

## INTRODUCTION TO THE 9<sup>TH</sup> HARMONISATION CONFERENCE

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### BACKGROUND

The beginning of the Harmonisation conferences dates back to 1991, when a group of modellers and model users found that there was a need to address two questions:

- There were a great number of regulatory models in use within Europe.  
This entailed a number of problems; moreover, there was a lack of basic standards and tools that would make it feasible to make statements on model merits in a satisfactory way.
- Generally, the models applied were not scientifically up-to-date.  
The models have improved since then. However, the question remains: *How do we ensure that new science is incorporated into regulatory models in a proper way?*

### IMPORTANT THEMES THROUGHOUT THE CONFERENCE

The European Commission is presently defining a Thematic Strategy on air pollution. This strategy shall outline the environmental objectives for air quality, and it shall outline measures to be taken to achieve these objectives. The strategy is to be presented in the first half on 2005.

In support of defining that strategy we have the CAFE programme (Clean Air For Europe). In the modelling community, we should pay attention to the processes within CAFE, and we may give a contribution, both when the strategy is now defined, and when it is carried out during the coming years.

The harmonisation conferences are conferences on modelling, but not *only* on modelling. What distinguishes these conferences from others is their focus on "modelling culture": A central theme underlying the entire conference is:

*How can we pool experiences and encourage re-use of our work?*

There is an unnecessary duplication of effort; too much work is forgotten and partly wasted.

Another topic of primary concern is

*Which measures can we take in order to assure that assessments based on modelling are considered trustworthy?*

I see two main instruments to achieve increased trust in models:

- Improve quality assurance of models
- Improve guidance on model use.

Building a framework for quality assurance of models requires a substantial amount of work. Increased funding can boost the process, but there is no easy shortcut.

### MAKING THE MOST OF THE CLOSING SESSION ON FRIDAY

We have parallel sessions most of the time. However, we should seek to bring important points – key questions, conclusions, striking observations – to the attention of everybody. The closing session can be used to express statements and point of view from any of you.