

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DANGEROUS PATHOGENS

ACDP Work Plan and Annual Report

Issue

1. To consult members for suggestions for ACDP's work plan and to inform members about the publication of a 2004 ACDP Annual Report

Background

2. As for other expert advisory committees, it is conventional for ACDP to have a work plan although a formal ACDP agreed written version has not been produced in the last couple of years. A work plan is very useful both to members and the secretariat in providing direction for the committee and focus at meetings. The secretariat proposes to produce a work plan for members' agreement at the ACDP meeting in December 2004. A preliminary list of areas for the work plan is included at Annex 1. Should members have suggestions for the work plan, the secretariat are interested in collating ideas prior to the December meeting.
3. Members will be aware that every other meeting of the ACDP has been cancelled over the last two years due to a lack of substantive agenda items. It is suggested that if the work plan warrants a change, members may wish to consider reducing the number of annual ACDP meetings.
4. ACDP has also made a commitment to publish an Annual Report. The secretariat has agreed to produce an Annual Report for 2004 with the intention of publishing in the first quarter of 2005. Members should also be aware that as part of the ACDP publication scheme that a register of members' interests will be provided within the Annual Report and on the ACDP website. Subsequent to the meeting, the secretariat will approach members individually with their existing register entry and ask for an update.

Advice sought from the ACDP

5. ACDP are asked:
 - To offer suggestions for the ACDP work plan, for example, any gaps in ACDP guidance.
 - If they agree with the suggested way forward for production of a 2004 Annual Report.
 - If they agree to reduce the frequency of meetings to three a year if warranted by the proposed Work Plan.

Secretariat

September 2004

Annex 1

Suggested ACDP work plan 05/06

TSE WG – ongoing (including production and revision of TSE guidance)
EBLV WG (bats) – <i>ad hoc</i>
PETS WG – <i>ad hoc</i>
Hazard Group 4 guidance
VHF guidance
BSE: Occupational guidance
Production of Biological Agents Bulletin
MAP and human health
Guidance on the event of bioterrorism emergency (smallpox etc)