



The European Centre for Ecotoxicology and Toxicology of Chemicals (ECETOC) and European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic) Long-Range Research Initiative (LRI) Human Health Progress Review and Scoping Meeting 2018

The *European Centre for Ecotoxicology and Toxicology of Chemicals (ECETOC)* and the *European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic) Long-range Research Initiative (LRI)* convened the *Human Health Progress Review and Scoping Meeting 2018*. This meeting took place on the 1st and 2nd of February 2018 in Brussels, BE, and was attended by approx. 50 invited participants from Europe and North America representing ECETOC member companies, consultancies, academia, regulators or authorities.

The meeting had three aims:

1. Inform on the regulatory community perspectives on knowledge gaps, policy priorities and research needs in the human health science area and on potentially relevant industry input;
2. Inform attendees of progress on relevant ECETOC and Cefic LRI actions that resulted from the prior Human Health Progress Review and Scoping Meeting 2016;
3. Share and prioritise proposals for ECETOC action (e.g., task forces (TFs) and workshops) and/or Cefic LRI research projects that would contribute to improving the human health hazard and risk assessment of chemicals and chemical products. Importantly, the attendees were invited to engage in visionary thinking to draw up a new ECETOC Transformational Programme (TP).

Whereas ECETOC TFs and Cefic LRI research projects involve targeted cross-sectoral and multi-disciplinary expert action and generally extend across 12 to 18 months, ECETOC TPs address horizontal themes of longer-term scientific relevance and aim at producing transformational change in chemicals management. They are to be completed over 3-5 years and can be supported by Cefic LRI research projects.

During a *Panel Discussion on Regulatory Perspectives*, three panellists presented their views on gaps, priorities and needs in the human health science area and potentially relevant industry activities:

- **Tewes Tralau** (German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR), DE);
- **Jacqueline van Engelen** (National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM), NL);
- **Maurice Whelan** (EU Commission, General Directorate Joint Research Centre (JRC), IT).

The panellists highlighted exposure assessment as a key challenge to streamline regulatory testing needs. New Approach Methodologies (NAMs; e.g., *in vitro* methods, *in silico* modelling and 'omics technologies) provided opportunities to improve human health hazard assessment and reduce animal testing needs. However, it was pivotal to build trust in these new methodologies.

Next, a *Review Session* comprised the following presentations:

- **John Doe** (Parker Doe LLP, UK): *ECETOC Endocrine Disruption TF: How the European Commission framework can work in practice;*
- **Ben van Ravenzwaay** (BASF SE, DE): *Cefic LRI project: EMSG 56 Combined low-dose exposures to anti-androgenic substances;*
- **Mark Pemberton** (Systox Ltd., UK): *ECETOC TP: Applying 'omics technologies in chemicals risk assessment; work stream 1: Quantitative weight-of-evidence;*
- **Hans-Martin Kauffmann** (BASF SE, DE): *ECETOC TP: Applying 'omics technologies in chemicals risk assessment; work stream 2: Good Laboratory Practice (GLP);*



- **Timothy Gant** (Public Health England, UK): *ECETOC TP: Applying 'omics technologies in chemicals risk assessment; work stream 3: Making sense of the data;*
- **Ursula G. Sauer** (Scientific Consultancy – Animal Welfare, DE): *ECETOC TP: Applying 'omics technologies in chemicals risk assessment: Wrap up;*
- **Rosemary Zaleski** (Exxon Mobil, USA): *ECETOC's Targeted Risk Assessment (TRA) Tool: An update;*
- **Robert Landsiedel** (BASF SE, DE): *Concepts for grouping nanomaterials in Europe;*
- **John O'Brien** (Crème Global, IE): *Human Health Exposure Data TF: Online Exposure Tool.*

The overall discussions on current key issues showed how closely science was interlinked with policy initiatives, and that good policy should be based on sound science. Therefore, it was pivotal to involve all relevant stakeholders at all stages of the ECETOC or Cefic LRI actions.

On Day 2, three breakout groups were formed to discuss the 51 actionable topics that had been suggested by ECETOC member companies and other interested parties ahead of the meeting. The Organising Committee of the meeting had assigned each actionable topic to one of three main topics and had further grouped them by common overarching theme, if applicable:

1. *Adversity*: 15 proposals;
2. *Exposure*: 18 proposals;
3. *Innovative Chemical Testing*: 18 proposals.

The breakout group discussions further took into account the knowledge gaps and research opportunities identified during the Day 1 discussions to propose further actionable topics, if considered relevant. Thus, a proposal for a new TP was drawn up, 2 new proposals related to Exposure, and one each related to Adversity and Innovative Chemicals Testing. The breakout group discussions were rounded up in a final plenary session where voting took place to prioritise actionable topics for recommendation as potential ECETOC actions and/or Cefic LRI research projects.

In closing the meeting, Olivier de Matos (Secretary General, ECETOC, BE) thanked all participants for their valuable contributions. The outcome of the meeting will enable ECETOC and Cefic LRI to define areas where specific action would be most important.

The actionable topics that were prioritised during the meeting will be presented to the ECETOC Scientific Committee and the Cefic LRI Issue Team for evaluation and decision on further progression.