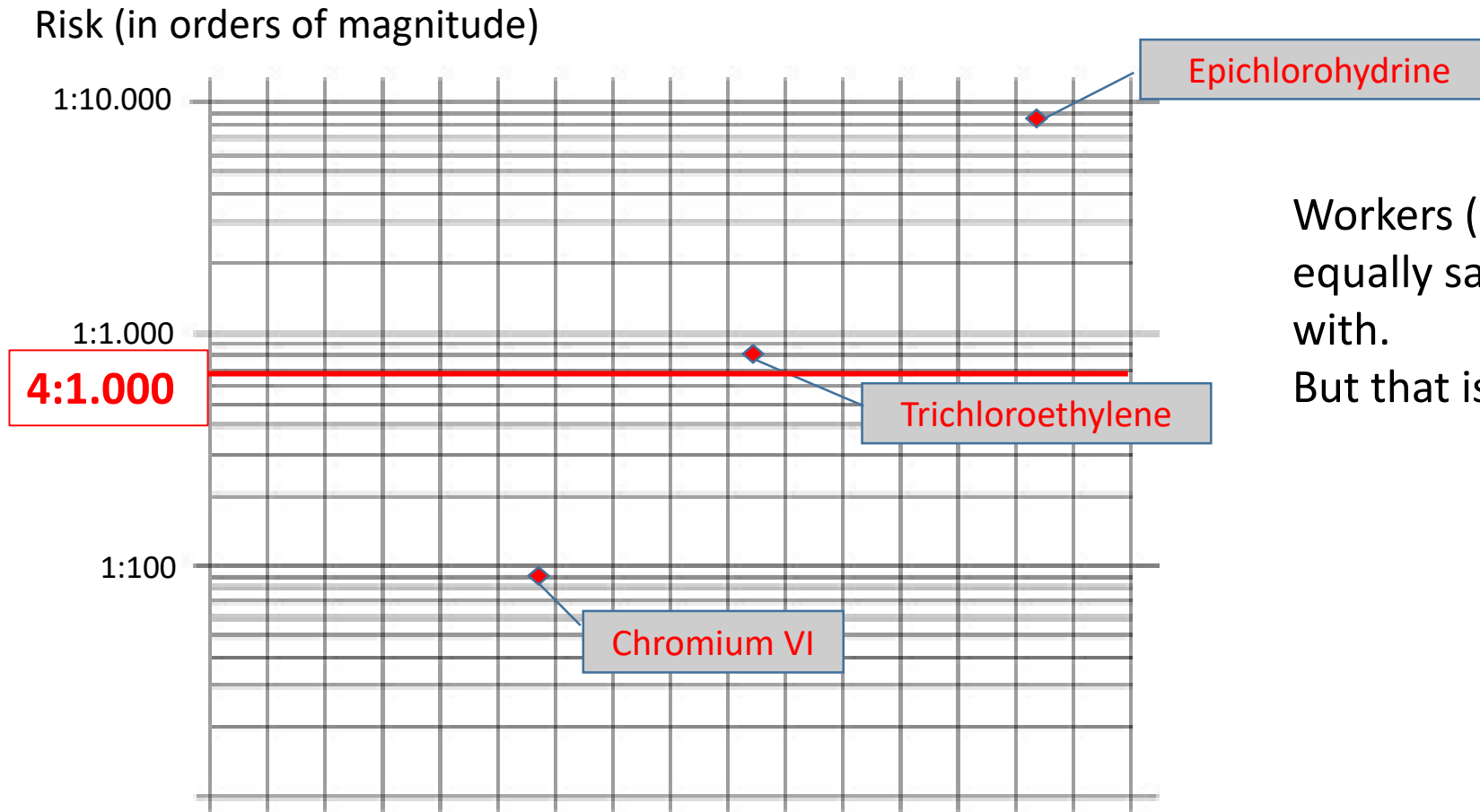


Risk-based Approach - Introduction

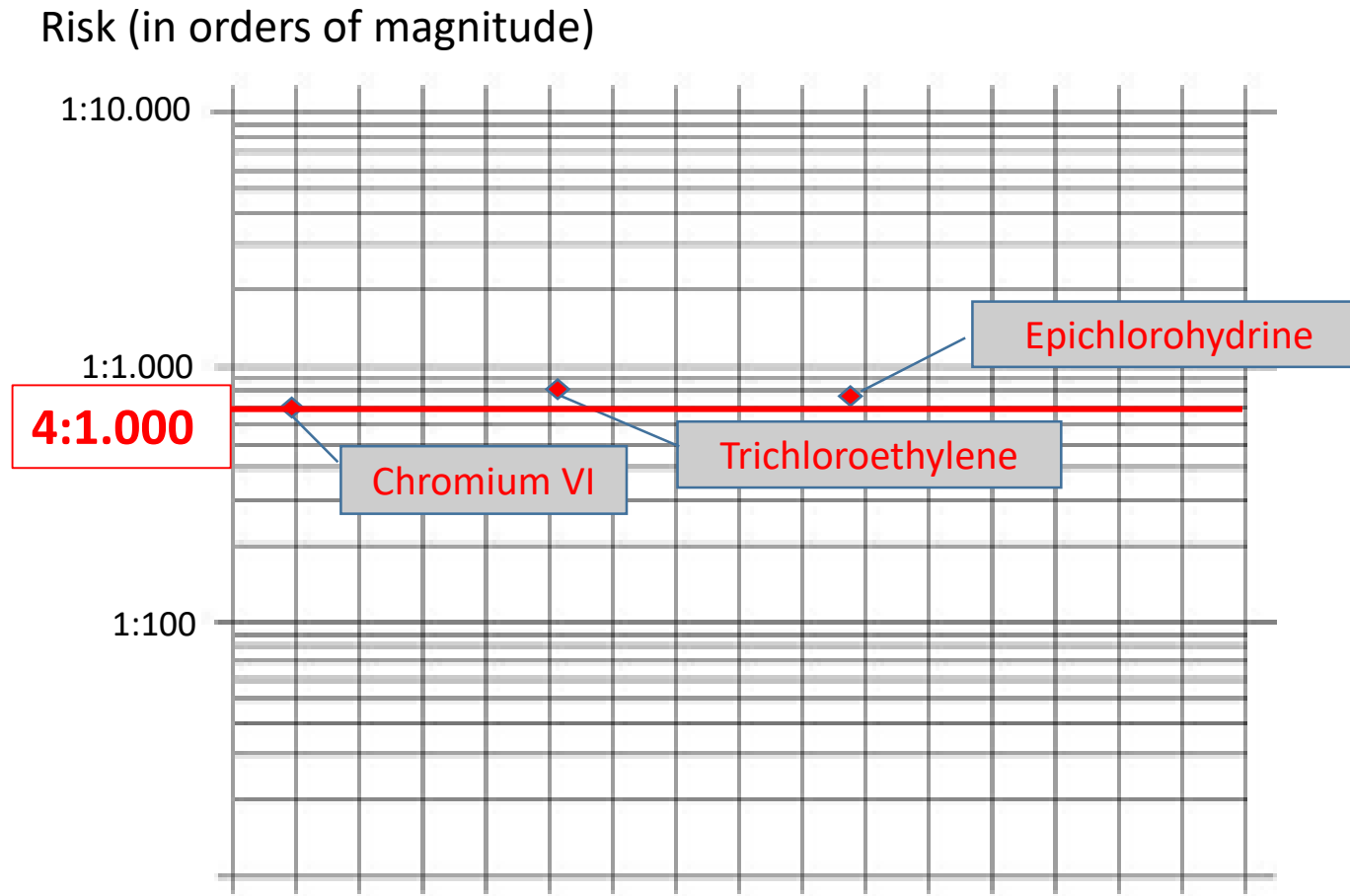
- For non-threshold carcinogens, safe levels of exposure cannot be set. Even at low concentrations a residual risk for workers remains.
- Scientific basis for a risk-based approach is an exposure risk relationship (ERR) for individual substances. ERR of carcinogens show extreme differences in potency, varying several orders of magnitude of the risk getting cancer.
- One consequence can be, that the level of protection of BOELV is different although employees might feel equally safe if a BOELV is complied with. How do we deal with that at EU level in the future?

Risk Associated with Different BOELV



Workers (and employers) might feel equally safe if a BOELV is complied with.
But that is not true!

Risk-based Approach – Harmonized Risk-level



What would be the advantages of a risk-based approach?

- EU-wide harmonized and accepted risk levels applicable to all carcinogens
- Increased transparency and awareness to workers and employers
- The risk based approach is set in relation to other life risks
- Higher pressure to minimize exposure, if risk level is exceeded significantly
 - Action Plan in employer's risk assessment
 - On a broader level it will drive industry towards solutions

Who should discuss and decide on a harmonized risk level and thus on an excess cancer risk that can be accepted by all stakeholders?

- Ultimately politics
- All stakeholders (Commission, social partners, scientists, MS, Labour inspections) should be involved
- Robust mandate (given by ACSH?) to WPC (?)

Which legal framework is appropriate to implement the risk-based approach?

- Open the CMD for a risk based approach to add a legal basis for some principals
- Details on a risk based approach laid down in guidelines
- The risk based approach should cover REACH-issues, where necessary

Conclusion

- Strong support for the idea of a risk-based approach
- The next steps should concentrate on single aspects and not on the subject in general, e.g. the level of acceptable and tolerable risk or the way to implement the risk-based approach