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Secretariat-General

Directorate E - Policy Co-ordination II
SG.E.1-Citizens and Security

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14TH MEETING OF THE INTER-SERVICES STEERING GROUP "ENDOCRINE DISRUPTORS"
2 MARCH 2017, 14:00-16:00, ROOM BERL 06/6B[1]

MINUTES

(1) Welcome and introduction

The Chair opened the meeting and thanked participants for their continued co-operation. He recalled that the cross-cutting nature of this dossier requires good communication between services.

(2) Developments since the last meeting

(a) [redacted]

(b) [redacted]

(3) Follow-up to the Communication on endocrine disruptors of 15 June 2016 (COM(2016)350)

(a) Update regarding scientific criteria for endocrine disruptors

DG SANTE informed about the meetings of the Standing Committee (under the PPPR) and of the expert group (under the BPR) since the last ISSG, notably the meetings on 21 December 2016 and on 28 February 2017.

The split into two draft measures under the PPPR (one for the scientific criteria and another one for the technical amendment to the clause on negligible

[1] Video conferencing facilities are available.

exposure) was done in December 2016 in order to offer Member States – and later the European Parliament and the Council during the scrutiny period - the possibility to express their opinion on each one separately. However, an indication of vote in December 2016 showed that qualified majority was not going to be achieved on neither of the two texts. For the meeting in February 2017, only the draft measure for the definition of scientific criteria was tabled, while indicating that the technical amendment to the clause on negligible exposure is planned to be tabled at a later stage. Following MS requests, the text on the criteria had been amended as agreed in the December meeting to include a transitional period and a review clause. A provision for clarifying the scope to exclude the special cases of plant and insect growth regulators was also part of the redrafting in December 2016.

In an indicative vote, while many MS seemed to be content with the development of the criteria as such, several would not vote in favour because they would have liked the technical amendment to the clause on negligible exposure tabled as well.

In the area of BPR and the draft Delegated Act, DG SANTE reported that MS had continued to raise many questions, including on the scope issue, where some were of the view that the derogations in the BPR would be sufficient. The work of the expert group could therefore not be concluded.

DG SANTE also reported about the presentation given at WTO SPS Committee in October 2016 and about the recent replies they had sent to third countries' comments concerning the notification of the EU to WTO TBT and SPS Committees.

In a short discussion, DG TRADE was in favour of voting on both the criteria and the technical amendment to the clause on negligible exposure at the next standing committee meeting; DG GROW wondered whether a legal proposal to the legislators could be a way out of the deadlock; DG ENV sought clarification on the (added) provision on growth regulators, which they considered as being a new derogation. The need for such provision had not been identified as an issue so far or in the impact assessment. In any case, were the provision to stay, DG ENV suggested to narrow it from “phylum” to “order”, or even to “family” as they considered the taxonomic level “phylum” as too large. On the DG ENV point, DG SANTE clarified that this provision was added on request of MSs and that it was not intended as derogation, but rather as a clarification of scope which considers provisions set already in the legislation. Moreover, the provision applied only to the environmental and not to the human health dimension of EDs.

(b) Update on a common Guidance Document for the implementation of the criteria to identify endocrine disruptors

DG SANTE informed that work on the guidance document is progressing. ECHA and EFSA, with the support of JRC, intend to have a draft guidance document ready for pre-consultation in April 2017, complemented if necessary with a further consultation on targeted aspects. An open public consultation on a consolidated version is planned at the end of June,, provided that the criteria had been adopted. The aim is to have the guidance document ready by early 2018.

(4) Substances authorisation under REACH

(a) [redacted]

(b) Other

[redacted]

(5) Other ongoing work in relation to endocrine disruptors

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

(6) Access to Documents on endocrine disruptors

(a) [redacted]

[redacted]

(7) AOB

No specific point was raised by the participants.

[2] https://ec.europa.eu/research/conferences/2016/hbm4eu/index.cfm_