

DG SANCO

Scientific Committees



Marina Marini

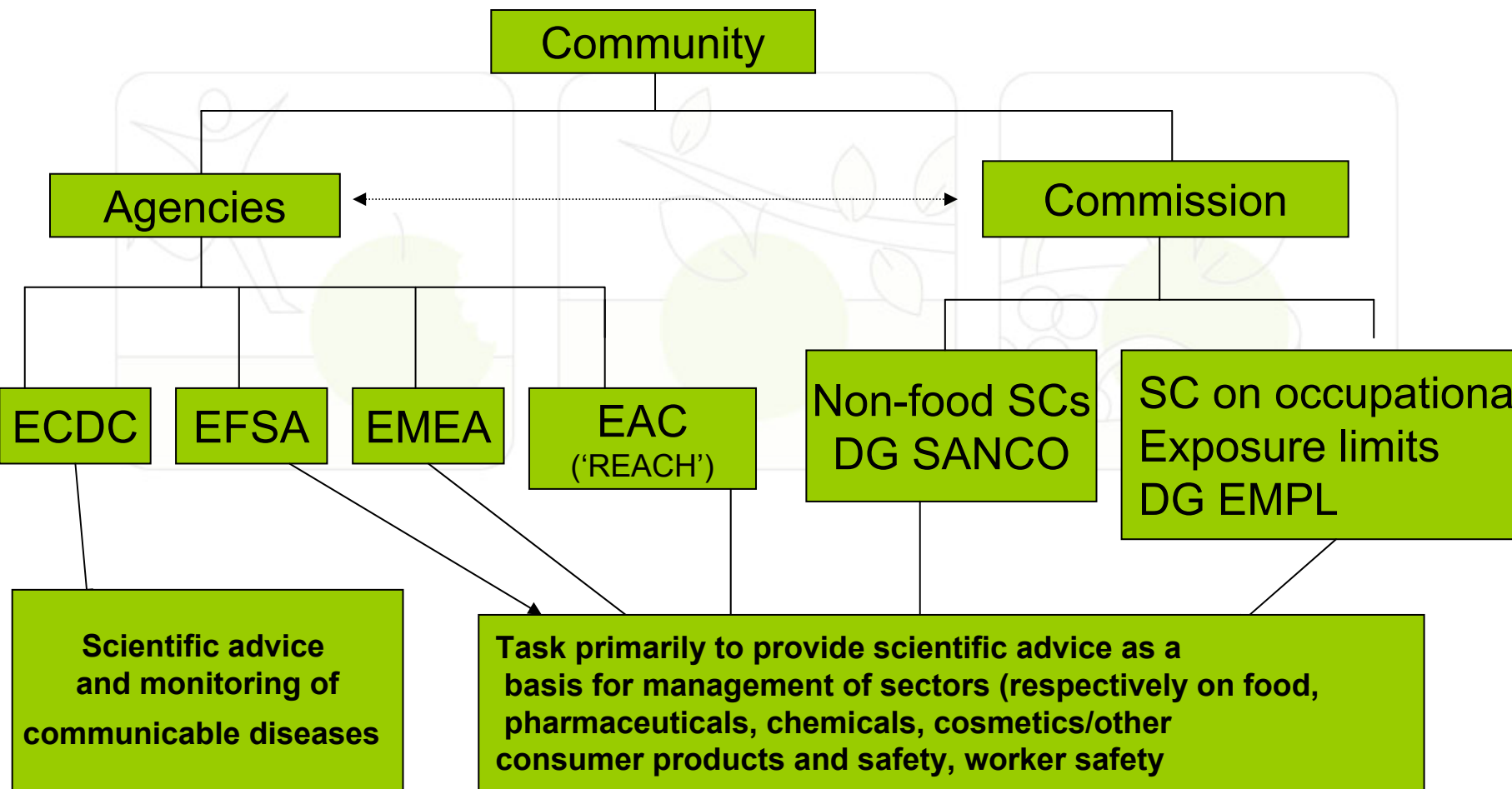
European Commission

Health and Consumer Protection Directorate General

Public Health and Risk Assessment Directorate

Risk assessment Unit

ORGANISATION OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVICE IN THE EU



Common Principals for Scientific Advisory bodies in the EU

■ Excellence

- **Membership based on open calls to experienced scientists**

■ Independence

- **Declarations of interest**
- **Minority opinions**

■ Transparency

- **Published declarations of interest**
- **Opinions published with detailed reasoning and bibliography**
- **Well defined and published rules of procedure**

Regulatory framework

- **Commission Decision 2004/210/EC** of 3 March 2004 setting up Scientific Committees in the field of consumer safety, public health and the environment*

* OJ L 66, 4.3.2004, p. 45

THE 3 NON-FOOD SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES within SANCO

**The Scientific Committee on Consumer Products
(SCCP)**

**The Scientific Committee on Health and Environment
Risks (SCHER)**

**The Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly
Identified Health Risks (SCENIHR)**

***Members appointed by the Commission following an open call
(no nationality restrictions) on the basis of first, expertise and,
secondly, geographical spread within the EU.***

The Scientific Committee on Consumer Products (SCCP) (19 Members)

- questions concerning the safety of consumer products (non-food products intended for the consumer).
- the safety and allergenic properties of cosmetic products and ingredients
- toys, textiles, clothing, personal care products,
- domestic products such as detergents
- consumer services such as tattooing and sunbeds.

The Scientific Committee on Health and Environmental Risks (SCHER) (19 Members)

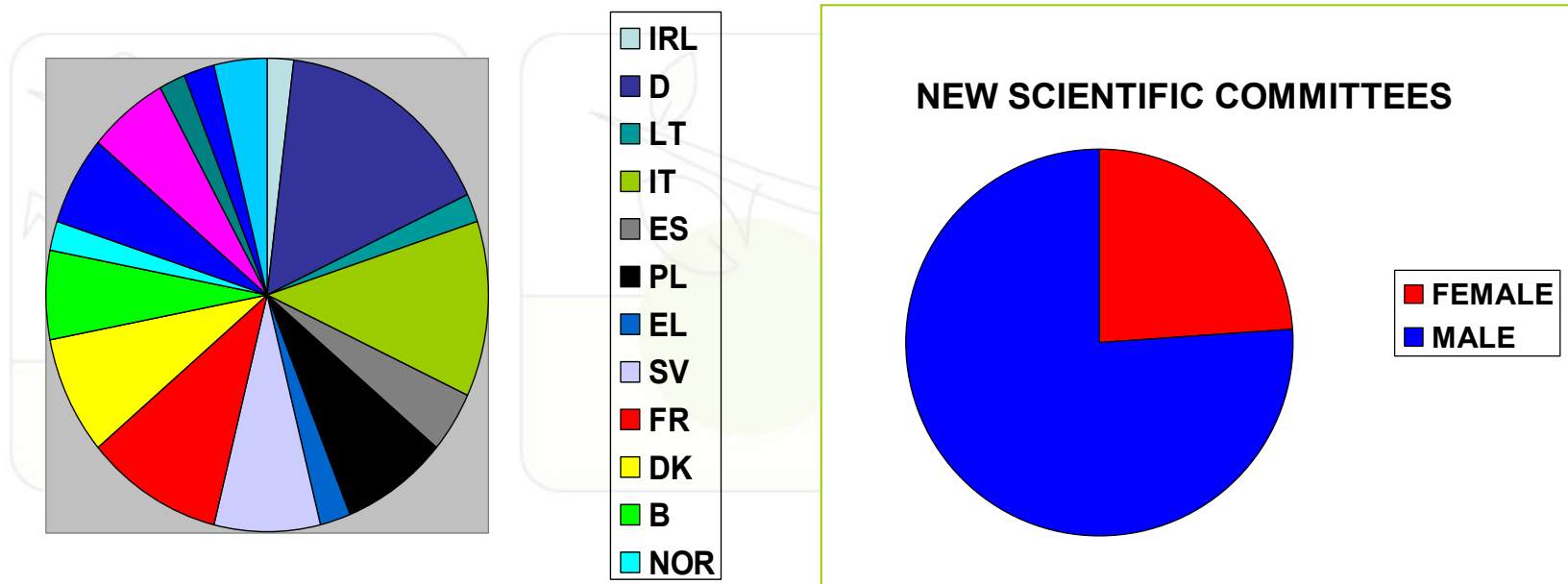
- health and environmental risks
- questions in relation to new and existing chemicals, the restriction and marketing of dangerous substances
- biocides, asbestos, waste, environmental contaminants
- plastic and other materials used for water pipe work (e.g. new organics substances)
- drinking water, indoor and ambient air quality
- questions relating to human exposure to mixtures of chemicals, sensitisation and identification of endocrine disrupters

The Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks (SCENIHR)

13 Members but able to call on Associate Members for any specific question

- Questions concerning emerging or newly identified risks, broad, complex or multi-disciplinary issues requiring a comprehensive assessment of risks to consumer safety or public health
- **Examples**
- potential risks associated with interaction of risk factors, synergic effects, cumulative effects
- new technologies such as nano or geno-technologies
- medical devices, tissue engineering, blood products,
- fertility reduction, cancer of endocrine organs
- physical hazards such as noise and electromagnetic fields (from mobile phones, transmitters and electronically controlled home environments)
- methodologies for assessing new risks

Composition of Scientific Committees by (nationality and gender)



Names and affiliations of Members and scientists on the reserve list are published on SANCO home page

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/committees_en.htm

CO-ORDINATION WITHIN THE NON-FOOD COMMITTEES (ART. 6)

Chairs and vice-chairs advise and assist the Commission on:

- Harmonisation of risk assessment procedures
- Questions common to more than 1 committee
 - designate a lead committee
 - advise on working group members and external experts
- Methodological approaches
- Coherence and format of opinions
- Diverging opinions

RULES OF PROCEDURES (ART.10)

Common to ALL 3 committees

Procedural matters

Coordination

External experts, Associated members and Rapporteurs

Format, content and coherence of scientific opinions.

Hearings with industry and special interest groups

Contacts with stakeholders: responsibilities and obligations

DIVERGING OPINIONS (ART. 13)

The Scientific Committees shall assist the Commission in identifying at an early stage potential or actual divergence between their scientific opinions and the scientific opinions of Community and International bodies carrying out similar tasks. They shall assist the Commission in avoiding, resolving or clarifying divergent opinions.

Where a substantive divergence over scientific issues has been identified and the body in question is a Community body, the Scientific Committee concerned shall, on the request of the Commission, cooperate with the body concerned with a view to either resolving the divergence or presenting a joint document to the Commission clarifying the contentious scientific issues and identifying the relevant uncertainties in the data. This document shall be made public.

CO-ORDINATION BETWEEN EU RISK ASSESSMENT BODIES

It is essential to ensure coherence in risk assessment in different economic sectors

EMA, EFSA and the 3 non-food scientific committees are obliged to work together to prevent diverging scientific opinions or to resolve them if they arise

This requires mechanisms for identifying questions of common interest and for sharing information.

TRANSPARENCY (ART. 15)

Publication of the request for opinions on SANCO home page. This will assist stakeholders to contribute relevant information on a specific topic in due time.

*The names of Associated Members as well as of participants of working groups will be published with the opinion to which they contributed. **But note, this is for transparency and not to facilitate lobbying. Members and experts are may refer enquiries from petitioners or third parties to the Secretariat***

Minority opinions will be attributed to Members concerned (previously, members may choose to remain anonymous).

Risk Assessment Public Health Home page

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/committees_en.htm

Transparency - Information on the Scientific Committees

- Rules of procedure
- Agenda
- Members and their CVs
- New questions (mandates)
- Opinions
- Minutes

