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

Cancels & replaces the same document of 26 September 2016

**HISTORY, BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE OF THE ENVIRONMENT,
HEALTH AND SAFETY PROGRAMME**

**55th Joint Meeting of the Chemicals Committee and the Working Party on Chemicals,
Pesticides and Biotechnology**

**7-9 November 2016, at the OECD Conference Centre, 2 rue André Pascal, Paris,
beginning at 13h30 on 7 November.**

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The document outlines clarifications on resources, programme management and priority setting for the OECD Environment, Health and Safety Programme. It was first presented to the Joint Meeting at its 44th meeting in June 2009 [[ENV/JM/RD\(2009\)1](#)] and has been periodically updated since.

ACTION REQUIRED: *The Joint Meeting is invited to note this document.*

1. This informal document explaining the structure and processes of OECD related to programme management, budget and priority setting has been prepared at the request of several Delegates who wish to better understand the place of the Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) Programme in the OECD structure, its relationship to the Environment Programme, how it is funded and how priorities are set. These issues are, of course, all interrelated and each issue is important on its own.
2. OECD's Governing Body is its Council comprising Ambassadors from all 35 OECD member countries. Its work is carried out through about 20 Committees and about 200 Working Parties, Working Groups and groups of experts. These bodies cover a wide range of subjects, some broad in scope, others technical and highly specialised. Countries are represented on these bodies by delegates from various parts of their national administrations. The work undertaken by many of these bodies draws on a broad international multidisciplinary network which includes industry, trade unions, academia and NGOs. Certain partner countries and relevant international organisations take part in the work of some of the Committees and their subsidiary bodies. The body which oversees the EHS Programme is the Joint Meeting of the Chemicals Committee and Working Party on Chemicals, Pesticides and Biotechnology (Joint Meeting).
3. OECD's biannual Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) is approved by Council, which considers a proposal from the Secretary General based on input from the Committees, and reviewed by the Budget Committee. The funding for the Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) Programme comes from the core (Part I) budget of the Organisation, from a special (Part II) programme and from voluntary contributions (grants). The outputs produced are linked to one or the other of these budgets.
4. OECD's Paris-based Secretariat is an independent corps of experts drawn from the 35 member countries and from many disciplines. It supports the Committees and the Council in their work. The Secretary General is assisted by four deputies and a staff of about 2500. They are organised into ten substantive directorates and support services, and staff is supplemented by consultants drawn from universities, business, and governments. The Environment Health and Safety (EHS) Division is part of the Environment Directorate and comprises approximately thirty in-house staff, of which about one-fourth are support staff.
5. More information on the OECD can be found at www.oecd.org. An explanation of the details of the responsibilities of the Joint Meeting, the management structure and resources of the EHS programme, its place in the PWB and the outputs of OECD, and the way priorities are set follows.

Resources

6. The OECD budget has three components. The core Part I budget is provided by all 35 member countries as their overall contribution to OECD and is divided over the various Output areas in the Programme of Work and Budget. Countries can also chose to participate in Part II programmes like the Chemicals Management Programme [C(2016)3]. The participation of countries in the various Part II programmes of the Organisation varies greatly, but the participating countries contribute specifically to these programmes (usually through resources provided by the relevant Ministries) according to scales established either in roughly the same way as those for the Part I core contribution or specifically for that programme. A third source of resources is voluntary contributions which are provided by countries or stakeholders on a completely voluntary basis and which support or accelerate certain aspects of the work already included in the agreed Programme of Work. The voluntary contributions provided by governments emanate from the various ministries in countries which are interested in specific work under Part I and Part II or which want to supplement the resources available to the overall Part II Special Programme.

7. The Environment, Health and Safety Programme is supported by a limited amount of Part I funding - about 10-15 per cent of the overall EHS resources. These resources are distributed over specific parts of the EHS programme related to chemical safety - specifically to implementation of the Council Acts on Mutual Acceptance of Data [Test Guidelines and Principles of Good Laboratory Practice (GLP)] - and to all of the other activities covered by the EHS Programme which are not part of the Chemicals Management Programme (Pesticides and Biocides, Biosafety, PRTRs, Accidents). The resources received from Part II funding make up about 45-50 per cent of the overall resources for the EHS Programme; these funds, which are provided by 32 member countries¹, are devoted only to work on chemical safety covered by the Part II Chemicals Management Programme (i.e. additional work on Test Guidelines and GLP, all of the other work on chemical safety [hazard assessment, exposure assessment, risk management], including the activities on manufactured nanomaterials). Supplemental voluntary contributions to Part I or Part II activities make up the remaining 40 per cent of the resources available for the work on Environment, Health and Safety in OECD.

EHS Programme and Joint Meeting

History

8. The current OECD Environment, Health and Safety Programme has developed out of what was once a small Part I Chemicals Programme that was overseen by a Working Party on Chemicals, established under the Environment Committee in 1971. In 1978, the Part II Special Programme on the Control of Chemicals was established by a Council Decision² so that more extensive work could be undertaken on harmonization of testing, assessment and management of chemicals. Council also established a Management Committee to oversee its work. Originally 13 countries contributed Part II resources; today, 32 member countries participate in the Special Programme.

9. In the beginning, the Working Party on Chemicals and the Management Committee of the Special Programme on the Control of Chemicals each met separately and dealt with separate, though related, areas of chemicals management. However, as it became clear that national representation overlapped and that the work of these two groups was becoming increasingly interlinked, and as they were being serviced by a single Secretariat, the decision was made to combine the activities overseen by these two bodies into an overall Chemicals Programme. The first Joint Meeting of the Management Committee

¹ All OECD member countries except Greece, Iceland and Portugal

² C(78)127/FINAL

and the Working Party took place in 1983. Since then all of the work on chemicals in OECD has been carried out under the auspices of that Joint Meeting and funded by a combination of Part I, Part II and extra-budgetary resources.

10. The scope of the work has evolved beyond that related strictly to chemicals management. After the initial fundamental groundwork on harmonisation of policies and instruments for chemicals management was laid in the 1980s – e.g. the Council Acts on Mutual Acceptance of Data, confidentiality of data and proprietary rights, a Minimum Pre-marketing set of Data for new chemicals, and investigation of existing chemicals and their implementation – the Joint Meeting gradually began to cover other related areas as well, and its work expanded to include programmes on pesticides, chemical accidents, PRTRs, regulatory oversight of biotechnology, food and feed safety, and, most recently, biocides and manufactured nanomaterials. All of these programmes are also anchored in the Part I OECD Programme of Work by a relatively small portion of Part I resources, and their work is predominantly financed through extra-budgetary contributions by member countries. This EHS Programme, whose activities are carried out through an extensive structure of subsidiary bodies (see Annex 2), is managed by the Joint Meeting and serviced by the EHS Division in the OECD Environment Directorate.

11. In subsequent years, name changes reflected these developments: the Chemicals Programme was renamed the Environment, Health and Safety Programme; the Management Committee of the Special Programme on the Control of Chemicals became the Chemicals Committee; The Special Programme on the Control of Chemicals was renamed the Chemicals Management Programme; the Working Party on Chemicals grew into the Working Party on Chemicals, Pesticides and Biotechnology. In the meantime, the Environment Committee was also renamed Environment Policy Committee (EPOC).

Subsidiary Bodies

12. A complex structure of subsidiary bodies of the Joint Meeting and links to parent bodies has also evolved over the years. This reporting structure for these subsidiary bodies is due to the historical fact that the Part I Working Party on Chemicals, Pesticides and Biotechnology is formally a subsidiary body of EPOC while this Part I work is *de facto* managed by the Joint Meeting. The Working Party does not actually meet without the Chemicals Committee and only exists as a separate entity for the administrative reasons explained above (see Annex 1). Its hierarchical link to EPOC is still clear because the Part I EHS work is included in the EPOC work programme and is thus part of the EPOC priority setting. In practice, all of the work on Environment, Health and Safety is managed by the Joint Meeting. This is reflected in its subsidiary body structure of Working Parties, Working Groups and other subsidiary bodies (see Annex 2, which shows how work is carried out in practice).

13. In spite of the fact that this programme, management and budgetary situation may seem somewhat complex, it is important that there continue to be a Part I component of the EHS Programme. In the past, efforts were made to streamline this structure. However, given the fact that the responsibilities for and funding of different parts of the EHS work are in the hands of a variety of Ministries in member countries, countries have preferred to keep the arrangements as they are, rather than attempt to alter the long-established internal structures. This means that the work on environment, health and safety remains a main line component of the core OECD Programme of Work due to its links with the Environment Programme and since it draws to a certain extent on the general resource commitments of all governments to the Organisation as a whole.

OECD Programme of Work and Budget, Outputs and Priority Setting

14. The biannual OECD Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) is prepared on the basis of Committee proposals. The final PWB is approved by Council based on a proposal of the Secretary-

General. When discussing the PWB, Council agrees on the Work Programme, the overall budget envelope and the distribution of resources within the PWB, based on advice from OECD's Budget Committee. Each member country and the European Commission is represented on this Committee through its Permanent Delegation (which is headed by its Ambassador) in Paris.

15. In order to achieve the "results-based management" of its PWB, OECD uses a cascading "strategic management framework" and currently organises all of its work under six Strategic Objectives, which, in turn, comprise 46 Output Groups consisting of 88 Output Areas. All of the work carried out in the EHS Programme belongs to:

- Strategic Objective 2 : to "Provide employment opportunities for all, improve human capital and social cohesion and promote a sustainable environment", and its
- Output Group 2.3 : "Environmental Sustainability"; and its
- Output Area 2.3.3 : "Environment, Health and Safety (including Chemicals)".

16. EPOC is formally responsible for all the work in Output Group 2.3, including the Part I portion of that in Output Area 2.3.3. The Chemicals Committee is formally responsible for the Part II component. A separate PWB for the Part II Chemicals Management Programme is also agreed by Council.

PWB Planning and Priority Setting

OECD-wide priority setting: Planning with the MTO survey

17. OECD has several planning or priority setting exercises. Early in the preparations for a new PWB, a Medium Term Orientations (MTO) survey is conducted, in which consolidated government views are solicited from capitals through the Permanent Delegations in Paris regarding general levels of resources (the same, more, less, none) to be allocated in the next PWB period to each of the 88 Output Areas. The purpose of this centrally-organised survey is to provide government-wide guidance on the orientation of the upcoming PWB, and its results are presented in a simple quantified format which can be used as a tool for planning the draft PWB.

EPOC Priorities

18. The priority setting within Output Groups and their Output Areas is carried out by the Committees concerned. The programmes of work and budget and the related priority setting are dealt with in separate processes for Part I and Part II components of the overall Environment, Health and Safety Programme.

19. The Part I programme of work and budget is established by EPOC in the framework of the Environment Programme. Part I resources for outputs on Environment, Health and Safety are allocated according to priorities set by EPOC, both among the expected output results within the Output Area 2.3.3 and between this output area and the other output areas of the Environment Programme. The EHS output area must thus compete in the EPOC priority setting with work on, e.g., environmental performance reviews, green growth, water or climate change. Due to the fact that countries tend to rely on a significant part of the work on chemicals being carried out with Part II and extra-budgetary resources, the EHS output area (2.3.3) runs the risk of not being among the top ranking EPOC priorities. This has potential consequences in the case that budget cuts are required.

Chemicals Committee Priorities

20. The Chemicals Committee is obliged to provide to Council an overview of its priorities for the Part II Chemicals activities in the context of the preparation of the Part II PWB. In practice, priorities are somewhat readjusted during a PWB period since the Joint Meeting makes decisions about the specific direction of the work in the EHS Programme.

21. As explained above, this dual procedure is reflected in the name of the Joint Meeting of the Chemicals Committee and the Working Party on Chemicals, Pesticides and Biotechnology (formally an EPOC Working Party). EPOC, while it does not manage the work carried out under Output Area 2.3.3, does oversee it by setting the priorities for distribution of the Part I budget for the Part I work in the EHS Programme. Although somewhat complicated, this structure ensures that some core resources are given to EHS work and guarantees a place for the EHS Programme in the Environment Programme and, of its staff, in the Environment Directorate.

Evaluation of Outputs with the PIR Process

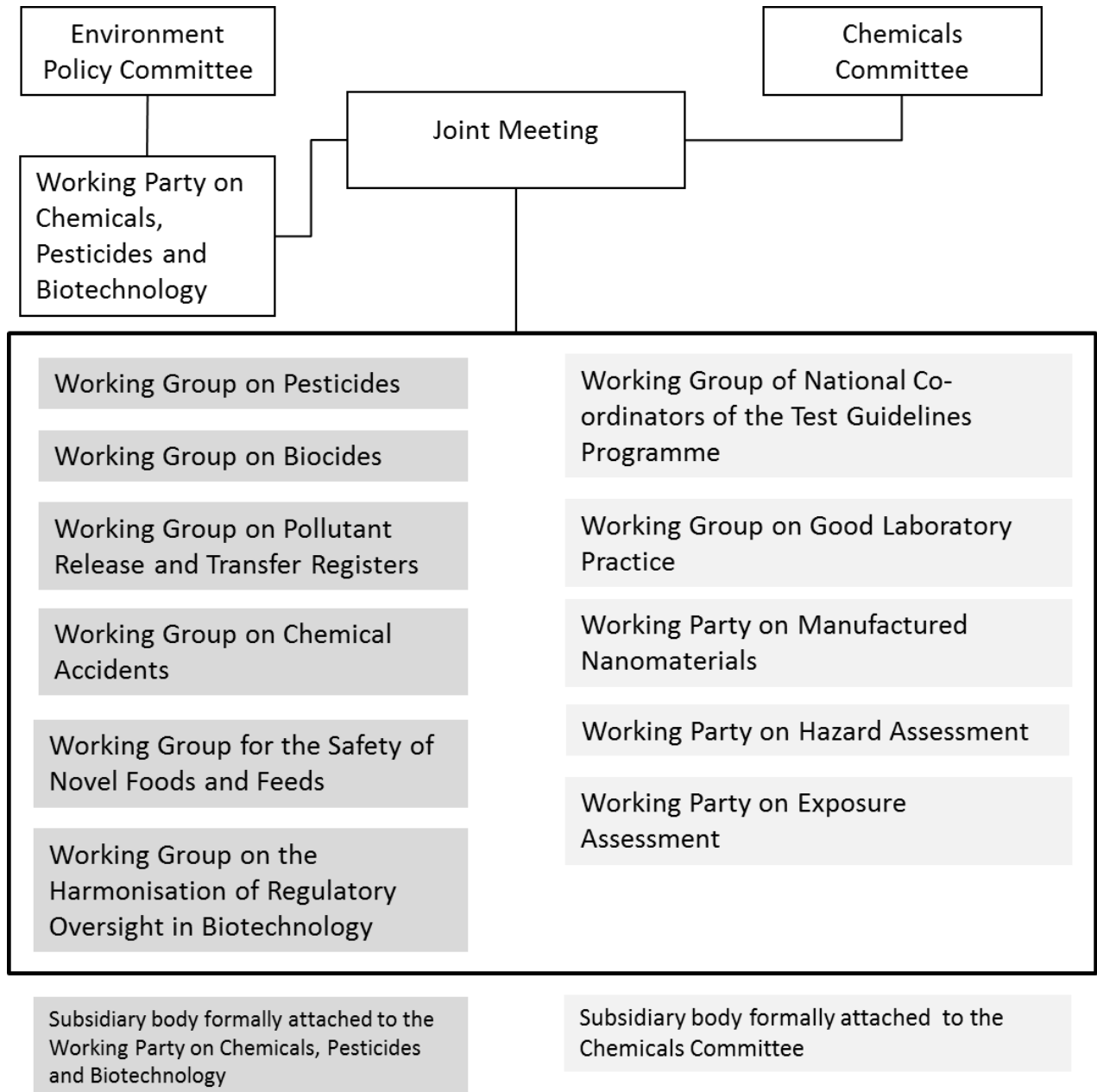
22. The completed output results that are produced in OECD are evaluated bi-annually through a Programme Implementation Reporting (PIR) process. Like the MTO exercise, this evaluation process is organised through the Permanent Delegations in Paris, who in turn are expected to consult with the appropriate experts in their capitals. The outputs are rated both for their quality and for their impact or potential impact. The results of this PIR process, as well as the response rate, are considered to be a measure of the performance of each output area.

Involvement of Joint Meeting Delegates

23. In order to help ensure a stable level of funding for the work in the EHS Programme, it is important that Delegates - in addition to participating in the Joint Meeting's priority setting for the Part II chemicals work - actively participate in developing national positions i) by evaluating the outputs of the EHS work in the PIR process (in particular because not only the ratings, but also the extent of country participation in the process, are seen as indicators of interest in the work); ii) by ensuring that their voice is heard in the EPOC priority setting for Part I (as described above, this is particularly important as EPOC sets priorities for the Output Group to which EHS work belongs; and iii) by ensuring that their voice is heard in the biannual government-wide MTO survey.

24. The PIR exercise for the recently finished PWB takes place during the second quarter of the first year of the next PWB. The MTO survey to be used in developing the next PWB takes place the same year, during the third quarter.

ANNEX 1: ORGANIGRAMME



ANNEX 2: Subsidiary Bodies of the Joint Meeting

All of the subsidiary bodies in this list below which are marked with ► report directly to the Joint Meeting of the Chemicals Committee and Working Party on Chemicals, Pesticides and Biotechnology. Those subsidiary bodies of the Joint Meeting which are indicated in bold are long term standing bodies which are listed in the Organisation's *Directory of Bodies* [see <http://webnet.oecd.org/oecdgroups/>]. Where there are close connections between bodies, this is noted. The expert groups, steering groups, etc. listed under the various bodies are those which are expected to be active during part or all of the 2017 - 2020 Programme period. The groups listed under each subsidiary body report to that body. These groups are often temporary in character, with a definite task and time-frame; not all of them actually have face-to-face meetings. Other such groups will be established or reactivated by their parent bodies as the need arises, and therefore this list will evolve.

Chemicals Programme

- **Working Group of National Coordinators of the Test Guidelines Programme** (Close links to Working Party on Hazard Assessment, Working Group on Pesticides, Working Group on GLP, Working Group on Biocides and Working Party on Manufactured Nanomaterials)

Advisory Group on Endocrine Disrupters Testing and Assessment

Validation Management Group for mammalian testing

Validation Management Group for ecotoxicity testing

Validation Management Group for non-animal testing

Expert Groups are established or re-established for specific projects of the work plan (12 expert groups are currently active);

Extended Advisory Group on Molecular Screening and Toxicogenomics

- **Working Group on Good Laboratory Practice** (Close links to Working Group of National Coordinators of the Test Guidelines Programme)

Steering Group for Training Courses for inspectors

Drafting Group for Guidance Documents on the interpretation of GLP Principles

Discussion Group on industry harmonisation issues

- **Working Party on Hazard Assessment** (Close links to Working Group of National Coordinators of the Test Guidelines Programme, Working Party on Exposure Assessment, Working Group on Pesticides, Working Group on Biocides, Working Party on Manufactured Nanomaterials)

Cooperative Chemicals Assessment Programme (CoCAP) (IATA Case Studies Project Team and Combined Exposures to Multiple Chemicals Project Team)

QSAR Toolbox Management Group

IUCLID User Group Expert Panel

Steering Group for the Development of the Global Portal to Information on Chemical Substances

- ▶ **Working Party on Exposure Assessment** (Close links to Working Party on Hazard Assessment, Working Group on Biocides, Working Group on PRTRs, Working Group on Pesticides, Working Party on Manufactured Nanomaterials)

Nanomaterials Programme

- ▶ **Working Party on Manufactured Nanomaterials** (Close links to Working Group of National Coordinators of the Test Guidelines Programme, Working Party on Hazard Assessment, Working Party on Exposure Assessment).

Steering Group on Testing and Assessment of Manufactured Nanomaterials

Steering Group on Exposure Measurement and Exposure Mitigation

Steering Group on Regulatory assessment and management of Manufactured Nanomaterials

Steering Group on Environmentally Sustainable Use of Manufactured Nanomaterials

Pesticides Programme

- ▶ **Working Group on Pesticides** (Close links to Working Group of National Coordinators of the Test Guidelines Programme, Working Group on Biocides, Working Party on Hazard Assessment, Working Party on Exposure Assessment)

Expert Group on Pesticide Effects on Insect Pollinators (testing/assessment/mitigation)

Expert Group on Integrated Pest Management

Network of Experts and Inspectors on Illegal International Trade of Pesticides

Residue Chemistry Expert Group

Expert Group on Minor Uses

Expert Group on the Electronic Exchange of Pesticides Data

Ad hoc Group for MetaPath Users

Ad hoc Group on Novel Technologies (RNAi pesticides)

Expert Group on BioPesticides

Biocides Programme

- ▶ **Working Group on Biocides** (Close links to Working Group of National Coordinators of the Test Guidelines Programme, Working Group on Pesticides, Working Party on Hazard Assessment, Working Party on Exposure Assessment)

Expert Group for the Efficacy of Biocides Used on Hard Surfaces

Expert Group on the Efficacy of Biocides to Treated Articles

Expert Group on Physical/Chemistry Studies for Biocides

Expert Group on Aggregate Human Risk Assessment

Expert Group on Review Sharing

Expert Group on Claims Development for Biocides Treated Articles

Biosafety Programme

- ▶ **Working Group on Harmonization of Regulatory Oversight of Biotechnology** (Close links with Working Group for Safety of Novel Foods and Feeds)

Steering Group on Environmental Considerations

Steering Group on Atlantic salmon
Sub-group on Microorganisms

- ▶ **Working Group for Safety of Novel Foods and Feeds** (Close links with Working Group on Harmonization of Regulatory Oversight of Biotechnology)

Chemical Accidents Programme

- ▶ **Working Group on Chemical Accidents**

Steering group on Ageing of Hazardous Installations (this one will stop at the end of the work programme)

Steering group on Ownership Change in Hazardous Installations

Steering Group on Inspection Approaches for Hazardous Installations

Steering Group on Measuring the Benefits of Regulations for Chemical Accidents Prevention, Preparedness and Response

Steering Group on Natech

PRTR Programme

- ▶ **Working Group on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers** (Close links to Working Party on Exposure Assessment)

The following specific-task groups also report directly to the Joint Meeting:

- ▶ *Issue Team* on sustainable chemistry
- ▶ Global Perfluorinated Chemicals (PFCs) *Group*
- ▶ *Ad hoc Group* on the Substitution of Harmful Chemicals
- ▶ *Expert Group* on Best Available Techniques
- ▶ *Expert Group* on Harmonising Templates