

# Joint session Horizon scanning

## In this guide

### [In this guide](#)

1. [About the Committees - 2023](#)
2. [COT Preface - 2023](#)
3. [COT evaluations - 2023](#)
4. [COT Assurance - 2023](#)
5. [Committee Procedures - 2023](#)
6. [Ongoing Work - COT 2023](#)
7. [Other Committee Activities: Joint Expert Groups, Presentations and Workshop -2023](#)
8. [2023 Membership of the Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment](#)
9. [Declaration of COT members' interests during the period of this report -2023](#)
10. [Sub-groups active in 2023](#)
11. [Committee on Mutagenicity of chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment Annual Report 2023](#)
12. [Ongoing work - COM 2023](#)
13. [Discussion Items -2023](#)
14. [2023 Membership of the Committee on Mutagenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment](#)
15. [Declaration of COM members' interests during the period of this report -2023](#)
16. [Committee on Carcinogenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment Annual Report 2023](#)
17. [COC Ongoing Topics - 2023](#)
18. [COC Workshop - 2023](#)
19. [Joint session Horizon scanning](#)
20. [COC input to COT work](#)
21. [2023 Membership of the Committee on Carcinogenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment](#)
22. [Declaration of COC members' interests during the period of this report -2023](#)
23. [Annex 1 - 2023 - Terms of Reference](#)
24. [Annex 2 - 2023 - Code of Conduct for members of the COC/COM/COT](#)

25. [Annex 3 – 2023 - Openness](#)
26. [Annex 4 – 2023 - Good Practice Agreement for Scientific Advisory Committees](#)
27. [Annex 5 – 2023 - Glossary of Terms](#)
28. [Annex 6 – 2023 - Previous Publications](#)

3.12 COC and COM held a joint discussion session in October 2023 to discuss a new approach to undertaking horizon scanning for the Committees. Professor Jason Weeks (IEH Consulting) provided a facilitated discussion to consider emerging evidence, conducting a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis, and then considered the external drivers for the aspects identified using a Social, Technological, Environmental, Economic, Political, Legal and Ethical (STEEPLE) analysis. An assessment was then made of the time point at which the main impacts of the issues identified (short-term: 1-3 years, medium-term: 4-10 years, long-term: 10+ years)

3.13 A series of potential work-streams were identified:

- a. It was agreed to develop a continuous programme of regular horizon scanning to identify and disseminate emerging issues (both positive and negative) on the short-, medium- and long-term horizons, with reporting at intervals to be agreed with the Secretariat.
- b. A method was agreed to assess and prioritise the importance/likelihood and impact of the emerging issues identified in [a] above.
- c. In the future a programme of deep dive studies will be developed to investigate the current state of science/evidence and possible future developments and determine the implications of issues identified as high priority (by respective committees).