

**ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE
JOINT MEETING OF THE CHEMICALS COMMITTEE AND THE WORKING PARTY ON
CHEMICALS, PESTICIDES AND BIOTECHNOLOGY**

Task Force on Hazard Assessment

**PROPOSAL TO THE JOINT MEETING ON THE PROGRAMME FOR THE OECD COOPERATION
ON THE ASSESSMENT OF CHEMICALS AFTER 2010**

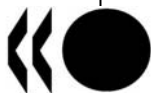
3rd Meeting of the Task Force on Hazard Assessment

**29-30 June 2010, OECD Conference Centre
2 rue André Pascal, 75016 Paris**

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The meeting document outlines a proposal for the implementation of the programme for the OECD cooperation on the assessment of chemicals after 2010, taking into account all interim implementation activities in 2009 and 2010. Following discussion and amendment of this document by the Task Force, it will be submitted for endorsement to the 46th Joint Meeting in November 2010.

Action required: The Task Force is invited to endorse this proposal, amended as appropriate.

History

1. The 43rd Joint Meeting agreed that an activity should be started with the aim to elaborate a proposal for a revised programme for the cooperative assessment of chemicals at OECD to be considered by the Joint Meeting before the end of 2010 [ENV/JM/M(2008)2]. Indeed, most countries are now running national programmes or taking part in regional programmes to assess the hazards and risks of existing chemicals, and many countries have increased their efforts to assess chemicals. Therefore the ways of sharing the burden, avoiding double work and optimising the output while limiting resources should be re-addressed. The Joint Meeting also agreed that the proposal should build upon the experience from the national/regional programmes and that the current HPV Chemicals Programme should continue its work in the meantime.

2. The overall aim of a revision of the current programme is to allow member countries and other stakeholders to save more resources and to avoid duplication while continuing to meet the objectives set out by the OECD Council Decision-Recommendation on the Co-operative Investigation and Risk Reduction of Existing Chemicals, as well as by SAICM and the World Summit on Sustainable Development. This could be done by making the best possible use of products from now established national/regional programmes in order to increase the collective gains and added value of working in OECD for member countries and other stakeholders.

3. The process to implement the Joint Meeting agreements started with an *ad hoc* meeting of experts on 24-26 March 2009 at OECD Headquarters in Paris. The *ad hoc* expert meeting reviewed a number of national/regional and industry activities, discussed the expectations for a revised programme and made a number of recommendations to the Joint Meeting for setting up the revised programme [ENV/JM(2009)12]. The 44th Joint Meeting in 2009 endorsed these recommendations and agreed to move immediately into interim implementation by the Task Force on Hazard Assessment, SIAM as well as by expert workshops.

Procedure for setting up the revised programme

4. To follow up on the recommendations from the 44th Joint Meeting, a number of interim implementation projects were set up. A summary of the individual interim projects is outlined in Annex 1.

5. Many of the interim implementation projects applied the *learning by doing* principle. Case studies for new types of products were developed by lead countries or organisations and submitted to SIAM for in-depth discussions. This provided insights as to the necessary contents of the products as well as the procedures for reaching agreement between member countries.

6. For example, targeted assessments were submitted to SIAM 28, 29 and 30 for in-depth discussion. After each SIAM, the draft guidance for submitting targeted assessments to the programme was revised to take into account the experience made with discussing these assessments. Document ENV/JM/HA(2010)2 outlines the progress made with targeted assessments.

7. The interim implementation projects were overseen by the Task Force on Hazard Assessment. The Task Force exceptionally met three times during the interim implementation period [26-27 March 2009, see ENV/JM/HA/M(2009)2; 18-20 November 2009, see ENV/JM/HA/M(2009)5 and 29-30 June 2010]. An interim progress report was submitted to the 45th Joint Meeting [see ENV/JM(2010)3].

Outcome

8. Based on the outcome of the projects of the interim implementation period a draft outline of the programme for cooperation on the assessment of chemicals after 2010 could be elaborated, as presented in

Annex 2. This description is based on the preliminary draft outline discussed at the 45th Joint Meeting [see ENV/JM(2010)3] and takes into account further developments discussed at SIAM as well as the Task Force on Hazard Assessment.

9. Given the scope and objectives of the programme, it is proposed to call the programme “Co-operative Chemicals Assessment Programme”.

10. Although the new programme is building upon the previous HPV Chemicals Programme, there are a number of significant differences, such as:

- HPV and non-HPV chemicals can be assessed indiscriminately in the programme.
- Industry can routinely submit directly draft assessments to the programme. Alternatively, they can submit via a sponsor country which will perform a first review of the assessment.
- Targeted assessments and targeted chemical categories can be elaborated in the programme.
- Assessments elaborated for national/regional review programmes can be submitted to the programme without major rewriting, provided they comply with certain principles.

11. As indicated above, the programme was revised to better respond to the changing needs of member countries. The revised programme specifically addresses a number of challenges that member countries are facing, such as:

- Assessing more chemicals in a shorter period of time.
- Addressing all chemicals on the market.
- Avoiding duplication with work going on in other countries.

12. As the challenges and needs of member countries evolve over time, the programme should adapt accordingly. It is proposed to periodically review the programme to verify that it continues to respond to the needs of member countries.

Next Steps

13. Following approval by the Joint Meeting, the implementation of the revised programme will be operated over the next two years, starting with SIAM 32 in April 2011.

14. As outlined in Annex 1, a number of implementation projects have not yet been completed. The main topics for further development over the next two years are:

- The *Manual for Cooperative Assessment of Chemicals* [see project 1 in Annex 1 and ENV/JM/HA(2010)10]
- Guidance for expanding chemical categories and elaborating targeted categories [see project 8 in Annex 1]
- Improving acceptance of (Q)SAR approaches and use of emerging types of data [see projects 9 and 10 in Annex 1]

- Development of a simple system to keep track of national/regional/international assessment activities to avoid duplication of work [see project 11 in Annex 1]

15. It is proposed to provide a detailed report on the final implementation and performance of the Cooperative Chemicals Assessment Programme to the Joint Meeting in November 2012.

ANNEX 1: STATUS OF INTERIM IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME FOR COOPERATION ON THE ASSESSMENT OF CHEMICALS AFTER 2010

Following the recommendations from the Joint Meeting [ENV/JM(2009)12], a number of projects were set up to elaborate a programme for cooperation on the assessment of chemicals after 2010. The status of each of the projects is outlined below. The projects have been renumbered and rearranged according to the different focus areas of the future programme.

Elaboration and dissemination of OECD-wide agreed conclusions on hazards of chemicals

Project 1. Manual for Cooperative Assessment of Chemicals	
Objectives:	Elaborate overall guidance for the preparation of assessments under the new programme.
Schedule	Start: January 2010 Completion by: End of 2011
Lead	Secretariat
Milestones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a first step the Secretariat has drafted a high-level outline for an overall guidance for participants in the revised programme for the 3rd meeting of the TFHA in 2010, taking into account all the projects described above as well as the existing <i>OECD Manual for Investigation of HPV Chemicals</i> [see ENV/JM/HA(2010)10]. • End of 2010: First draft of the core of the Manual. Circulation to SIAM and Task Force for review and comments • Mid 2011: Revised draft of the Manual- Request for endorsement by the Task Force • End of 2011: Publication of the Manual

Project 2. Submission of assessments elaborated in national/regional and industry programmes.	
Objectives:	Elaborate procedures for submission of assessments elaborated in national/regional and industry programmes. Investigate how to limit rewriting products from national/regional and industry programmes. There should be a common denominator for documentation submitted for all full initial hazard assessments.
Schedule	Start: April 2009 Completion by end of 2010
Lead	US, CAN, DE, JP, AUS, EC, BIAC
Milestones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of case studies at SIAM 28 [April 2009], SIAM 29 [October 2009] and SIAM 30 [April 2010]. • The Secretariat has drafted preliminary guidance for discussion at SIAM 29 in October 2009 [see ENV/JM/HA/SIAM(2009)4] • Based on the outcome of discussions at SIAM 29, the Secretariat has revised the preliminary guidance for review by the TFHA in November 2009 [see ENV/JM/HA(2009)9]. • Based on the outcome of discussions at SIAM 30, the Secretariat has revised the preliminary guidance for review by the TFHA in June 2010 [see ENV/JM/HA(2010)1]. • This draft guidance will be inserted in the future <i>Manual for the Cooperative Assessment of Chemicals</i> [see project 1]

Project 3. Elaboration of targeted assessments	
Objectives:	Develop guidance for elaborating targeted hazard assessments aimed at specific problem solving. Elaborate a template to report summary conclusions from targeted assessments, similar to a SIAP. Develop an approach to transparently document the endpoints assessed.
Schedule	Start: April 2009 Completion by: end of 2010
Lead	Secr., CAN, UK, DE, JP
Milestones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion of case studies from CAN, the UK, JP and DE at SIAM 28 [April 2009], SIAM 29 [October 2009] and SIAM 30 [April 2010]. The Secretariat has drafted guidance, including a template to report summary conclusions, for discussion at SIAM 29 in October 2009 [see ENV/JM/HA/SIAM(2009)6] Based on the outcome of discussions at SIAM 29, the Secretariat has revised the guidance for review by the TFHA in November 2009 [see ENV/JM/HA(2009)10]. Based on the outcome of discussions at SIAM 30, the Secretariat has revised the guidance for review by the TFHA in June 2010 [see ENV/JM/HA(2010)2]. This draft guidance will be inserted in the future <i>Manual for the Cooperative Assessment of Chemicals</i> [see project 1]

Project 4. Assessment approaches for specific groups of chemicals	
Objectives:	Assessment approaches for specific groups of chemicals (e.g. metals/inorganic chemicals, polymers, petroleum substances).
Schedule	Start: June 2009 Completion by: end of 2011
Lead	BIAC, US, EC, Secr.
Milestones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contacts with metals/inorganic chemicals industry as well as petroleum substances industry have been established and first proposals for collaborative work were discussed at the 2nd meeting of the Task Force on Hazard Assessment in November 2009 [see ENV/JM/HA(2009)18]. A proposal for a workshop to review and discuss metals specificities in environmental hazard assessments has been submitted for discussion to the 3rd meeting of the TFHA in June 2010 [see ENV/JM/HA(2010)7]. A proposal for a seminar on the description of the identity of hydrocarbon solvents has been submitted for discussion to the 3rd meeting of the TFHA in June 2010 [see ENV/JM/HA/RD(2010)1].

Project 5. Harmonise use codes	
Objectives:	Harmonise use codes to better characterise exposure.
Schedule	Start: October 2008 Completion by: 2011
Lead	EC, US, CAN

Milestones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A first draft proposal from EC was discussed at SIAM 27 in October 2008. • EC drafted a revised proposal to be commented on by SIAM in a written procedure in November 2009. • A status report has been prepared for the TFHA [see ENV/JM/HA(2009)17]. • TFEA discussed proposal by EC as well as a proposal by US/CAN and recommended to use both systems and continue discussion in future meetings on further international harmonisation by taking into consideration experiences on the use of these two description systems [see ENV/JM/EA/M(2009)1]. • Submission for endorsement to TFHA in 2011.
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Project 6. Exposure Assessment	
Objectives:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify national and industry collections of information on use patterns for use by sponsors and improve their accessibility (e.g. through eChemPortal). 2. Share national exposure assessment tools, especially simple tools, and experience using them (medium term)
Schedule	TBD
Lead	TBD
Milestones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Task Force on Exposure Assessment agreed to set up the corresponding projects at its meeting in November/December 2009 [see ENV/JM/EA/M(2009)1] • Detailed project definitions to be elaborated by September 2010.

Project 7. Sharing the burden	
Objectives:	Work to understand and then apply approaches to share the burden post 2010. Take into consideration contributions other than initial hazard assessments (e.g. reviews).
Schedule	TBD
Lead	TBD
Milestones	This objectives will addressed after more progress has been made on the other projects. No specific activities have been defined yet.

Development and application of integrated approaches to testing and assessment

Project 8. Extrapolation of assessment conclusions and elaboration of targeted categories	
Objectives:	Investigate elaboration of ways to group chemicals for the purpose of extrapolating assessment conclusions from well characterised to less well characterised chemicals. Also investigate the elaboration of targeted chemical categories, i.e. chemical categories of large groups focusing on a limited number of endpoints (e.g. reproductive toxicity for glycol ethers or aquatic toxicity for non-polar narcotics).
Schedule	Start: April 2009 Completion by: end of 2011
Lead	US, NL, EC, BIAC, Secr.
Milestones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A first case study was submitted by the US to SIAM 28 in April 2009 • The US, BIAC and the Secretariat drafted a discussion paper on extrapolating assessment conclusions for discussion at SIAM 29 in October 2009, based on a practical example [see ENV/JM/HA/SIAM(2009)8]. The document also exemplifies how the QSAR Application Toolbox can be used for that purpose. • The Secretariat drafted an outline of the concept of targeted categories for discussion at SIAM 29 in October 2009 [see ENV/JM/HA/SIAM(2009)7]. • Following the discussion by SIAM revised documents were prepared for discussion at the 2nd meeting of the TFHA in November 2009 [see ENV/JM/HA(2009)11 and ENV/JM/HA(2009)13]. • The TFHA endorsed the concepts and recommended to merge the two topics. • Case studies were prepared for in-depth discussion at SIAM 30 [April 2010]. • Review of progress by TFHA in June 2010 [see ENV/JM/HA(2010)3] • Preparation of draft guidance for review by SIAM in October 2010 and TFHA in 2011

Project 9. Use of emerging types of data	
Objectives:	Provide a venue for discussion, evaluation and potentially agreement if/how/when emerging types of data (e.g. genomics, <i>in vitro</i> bioprofiling, <i>in vitro</i> assays, etc.) can be used in support of and/or in lieu of animal test data.
Schedule	On-going
Lead	US
Milestones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a first topic, the TFHA proposed to organize a workshop on how information on mechanism or mode of action can be used to group chemicals into categories and fill data gaps by read-across [see ENV/JM/HA/RD(2009)4]. • This proposal was endorsed by the 45th JM [see ENV/JM(2010)5]. • Progress report on preparation of the workshop to TFHA in June 2010 [see ENV/JM/HA(2010)5]. • December 2010: Workshop, hosted by US-EPA in Washington, DC

Project 10. Improve acceptance of QSAR approaches	
Objectives:	Improve acceptance of results from QSAR models and expert system tools as replacement for test data when the chemicals are part of a well understood chemical class, mode-of-action or metabolic category or according to other scientifically sound measures of similarity.
Schedule	On-going
Lead	DK, DE, JP, EC
Milestones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Secretariat has drafted an outline of the project for discussion at SIAM 29 in October 2009 [see ENV/JM/HA/SIAM(2009)9]. • Based on the outcome of the discussions at SIAM, a revised version was prepared for discussion by the TFHA in November 2009 [see ENV/JM/HA(2009)12]. • A joint session between SIAM and the (Q)SAR Application Toolbox Management Group was scheduled for April 2010. In preparation of the joint session, volunteers applied QSAR methodologies including the QSAR Application Toolbox to specific cases to be discussed at SIAM 30 [in line with deadline for comments for SIAM cases]. Furthermore a number of general issues regarding the use of QSAR methodologies were scheduled to be addressed. Due to shutdown of the European air travel space, the session was cancelled and is rescheduled for October 2010 [see ENV/JM/HA(2010)4]. • Secretariat and lead countries to report on first experience to TFHA in 2011.

Avoiding Duplication

Project 11. Avoid duplication	
Objectives:	<p>Develop a simple system to keep track of national/regional/international assessment activities to avoid duplication of work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share forward planning agendas. • Set up partnerships on specific chemicals or chemical categories. • Report of follow-up activities. • Investigate expansion of eChemPortal to track national/regional/international assessment activities
Schedule	Start: November 2009 Completion by: 2011
Lead	EC, CAN
Milestones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada in collaboration with the EC has drafted some proposals for discussion at the 2nd meeting of the TFHA [see ENV/JM/HA(2009)17]. • Canada, the EC and the Secretariat drafted a survey to identify the needs of member countries and the availability of the corresponding information before the end of 2010. • The survey was organized during the first quarter of 2010. The results of the survey and proposals for follow-up have been submitted for discussion to the 3rd meeting of the Task Force on Hazard Assessment [see ENV/JM/HA(2010)6].

Providing a forum to exchange experience in member countries

Project 12. Identify low hazard chemicals	
Objectives:	Develop approaches to identify and agree on low hazard chemicals assessed by countries and regions.
Schedule	Start: June 2009 Completion by: November 2009
Lead	US, EC, CAN, Secr.
Milestones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on submissions from the US and the EC, the Secretariat drafted a proposal for a list of chemicals generally considered to be of low hazard for discussion at SIAM 29 in October 2009 [see ENV/JM/HA/SIAM(2009)5]. Following the discussion by SIAM, a revised document was prepared for discussion at the 2nd meeting of the Task Force in November 2009 [see ENV/JM/HA(2009)14]. The Task Force identified 7 chemicals that can be set aside without further assessment and recommended not to pursue the activity. General information exchange regarding national priority setting activities should continue.

Project 13. GHS	
Objectives:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve access to information on national/regional GHS classifications, e.g. via eChemPortal. 2. Provide forum to identify commonalities and differences in implementation and actual classifications and to find out the reasons for the differences.
Schedule	On-going
Lead	Secr.
Milestones	<p>Objective 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collections of classifications that could be accessed via eChemPortal have been identified and a report has been prepared for the 2nd meeting of the TFHA in November 2009 [see ENV/JM/HA(2009)19]. A report has been submitted for information to the UN Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals for its meeting in July 2010 [see UN/SCEGHS/19/INF.6]. <p>Objective 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following a recommendation from the 44th JM an activity was started to identify reasons for differences in classifications of a set of chemicals listed in Annex 3 of the Rotterdam Convention. A progress report has been prepared for the 2nd meeting of the TFHA in November 2009 [see ENV/JM/HA(2009)20]. The final result of this activity was reported to the 45th JM [see ENV/JM(2010)6] and has been published in the Series on Testing and Assessment [http://www.oelis.oecd.org/olis/2010doc.nsf/linkto/ENV-JM-MONO(2010)7] A document with proposals for follow-up actions was submitted for discussion to the 3rd meeting of the Task Force on Hazard Assessment [see ENV/JM/HA(2010)9].

Other

Project 14. Written procedures	
Objectives:	Finalise more assessments by written procedure [straightforward assessments, assessments of low hazard chemicals]. Also investigate second written commenting round via the CDGs.
Schedule	Start: July 2009 Completion by: End of 2010
Lead	Secretariat
Milestones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Secretariat has drafted a proposal for discussion at SIAM 29 in October 2009 [see ENV/JM/HA/SIAM(2009)3]. • A revised proposal was endorsed by the TFHA at its 2nd meeting in November 2009 [see ENV/JM/HA(2009)21]. • This draft guidance will be inserted in the future <i>Manual for the Cooperative Assessment of Chemicals</i> [see project 1]

ANNEX 2: DRAFT OUTLINE OF THE PROGRAMME FOR COOPERATION ON THE ASSESSMENT OF CHEMICALS AFTER 2010

OECD CO-OPERATIVE CHEMICALS ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME

Introduction

1. The cooperation on the assessment of chemicals in OECD after 2010 will build upon the current HPV Chemicals Programme and will be called the “Cooperative Chemicals Assessment Programme”.

Focus

2. The focus of the programme will be on the following topics:
- elaboration and dissemination of OECD-wide agreed conclusions on hazards of chemicals
 - development and application of integrated approaches to testing and assessment
 - avoiding duplication
 - providing a forum to exchange experience in member countries
3. Each of the four topics is described in more details below.

Elaboration and dissemination of OECD-wide agreed conclusions on hazards of chemicals

4. As in the HPV Chemicals Programme, the focus of the Cooperative Chemicals Assessment Programme will be to derive OECD-wide agreed hazard assessments of chemicals. The scope of the programme will comprise both HPV and non-HPV chemicals. To monitor the progress in assessing HPV Chemicals, the OECD HPV list will continue to be updated regularly every 5 years.

5. The Screening Information Data Set (SIDS) will continue to be the reference data set to perform an initial assessment in accordance with the OECD Decision-Recommendation of the Council on the Co-operative Investigation and Risk Reduction of Existing Chemicals [C(90)163/Final]. The current guidance in the *Manual for Investigation of HPV Chemicals* for the elaboration of SIDS Initial Assessment Reports (SIARs) remains valid and will be integral part of the future *Manual for the Cooperative Assessment of Chemicals* [see project 1 in Annex 1]. Full SIDS Initial Assessments sponsored by member countries and chemical industry will continue to be elaborated. Hazard assessments prepared by chemical industry and authorities in the context of national/regional and industry programmes can be submitted to the programme with minimal rewriting and reformatting, provided the general objectives of the SIAR and SIDS Dossier are met [see project 2 in Annex 1].

6. The programme will also elaborate targeted assessments i.e. hazard assessments that address only a limited number of hazard endpoints, short of the full SIDS assessment with a reasoning provided for conducting a targeted assessment [see project 3 in Annex 1]. The purpose of elaborating targeted assessments is to increase the availability of internationally agreed hazard assessments (even if it is on a limited number of endpoints) and thereby improve efficiency. Rationales for preparing a targeted assessment may vary and could include:

- Focus on identified hazards that might be significant in relation to subsequent risk assessment or risk management.
- Hazard communication, i.e. dissemination of agreed hazard characterizations for specific endpoints that were not previously public.

7. The programme will also address specific types of chemicals, such as metals/inorganics, petroleum substances or polymers and develop the necessary guidance to assess the hazards of these substances [see project 4 in Annex 1].

8. As far as readily available, the agreed hazard assessments will continue to contain basic information on use pattern in a harmonised way, to put the hazards into context. The programme will set up collaborations with the Task Force on Exposure Assessment to develop the necessary tools and to improve the access to relevant exposure information [see projects 5 and 6 in Annex 1].

9. Member countries and industry will share the burden in elaborating and reviewing hazard assessments for chemicals [see project 7 in Annex 1], with the current OECD high quality of assessments maintained. Industry can submit draft assessments either via a sponsor country which will perform a first review of the assessment or directly through BIAC.

10. The status of any chemical being assessed in the programme will be reported in the OECD Existing Chemicals Database [www.oecd.org/env/existingchemicals/data] and the OECD Secretariat will maintain and further develop this database as needed. OECD-wide agreed hazard assessments will be disseminated via the OECD Existing Chemicals Database and via the OECD Global Portal to Information of Chemical Substances [eChemPortal: www.oecd.org/ehs/echempportal]. The OECD Secretariat will continue to work with UNEP to further improve the dissemination of hazard assessments elaborated within the Cooperative Chemicals Assessment Programme.

Development and application of integrated approaches to testing and assessment

11. The Cooperative Chemicals Assessment Programme will continue to develop and improve regulatory acceptance of integrated approaches to testing and assessment, by applying them to actual hazard assessments elaborated within the programme.

12. Efforts will focus on expanding the chemical category concept which has proven so successful over the last 10 years [see project 8 in Annex 1]. In addition to improving the application of the current concept, new ways of grouping chemicals into toxicologically appropriate categories, e.g. according to mechanisms or modes of action will be investigated [see project 9 in Annex 1].

13. Furthermore the programme will aim at improving the expertise in and regulatory acceptance of (Q)SAR methodologies in general, via an improved collaboration between (Q)SAR experts and hazard assessors [see project 10 in Annex 1].

14. As new types of data, such as genomics or high-throughput in vitro test results become available, the programme will investigate how such data can be used to characterize the hazards of chemicals.

Avoiding duplication

15. Another focus will be on avoiding duplication among member countries. As member countries implement their national/regional programmes to assess more chemicals in a shorter timeframe, the risk of duplication increases. The OECD Global Portal to Information of Chemical Substances will continue to improve the access to existing hazard information and assessments, including GHS classifications and underlying datasets. The Cooperative Chemicals Assessment Programme will furthermore be the forum to share forward planning agendas and possibly set up partnerships for assessing specific chemicals or chemical categories [see project 11 in Annex 1].

Providing a forum to exchange experience in member countries

16. The Cooperative Chemicals Assessment Programme will also be a forum to exchange experience in member countries to avoid duplication of efforts and identify issues for collaborative work. Examples of topics for exchange of information and experience are:

- National/regional and industry-developed methodologies for hazard assessment
- Priority setting [see project 12 in Annex 1]
- Categorization of inventories
- GHS classifications [see project 13 in Annex 1]
- Effects from exposure to multiple chemicals
- Assessment of endocrine disruptors

Structure

17. SIDS Initial Assessment Meetings (SIAMs) will continue to be held as needed to implement the Cooperative Chemicals Assessment Programme, with oversight by the Task Force on Hazard Assessment (TFHA). Best use will be made of written procedures to optimize the efficiency of the programme [see project 14 in Annex 1]. The agendas of SIAMs will be organized according to the focus topics outlined above. SIAM will actively collaborate with experts in (Q)SAR methodologies from the (Q)SAR Application Toolbox Management Group on issues regarding integrated approaches to testing and assessment and with the Task Force on Exposure Assessment on issues of gathering and reporting relevant exposure information. Collaboration with other bodies will be set up as needed.