

Minutes of the twelfth meeting of the Scientific Committee on Plants - Brussels, 4 March 1999 - (SCP/REPT/012-final)

ATTENDANCE LIST

Members

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

Apologies

Dr. R. HANS, Prof. M. MARONI (Vice-Chairman), Dr. E. RODRIGUEZ-CEREZO, Prof. S.O. KARENLAMPI

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 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

(Doc. SCP/AGENDA/012-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. Adoption of the minutes of the Eleventh Plenary Meeting and matters arising (4 February 1999)

4.1 Adoption of the minutes of the Eleventh Plenary Meeting

The draft minutes were approved with some minor textual amendments. The report is available as Document No. SCP/REPT/011-Final of March 4, 1999.

5. Exchange of views on the draft opinion on the relationship between the elimination or strong reduction in the use of plant protection products in the

cultivation of fruits and vegetables and the presence of mycotoxins and heavy metals

The Rapporteur, G. Speijers updated the Committee on progress with the preparation of the opinion. After reviewing the available data it was decided to focus the opinion mainly on the relationship between pesticide usage and mycotoxin levels and to a lesser extent on inherent toxicants and heavy metals.

The Chairman concluded as follows:

- a). He will contact the Chairman of the SCF with a view to the possible participation of a member of the SCF in the WG;
- b). He will endeavour to supplement the WG with additional expertise given the many issues to be considered in the preparation of the opinion;
- c) Requested the Rapporteur to update his working document in the light of the Committee's exchange of views and the new data which has become available;
- d) WG meeting to take place on 15 April to be chaired by A.Hardy.

6. Plant Protection Products - active substances

Isoxaflutole, fenarimol and fluroxypyr

Status report and exchange of views on the three active substances

6.1 Isoxaflutole

The Committee was informed that the various elements of the opinion had been submitted. A draft opinion will be submitted to the Committee for adoption at its May Meeting.

6.2 Fenarimol

The Committee had received the draft opinion dealing with development effect. It discussed the implications of the question relating to estimation of the ADI and AOEL. The Committee was of the opinion that such broad questions could result in duplication and, accordingly, could have implications for the efficient use of resources.

Following an exchange of views O. Meyer and M.-P. Delcour agreed to amend the draft opinion in the light of the discussions. M. Maroni will review the document in preparation for adoption at the May Meeting.

6.3 Fluroxypyr

The Secretariat informed the Committee that fluroxypyr was being referred for opinion with the following questions:

- a) Is the environmental safety of the metabolites of fluroxypyr adequately addressed?
- b) Does the Committee confirm the conclusion of the peer review that the available data on the soil leaching behaviour of the parent and its metabolites are insufficient to ensure, for autumn applications, the protection of ground water resources?

The questions were referred to the Environmental WG, which will meet on 17 May 1998.

7. First exchange of views on draft guidance documents in the framework of the Directive 91/414/EEC

7.1 Draft Guidance Document on

7.1.1 Aquatic Ecotoxicology

7.1.2 Terrestrial Ecotoxicology

7.1.3 Persistence in Soil

The three draft guidance documents were referred to the Committee for opinion.

The Committee appointed the following three members of the Environmental WG as rapporteurs:

Aquatic Ecotoxicology - H Koeppe

Terrestrial Ecotoxicology - T. Sherratt

Persistence in Soil - Andrée Carter

The WG will meet on 17 May.

8. Progress report and exchange of views on plant GMO dossiers:

8.1 Starch potato from Amylogene (Notification C/SE/96 3501).

The Secretariat informed the Committee that no response to its questions of clarification had been received from the notifier.

8.2 Herbicide tolerant and Bt Resistant maize by Dekalb (Notification C/NL/97/17)

The Secretariat informed the Committee that the notifier had withdrawn the notification for the 90/220/EEC process.

9. Requests from Member-States invoking Article 16 (Safeguard clause) of Council Directive 90/220/EEC:

9.1 Greece's decision with respect to the genetically modified oilseed rape notification C/UK/95/M5/1 (Agrevo)

9.2 France's decision with respect to the genetically modified oilseed rape notification C/UK/95/M5/1 (Agrevo)

9.3 France's decision with respect to the genetically modified oilseed rape notification C/UK/94/M1/1 (PGS)

These had been referred to the Committee at its meeting of 4 February 1999. The Committee had reviewed the documentation at the GM WG which had met on 3 March. It was agreed that A. Hardy would prepare a draft opinion for consideration at the May plenary meeting.

10. Examination and adoption of the opinion on the draft protocol for the monitoring of European corn borer resistance to Bt.

The Committee adopted the opinion which is available as Document SCP/GMO/094-Final.

11. Guidance documents relating to Council Directive 90/219/EEC of 23 April 1990 on the contained use of genetically modified micro-organisms

11.1 Draft criteria for establishing whether a genetically modified micro-organism (GMM) is safe for human health and the environment and would be suitable for inclusion into Annex IIC of Directive 90/219/EEC (amended) (doc.: XI/366/97-Rev. 4)

11.2 Draft guidance on the criteria to be investigated to determine whether a genetically modified micro-organism is suitable for inclusion in Annex IIC (doc.: XI/367/97-Rev.4)

11.3 Draft guidance for risk assessment outlined in Annex III of the proposed amendment to Directive 90/219/EEC on the contained use of genetically modified micro-organisms COM(95) 640 (doc.: XI/368/97-Rev. 4)

The Commission had referred the three above-mentioned draft guideline documents to the Committee at its meeting of 4 February 1999. The Committee agreed, on a proposal of F. O' Gara, the following members of the WG: F. O'Gara (Chairman), A. Von Wright, M. Nuti, A. Ledebauer, D. Stead and H. Kuiper. The first meeting of the WG will take place on 8 April 1999.

12. Other business

Date of next meeting:

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on 18 May 1999.