



6TH PLENARY MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

(SCHER)

Venue: Hitec Building - Room 02/280

Address: Eugène Ruppert Street 11, L-2453 Luxembourg

22 May 2014, starting at 09.00

MINUTES

1. Welcome and apologies

Donata Meroni (deputy head of Unit) to briefly welcome the participants.

The Chair took over the meeting and announced two apologies (see Annex I).

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented.

3. Declaration of interests on matters on the agenda

The Chair asked the committee members to announce any information concerning conflicts of interest in the minutes of the plenary.

No declarations of conflict of interest on any of the agenda items were made by participants.

4. Chair's / member's report

No member's report was presented for the relevant period.

5. Communication by Commission Departments

D. Meroni informed the Committee about the need to prolongation of the Pool of Advisors and appointment of 4 new members of scientific committees (not relevant for SCHER).

Members were informed on the request of DG ENTR to have a SCHER member presenting the preliminary opinion on calcium cyanamide in a meeting of the fertiliser working group, held in Brussels 2 June 2014.

Request for Scientific Committees' members to participate in a workshop organised by ECHA 23-24 October 2014, Helsinki, Finland. The workshop aims to bring

experts in the field of risk assessment of nanomaterials together to discuss and update scientific principles and guidelines for assessing human health and environmental risks of chemical substances in nanoform. Three members of the SCHER manifested interest in participating.

6. On-going work

Discussion and adoption of:

- **Preliminary opinion on the potential risks to human health and the environment from the use of calcium cyanamide as fertiliser**

DG ENTR joined the plenary via audio. The draft preliminary opinion was discussed. It was noted a lack of models for the evaluation of environmental exposure to fertilisers as well as for calculating human exposures from granular fertilisers.

Other changes were small and regarded mainly editorial changes.

The draft preliminary opinion was approved for public consultation

- **Opinion reviewing the tolerable daily intake for chromium VI in toys**

The Chair of the working group gave an overview on the state of play of the preliminary opinion on chromium VI in toys.

A discussion took place on the time table for approval for this preliminary opinion. two options were discussed:

- 1) To move the approval to the plenary in September
- 2) To have a deep discussion in an *ad hoc* audio meeting (plenary) in June and possibly launch an approval by written procedure after that meeting.

The second option was chosen and an audio meeting was set 26 June 2014.

D. Joint Opinions/ Participation of members in activities of other scientific bodies

Synthetic Biology - update on on-going work

The Committee discussed on the finalisation of the first opinion on synthetic biology. Members regretted that no agreement was found with the SCCS, which has proposed a minority opinion.

SCHER members asked to vote again should the minority opinion of the SCCS be incorporated in the draft preliminary opinion.

E. New Mandates

- ✓ No new mandates were received since the last plenary

F. Discussion on “Response to serious cross border threats to health”

The Committee was reminded of a workshop in Brussels organised by the project (ASHT) dealing with rapid response to serious cross border threats to health and providing rapid risk assessment to the Commission. Four members of the SCHER were invited to participate in this event.

Members request to have a clear flow chart describing the procedure to be followed in response to a rapid risk assessment.

A discussion took place to see if this involvement should be limited to the chair and vice chairs of the SCHER or include all members. It was concluded that all members will have to be involved and that the secretariat will propose an audio meeting once the draft document will be available.

G. Any other business

Discussion on the next plenary meetings:

- 1) Plenary/meeting(s) on 26/27 June 2014. This plenary will be kept as an audio meeting on 26 June 2014.
- 2) Plenary/meetings 25/26 September 2014. The date of the plenary meeting has been anticipated to 19 September for other overlapping commitments.