

Annex A to TOX/2026/04

This is a paper for discussion. It does not reflect the views of the Committee and should not be cited.

Potential future discussion items - COC horizon scanning

Secretariat

January 2026

From CC/2025/10

COC watching brief of horizon scanning topics

Topics for progression

Meeting raised	Topic	Status
		July 2025: Secretariat discussing with OPSS potential consideration.
November 2024	Chemicals in Hair relaxers.	November 2025: Secretariat is having ongoing discussion with OPSS; there is interest in progressing the topic, however the scope requires consideration before a request is made of COC.

Meeting raised	Topic	Status
March 2025	Progression of “A case for change: the challenge to develop a better approach to assessing risk of cancer caused by chemicals”.	July 2025: Document published. November 2025: Separate discussion paper (CC/2025/09) to review submissions received to date. Need to further consider dissemination and discuss with the smaller group of Members identified in July.

Topics to be kept under a watching brief or not yet prioritised

Meeting raised	Topic	Status
November 2024	Chemicals in air fresheners used in the home.	November 2024: Not prioritised to date. Secretariat notes that if prioritised, consideration if required on whether this should sit with COC or other Committees.
November 2024	Risk of cancer from the regular use of mouth wash.	November 2024: Not assessed further at this time. July 2025: Secretariat note – any consideration would require discussion with OPSS.
November 2024	AI	July 2025: COT is holding a workshop on AI in risk assessment alongside the October 2025 meeting. November 2025: COT workshop held in October – background paper provided to COT for discussion is attached at Annex A of this paper (to note this is reserved as it contains pre-publication material); workshop report to follow in due course.

Meeting raised	Topic	Status
November 2024	PFAS	July 2025: COT subgroup undertaking review of PFAS; Secretariat will explore involvement of COC when relevant.
March 2025	IARC 5 year strategy.	July 2025: Secretariat noted IARC have a medium-term strategy document. The current version covers 2021-2025, with a 2026-2030 in development. With respect to the IARC Monographs an Advisory Group report is available recommending priorities for 2025-2029.

Topics not considered a priority or outside COC's remit

Meeting raised	Topic	Status
November 2024	The risk evaluation for tris(2-chloroethyl) phosphate (TCEP).	November 2024: Not considered a priority and Secretariat notes this is likely to be within COT's remit if it were to be progressed.
November 2024	A reconsideration of car flame retardants.	November 2024: Not considered a priority and Secretariat notes this is likely to be within COT's remit if it were to be progressed.

Meeting raised	Topic	Status
November 2024	Human risk of exposure to microplastics and microfibres.	<p>July 2025: COT has previously published an overarching statement and two substatements on microplastics</p> <p>November 2025: COMEAP has recently published its statement on inhaled nano- and microplastic air pollution. Information on the SETE assessments undertaken to sit alongside this are provided below.</p>

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