The International Risk Assessment Dialogue

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4th Meeting of Chairs and Secretariats of Commission and Agency Scientific Committees/Panels involved in Risk Assessment
EFSA-Parma, 4-5 November 2008
A framework for international co-operation on risk assessment

Current developments:

- The Transatlantic Risk Assessment Dialogue: a triangular dialogue between EU, US and Canada
- The Global Risk Assessment Dialogue: builds upon the Transatlantic Dialogue, but is enlarged to other main trade partners (Japan, China, Australia)

- Similar general aims
- Possible different speed, and
- different level of collaboration
The Transatlantic Risk Assessment Dialogue:

- Contacts between DG SANCO and the US Office of Management and Budget (OMB) since 2007
- First proposal came from the US OMB
- DG SANCO proposal for a sustained dialogue on systems, approaches, methodological and substantive Risk Assessment issues, with direct participation of risk assessors from both side
- Agreed to work in a forward looking way
- The Risk Assessment Dialogue is connected with the Transatlantic Economic Council and steered by a High Level Regulatory Forum
- DG SANCO co-ordinates on the Commission side, the OMB and OSTP on the US side
The Washington meeting

- Organised by the US OMB and OSTP. Around 60 participants. Canada represented by the Treasury Board. All relevant US agencies attended. EU represented by SANCO, ENTR, JRC and scientists from EFSA, SCENIHR, SCHER and SCCP.

- Objectives and contents: To launch the transatlantic dialogue. Risk Analysis systems, terminology, uncertainty in RA, exposure assessment, RA of carcinogenic substances...

- Results: commitment to continue dialogue, collaboration for the International RA Conference, a first round of proposals on themes for future collaboration

- Follow up: report to the HighLevelRegulatoryForum, conclusions of the RA Conference
Possible themes for the continuation of the Transatlantic Dialogue

- Exposure Assessment: a collaborative project aimed at establishing a common framework for exposure assessment
- Interpretation and use of results of new test methods or evaluation techniques
- Risk assessment and uncertainty terminology and expression
- Nanotechnology
- Toxicology of mixture/combination of effects
- Threshold of toxicological concern
The proposed objectives of a Global Risk Assessment Dialogue

**Overall:**
- To work more closely in pursuit of a common Risk Assessment Framework

**Specifically:**
- To improve mutual understanding of respective risk analysis systems and approaches
- To develop and/or share best practices on key aspects of risk assessment approaches and methods, and the interface with risk management and communication
- To promote collaboration on substantive risk issues, notably on emerging risks
The proposed approach

- **Responding to shared interests**: to identify areas and issues of common interest
- **Learning by doing**: to start with a few, concrete priorities, where a higher added value is recognised
- **Allowing for flexibility and pragmatism**: a variable configuration and participation for the various collaboration activities identified
- **Taking benefit from activities in other international fora**: co-ordination, synergism and no duplication with relevant international activities
Instruments and Steps under the label of the “Global Risk Assessment Dialogue”

**Instruments**
- Bi-annual International Risk Assessment Conferences
- Exchange of information, documents and consultations on planned and on-going activities in relevant areas
- Establishment of ad hoc working groups open to participation of interested bodies and experts
- Thematic workshops
- Deliverables: consensus based reports and documents

**Steps**
- Consensus on aims and approach
- Definition of areas of interest for the dialogue and themes for pilot activities (2009-2010)
- Pilot activities during 2009-2010
- 2nd International Risk Assessment Conference (November 2010)
The International Risk Assessment Conference

- Organised in Brussels, 13-14 November 2008 - pre-meeting for speakers and Chairs of sessions on 12/11/08
- Around 300 Participants expected
- Organised in close contact with US OMB, large US delegation expected. China, Japan Canada and Australia also represented
- All EU agencies invited. Several EU speakers
- Focus on approach and methodological issues
- Main themes:
  - Risk analysis systems and role of RA in regulatory systems
  - Experience and current problems for risk assessment
  - Terminology, uncertainty, weight of evidence
  - Emerging issues and challenges
  - RA of carcinogens/mutagens
  - Exposure assessment
How the Conference is expected to contribute to the Global Risk Assessment Dialogue:

- Launch event
- To make an initial review of risk assessment systems and approaches
- To identify key issues and challenges for risk assessment
- To identify areas and themes of common interest where dialogue and collaboration is most beneficial
- To launch discussion on a few selected topics
- To discuss the approach and priorities for the continuation of this dialogue and decide the follow initiatives for 2009-2010
EU internal Co-ordination

- The Transatlantic and the International Dialogues require good internal EU co-ordination
- A Contact Group involving Commission services and Agency Secretariats was recently set up (first meeting on 30 September 2008): ECHA and EEA were missing
- Participants from the EU Agencies are invited to contribute to the conclusions of the International Risk Assessment Conference
- Need for internal EU consultation and co-ordination on the follow up to the International Risk Assessment Conference
See you
at the International Risk Assessment Conference
13-14 November 2008
Brussels