented in detail the draft report prepared by the working group on Risk assessment of food borne bacterial pathogens. The SSC complimented the working group on the quality and completeness of the report that also presents and discusses concepts and approaches that have a potential validity beyond the strict context of food borne bacterial pathogens. The report will now be finalised by the Task Force and submitted to the SSC for adoption at its meeting of 4-5 April 2002.

The current plan is that all the various specific reports (e.g., on food-borne pathogens, chemical substances, environmental risks, quality of life, definitions and quantitative risk assessment methods) will be individually adopted as scientific reports and that from these a general opinion will be distilled covering their potential to contribute to an overall harmonisation of methods of risk assessment used by various instances and institutions.

- Prof.J.Bridges, presented a new draft *Common format for opinions* which was updated in the light of the comments received from the various scientific committees. The draft was amended and adopted as Guidance for the expression of opinions and other outputs of scientific advisory committees. (See **Annex 4**).

d. Emerging scientific issues

It was agreed that the Task Force on Harmonisation of risk assessment methods, would prepare an update of the SSC opinion of 26-27 October 2000 on *Strategies for dealing with emerging and re-emerging scientific issues that have the potential to impact human health, directly or mediated through the environment*.

In parallel, the SSC will continue to have at each meeting a tour-de-table, on the question whether new (re-)emerging issues needed to be signalled because they had a potential direct or indirect (e.g. via the environment or feed) public health impact.

e. Antimicrobial resistance.

Prof.Jones reported on the progress made by the Working Group at its meeting of 8 February 2002. He signalled that the mandate of the Working Group covered both antimycotic resistance (azoles) and the possible risks of Triclosan resistance development.

f. Primate research facilities in Europe.

Prof.Osterhaus introduced a first draft report on The need for non-human primates in biomedical research. The draft was discussed and recommendations for

improvements were made. It was agreed that an updated draft would be available for possible adoption at the meeting of 4-5 April 2002.

g. New questions

No new questions (apart from the ones related to TSEs listed further on) had been submitted to the SSC since last meeting.

6. Multidisciplinary matters relating to TSE/BSE

6.1. Report on the TSE/BSE *ad-hoc* group meeting of 7 February 2002

Prof.Silano, chairman of the TSE/BSE *ad hoc* Group, reported briefly on the meeting of the TSE/BSE *ad hoc* Group of 7 February 2002. All items addressed at that meeting are further reported on under point 6.2. hereafter.

6.2. Reports on specific issues:

a. Geographical BSE Risk: Opinion on the GBR and its evolution in EU-Member States and progress report.

An opinion (**annex 5**) was adopted on the GBR in the 11 MS that were already in GBR III or IV since July 2000. They all remain in their current GBR-level but the opinion acknowledges that the risk is decreasing due to the high level of stability all EU Member States should now enjoy. Special opinions for Austria, Finland, Sweden and Greece are announced.

The opinion also indicates that increasing incidence figures are rather resulting from the improved surveillance. The opinion further suggests that only several years (5 years) after the last BSE case was discovered a re-assessment of the GBR would be reasonable to consider. For that purpose a set of indicators and criteria should be established to provide an adequate database for such a revision. Surveillance data alone would not be sufficient.

b. The safety of human blood and human-derived products.

Prof.Loewer introduced the final opinion adopted in January 2002 by the the Scientific Committee for Medicinal Products and Medical Devices (SC-MPMD).

c. The bovine vertebral column as a specified risk material;

The secretariat reported that the TSE/BSE *ad hoc* Group has appointed a rapporteur, who already started the analysis of the Commission's data base on BSE cases and age profiles.

d. Safety of peptides from porcine intestinal mucosa (progress report)

The draft opinion finalised at the TSE/BSE *ad hoc* Group meeting of 7 February was discussed, amended and adopted. IT is attached as **annex 6**.

e. Animal waste disposal (progress report)

- The secretariat informed the SSC that SANCO's Directorate on *Food Safety: production and distribution chain*, invites companies wishing to submit a dossier related to the safety of recycling and disposal processes/approaches to respect the recommendations made in the SSC's *Framework* adopted on 29 June 2001 for the assessment of the risk from different options for the safe disposal or use of meat and bone meal.
- The secretariat further informed the SSC that the date of finalisation of the pending opinion on the alkaline treatment for waste reduction, would depend on the date of availability of the final results of the currently ongoing inactivation experiments.

f. New questions.

No new questions had been received, but the secretariat informed the SSC that several requests for an opinion were likely to be submitted in the near future.

g. Safe sourcing of small ruminant materials should BSE in small ruminants become probable: genotype, breeding, rapid TSE testing, flock certification and Specified Risk Materials.

A draft opinion was submitted for discussion and adoption, but eventually, no opinion was adopted. Following discussion, the SSC considered it preferable to ask the TSE/BSE *ad hoc* Group to carry out an additional and integrated analysis of the most recent scientific papers and data that became available since its previous opinion on BSE in sheep, namely:

- The July 2001 AFSSA opinion on the safety of the intestine and the level of residual risk after cleaning (“délimonage”);
- The October 2001 risk analysis of sheep products carried out by a consultant (DNV) for the account of the UK Food safety Agency;
- The January 2002 Nature article on BSE in sheep, presenting data on TSE infectivity distribution in sheep tissues as a function of age;
- the February 2002 International journal of Virology article on TSE infectivity in the intestine.

The integrated analysis of these data should, if possible, also facilitate the estimation of the relative risk of the intestine and of other tissues (lymph nodes) as compared to the tissues that currently are already on the list of SRMs.

Furthermore, the SSC considered that the draft section on culling required further discussion.

h. Protocol to investigate the possible presence of BSE in sheep (for opinion).

The Secretariat reported on the progress made by the Working Group. An additional meeting was planned for 27 February and it was expected that a draft opinion would be available for discussion and possible adoption at the SSC meeting of 4-5 April 2002.

i. Actualisation of the existing Geographical BSE Risk methodology to small ruminants, by taking into account factors that may be unique to sheep (progress report)

The secretariat reported that a first meeting of a newly created Working Group was scheduled for 19 March 2002.

j. Design of a field trial for the evaluation of rapid BSE tests.

An opinion “Design of a field trial for the evaluation of new rapid BSE post mortem tests” was approved. This opinion was prepared by a working group, which met on 11 – 12 February and was chaired by Prof. Löwer. It is attached as **Annex 7**.

The opinion outlines a protocol to be used to evaluate the new rapid BSE tests under field conditions prior to their approval.

7. Organisational matters:

No organisational matters were discussed.

8. Info on the follow-up given to the opinions adopted at previous SSC meetings.

No information on this subject was provided, but see also agenda items 6.2.e and 9.

9. Information by the Commission services on matters related to consumer health

Mr.J.Bray (Research Directorate General) informed the SSC about the current state of affairs of the specific call for TSE research proposals launched in May 2001. The evaluation process had now been completed and the list 15 proposals that will be accepted for funding, was presented. It was illustrated that the research recommendations made by the SSC in its various opinions taken into account when deciding upon the areas that would be considered for priority funding. The SSC members were provided with a hand-out of the presentation

10. Any other business.

The meeting ended on Friday 22 February 2002, at 15h00.

Annex 1: List of participants in the Scientific Steering Committee meeting on 21-22 February 2002.

List of presence

Members of the SSC:

- Ing. Georges Bories
- Prof. James Bridges (chaired Ecotox Plenary on 22 February)
- Prof. Johanna Fink-Gremmels (21 February only)
- Prof. Anthony R. Hardy
- Dr Keith Jones (22 February only)
- Prof. Werner Klein
- Dr Ada Knaap
- Dr Ib Knudsen
- Dr Pierre Le Neindre
- Prof. Johannes Löwer (not present 21 February afternoon)
- Prof. Albert Osterhaus (not present 22 February afternoon)
- Prof. Gérard Pascal (Chairman)
- Prof. Pere Puigdomenech (not present 21 February morning)
- Prof. Vittorio Silano (not present 22 February afternoon)

Invited expert:

- Dr Emmanuel Vanopdenbosch (21 February afternoon and 22 February morning only)

Apologies for absence:

- Prof. Staffan Skerfving
- Dr Ian White

Participants from the Commission:

DG SANCO: B. Carsin, C. Berlingieri, P. Vossen, J. Kreysa, M. Goll, G. Morrison, D. Jacquemin,
M. Walsh, M. Granero, J. Serratos, A. Wilhelm, A. Rodriguez, E. Fernandez-Zincke, J Ordeig Vila (stagiaire), S. Iñigo (stagiaire).

DG RTD: J. Bray, A. Di Giulio, K. O'Connor, E. Schez

Annex 2: Agenda of the Scientific Steering Committee Meeting of 21-22 February 2002

1. Welcome, apologies, introductory remarks, declaration of interest.
2. Approval of the agenda
3. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 10-11 January_2001
4. Procedural matters (if any)
 - Format of short CVs of members of Scientific Committee;
 - Access to documents request
5. Multidisciplinary matters:
 - a. Co-ordination: Reports of the Chairmen of the 8 Scientific Committees;
 - b. Harmonisation of risk assessment methods:
 - Progress report on Task Force activities;
 - Risk assessment of food borne bacterial pathogens (progress report)
 - Common format for opinions (for adoption).
 - c. Emerging scientific issues (reports, if any);
 - d. Antimicrobial resistance (progress report on azole and on Triclosan resistance)
 - e. Primate research facilities in Europe.
6. Multidisciplinary matters relating to TSE/BSE
 - 6.1. Report by the chairman of the TSE/BSE *ad-hoc* group meeting of 7 February 2002
 - 6.2. Reports on specific multidisciplinary matters relating to TSE/BSE:
 - a. Geographical BSE Risk: Opinion on the GBR and its evolution in EU-Member States (for adoption) and progress report.
 - b. The safety of human blood and human-derived products (presentation of the opinion prepared by the SC-MPMD).
 - c. The bovine vertebral column as a specified risk material (progress report);
 - d. Safety of peptides from porcine intestinal mucosa (progress report)
 - e. Animal waste disposal (progress report)
 - f. New questions.
TSEs in small ruminants:
 - g. Safe sourcing of small ruminant materials should BSE in small ruminants become probable: genotype, breeding, rapid TSE testing, flock certification and Specified Risk Materials. (for opinion)
 - h. Protocol to investigate the possible presence of BSE in sheep (for opinion).
 - i. Actualisation of the existing Geographical BSE Risk methodology to small ruminants, by taking into account factors that may be unique to sheep (progress report)
7. Information on the follow-up given to the opinions adopted at previous SSC meetings.
8. Information by the Commission services on other matters related to consumer health.
 - Information on the specific call for TSE research proposals (DG Research)
9. Any other business

Annex 3: Reports from the chairpersons of Scientific Committees on the major activities and milestones since the SSC meeting of 29-30 November 2001, as provided by the secretariats of these Committees.

(COMPLETE INFORMATION AT THE WEBPAGES OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES AT THE ADDRESS [HTTP://EUROPA.EU.INT/COMM/FOOD/FS/SC/SSC/INDEX_EN.HTML.](http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/sc/ssc/index_en.html))

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON FOOD (SCF)

The SCF has not had any plenary since the last SSC meeting. The next plenary takes place just after this SSC plenary on 25/26/27 February.

During this period meetings of the SCF Working Groups on Flavourings, Food Contact Materials, Nutrition, the Task Force on Upper Levels of vitamins and minerals, the Task Force on Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and others have taken place.

The agenda of the next SCF plenary meeting contains the major following issues scheduled for discussion: the upper levels for niacin and pantothenic acid, capsaicin in flavouring, the group evaluation of *Fusarium* toxins as contaminants in food, the genetically modified maize line GA21 as novel food, an additional list of monomers and additives in food contact materials, certain chemical and microbiological specifications of gelatine, the microbiological contamination of fruit and vegetables eaten raw.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL NUTRITION (SCAN)

The Committee continues its work with the hope of completing as much as possible of its agenda before the set up of the new committee under the European Food Safety Authority.

A plenary meeting took place on 5 and 6 February. The Committee adopted two opinions on feed additives. Other opinions close to completion were thoroughly discussed but not adopted.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE FOR PLANTS (SCP)

The SCP met on 31 January. The following opinion was adopted:

"Opinion of the Scientific Committee on Plants on specific questions from the Commission concerning the evaluation of iprodione in the context of Council Directive 91/414/EEC."

In addition, at the January plenary meeting, the Committee adopted the report subject to some final editing changes on the Special Workshop held on 25-26 October 2001 by the SCP. The Committee agreed that Prof. Hardy, chairman of the Committee, will circulate the report to the Chairs of all other Scientific Committees and to the relevant Commission services. The report will be published on the internet as well.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE VETERINARY MEASURES RELATING TO PUBLIC HEALTH

Last plenary meeting of the Scientific Committee on Veterinary Measures relating to Public Health took place on 30-31 January.

An opinion on "Norwalk Like Viruses" (NLVs) was adopted by the Committee subject to editorial changes agreed at the plenary meeting. These viruses are considered to be one of the main causes of gastroenteritis in humans. It is considered a foodborne zoonosis and most

infections result from contamination from infected food-handlers. Person-to person contact also represents an important source of infection. The main sources are bivalve molluscs and fresh produce. Water is also a very important source but it only covered in the report in terms of irrigation use.

The other draft reports have been discussed by the Committee and remarks made to the documents presented, to be updated for future discussion.

The Committee endorsed the set up of the Working group on “Hormones”.

Several Working Groups meetings are planned to be organised.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND ANIMAL WELFARE (SC-AHAW)

A plenary meeting was held on the 5th of February.

A first topic has been to answer to a letter of protest from 6 of the 8 members of the former working group on the welfare of animals kept for fur production. That letter was sent to the SCAHAW after the adoption of the report on the 13 December 2002. They objected on procedural matters and on some of the modifications of the text that had been adopted by the SCAHAW. A reply to that letter was prepared and discussed. It explains the usual procedures of the SCAHAW, as well as the main issues of the problem. The plenary decided to publish a document on internet as Erratum, containing some amendments and additional references. The erratum contains an annex listing the names of all the SCAHAW members. The minutes of the Plenary published on the Internet will include the copy of the letter of the working group members and the SCAHAW reply.

An opinion on the Welfare of animals during transport was discussed for possible adoption. The chairman of the working group introduced the draft report. The members of the plenary proposed several modifications and the rapporteur took note of all their remarks. The Chairman decided to postpone the adoption due to that long list and to the lack of time to finish the revision of the document. It was decided unanimously to proceed to the adoption of the text by using a written procedure. The secretary has launched a first version of the report including all amendments discussed on the 5 February. If 11 members approve the document before the 11 of March it will be adopted, otherwise it will be proposed for discussion and possible adoption during the next plenary meeting on the 16th of April.

Dr Harry Blockhuis was appointed as the rapporteur of the group in charge of preparing an opinion on the protection of animals at the time of slaughter or killing (stunning methods). The committee decided to address the first two questions of the mandate to the Working Group. They discussed the possibility of inviting public comments via the Internet on the final part of the mandate.

A document requested by DG research on research priorities for the Sixth Framework research programme on animal health and animal welfare areas was adopted. The annex containing the list of general issues will be circulated between the members to rank them.

A report on Avian Chlamydiosis had been drafted by a Working Group under the chairmanship of Dennis Alexander. It was discussed in detail during the last SCAH meeting on 23 January. Whereas the structure of the report was approved by the SCAH it was felt that several items should be revised in order to express more clearly possible strategies to improve the control of the transmission of Chlamydia infections, in particular from birds to humans. The report will be presented for final discussion at the next SCAH-meeting on 20 March 2002.

Other working groups are engaged in drafting reports on topics such as Fish waste, rabies, and welfare of non-human primates.

SCAHAW's members agreed to send for publication on the Internet all CV's in a short form.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE FOR COSMETICS AND NON-FOOD PRODUCTS (SC-CNFP)

Since the last SSC plenary meeting of 10-11 January 2002, 4 Working Party meetings of the Scientific Committee on Cosmetic Products and Non-Food Products have taken place. Although no particular items of a multi-disciplinary nature have been discussed, the following issues are of interest :

1. Hair Dyes : As a follow-up of the SCCNFP opinion on the use of permanent hair dyes and bladder cancer risk and in response to a request from Member States to re-evaluate most of the opinions adopted so far on hair dyes, an “Assessment strategy on hair dyes” will be presented to the plenary meeting of 27 February 2002.

The main reasons to draft the paper were :

- * a robust epidemiological investigation within Europe would take years to complete and there is a need for measures to be introduced to protect the European consumer in the interim;
- * a considerable number of permanent hair dyes in current use have not had their safety assessed by public authorities.

The paper specifies the safety data to be submitted. Moreover, a dossier must contain a statement saying that the dossier is complete (cf. Memo on evaluations and opinions, SCCNFP/0461/01) as well as a checklist confirming that each of the endpoints of the toxicological profile conforms to modern methods or if not, a statement of why it should be accepted with scientific reasons for this.

2. Detergents : As reported earlier, the reference to the SCCNFP and in particular to the risk evaluation to be undertaken by the SCCNFP of detergent substances or preparations which are irritant or sensitising for man, has been withdrawn from the draft proposal for revision of EU detergents legislation because it was believed that the consumer would be sufficiently informed and protected through the labelling provisions provided for by the dangerous substances and/or the dangerous preparations directives.

Representatives of DG ENTR have been invited to inform the SCCNFP about these developments and to discuss the issues raised by them.

As a result, DG ENTR said that the committee had provided a useful clarification concerning the need for additional labelling to provide information to the consumer on the presence of all the substances contained in the product and of the role the committee could play. It was said that additional measures to cover particular consumers needs can still be considered within the scope of the on-going modernisation of the detergents legislation, the latest draft of which is currently in inter-service consultation.

In addition, the committee decided to draft a position statement on the need for the complete labelling of ingredients and on the role of the SCCNFP regarding the safety review of substances used in detergents.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE FOR ON TOCITY, ECOTOXICITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT (CSTEE)

- A. No new plenary of the CSTEE took place since the previous one, the next being foreseen for 22 February 2002.
- B. Regarding the revision of the *Technical Guidance Document* in support of, e.g. Regulation 793/93, which includes: a) *Environmental exposure*; b) *Marine risk assessment*; c) *Environmental effects assessment*; d) *Human Health exposure assessment*; e) *Human Health effects assessment* the view is now that the opinions adopted by written procedure by 25 January 2002 on the various sections of the TGD, to the extent that such sections were seemingly draft versions of the TGD, the CSTEE 'opinions' should be considered of an interim nature, not deserving to be published now. The competent technical meetings that will meet under the auspices of the ECB will eventually take stock of the CSTEE's 'interim' conclusions and a formal opinion request will be submitted to the CSTEE then.
- C. The CSTEE is also pursuing its activities on the following opinion requests:
1. Evaluation of the following Regulation 793/93 Risk Assessment Reports:
Status reports/opinions (Human Health and/or Environment) on:
a) *Dodmac* (HH); b) *3,4-dichloroaniline* (HH); c) *Naphthalene* (Env); d) *Ethyl 2002* (HH and Env); g) *Methyl acetate* (HH and Env); h) *Bisphenol-A (4,4'-isopropylidenediphenol)* (HH and Env).
 2. *Member States' assessments of the risk to health and the environment from cadmium in fertilisers*. A WG meeting took place on 23 January 2002, a draft text was prepared which will be improved.
 3. The following new opinion request were submitted to the CSTEE, all coming from DG Enterprise:
 - i) Request for an opinion from the CSTEE on certain questions arising from a study on *Risks to Health and the environment Related to the Use of Lead in Products*
 - ii) Questions to the CSTEE relating to *Scientific evidence of risks to health from chromium VI in cement*
 - iii) *Justification of a notification by the Netherlands to introduce national measures concerning wood treated with copper substances*
- D. The CSTEE secretary will leave his post by the end of February 2002. The secretary of the scientific committee on medicinal products and medical devices, Dr Arturo Sanabria-Tienza, will be, on an *ad interim* basis, the secretary of the CSTEE until a new full time one is appointed.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE FOR ON MEDICINAL PRODUCTS AND MEDICAL DEVICES (SC-MPMD)

The SCMPMD has adopted at his last plenary meeting (18 January 2002) an Opinion on " The safety of human-derived products with regard to TSE's".

Annex 4



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH & CONSUMER PROTECTION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Directorate C - Scientific Opinions
C1 - Follow-up and dissemination of scientific opinions

**GUIDANCE FOR THE EXPRESSION OF OPINIONS AND OTHER
OUTPUTS OF SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEES**

**ADOPTED BY THE SCIENTIFIC STEERING COMMITTEE AT ITS
MEETING OF 21-22 FEBRUARY 2002**

as part of its exercise on
Harmonisation of Risk Assessment Procedures

(DISTRIBUTED SEPARATELY)

Annex 5



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH & CONSUMER PROTECTION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
Directorate C - Scientific Opinions
C1 - Follow-up and dissemination of scientific opinions

OPINION ON:

**THE GEOGRAPHICAL BSE-RISK (GBR)
AND ITS EVOLUTION OVER TIME
IN THE EUROPEAN UNION MEMBER STATES**

**ADOPTED BY THE SCIENTIFIC STEERING COMMITTEE AT ITS
MEETING OF 21-22 FEBRUARY 2002**

(DISTRIBUTED SEPARATELY)

Annex 6



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH & CONSUMER PROTECTION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
Directorate C - Scientific Opinions
C1 - Follow-up and dissemination of scientific opinions

OPINION ON:

PEPTIDES FROM PIG MUCOSA: RISKS WITH RESPECT TO TSEs

**ADOPTED BY THE SCIENTIFIC STEERING COMMITTEE AT ITS
MEETING OF 21-22 FEBRUARY 2002**

(DISTRIBUTED SEPARATELY)

Annex 7



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH & CONSUMER PROTECTION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
Directorate C - Scientific Opinions
C1 - Follow-up and dissemination of scientific opinions

OPINION ON:

**DESIGN OF A FIELD TRIAL FOR THE EVALUATION OF NEW
RAPID BSE POST MORTEM TESTS**

**ADOPTED BY THE SCIENTIFIC STEERING COMMITTEE AT ITS
MEETING OF 21-22 FEBRUARY 2002**

(DISTRIBUTED SEPARATELY)