

# **Minutes of the Second Meeting of the Scientific Committee on Plants**

BRUSSELS, 22 DECEMBER 1997

## **ATTENDANCE LIST**

### **Members**

MM M.P. DELCOUR-FIRQUET, H. V. DAVIES, F. FÜHR, C. L. GALLI, R. HANS, A. R. HARDY, S. O. KÄRENLAMPPI, H. A. KUIPER, J. J. LEGUAY, M. MARONI (Vice-Chairman), H. G. NOLTING, A. M. S. SILVA FERNANDES (Chairman)

### **Apologies**

MM M. CABOCHE, E. RODRIGUEZ-CEREZO, OÂ' GARA (Vice-Chairman)

### **Commission**

MM B. CARVIN (DG XXIV/B), P. WAGSTAFFE (DG XXIV/B/2), J. KIOUSSI (DG XI), P. OELKER (DG XI)

### **Secretariat**

MM M. WALSH (DG XXIV/B/2), S VAN IMPE (DG XXIV/B/2)

## **1. Welcome, Apologies and Introductory Remarks**

The Chairman welcomed the members to the meeting and noted the apologies (see attendance list).

## **2. Adoption of the agenda**

The agenda was adopted and apologies for absence noted. (Doc. SCP/AGENDA/002)

## **3. Declaration of interests by Members**

The representative of the Commission services briefly outlined the background to this item and indicated that a guidance document on the subject would be shortly available. All members present confirmed that they had no conflict of interests to report relative to the items for discussion.

## **4. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 11 November 1997**

The meeting approved the draft minutes with some minor amendments. The report is available as Document No. SCP/REPT/001 final of 8 January 1997.

## **5. Genetically Modified Organisms**

A joint session of the Plant GMO Working Group (WG) and the SCP Plenary took place on the morning of the 22nd December. The full membership of the WG including the non-SCP members was confirmed as follows:

Prof. Galli, Hardy, Kärenlampi, O'Gara, Moseley, Vighi, Drs. Caboche, Hans, Kuiper, Leguay, Rodriguez-Cerezo, Aumaitre, Von Wright, Chesson, Davies.

The Committee decided to create four multi-disciplinary sub-groups with the following membership:

Biotechnology	Davies, Leguay, O'Gara and Kärenlampi
Toxicology & Residues	Hans, Nolting, Galli, Kuiper
Environment	Hardy (to be supplemented in agreement with Committee Chairman)
Food & Feed	Moseley, Chesson, Von Wright, Aumaitre

The following meeting dates and deadlines were agreed:

13 January	Deadline for biotechnology evaluation and forwarding of this part of the evaluations to the food and animal feedingstuff experts
19 January	Deadline for sending sub-group 2,3 & 4 evaluations to the four co-ordinators of sub-group 1
2/3 February	GMO WG meeting to examine the four draft documents
9/10 February	Combined GMO WG and SCP Plenary and possible adoption
18/19 March	Combined GMO WG and SCP Plenary and adoption

## 6. Plant protection Products - kresoxym methyl and axoystrobin

The Committee exchanged views on the approach to be adopted for the examination of proposals for inclusion of plant protection product active substances in Annex 1 to Directive 91/414/EEC. Members were of the opinion that it was important to recognise that referral to the SCP was preceded by a thorough system of evaluation involving the submission of a dossier by the applicant, dossier evaluation by a designated Rapporteur Member State including the preparation of a detailed assessment monograph and finally a system of 'Peer Review' for each main section of expertise. It was felt that it was inappropriate to attempt to duplicate this system but that the Committee should endeavour to complement the system.

The Committee decided to institute an integrated approach for dealing with plant protection product evaluations by creating small working groups the composition of which would be determined to suit the profile of the active substances under evaluation. This could necessitate supplementing the working groups with specialist expertise from outside the Committee.

The Committee nominated the following members to the WG Plant Protection Products to prepare opinions on kresoxym methyl and axoystrobin. The WG will meet on 4 February 1998 to examine the draft reports.

Prof. Maroni	WG Chairman
Dr Nolting	Environmental and Physical and Chemical aspects

## **7. Risk assessment for Pesticide Residues in Food**

The Secretariat explained the background to the question referred to the Committee by DG VI on the basis of evidence submitted by the UK Government on variable pesticide residues in fruit and vegetables. This evidence suggests that this problem is of most potential significance in the case of pesticides of high acute toxicity used on fruits and vegetables where a relatively large product unit (e.g. one apple) may be consumed at a single sitting. The assessment of the UK Authorities indicated that the levels of residues found are not likely to produce adverse health effects but they felt that the safety margins built into pesticide approval could be eroded.

The Committee also discussed the feasibility of widening its review to cover both chronic and acute risk assessment procedures for pesticides residues, particularly in the light of recent international developments. In this context, the Committee requested the Secretariat to provide a copy of the latest version of the 'Draft WHO Guidelines on Predicting Dietary Intake of Pesticide Residues'. It was agreed that the Secretariat should contact Mr S. Crossley of the UK Pesticide Safety Directorate with a view to requesting him to make a presentation to the Committee on the latest international developments in the field of pesticide risk assessment.

The Committee will decide the scope of its review at its next meeting in February.

## **8. Data Requirements for micro-organisms to be used in and as plant protection products pursuant to Directive 91/414/EEC.**

The Secretariat explained that the background to this request for advice was in connection with the updating of the Annexes to Directive 91/414/EEC to cover micro-organisms for use as plant protection products. The Committee was informed that the work was rather urgent given that several applications had been received for the inclusion of micro-organisms in Annex 1 to Directive 91/414/EEC.

The Committee appointed Professor O'Gara as Chairman of the Working Group responsible for this evaluation and requested him to report back to the next meeting on the possible composition of the working group.

## **9. Exchange of views and on the content and means for addressing the documents from the European Environmental Bureau on:**

- - Arguments for the Exclusion from Annex 1 of Directive 91/414/EEC of pesticides presently being revised
- - Pesticides and Cancer Survey of Epidemiological studies

The Committee exchanged views on the possible ways of dealing with these papers. Certain difficulties were recognised due to the nature and presentation of the papers which do not conform to the normally accepted format for scientific publications. However, it was nevertheless felt that the Committee would prepare a response to the papers: Prof. Maroni

undertook to examine possible means for this and will report back to the next Plenary Meeting on the outcome of his reflections.

**10. Exchange of views on the adequacy of the testing requirements to detect potential endocrine toxicity of plant protection products pursuant to Directive 91/414/EEC concerning the placing of plant protection product on the market.**

Time did not permit an exchange of views on this item: it will be included on the agenda of the next meeting.

**11. Schedule of Plenary Meetings for 1998.**

The following provisional dates were agreed:

- February 9/10
- March 18/19
- May 11/12
- June 22/23
- July 13/14
- October 1/2
- November 9/10
- December 17/18

**12. Committee Rules and Procedures**

Time did not permit an exchange of views on this item: it will be included on the agenda of the next meeting.

**13. Other business**

There was no other business.