



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
HEALTH AND CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Public Health and Risk Assessment  
**Risk assessment**

**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS (SCHER)  
5<sup>TH</sup> PLENARY MEETING**

*Held on 13 January 2010  
in Brussels*

**Minutes**

**1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

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

Apologies: Prof P Calow, Prof C Janssen, Dr. S Canna Michaelidou

**2. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA**

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

**3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST ON MATTERS ON THE AGENDA**

No new declarations of interest

**4. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 4<sup>TH</sup> SCHER PLENARY MEETING**

The [minutes](#) of the 4<sup>th</sup> SCHER plenary meeting were adopted.

**5. Chair's and Commission report**

**5.1** Chair's meeting – breakout sections on Terminology

DG SANCO illustrated the ongoing work of the group including US, Canada and EU experts on 'terminology in risk assessment'. Members were invited to participate in the group and in the second conference that would be organized in 2010 in Canada.

**5.2** Chair's meeting – breakout sections on Exposure assessment

A first draft on the main steps to be discussed by the group of experts from US, Canada and EU was distributed to the EU participant for comments. It would be then sent to US and Canada for agreement. The work would be then organized through telephone conferences.

**5.3** Work plan 2010

The SCHER work plan for 2010 was distributed for information and agreement on priorities.

#### **5.4 Research on genotoxic carcinogens**

The Committee was informed that their letter sent to Sanco C7 concerning research priority on genotoxic carcinogens was forwarded to DG Research for their consideration

### **6. NEW REQUESTS FOR OPINIONS BY COMMISSION SERVICES ON:**

#### **1.1. Evaluation of migration limits of elements (DG ENTR)**

The recently reused Toys Safety Directive (TSD) establishes migration limits of 19 elements from toys or components of toys. The migration limits are based on the RIVM study and opinions of the previous Scientific Committees. DG Enterprise asked SCHER if the migration limits established in the TSD are a sound scientific basis for setting safe migration limits for 19 elements and if more recent scientific data are available on Tolerable Daily Intake.

The adoption of the related opinion should follow the more general one on CMR in toys. The committee decided that the same WG dealing with the CMR would prepare the opinion related to this mandate.

The mandate is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific\\_committees/environmental\\_risks/docs/scher\\_q\\_091.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/environmental_risks/docs/scher_q_091.pdf)

### **7. Ongoing requests for opinions by Commission services on:**

#### **7.1 Heavy metals in jewellery**

A draft opinion was discussed and agreed in term of contents. The draft would be edited after the next WG meeting and proposed for adoption at the next plenary or by written procedure.

On the following week, a WG meeting would be held with the participation of other international bodies involved in the evaluation of lead in jewellery for an exchange of information on this topic.

The mandate is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_risk/committees/04\\_scher/docs/scher\\_q\\_086.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_q_086.pdf)

#### **7.2 Depleted Uranium**

The Chairperson reported back from the WG meeting and the ongoing work. The updated draft would be circulated for discussion at the next plenary meeting or for adoption by written procedure if not major comments would be received from the committee.

The mandate is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/archive/ph\\_risk/committees/04\\_scher/docs/scher\\_q\\_085.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/archive/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_q_085.pdf)

#### **7.3 Hg in energy saving light bulbs**

The Committee was informed on the outcome of the first WG meeting. Major problems were found in relation to information on possible substitutes of the lamps. Further information would be necessary to reply to question D related to potential reduction in mercury emission from coal-based power plants.

The mandate is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/archive/ph\\_risk/committees/04\\_scher/docs/scher\\_q\\_087.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/archive/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_q_087.pdf)

#### **7.4 CMR in toys**

The Rapporteur reported back on the outcome of the first WG meeting. The WG also announced the need for another expert on chemical migration from toys.

It was agreed with DG ENTR that this opinion would be the first one to be finalized and adopted by SCHER. The other two opinions related to toys (e.i. diantimony trioxide and migration limits) would follow.

The mandate of the request on CMR in toys is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific\\_committees/environmental\\_risks/docs/scher\\_q\\_088.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/environmental_risks/docs/scher_q_088.pdf)

#### **7.5 Improvements in risk assessment**

A draft starter paper was prepared by the Rapporteur and discussed at the WG meeting. The draft would be amended and circulated to the WG for further discussion at the next meeting. The WG would also need the participation of experts in socio-economical assessment.

The mandate is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific\\_committees/environmental\\_risks/docs/scher\\_q\\_090.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/environmental_risks/docs/scher_q_090.pdf)

#### **7.6 Fluoridation of drinking water**

The Chairperson reported back from the last WG meeting and the ongoing work. An updated draft opinion would be submitted to the committee the following week for comments. An updated version would be then discussed at the next WG meeting and submitted at the next plenary for further discussion or possible adoption as preliminary opinion for public consultation.

The mandate is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/archive/ph\\_risk/committees/04\\_scher/docs/scher\\_q\\_084.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/archive/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_q_084.pdf)

#### **7.7 Polycarboxylates in detergents – HERA report**

The final amended opinion was adopted and is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific\\_committees/environmental\\_risks/docs/scher\\_o\\_117.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/environmental_risks/docs/scher_o_117.pdf)

### **8. Participation of the SCHER in activities/working groups of other Scientific Committees of the Commission or bodies**

#### **8.1 SCCS: Threshold of Toxicological Concern (TTC) Approach for Safety Assessment of Chemical Substances**

The committee discussed and agreed on some points that it would like to have in the final joint opinion. It was agreed that SCHER comments would be added to the draft by the representative of SCHER in the WG. The draft would be then circulated to SCHER for agreement before to be forwarded to the Chair of the TTC WG.

The joint mandate is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/archive/ph\\_risk/documents/ttc\\_mandate.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/archive/ph_risk/documents/ttc_mandate.pdf)

## **9. Emerging Issues**

No emerging issues

## **10. Next plenary meeting**

The next SCHER plenary meeting was confirmed as 24 March 2010.

## **11. Any Other Business**

NOB

## **Annex 1: List of participants**

## Annex 1

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS (SCHER)</b> <b>5<sup>TH</sup> PLENARY MEETING</b></p>
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*Held on 13 January 2010  
in Brussels*

### **LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

#### **MEMBERS OF THE SCHER:**

Prof. U. ACKERMANN-LIEBRICH, Prof H AUTRUP (*Vice Chair*), Prof. D. BARD, Prof. J. DAVISON, Prof. P. DE VOOGT, Prof. W. DEKANT, Prof. A. GARD, Prof. H. GREIM (*Chair*), Dr. A. HIRVONEN, Prof. J. LINDERS, Prof. B. PETERLIN, Dr. J. TARAZONA, Dr. E. TESTAI, Prof. M. VIGHI.

#### **EUROPEAN COMMISSION:**

##### ***SCHER Secretariat (DG SANCO):***

Mrs. G. FONTANESI, Mrs. C. DEKIND

##### ***Other Commission staff:***

Mrs G. LUVARA' (DG ENTR); Mrs. F. PANTAZI (DG ENTR); Mr S. PICKERING (DG ENTR); Mr J VOGELGESANG (DG SANCO); Mrs C. WISTUBA (DG ENV)