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To: Dr. T.S. Osdene Date: January 11, 1990
From: W. Fink/sid Doc name: wpall890.pv
Subject: Minutes of the VDC Science and Industry Policy Committee
(WPA) meeting held in Hamburg on November 10, 1989

Participants :

Messrs. Adlkofer (VDC), Hetzel (BRI), Elmenhorst (BRI),
König (VDC), Kausch (BAT), Dembach (RJR), Doms (BRI),
Fink (PMG), Klus (AUS), Müller (RJR), Rahn (REE), Walter
(REE)

Animal SS inhalation study

Re : WPA Oktober 3, 1989

Mr. Hetzel referred to a letter of November 7, 1989, which he received from Mr. Wille, wherein the latter signalled rejection of the planned study by PMG. The agenda item was not further discussed by the WPA.

Mr. Doms drew attention to the fact that the memorandum of October 18, 1989 from Dr. Meyerinck was to be withdrawn and the passage referring thereto in the notes to the agenda was to be deleted. The new version of the memorandum was distributed by Prof. A.

Research project Dr. Haley/Dr. Sepkovic

Re : WPA Oktober 3, 1989

The companies - with the exception of BAT - were in favour of carrying out the research project in which the connection between diet and lung cancer was to be investigated. The use of NNK as a tumor initiator was however rejected because of the resulting cross-relation with smoking. Only AUS and Prof. A. supported the use of NNK.

Since Prof. A. thought it unreasonable to propose the recipients of the research proposal that other tumor initiators (3-methyl-cholanthrene and urethane) be used, WPA decided against carrying out the research project.

Smoking as cost factor in the social budget of the Federal Republic of Germany

With reference to the letter of October 6, 1989 from Mr. v. Troschke, the planned project was discussed; this is intended to document the state of knowledge on the economic assessment of the cost/benefit relationship of smoking in the Federal Republic of Germany.

The WPA takes a positive view of the project. For improved evaluation of the project, it was proposed to bring in Prof. Kremer/Hannover (economics mathematician). The financial size of

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the project is estimated at about DM 100'000.-. The WPA will finally decide on the execution only when the cost estimate is available.

Project proposal P. Lee
Re : WPA July 12, 1989

A project proposal by P. Lee is discussed in which the role of "confounding variables" in the relationship between ETS and lung cancer is investigated (Encl. 1).
The WPA quite generally welcomed activities in this field.
Mr. König enquired about the usefulness of the results. Since the reputation of P. Lee has suffered somewhat as a result of the co-operation with VDC and TAC, he proposed to find a co-author for any later publication of the results of the research project.
Prof. A. rejected this.
The WPA approved execution of the project parts A-D of the project proposal. Cost f 12'000.-

Symposium at Erlangen

Prof. A. and Messrs. Doms and Müller reported on the symposium at Erlangen. It was requested that the papers be published. This was agreed. DM 12'000.- were approved for printing of the papers (Encl. 2).

Expert opinion by Prof. Rutsch

The draft of the expert opinion "Correct recognition and assessment of risk" by Prof. Rutsch produced very adverse comments from the WPA and was rejected.

Harmful substance index (Schadstoffindex)

Prof. Thurau was requested by the German Federal Health Authority to report on his work to date. Prof. A. read out a letter from Prof. Thurau to Mrs. Hundsdörfer. According to this, no useful concept suggestions have so far been worked out. Since the Federal Health Authority expects a harmful substance index for cigarettes by March 1990 at the latest, there is an urgent need for action by the industry. The topic will be dealt with in detail at the next WPA meeting.

Römpf's dictionary of chemistry

Prof. A. reported that he had taken on a commission for writing the tobacco section. This was done without the consent of the VDC and Prof. A. is clearly exceeding his competence. This was followed by the usual fruitless dialogues between representatives of the member companies and Prof. A.

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Nitrosamine meeting, Lyon, Sept. 25-28, 1989

The meeting report of Dr. Scherer was distributed (Encl. 3).

Dioxins

PMG reported on a publication in which abnormally high dioxin values in tobacco smoke are reported, and suggested to develop activities at the level of the association, in order to be able to respond to the discussion which is to be expected in the media. WPA decided to request ERGO further to deal with the topic. As an immediate measure, the determination of dioxin in the top ten of the German market and the preparation of a review about the occurrence of dioxin in the environment are envisaged. It is planned to incorporate these data in the "BGA (Federal Health Authority) Information". If needed a cost estimate will be provided later by ERGO.

Purchases for Munich laboratory

Prof. A. requested DM 41'000.- for the purchase of laboratory equipment which is necessary for setting up DNA analysis in Munich. This was approved.

Cancer Conference 1990

The large cancer conference will take place in June 1990 at Hamburg. Prof. A. raised the question as to whether it was sensible for the association to make an appearance by presenting papers. After a brief discussion, the WPA decided that Prof. A. should prepare papers.

CORESTA smoking standard

Mr. König raised the question as to what position the German delegation should take in Havanna at ISO/TC 126 and whether there was unanimity on this point. In the somewhat confused discussion, it was pointed out repeatedly that the topic has already been dealt with in the TWA on November 9 - i.e. on the preceding day. Since, however, Mr. König had not participated in that meeting, no information on the discussion by the TWA was available. Thus, the discussion moved around in circles for more than 90 minutes.

Note : It might be possible to avoid problems of this kind by calling in the TWA chairman for the corresponding WPA agenda items relating to standardization, as already suggested repeatedly by PMG.

In view of the importance of the standardization work, the WPA decided to include this topic as a permanent item in the WPA agendas. In my view, the presence of a TWA representative in the WPA is therefore absolutely necessary.

