



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety

Public health, Cancer and Health security

**B.3. Health monitoring and cooperation, Health networks**

## **Scientific Committee on Health, Environmental and Emerging Risks (SCHEER)**

### **Request for a scientific opinion by the DG SANTE Unit B3**

#### **Memorandum on weight of evidence and uncertainties – Revision 2024**

#### **Background**

On 26 June 2018, the SCHEER adopted 'Memorandum on weight of evidence and uncertainties - Revision 2018'<sup>1</sup> with the aim to provide greater transparency of its risk assessment process, to ensure consistency between opinions, to be helpful to stakeholders and to be in line with the provisions stipulated in the Rules of Procedure.

The existing Memorandum (2018) is focussed on how to use the weight of evidence approach (WoE) to conduct a risk assessment for stressors to which humans and/or the environment may be exposed. The aim of this document is to support the use of the WoE, wherever appropriate, for the risk assessment activities of the Scientific Committee on Health, Environmental and Emerging Risks (SCHEER). In addition, it aims to support the consistency in the work of different EU bodies performing risk assessments.

When sufficient practical experience has been gained for the application of the WoE approach to the different mandates, the SCHEER would consider the need for any updates and modifications of the Memorandum.

In order to evaluate the implementation of the WoE approach, the SCHEER established a separate Working Group, tasked to collect practical experience with the approach.

#### **Terms of reference**

The SCHEER is requested to prepare a revised version of the 'Memorandum on weight of evidence and uncertainties', adopted in 2018, making explicit the approach to be used by the SCHEER for determining the weight of evidence and the uncertainties involved in the development of their Opinions.

The approach should take into consideration the newest available, evidence-based methodology that has been developed by various national and international risk assessment bodies, including European Union bodies and agencies, as appropriate, and the practical experiences gained from application of the WoE approach to SCHEER mandates (2018-2023).

The Revised Memorandum should be applicable for human health, environmental and ecological risk assessments.

---

<sup>1</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/scientific\\_committees/scheer/docs/scheer\\_o\\_014.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/scientific_committees/scheer/docs/scheer_o_014.pdf)