



ACTUAL status and plans

VERA ROGIERS
Dept. of Toxicology
Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Belgium



WHAT ?



European Consensus Platform on Alternatives

- International Not-For-Profit Organisation in Belgium (Europe)
- Members : National Consensus Platforms on Alternatives with 4 parties :

Academia

Government

Industry

Animal Welfare

QUADRIPARTITE ORGANISATION AT NATIONAL LEVEL

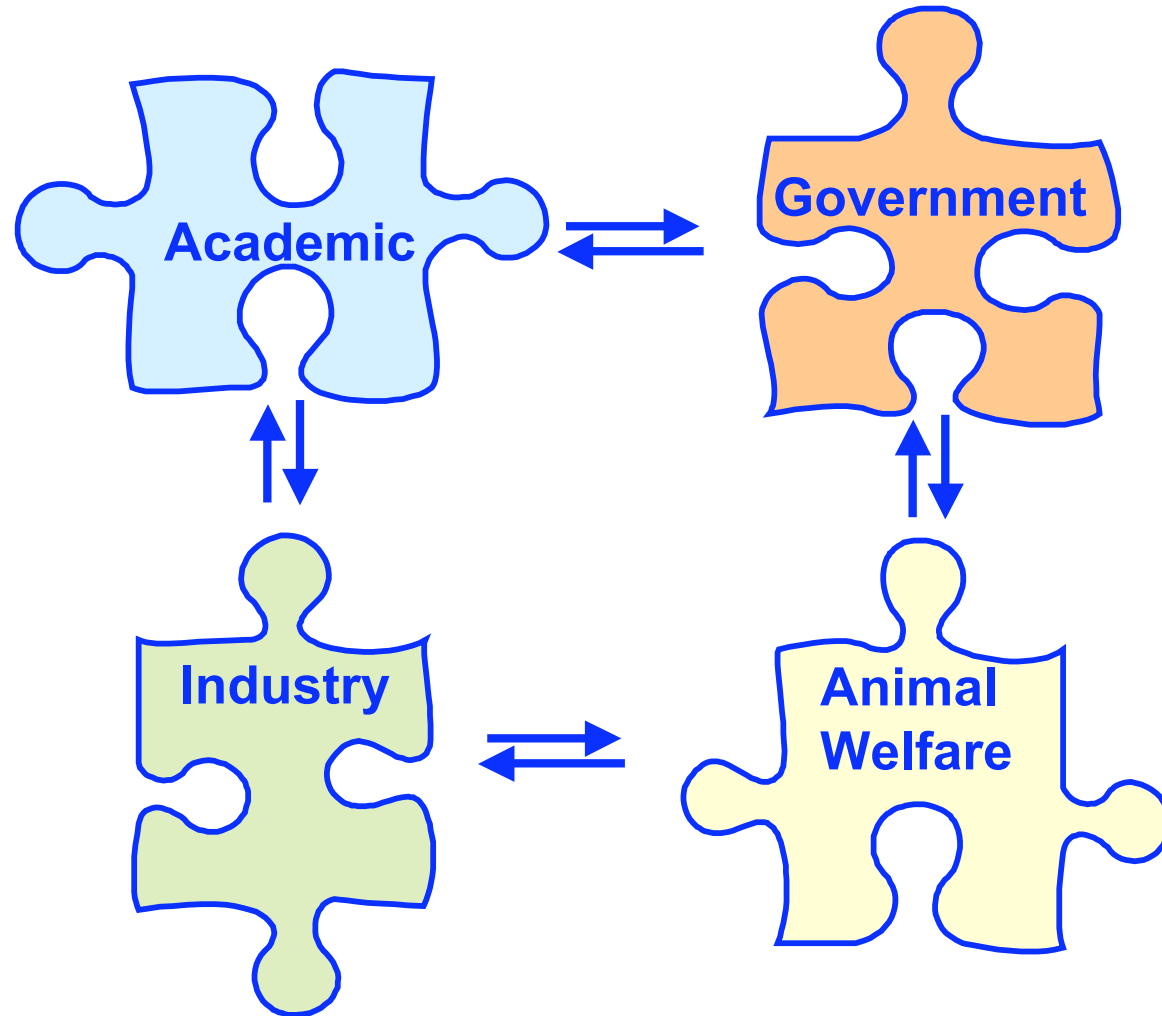
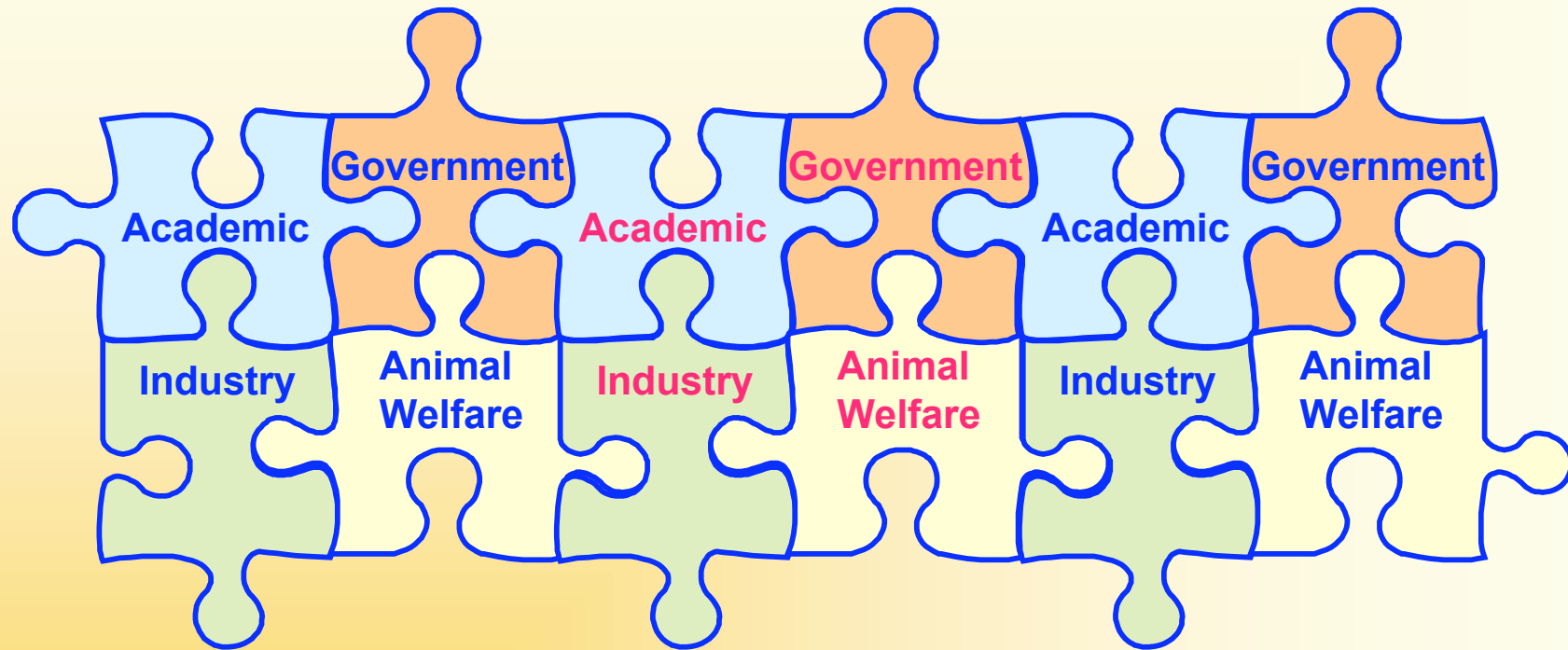


Fig 1: National consensus platforms as quadripartite organisations (a), forming the basis of the European organisation Ecopa (b)

QUADRIPARTITE ORGANISATION AT EU LEVEL : *ecopa*



**NATIONAL
CONSENSUS
PLATFORM 1**

**NATIONAL
CONSENSUS
PLATFORM 2**

**NATIONAL
CONSENSUS
PLATFORM 3**



BACKGROUND



- ★ **IDEA OF EU ORGANISATION OF NATIONAL PLATFORMS : ECVAM**

- ★ **3RD WORLD CONGRESS ON ALTERNATIVES AND ANIMAL USE IN THE LIFE SCIENCES, BOLOGNA (1999) : NATIONAL CONSENSUS PLATFORMS**



AIMS ?



- ★ **FACILITATE THE EXCHANGE OF SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION, EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE BETWEEN NATIONAL PLATFORMS, ACADEMIA, ANIMAL WELFARE, INDUSTRY & GOVERNMENT AND EU**
- ★ **ENHANCE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF 3R-METHODS IN EU AND WORLDWIDE**
- ★ **RAISE PUBLIC, GOVERNMENTAL AND SCIENTIFIC AWARENESS FOR A BETTER ACCEPTANCE OF ALTERNATIVE METHODS**



TOOLS ?



- ★ **CONFERENCES, SEMINARS, PUBLICATIONS, COLLECTION & CIRCULATION OF INFORMATION, SCIENTIFIC & EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES, CO-OPERATIVE ACTION**
- ★ **MEMBERSHIP OF RELEVANT BODIES**
- ★ **POLITICAL STATEMENTS**



ACTUAL STATUS ?



- ★ **8 FULL MEMBERS** : EXISTING CONSENSUS PLATFORMS
Austria, Belgium, Finland, Germany, The Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland and United Kingdom

- ★ **6 ASSOCIATE MEMBERS** : CONSENSUS PLATFORMS UNDER FORMATION
Czech Republic, Denmark, Italy, Norway, Poland and Sweden

- ★ **3 WORKING GROUPS**

- ★ **STATUTES UNDER REVISION & PUBLICATION**

3 WORKING GROUPS



**FIELDS OF INTEREST CHANGE
ACCORDING TO THE MOST URGENT NEEDS
IN THE FIELD OF ALTERNATIVE
RESEARCH AND TESTING**



WHAT HAVE WE
REALISED UNTIL NOW ?

★ **WORKSHOP 1 IN 2000**

★ **WORKSHOP 2 IN 2001**

★ **WORKSHOP 3 IN 2002 (9-10 Nov !)**



WHAT HAVE WE
REALISED UNTIL NOW ?

★ **WORKSHOP 1 IN 2000**

- identifying existing national platforms & willingness to evaluate towards a **consensus** platform
- identifying objectives/tasks and **fields of interest** for further work
- proposal of preliminary structure
- creation of a **working group** (daily business and statutes)



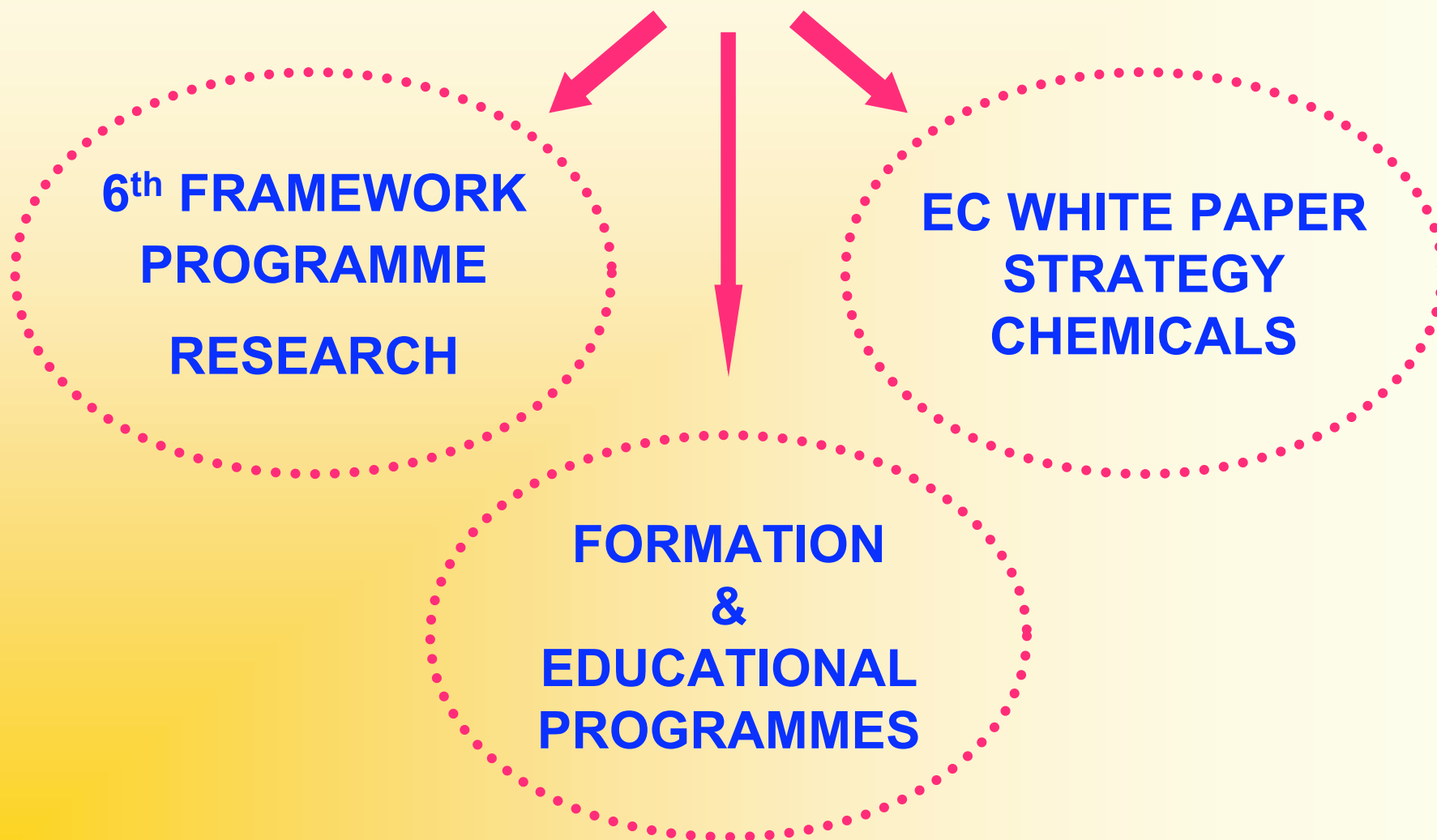
WHAT HAVE WE
REALISED UNTIL NOW ?

★ **WORKSHOP 1 IN 2000**

★ **WORKSHOP 2 IN 2001**

- **DISCUSSION TOPIC** : EC white paper strategy on chemicals and implications for alternatives/animal welfare
- defining **ACTUAL FIELDS OF INTEREST** of 3 working groups

ACTUAL FIELDS OF INTEREST





WHO ARE REPRESENTED IN THESE WORKING GROUPS ?



- FP 6 RESEARCH
- GENERAL FOLLOW-UP OF ECOPA

J.Castell (E,Ac)
K. Gabrielson (S,An)
B. Garthoff (D, I)
K. Pelkonen (F, Go)
P. Maier (CH, An+I)
V. Rogiers (B, Ac)
A. Van Iersel (Nl, Go)

} equilibrium between 4 parties:
Ac, An, I, Go



WHO ARE
REPRESENTED IN
THESE WORKING GROUPS ?



• EC WHITE PAPER STRATEGY CHEMICALS

L. Bansil (UK, I)
K. Gabrielson (S, An)
M. Kayser (D, I)
W. Pfaller (A, Ac)
R. Salmi (F, An)
H. Spielman (D, Go)
M. Weber (I, I)

} equilibrium between 4 parties:
Ac, An, I, Go



WHO ARE
REPRESENTED IN
THESE WORKING GROUPS ?



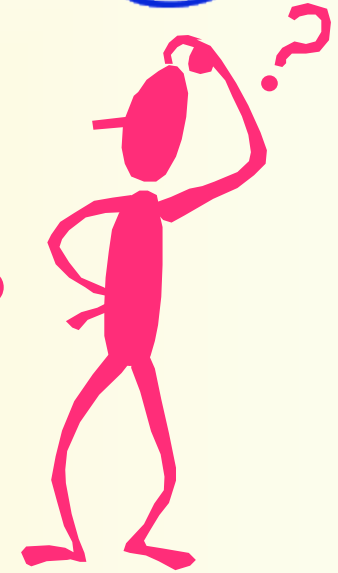
- FORMATION & EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES

J. Van der Valk (Nl, An)
A. Smith (N, Ac)

ecopa 



WHY THESE WORKING GROUPS ?



WHAT WAS THE STRATEGY BEHIND IT ?

**EU WHITE PAPER STRATEGY
FOR A FUTURE CHEMICALS POLICY**

EINECS

100.000 "old" substances

ELINCS

3000 NEW substances

> 95% ???

REACH

Registration, Evaluation, Autorisation, with PRIORITIES
30.000 chemicals

9.6 – 12.8 million animals

**EU WHITE PAPER STRATEGY
FOR A FUTURE CHEMICALS POLICY**

HIGH NEED FOR 3R-ALTERNATIVES



9.6 – 12.8 million animals

**7th AMENDMENT OF
EU COSMETICS LEGISLATION**

ANIMAL TESTING BAN

**MARKETING BAN OF COSMETIC
INGREDIENTS & FINAL PRODUCTS
TESTED ON ANIMALS**

HIGH NEED FOR 3R-ALTERNATIVES

ECVAM

**STRATEGIC PLAN FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT
AND VALIDATION OF ALTERNATIVE METHODS**

**WITHIN NEXT 5 YRS ALTERNATIVES
FOR MOST ENDPOINTS**

HIGH NEED FOR 3R-ALTERNATIVES

**WHAT 3R-ALTERNATIVES
DO WE ACTUALLY HAVE IN THE EU
FOR REGULATORY TESTING ?**

**4 VALIDATED
METHODS**



ANNEX V

Dangerous Substances Legislation

67/548/EEC

- **3 corrosivity tests**
TER, Epi Skin[®], Epiderm[®]
- **1 phototoxicity test**
3T3 NRU-PT

**WHAT 3R-ALTERNATIVES
DO WE ACTUALLY HAVE IN THE EU
FOR REGULATORY TESTING ?**

**4 VALIDATED
METHODS**

**6 METHODS
ACCEPTED BY ESAC**

NOT YET TAKEN UP IN EU LEGISLATION

- 1 skin sensitisation test: LLNA
- 1 *in vitro* percutaneous absorption test
- 1 additional corrosivity test: Corrositex[®]
- 3 embryotoxicity tests: WEC, MM, ECT

**WHAT 3R-ALTERNATIVES
DO WE ACTUALLY HAVE IN THE EU
FOR REGULATORY TESTING ?**

**4 VALIDATED
METHODS**

**6 METHODS
ACCEPTED BY ESAC**

**TESTS UNDER
DEVELOPMENT & VALIDATION**

- skin irritation
- eye irritation
- acute (oral) toxicity
- skin corrosion (in silico)

**WHAT 3R-ALTERNATIVES
DO WE ACTUALLY HAVE IN THE EU
FOR REGULATORY TESTING ?**

**4 VALIDATED
METHODS**

***IN VITRO*
GENOTOXICITY TESTS**

**6 METHODS
ACCEPTED BY ESAC**

**TESTS UNDER
DEVELOPMENT & VALIDATION**

ALTERNATIVE TESTS NEEDED FOR :

- **PHOTO ALLERGY**
- **SUBACUTE TOXICITY**
- **CHRONIC TOXICITY**
- **REPRODUCTIVE TOXICITY**
- **TARGET ORGAN & SYSTEMIC TOXICITY**
- **BIOKINETICS**
- **NON-GENOTOXIC CARCINOGENICITY**

**LACKING
TODAY**

**6th FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME OF THE EC
FOR RESEARCH, TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT
AND DEMONSTRATION ACTIVITIES
(2002-2006)**



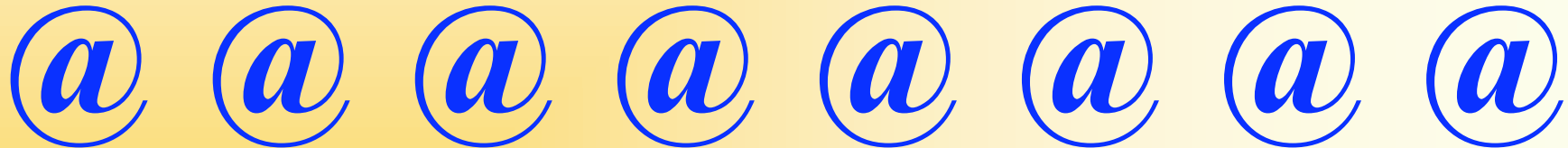
**NO SPECIFIC KEY ACTION, NO SPECIFIC BUDGET
FOR RESEARCH ON ALTERNATIVE METHODS !**



CREDIBILITY ???



**STATEMENT BY ECOPA
WORKING GROUPS**



<http://ecopa.vub.ac.be>

« *More basic research is needed at all levels to develop alternative methods. Because of the numerous animal experiments requested by the proposals in the White Paper, it is of outmost importance that **greater consideration** should be given for **substantial funding** of research on alternative methods within FP6 e.g. by providing at least 20 million €, as claimed by ecopa already before »*

**CONFERENCE ON THE STATE OF THE ART
OF RESEARCH-REPLACEMENT, REDUCTION &
REFINEMENT-ALTERNATIVES TO ANIMAL
EXPERIMENTATION AND TESTING**

- ▶ **ORGANISED BY DG RESEARCH AND DG JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE (JRC)**
- ▶ **ON 9-10 JULY 2002 IN BRUSSELS; DISCUSSION WITH **STAKEHOLDERS****

↓

Ecopa working groups were represented

↓

Promise for alternatives under part 8 of FP 6

↓

Rewriting of FP 6 text: critical participation

↓

ALTERNATIVE METHODS ARE IN FP 6 !!



WHAT HAVE WE REALISED UNTIL NOW ?

- ★ workgroup 1 and 2 reached their goal → alternatives through FP 6 research
- ★ introduction of 16 EoI research proposals from ecopa member countries → on <http://ecopa.vub.ac.be>
- ★ workgroup 3 → started



**WHAT ARE COMING
INITIATIVES OF
ECOPA ?**

★ **WORKSHOP 3, 9-10 NOV. 2002**

**INTRODUCING AND IMPLEMENTING
3R-ALTERNATIVES INTO NATIONAL
AND SUPRA-NATIONAL OECD-GUIDELINES
MORE EFFICIENTLY**

IN COLLABORATION WITH OECD

AIM ?



**SPEEDING UP OF IMPLEMENTATION AND
INTRODUCTION OF ALTERNATIVE METHODS
IN DIFFERENT REGULATORY GUIDELINES**

★ WORKSHOP 3, 9-10 NOV. 2002

- **identification of new tasks for working groups**
- **statutes, official foundation, publication**
- **associate → full members: Italy
Czech Republic**

★ WORKSHOP 3, 9-10 NOV. 2002

IN COLLABORATION WITH OECD

WHEN ? 8-10 November 2002

WHERE ? Sheraton Airport, Brussels

INFORMATION ? <http://ecopa.vub.ac.be>



**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER
CONSENSUS PLATFORMS !**



**WELCOME TO PARTICIPANTS OF
COMING 3RD ECOPA WORKSHOP !**