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## The questions to the Committee

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In 1996 the Committee published the advisory report ‘Toxicology-based recommended exposure limits’. In its presentation letter accompanying that advisory report, the President of the Health Council of the Netherlands wrote that the Committee considered further elaboration to be possible on the basis of current knowledge. One of the topics that was considered for such elaboration was the effect of exposure to environmental factors in combination on toxicology-based recommended exposure limits. The report should be based on the answers to the following questions:

- What are the latest developments in toxicity research and the evaluation of the risk presented by mixtures?
  - What role do similarities and dissimilarities between substances play with regard to target organs and working mechanisms?
  - How should toxicity data on complex mixtures such as welding fumes, cigarette smoke, wood dust and novel foods, be extrapolated from tests on laboratory animals to make it applicable to humans or from high doses to make it applicable to low doses?
  - Besides taking into account the combination effect of substances, is it also necessary to consider co-factors such as noise, odour, heat, vibrations and psychosocial factors? If it is, how should this be done?
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