

## **FOCUS Constitution**

### ***What is FOCUS?***

FOCUS is the **FO**rum for the **Co**-ordination of pesticide fate models and their **US**e. FOCUS is an independent group of experts from regulatory authorities, registrants and government institutes/universities, which operates by consensus. FOCUS aims at *technical* harmonisation of *complex generic* environmental issues in *support* of the 91/414/EEC process.

### ***What does FOCUS do?***

FOCUS is lead by a **Steering Committee** which:

- identifies and prioritises potential new FOCUS Workgroups
- makes specific proposals for the formation of FOCUS Workgroups
- consults on FOCUS Workgroup proposals and FOCUS draft reports with the Working Group Plant Protection Products Legislation and ECPA for their opinion and support
- provides the remit to which each Workgroup operates
- oversees and supports the activities of FOCUS Workgroups
- oversees review and implementation aspects of FOCUS work
- liaises with stakeholders to ensure that FOCUS is effective and useful

### **FOCUS Workgroups:**

- work on a specific task as defined in the remit from the Steering Committee
- are comprised of technical experts on the subject in question
- work by consensus
- when necessary, raise up any non-technical issues to the Steering Committee for resolution

### ***By what principles does FOCUS operate?***

- FOCUS is an independent expert group
- All members of FOCUS Workgroups and the Steering Committee are chosen for their expert personal contribution
- FOCUS can only exist as long as all stakeholders consider it to be useful
- The FOCUS Steering Committee is comprised of:
  - 1 delegate from DG-SANCO
  - 1 delegate from the Working Group Plant Protection Products Legislation, if no participant from the Member States regularly attends the Legislation group.
  - 1 delegate from ECPA
  - at maximum 6 further experts from regulatory agencies of the Member States or environmental research institutions, where the institution plays a central role in the regulatory process.
  - at maximum 3 further experts with an affiliation to the agrochemical industry
  - chairpersons of active workgroups will attend meetings of the Steering Committee but should not be members.

- Members of the Steering Committee that are not delegated (by DG-SANCO, Working Group Plant Protection Products Legislation, ECPA) are nominated by the Steering Committee.
- The Chairperson of the Steering Committee and from a workgroup will always be chosen, by the Steering Committee, from the members affiliated with regulatory agencies or the EU Commission.
- If members of the steering committee or workgroups change their affiliation or delegation status, the Steering Committee can renominate them within the rules above.
- Members of workgroups will be nominated by the Steering Committee with roughly equal numbers of experts from regulatory agencies, research institutions and the agrochemical industry.