FOCUS Constitution

What is FOCUS?
FOCUS is the Forum for the Co-ordination of pesticide fate models and their Use. 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
• overseas and supports the activities of FOCUS Workgroups
• overseas 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.