

Minutes of the Sixth meeting of the Scientific Committee on Plants, Brussels 23 June 1998

ATTENDANCE LIST

Members

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

Apologies

Prof. F. FUHR

Invited

Mr H. Koeppe

Commission

Mr M. ZETTERSTRAND (DG XI), Mr G. VAN DEN EEDE (JCR), Mrs M. DE SOLA (DG XXIV/B/2), Mr D. BOSWORTH (DG XI)

Secretariat

Mr M. WALSH (DG XXIV/B/2), Ms 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 after inclusion of two new items agreed by the members. (Doc. SCP/AGENDA/006-Rev. 1)

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. Matters arising from the minutes of the Fifth Plenary Meeting (18/19 May 1998)

The draft minutes had been approved by written procedure prior to the meeting. The report is available as Document No. SCP/REPT/005-Final of 17 June 1998.

The Committee spent a significant amount of time analysing matters arising from the last minutes.

5. Risk Assessment at different Scientific Committees

Professor Bridges, chairman for the SCTEE requested all chairpersons of the Scientific Committees to present a one or two page document explaining the risk assessment procedures used in the different Committees in order to organise a Steering Committee Working Group whose task would be the uniformisation, as much as, possible of the methodologies used in each Committee. A draft document prepared by the chairman and revised by H.-G. Nolting was circulated to the members for possible amendments. Some modifications were introduced by the PPP and the GMO Working Groups.

6. Update of the situation of the answers to EEB documents

The chairman raised the question of the answer to the documents, which had been forwarded by EEB. The previous decision taken on the Plenary of 18-19 May 1998 for responding to the document on the active ingredients which the EEB wishes to be withdrawn from the market was considered to be no longer acceptable due to the heavy work load involved. Dr. Koepf presented an alternative approach, which was agreed. A draft will be provided by the expert at the July Plenary.

7. Plant Protection Products - active substances

Inclusion of active substances in Annex 1 to Directive 91/414/EEC.

7.1. Kresoxim-methyl

The Committee decided to defer finalising its opinion as the carcinogenicity working group (WG) only finalised its report on the same day of the Plenary meeting.

7.2. Fenthion

The Committee agreed the environmental assessment and noted the toxicological evaluation prepared by Prof. Maroni. It is the intention of the Committee to adopt the report at its next meeting.

7.3. Isoxaflutole

H.-G. Nolting tabled an interim paper on the significance of metabolite RPA 203328 but due to time constraints a detailed discussion was postponed until the next meeting. The meeting schedule for the carcinogenicity and developments working groups were reported as follows:

Carcinogenicity WG 23 June 1998

Development WG 30 July 1998

8. Pesticide residues

It was reported that the Residue WG met as arranged on 16 June and that considerable progress was made on the two draft opinions under examination. The WG will meet again on 7 July to review the draft opinions with a view to preparing the texts for submission to the next Plenary meeting.

F. Fuhr, Rapporteur for the infant food question referred to the SCP, was absent but he had reported to the secretariat that his literature search was well advanced. The general consensus of the meeting was that available data on the correlation between pesticide usage or non-usage and micotoxin levels in plant products was sparse. Dr Kuiper volunteered to check on the availability of such data in the Netherlands.

9. Genetically Modified Organisms - Plants

9.1. Possible adoption of opinions for three GMO dossier

Zeneca processing tomato line with downregulation of polygalacturonase enzyme	Notification C/ES/96/01
DLF-Trifolium, Monsanto and Danisco seed fodder beet tolerant to glyphosate	Notification C/DK/97/01
AgrEvo glufosinate-tolerant swede rape	Notification C/DE/96/05

The meeting had been preceded by a preparatory meeting chaired by F. O'Gara on 22 June 1998 when the following members were present: H. Davies, A. Hardy, S. Karenlampi, H. Kuiper, F. O'Gara, E. Rodriguez-Cerezo, A. Chesson, B. Moseley, H. Koepp, M.P Delcour, L. Aumaitre, R. Hans, A. Silva Fernandes. Following an exchange of views the Committee decided to adopt opinions on the DFL-Trifolium, Monsanto and Danisco fodder beet tolerant to glyphosate and Zeneca tomato with reduced activity of the expression of the endogenous tomato fruit PG gene. These opinions are available respectively as SCP/GMO/045-Final and SCP/GMO/073-Final.

With regard to the AgrEvo swede rape application, the Committee had received immediately prior to the meeting the additional data it had requested on the genetic construct, substantial equivalence and environmental aspects. The Committee decided to defer adoption of its opinion until the next meeting to allow time for the members to review the newly submitted data.

9.2. Progress report on the remaining four GMO dossiers before the Committee

The following four applications are under review by the Committee and it is expected that opinions will be progressively adopted during the next two meetings.

AVEBE potato with a change in starch composition	Notification C/NL/96/10
Monsanto cotton with tolerance to glyphosate	Notification C/ES/97/01
Monsanto cotton with an insecticidal activity against	Notification C/ES/96/02

lepidopteran insect pests (Bt)	
Bejo-Zaden male sterile chicory	Notification C/NL/94/25-A

10. Other business

The next Plenary Meeting was confirmed for 14 July 1998.