

Draft Council resolution on a programme of action of the European Communities on toxicology for health protection

COM(84) 284 final

(Submitted by the Commission to the Council on 29 May 1984)

(84/C 156/06)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaties establishing the European Communities,

Having regard to the draft resolution submitted by the Commission,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament,

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee,

Whereas the Council resolution of 21 January 1974 concerning a social action programme⁽¹⁾ takes note of the social action programme of the Commission which provides for the formulation of proposals concerning the protection of the health of populations;

Whereas, under Article 2 of the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, the Community shall have in particular as its task, by establishing a common market and progressively approximating the economic policies of Member States, to promote throughout the Community a harmonious developing of economic activities, a continuous and balanced expansion and an accelerated raising of the standard of living;

Whereas, at the conference held in Paris in October 1972, the Heads of State or of Government affirmed that the first aim of economic expansion, which is not an end in itself, should be to enable disparities in living conditions to be reduced and that it should result in an improvement in the quality of life as well as in the standard of living;

Whereas toxicology as a discipline has become established in recent years and has contributed significantly to the protection of health;

Whereas a number of sectorial activities, such as those involving pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, human and animal foodstuffs, environmental chemicals, pesticides, occupational exposure to chemicals, already benefit from toxicological information and are assisted by a number of scientific advisory committees;

Whereas the various scientific research programmes of the European Community cover from the research point of view several areas of the present programme and will provide therefore a valuable input of new knowledge;

Whereas the present programme will assist the development of clinical toxicology and the integration of experimental, clinical and analytical data;

Whereas the present programme, by ensuring the quality and comparability of data and by identifying testing facilities and on-going testing programmes, should help promote a more rational and economic use of the toxicological testing facilities in the European Community;

Whereas the assessment of normal variability in the functioning of tissues and organs should help to define the term 'health' as referred to in Article 36 of the EEC Treaty; the present programme, by ensuring the quality and comparability of data and of testing methods, is likely to contribute to the elimination of certain obstacles to trade where those obstacles are based on considerations of health;

Whereas there is a need to have sufficient resources in the European Community for toxicological evaluation and the level of toxicological awareness should be enhanced;

Whereas this programme should help avoid unnecessary testing on laboratory animals;

Whereas the Toxicology Section of the Scientific Advisory Committee on Toxicology and Ecotoxicology established by the Commission in 1978 should provide scientific advice to this programme;

Whereas cooperation with the various international agencies having activities in this area and in particular the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) through their joint International Programme on Chemical Safety, as well as the International Agency for Research in Cancer (IARC) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), is essential to avoid duplication of efforts;

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 13, 12. 2. 1974, p. 1.

EXPRESSES THE POLITICAL WILL:

to take, in keeping with the urgency of the matter and bearing in mind what is feasible at national and Community level, the measures required so that between now and the end of 1990 the following priority actions in particular can be undertaken:

1. Toxicological practice

Determine the feasibility of compiling and maintaining a register of toxicity testing facilities in Member States. Undertake assessments of current methods and practice in order to improve the quality and comparability of toxicological data and to facilitate their acceptability.

2. Clinical toxicology

Review the role and functioning of poison centres and related clinical toxicological services: organize

exchanges of experience and information and develop the use of their data for epidemiological and statistical purposes.

Review current practice in the assessment of normal variability of biochemical and physiological parameters and recommend common standards.

3. Training and information

Evaluate manpower needs for toxicology and make recommendations for training requirements: promote the exchange of expertise and information between Member States.

REQUESTS THE COMMISSION:

to prepare annually, after consulting Member States, a forward outline of the work it intends to carry out on the implementation of this resolution.
