



9th Plenary Meeting of the

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON EMERGING AND NEWLY IDENTIFIED HEALTH RISKS (**SCENIHR**)

Venue: HTC 02/280 Luxembourg

Eugène Ruppert Street 11, L-2453 Luxembourg

27 January 2015

Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies

The Deputy HoU (DHoU) welcomed the participants and gave the floor to the Chair of SCENIHR. One apology was received. Two members joined the meeting by audio.

Representatives of DG GROW I4 and DG Justice, E3 attended the meeting by audio.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented.

3. Declaration of interests on matters in the agenda

The Chair requested participants to declare any conflict of interest regarding matters on the agenda. None of the participants declared any conflict of interest.

It was reminded that these declarations have to be made orally at each plenary meeting and are noted on the minutes.

4. New mandates

The new version of the mandate on '**Biological effects of ultraviolet radiation relevant to health with particular reference to sunbeds for cosmetic purposes**' was adopted by SCENIHR and it will be published soon after the plenary meeting.

5. Chair's / member's report

The Chair gave the floor to SCENIHR members on activities they carried out in collaboration with other scientific committees and other agencies. The plenary was briefed with regards to the main outcomes of the GLORE meeting which was very well participated and appreciation was expressed about the opinion on EMF which is awaited in its final form.

6. Communication by Commission Departments

The Chair gave the floor to DHoU for an update on the state of play of this issue.

New opinions/mandates from other Scientific Committees (printed lists have been distributed during the meeting)

The list with new opinions and mandates published by the SCs between the plenaries in November 2014 and January 2015 was made available to committee members.

The DHoU informed the committee about the opinion on electromagnetic hypersensitivity syndrome (EHS) which recognises the distress being suffered by people in Europe who believe they are affected which was adopted by the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) at its January plenary session.

Follow-up of work with scientific journals to promote the dissemination of the SCs opinion:

The Committee was informed that the several scientific journals are keen to publish the executive summaries of different opinions. The Committee was reminded that Science dedicated its editorial in January on Synthetic Biology, opinions I and II and a podcast on the same opinions was released by The Guardian - Science weekly.

Communication activities

The Committee was informed about the communication materials currently under preparation: BPA fact-sheet, EMF fact-sheet and 2 layers, 2 layers on dental amalgam. It was proposed to prepare factsheet for the opinions on DEHP, Synthetic Biology, and tobacco additives.

7. On-going work:

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| For approval/adoption: |
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- **The Potential health effects of exposure to electromagnetic fields (EMF)**

The Chair gave the floor to the Chair of the working group who presented the main conclusions of the opinion and the main changes made as result of the input received during the public consultation. The opinion was discussed and finally was adopted by the SCENIHR.

- **The safety of the use of Bisphenol A in medical devices (Final opinion)**

The Chair gave the floor to the chair of the working group who updated the plenary with regards to the status of the opinion as result of the last changes made in the text of the opinions just adopted by EFSA. The SCENIHR discussed this opinion and comments were made. Finally it was decided to revise the text of the opinion following the comments made and to adopt the opinion by written procedure.

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| Update: |
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- **Synthetic Biology II and III:**

The Chair gave the floor to the chair of the WG who updated the committee on the state of play of both opinions. The preliminary opinion II is published for public

consultation until 03 February. With regards to the opinion III, the working group started the discussions on the outline of the opinion and will continue to elaborate it during the next meeting scheduled on 28/01.

– **Safety of surgical meshes used in urogynecological surgery**

The Chair updated the plenary on the state of play of this opinion. The following points have been discussed: finalising the draft preliminary opinion, the date for approval for public consultation.

It was proposed to have an additional physical meeting by the end of February or beginning of March so as to progress with text of the opinion to be approved by written procedure or at the April plenary.

Representatives of DG Grow, I4 joined the meeting by audio.

– **Tobacco additives**

The Chair gave the floor to the chair of the WG who updated the plenary on the state of play of this opinion.

– **Preliminary Opinion on the safety of dental amalgam and alternative dental restoration materials for patients and users**

The Chair gave the floor to the chair of the WG who updated the plenary on the state of play of this opinion. It was mentioned that a high number of comments were received during the public consultation; 1/3 are relevant but no major changes are foreseen for the text of the final opinion.

Representatives of DG GROW, I4 joined the meeting by audio.

– **Preliminary Opinion on the safety of medical devices containing DEHP-plasticized PVC or other plasticizers on neonates and other groups possibly at risk (2013 update)**

The Chair gave the floor to the chair of the WG for an update on the state of play of this opinion. 70 comments have been received during public consultation. The Chair and the rapporteur of the working group are currently working on drafting the replies. The final opinion should be ready to be adopted during the plenary of SCENIHR scheduled on 29/04/2015. Representatives of DG GROW, I4 joined the meeting by audio.

15:00 **Any other business**

The SCENIHR discussed various requests for support letters received from former members. It has been decided to respond to such requests" individually".

The Commission informed SCENIHR that a new decision setting up the Scientific Committees is being drafted. The adoption is foreseen in second quarter of 2015. The experience shows the need to introduce modifications and improvements in the current structure and working procedures of the Scientific Committees.

Dates of next plenary meetings

29 April 2015

24 September 2015

3 December 2015

Annex 1

List of Participants

Members of the SCENIHR

Dr Epstein Michelle, Prof Igor Emri, Prof Dr Hartemann Philippe (Chair), Prof Dr Peter Hoet, Prof Dr Leitgeb Norbert, Dr Martinez-Martinez Luis, Prof Dr Proykova Ana (vice-Chair), Prof Eduardo Rodriguez Farre, Dr Rushton Lesley, Prof Dr Rydzynski Konrad, Prof Theodoros Samaras (by audio), Dr Theo Vermeire, and Dr Testai Emanuela (by audio)

Absences:

Prof Dr Rizzo Luigi

SCENIHR Secretariat (DG SANTE)

Mrs Donata Meroni
Mrs Mihaela Haratau
Mrs Silvia Hrubanova
Mrs Petronille Bogaert

DG GROW, I4

Mrs Federica de Gaetano
Mr Paul Piscoi

DG JUST, E3

Mr Vasile Octavian