

EDITORIAL KEY OBJECTIVES FOR ECETOC IN 2006

As we set out on a new year, I'd like to share a few words with you about ECETOC's objectives during this coming period.

The 2006 strategy was approved by the Board of Administration on 15 November 2005. It aims to ensure a continued and enhanced scientific contribution from ECETOC to the regulatory process of safety, health and the environment (SHE), while maintaining its valued profile and broadening its impact.

The strategy can be broken down into four key objectives that are to communicate; to broaden the base; to broaden the issues and to reinforce the identity.

The following outline has also been published at www.ECETOC.org and explains what each objective will involve.

▼ To communicate:

ECETOC will reach out to member companies and to other stakeholders, such as academia, regulators and trade associations, who can benefit from ECETOC's products and services.

This will be achieved via the ongoing organisation of outREACH events, via the forum of the Annual Technical Meeting, via the extensive capabilities of the ECETOC website and via an extension of ECETOC's Value Proposition Brochures to all served sectors, leveraged by 3 Membership Sub-Committees and increased personal contacts via the Secretariat.

▼ To broaden the base:

ECETOC will expand its stakeholder base both

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horizontally (Regulators, International agencies, non-governmental organisations), and vertically within industry through Associate Membership.

Through a variety of activities such as the European Commission's REACH Implementation Projects (RIPs), ECETOC will strengthen and build new relationships with governmental and non-governmental scientific organisations active in the field of chemical regulation. Furthermore, it will develop a new programme focused on educating and informing a broader industry base throughout the value and supply chain, and attract them to ECETOC Associate Membership.

▼ To broaden the issues:

ECETOC will embrace societal issues in its continued focus on the science, avoiding advocacy or political involvement, and ensuring that its work is relevant and pertinent.

Defined action plans will be led and owned by the Scientific Committee (SC), addressing specific issues in a timely manner as well as issues impacting 'cost effectiveness and benefits' for regulatory compliance. Positive engagement is supported since societal issues clearly have a scientific safety, health and environment component that may require new expertise within the SC and may need visionary approaches. For example, for safety assessment, ECETOC commits itself towards carrying out risk assessment without the need to generate data in experimental animals.

▼ And to reinforce the identity:

ECETOC must maintain its existing profile that has earned it significant scientific credibility with multiple stakeholders through the unique and differentiated high quality work products under the direct peer-review responsibility of the SC comprising both industry and academic credentials. All activities and action plans must ensure the clarity of the ECETOC objectives, compared with other organisations and partners, through the separation of science and advocacy/political lobbying. Specific deliverables of its identity will remain high quality reports and consensus-building workshops, with the afore-mentioned identity, branded whenever possible.

We look forward to helping ECETOC continue to enhance its role as a platform for success through scientific partnerships.

Dr. Jochen Rudolph
ECETOC Chairman

SG CORNER

2005, a year to remember

As 2005 came to a close, we reflect on the year just gone, the impact of events and our minds highlight the sad loss of our dear colleague and friend Dr. Tom Feijtel, who leaves behind a void.

2005 was however, a busy year in which the ECETOC Board actively developed a business strategy and plan for the future (as outlined in the Editorial). This strategy has real implications for ECETOC's membership, specifically as two new Associate Membership Categories were introduced with the change of Association Statutes at the start of this year. The eligibility & benefits for each of these opportunities were outlined in detail in a special edition of this e-newsletter published in November.

With the new membership in mind, we look forward to the reaction of manufacturers and users of chemicals further along the value chain who are now able to benefit from being part of our network and from being able to contribute to the provision of a sound scientific base for good chemical regulations in the future. The reality shows that, as the proposed 'REACH' legislation progresses, the impact on manufacturers and users down the value chain will become much more direct.

With regard to 'REACH', it is necessary to mention that ECETOC - through the support of its member companies, the Board and the Scientific Committee - have committed to the REACH Implementation Project (RIP) activities, namely RIP 3.2-2 and RIP 3.3-2, within a CEFIC-led consortium. Such an involvement will require significant resources from the industry's scientists and will challenge ECETOC to continue to deliver on our normal activities such as Task Forces and Workshops during 2006.

To conclude this reflection on 2005, I'd like to highlight the delivery of three outREACH events that brought ECETOC closer to its member companies in the regions of Germany, the new EU Member States and Switzerland. The meeting in Basel (see back page), marked the first outREACH return-visit in response to a request made at the 1st outREACH meeting in 2003.

We hope that you have appreciated the e-newsletters which we introduced in 2005 as a quick and easy way to stay informed of ECETOC happenings.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very safe and successful 2006.

Dr. Michael Y. Gribble
ECETOC Secretary General

ECETOC Activities

RECENT outREACH event

**Basel, Switzerland
15th December 2005**

outREACH events were established in 2003 with the primary aim of improving dialogue between ECETOC as an organisation and employees of its member companies. Each outREACH meeting achieves this through the in-depth review of a topical issue, challenging the industry in the form of pending regulatory pressure and works to highlight how ECETOC can contribute to a solution. The views you provided will guide ECETOC in shaping its future workplan.

The most recent outREACH meeting, kindly hosted by F. Hoffman-La Roche in Basel, Switzerland, last 15th December marked the 6th such happening and the first return-visit within the outREACH programme. It brought over twenty people in contact with the daily activities of ECETOC, allowing for debate and direct input into the ECETOC work programme.

In the first instance, delegates expressed their endorsement of ECETOC's active participation in the Reach Implementation Projects, specifically in order to seek every reasonable opportunity to point out and rectify the logic flaws in REACH.

In addition, feedback highlighted the following priority issues:

1. Exposure assessment and modelling
2. Mixtures and multiple stressors
3. Nanomaterials

4. Pharmaceuticals in the Environment
5. Effects on sub-populations
6. Probabilistic Risk Assessment
7. Use of human data in Risk assessment
8. Thresholds for sensitisers

In terms of operations, delegates suggested that ECETOC consider:

1. the establishment of expert panels to help with members specific problems;
2. pursuing an integrating role bringing trade associations together; and
3. cooperating with non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Something that companies themselves, are unable to do.

The next outREACH events in 2006 will be held in France and the United Kingdom.

To stay informed, please send an e-mail to: info@ecetoc.org



Dr. Oliver Straub of F. Hoffman-La Roche, the kind host of ECETOC's 2nd outREACH meeting in Basel, Switzerland, 15th December 2005.

RECENTLY PUBLISHED Reports

JACC Reports

No. 49 Vinylidene Fluoride (CAS No. 75-38-7)

Technical Reports

No. 97 Alternative Testing Approaches in Environmental Safety Assessment



ANNUAL TECHNICAL MEETING

**Brussels, Belgium
24th May 2006**

The 1-day ECETOC Annual Technical Meeting is staged every year on the day after the Annual General Meeting. The 2006 gathering will offer a look into future scientific developments and will draw upon global trends to help us understand how these forces may affect companies who manufacture and use chemicals.

Interactive by nature, such an event will draw upon the experience of a visionary speaker and will offer participants the opportunity to ask questions and debate alongside people from both member and non-member companies.

To stay informed, please send an e-mail to info@ecetoc.org

ECETOC In Brief

ECETOC, European Centre for Ecotoxicology and Toxicology Of Chemicals, was established in 1978 as a scientific, non-profit making, non-commercial association, financed by 48 of the leading companies with interests in the manufacture and use of chemicals. A stand-alone organisation, it was established to provide a scientific forum through which the extensive specialist expertise in the European chemical industry could be harnessed to research, review, assess and publish studies on the ecotoxicology and toxicology of chemicals.

Website

Be sure to visit our website via www.ecetoc.org regularly for the most up-to-date information on all our activities and for a complete list of our [Publications](#) which can be ordered online.

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FORTHCOMING Meetings

February

- 7 RIP 3.3 Consortia Meeting
ECETOC, Brussels
- 13 LRI HE Programme Selection
Team Meeting
ECETOC, Brussels
- 17 Fluoroalkanes JACC Task Force
Meeting
ECETOC, Brussels
- 28 Assessing Mixtures of Chemicals
Task Force Meeting
ECETOC, Brussels

March

- 7 RIP 3.3 Consortia Meeting
ECETOC, Brussels
- 28-29 Scientific Committee Meeting

Next Edition ...

We highlight the scientific findings of our recent Nanomaterials workshop.

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