



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH AND CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Public Health and Risk Assessment
Risk assessment

**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS (SCHER)
3RD PLENARY MEETING**

*Held on 18 September 2009
in Brussels*

Minutes

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Prof. Greim, Chair of the Committee, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants.

Apologies: Prof U Ackermann-Liebrich, Prof J Davison, Prof J Tarazona

2. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA

The draft [agenda](#) was adopted as proposed

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST ON MATTERS ON THE AGENDA

Prof. P Calow declared a possible conflict of interest in relation to item 12.3 since he was involved in the environment steering committee of NiPERA (Nickel Producers Environmental Research Association).

Prof. Janssen declared possible conflict of interest in relation to item 12.3, being member of the NiPERA risk assessment peer review group.

4. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 2ND SCHER PLENARY MEETING

The [minutes](#) of the 2nd SCHER plenary meeting were adopted.

5. ELECTION OF THE VICE CHAIR

The Chair of the Committee informed the members on the resignation of Prof. Tarazona from vice Chairs of SCHER due to his recent nomination as Chair of the Committee for Risk Assessment at the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) in Helsinki.

The Chair asked for possible candidates and Prof. P Calow was suggested unanimously as vice Chair. Prof Calow accepted the task.

6. CHAIR'S AND COMMISSION REPORT

6.1 ICCG June 2009

The chair reminded to the Committee tasks and functioning of the ICCG based on Decision 2008/721/EC and the new Rules of Procedure

6.1.1 Review of risk assessment practices

The Chair informed the Committee that the invited SCHER member presented the results of a reflection developed within SCHER on the need for a review of risk assessment practices. The aim of this proposal was explained as to make risk assessment practice more appropriate to support effective management.

A cross-committee group, also involving experts covering socio-economic disciplines, would be set up to organise a thematic workshop that would produce a report with a review of the relevant issues and related recommendations.

6.1.2 Dialogue with stakeholders and reply to complaints

The group agreed that the interaction with stakeholders is important but need to follows the procedure as reported in the "stakeholder dialogue procedure". The group also discussed how to better deal with comments received from public consultations and the public hearings.

6.1.3 Risk Assessment Day 2009 (20 November 2009)

The draft Agenda for the Risk Assessment Day planned for 20 November 2009 was presented. All members were invited to attend.

It was noted that certain members may be interested in attending the special session on alternative methods which will take place on 19 November 2009. It was agreed that the committee members directly involved in the topic would be invited to attend.

6.2 Commission communications

- DG SANCO representative summarised the principal tasks of the Scientific Committee as active participation in meetings and discussions, appropriate written contributions to the committee documents.
- It was also reminded that in the framework of the international dialogue there are three specific activities where the Committee members are also involved. The members were invited to participate in the working group on exposure assessment.
- Future mandate on alternative testing

7. NEW REQUESTS FOR OPINIONS BY COMMISSION SERVICES ON:

7.1 Heavy metals in jewelry – DG SANCO

A representative of DG SANCO presented the new mandate to the Committee. The mandate is based on the outcome of a Danish Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) report that analysed a number of jewelleries present on the Danish market for their release of heavy metals.

The Committee was asked to evaluate the reliability and validity of the EPA conclusions and to assess in particular whether the exposure of consumers to lead from jewellery should be mitigated.

The WG was set up and an additional member from SCCS would be contacted asking for his participation.

The mandate is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_q_086.pdf

8. ONGOING REQUESTS FOR OPINIONS BY COMMISSION SERVICES ON:

8.1 Model implementation and Quantification of the Eutrophication Risk associated to the use of phosphates in detergents - INIA/Green Planet Report

The Chairperson of the WG informed the Committee about the ongoing work and the future schedule of the WG. One of the rapporteur of the INIA/Green planet report would be invited to the following WG meeting to clarify some part of the study. It was agreed with the committee that the opinion would answer strictly to the terms of reference asked by DG ENTR in the present mandate. Deadline for adoption confirmed as end on November.

The mandate is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_q_082.pdf

8.2 Polycarboxylates in detergents – HERA report

The WG informed the Committee about the ongoing work and one member presented the draft opinion. The committee decided that the draft need to be better reworded and presented for adoption at the next plenary. Deadline for adoption confirmed as end on November.

The mandate is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_q_083.pdf

8.3 Fluoridation of drinking water

The Chairperson reported back from the last WG meeting and the ongoing work. The WG agreed that an expert on the fluoride chemistry with expertise also on environment was needed

The mandate is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_q_084.pdf

8.4 Depleted Uranium

The Chairperson reported back from the WG meeting and the ongoing work. The Chair also informed the committee that the WG also included three external experts on both radioactivity and toxicology of uranium

The mandate is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_q_085.pdf

9. PARTICIPATION OF THE SCHER IN ACTIVITIES/WORKING GROUPS OF OTHER SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES OF THE COMMISSION OR EFSA

9.1 SCCP: Threshold of Toxicological Concern (TTC) Approach for Safety Assessment of Chemical Substances

The secretariat informed the committee on the hearing on TTC foreseen on 24 September.

10. EMERGING ISSUES

No emerging issues

11. NEXT PLENARY MEETING

The next SCHER plenary meeting was confirmed as 9 November 2009.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Annex 1: List of participants

Annex 1

<p style="text-align: center;">SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS (SCHER) 3RD PLENARY MEETING</p>
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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

MEMBERS OF THE SCHER:

Prof H AUTRUP (*Vice Chair*), Prof. D. BARD, Prof. P. CALOW (*Vice Chair*), Dr. S. CANNA MICHAELIDOU, Prof. P. DE VOOGT, Prof. W. DEKANT, Prof. A. GARD, Prof. H. GREIM (*Chair*), Dr. A. HIRVONEN, Prof. C. JANSSEN, Prof. J. LINDERS, Prof. B. PETERLIN, Dr. E. TESTAI, Prof. M. VIGHI.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION:

SCHER Secretariat (DG SANCO):

Mrs. G. FONTANESI, Mrs. O. ZIANE.

Other Commission staff:

Mrs. M. DANSTEN (DG SANCO); Mr S. PICKERING (DG ENTR); Mrs A. ROMANOWICZ (DG ENV); Mr J VOGELGESANG (DG SANCO)