



**Joint Plenary Meeting of the  
SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES ON CONSUMER SAFETY (SCCS), ON HEALTH AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS (SCHER) AND ON EMERGING AND NEWLY  
IDENTIFIED HEALTH RISKS (SCENIHR)**

Luxembourg, 11-12 April 2013

**MINUTES**

**PLENARY OF THE THREE COMMITTEES -11 APRIL 2013**

**1. Welcome to the Committees' Members**

The meeting was jointly opened by P. Testori Coggi, Director General, Health and Consumers of the European Commission and M. Di Bartolomeo, Minister of Health, Luxembourg.

P. Testori Coggi stressed how science and innovation have a key role to play in boosting competitiveness and in making an important contribution towards achievement of the core Europe 2020 objective of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. At the same time, it is important to ensure that science and innovation are firmly at the disposal of European citizens, who should benefit from a high level of health protection.

Policy-making based on sound science is the main principle underpinning risk governance and regulation in the European Union – the Commission is fully committed to applying a risk assessment-based approach. The three non-food Scientific Committees ensure systematic assessment of risks, based on best practice for EU policy needs on health, consumers and environment.

M. Di Bartolomeo welcomed the members to Luxembourg – where the secretariat is now based and where the Committees' activities will be carried out under the new term of three years.

**2. Tasks, principles and mission statement of the Scientific Committees**

See here the presentation made by S. Schreck, Health Information Head of Unit.

**3. Scientific Committees' activities during the period 2009-2012 and future mandate**

See here the presentation made by P. Daskaleiros, Risk assessment Unit.

**4. Independence, declaration of interest and confidentiality**

See here the presentation made by B. Vanhoorde

**5. Presentation and adoption of the rules of procedures**

S. Schreck presented the Rules of Procedures which had previously been distributed by email to the Members of the Scientific Committees. No comments were submitted prior to the meeting.

He explained that at the beginning of a new term, the newly appointed Committees are requested to adopt common Rules of Procedures (article 12 of the Commission Decision 2008/721).

Compared to previous set of rules, the current text differs - mainly towards a better definition of the conflict of interest, in order to be better aligned to the definition used by other EU risk assessment bodies. A modification to clarify the rules for the elections of the chair and vice chair was also suggested at the meeting. It was suggested to modify the fourth and fifth paragraph of point 51 specifying that a simple majority is requested (as laid down by Article 10 of Commission Decision 2008/721). The final text proposed was the following:

- The candidate receiving the simple majority of the votes of the members of the Committees shall be elected.
- If none of the candidates receives ~~an absolute~~ the simple majority, a second ballot shall be held between the two candidates with the highest individual totals of votes in the first ballot. The procedure shall be repeated until one candidate obtains the simple majority of the votes of the members of the Committee.

The Rules of procedures were adopted unanimously as it was proposed.