

TOX/2019/42

COMMITTEE ON TOXICITY OF CHEMICALS IN FOOD, CONSUMER PRODUCTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Scoping paper on the synthesis and integration of epidemiological and toxicological evidence in risk assessments

Introduction

1. The scoping paper on the synthesis and integration of epidemiological and toxicological evidence in risk assessments was presented to the COC at their last meeting in July of this year.
2. The COC Members discussed the SETE paper and raised concerns about repeating work that has already been done or is currently being undertaken by others (EFSA, SEES). Concern was raised about the international push towards scoring systems for weighing/integration of evidence as some studies might rank low on the scoring systems yet would be important to consider in the overall conclusions. One Member who had been part of the SEES working group pointed out, that the SEES report did stress/evaluate the methods of scoring and its limitations and that an output similar to the SEES report could be a valuable output.
3. The COC Members acknowledged there was a transparency/credibility issue on how conclusions in statements are reached, how expert judgment is applied and how data sets are brought together, especially when conflicts arise and/or default factors are applied in the derivation of HBGVs. Members did comment that the setting of reference values is not often done by COC.
4. The COC Members came to the conclusion that they would want to engage in the work COT is proposing, however that they would like some clarification on the problem definition and the knowledge gap that the working group would be trying to address and the form of output the COT would be looking for to avoid duplication of other work.
5. As the Secretariat, we suggest arranging a teleconference or skype meeting between Members of the COT and COC as a useful way forward. Prof Alan Boobis has agreed to chair this meeting. Any Members of the COT interested in being part of the initial meeting and subsequent Working Group should inform the Secretariat.

Questions to the Committee

- i) Does the Committee agree with the proposal that a preliminary skype meeting with COC Members would be useful?

Secretariat

July 2019