



Workshop on Environment and Health: Evaluating European Air Quality Research and Translating Priorities into Actions

Introductory Remarks


Dr. Panos E. Cavoulacos

Chairman

CONCAWE Board of Directors

concauwe

- **CONservation of Clean Air and Water in Europe**
- **Technical association for EU-based refining industry**
- **Established in 1963 by a small group of leading oil companies**
- **Initial focus on carrying out research on environmental issues**
- **Scope gradually expanded to include health and safety issues; have been building expertise in these areas**
- **Current membership covers 100% of EU-based crude oil refining capacity**
- **Work programmes encompass air quality, water quality, fuels quality and emissions, soil contamination, waste, occupational and public health, process safety, petroleum product stewardship and cross-country pipeline performance**

- 
- **Focus on scientific/technical questions & issues**
 - **Acquire pertinent scientific and technical information on environmental, health and safety issues relating to the refining of crude oil and the distribution and use of petroleum products**
 - **Communicate the technical findings and information in order to improve understanding of these issues by all stakeholders including industry, authorities and the public at large**

KEY 2007 WORKSHOP LEARNINGS

- In 2007, the first in this series of CONCAWE workshops brought together experts and stakeholders to debate and identify research priorities for the EU 7th Framework Programme (FP7) of Research
 - FP7 runs from 2007-2013
 - FP7 is EU's main instrument for funding research in Europe
- The workshop achieved its main objective
 - Identified strategic & research priorities

No.	Strategic Priority (not necessarily in order of importance)
1	Improve research coordination
2	Synthesize available data more comprehensively & frequently
3	Link research projects to time window of expected policy needs
4	Creatively link available funding from different sources
5	Perform accountability research

Research Priorities & Uptake into FP7

- Under FP7, DG Research developed calls for research proposals from 2007 – 2008 that are aligned with the identified priorities

No.	Research Priority (not necessarily in order of importance)	FP7 Research Call*
1	European population studies	1st
2	Impact of traffic emissions on public health	3rd
3	Elucidating mechanisms of toxic action	1st & 3rd
4	Development of toxicity screening test(s)	-
5	Refine particulate matter metric(s) to measure health impacts	1st & 3rd
6	Cost-benefit analysis tool improvement	-

* 'Environment and Health' sub-activity of FP7, through 2008

- Additional FP7 calls for research proposals are expected
- May help to set the scene for FP8

- In 2007, a need was identified for industry to become more actively engaged in support of activities that lead to a better understanding of the health effects of air quality
- Established a Task Force “Health Effects of Air Pollution”
- CONCAWE Board made funding available for a programme
- Programme based on the 2007 Workshop output
- We continue to build our programme
 - Developing partnerships with international programmes
 - ◆ e.g., Health Effects Institute (HEI) & NERC
 - Developing focused studies and projects
 - ◆ e.g., personal exposure monitoring in EU cohort studies
- Helping to promote/improve
 - More comprehensive & frequent synthesis of available data
 - ◆ e.g., 2007 ToxForum: Cardiovascular Mechanisms Session
 - Research coordination and links to policy time windows
 - ◆ e.g., This 2009 Workshop

WHY THIS WORKSHOP?

- **What has been achieved and what should our ambition be?**
- **Many upcoming European environment and health milestones**
 - Additional FP7 research calls
 - WHO 5th ministerial conference on environment and health in 2010
 - Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution review in 2010
 - Potential 2nd phase Environment & Health Action Plan after 2010
 - Air quality directive evaluation in 2013
 - Future FP8 research calls
- **Ongoing need for international and interdisciplinary debate**
 - Health-related scientific knowledge
 - Research priorities
 - Emerging challenges and opportunities to progress policy-relevant research
- **The workshop objectives are ambitious**
 - Identify, discuss and debate key policy-relevant health research needs & opportunities
 - Prioritise the health research needs and identify timelines
 - Propose a roadmap to meet these timelines
- **A workshop report will be delivered as in 2007**