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Stakeholders renew commitment to IDEA project at annual meeting, recognizing huge achievements in controlling skin allergy

Brussels, 05 December 2022 – Stakeholders at the International Dialogue for the Evaluation of Allergens (IDEA) Annual Review meeting on 29 November 2022 reaffirmed their commitment to the project. Underway for nearly 10 years, IDEA seeks ways to improve consumer protection by bringing together various stakeholders including the fragrance industry, the dermatological community, and policy makers to build a new framework to assess fragrance

allergens.

“This is an important project, which I am proud to have chaired since its inception”, said Jim Bridges, Chairman of the IDEA Supervisory Group. “IDEA is an established and successful multi-stakeholder initiative which helps propel the development and deployment of high-quality safety assessment tools. We need reliable risk assessments, based on a profound understanding of hazard and exposure”.

IDEA brings together the European Commission, European Parliament, Member State authorities, and other stakeholders. Meeting in Brussels, the parties agreed that it is critically important to rely on a high standard of risk assessment. Scientific risk assessment methodologies are continuously being improved to promote the safe use of fragrances.

“The significance of the dialogue is that it critically reviews current achievements and identifies opportunities for improvement. This includes the refinement of existing tools – and the development of new ones. These are all intended to enhance the quality of risk assessment, used by industry”, added Prof. Bridges.

IDEA has already been successful in developing, implementing and delivering on a long-term science-based work plan, endorsed by the European Commission. This includes the development of a refined Quantitative Risk Assessment (QRA2) and the publication of a Reference Chemical Potency List (RCPL) to advance use of testing without animals. IDEA also was at the center of initiating clinical surveys across Europe.

“With the implementation of the EU Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability under discussion, we need to develop and maintain robust methodologies for risk assessment. Open dialogue between all stakeholders is essential to achieve just that and through this arrive at effective and proportionate regulation”, said Martina Bianchini, President of IFRA.

During the meeting, participants appreciated the added value of the IDEA platform and the progress already achieved. Scientific integrity, transparency and trust have been the foundation of this work. At the conclusion of the meeting, participants renewed their support and committed to making further progress on providing a robust and transparent framework for assessing fragrance allergens, including a surveillance study as an effective way of

demonstrating product stewardship by the fragrance industry.

“On behalf of the fragrance industry, I am delighted we have been able to build this constructive relationship between the various engaged stakeholders including the fragrance industry, the dermatological community, Member State authorities, and policy makers. I warmly thank the European Commission for hosting the Annual Review meeting”, said Hans Holger Gliewe, Chairman of IFRA. “Fragrance plays an essential role in consumers’ daily lives. Consumers can confidently use and enjoy scented products in their everyday life, for hygiene, health or well-being purposes. I look forward to continuing this work”.

About the International Fragrance Association

The International Fragrance Association, founded in 1973, represents the interests of the fragrance industry worldwide. IFRA comprises seven multinational Regular Members and 23 national associations in four global regions representing hundreds of small and medium-sized fragrance ingredient manufacturers, as well as supporting members. Its mission is to promote the safe use of fragrance for everyone’s enjoyment.

Fragrances are a key platform technology used by consumer goods companies – for fine fragrances, personal care products, household care and more.

IFRA’s flagship safe use program, the IFRA Standards, applies safety management measures based on scientific assessment and the evaluations of an independent Expert Panel. The program is at the heart of the IFRA Code of Practice, which applies to all IFRA members globally, including members of IFRA’s national associations. The Code also requires members to abide by local, national and international regulation, and to apply good manufacturing practices.

About the International Dialogue for the Evaluation of Allergens (IDEA)

The International Dialogue for the Evaluation of Allergens is a multi-stakeholder forum that seeks to provide a broadly agreed and transparent

framework for assessing fragrance sensitizers globally. It is an opportunity to build partnerships between the international fragrance industry and its stakeholders to improve the risk assessment of those fragrance ingredients identified as allergens, with the aim of improving consumer protection without the use of animal testing.

IDEA is a dialogue between leading international scientists together to reach consensus on improving existing methodologies. Recommendations made at the workshop are then followed up in industry or research projects. IDEA is a long-term initiative conducted in partnership with the European Commission and based on a work plan agreed by the Commission and IFRA.

For further information, please visit ideaproject.info

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