



Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks

SCENIHR

Scientific Committee on Health and Environmental Risks

SCHER

Meeting of the Working Group on Guidance

Venue: HITEC building, Rue Eugène Ruppert 11, L- 2453 Luxembourg

Meeting date: 21 January 2016

Minutes

1) Welcome and apologies

The Secretariat of the SCs welcomed the participants and presented the apologies received (2).

2) Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented

3) Declaration of interests on matters on 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.

4) Discussion on the mandates

a. **The mandate on the revision of the memorandum on WoE and uncertainties** was discussed.

The chair and the rapporteurs have been appointed.

The WG discussed a number of documents which will be used as starting point in drafting the opinion:

- SCENIHR's Memorandum on WoE published in 2012
- EFSA's documents from 2010, 2011 and 2013
- ECHA documents

The Secretariat was asked to create a CIRCA BC interest group and to upload all available documents there.

The Chair launched one question for discussion: how to consider the newly published web pages registered by different EU Agencies and International Organisations. How to use those pages and what is the general opinion of the members about the utility and necessity to use them. Members said that it is up to the WG to decide and to define the relevance of such documents/reports for writing the opinions and depending of the organisation these documents can be more or less credible (e.g., websites of OECD and ECHA can be used without any problem). It was commented that such reports should be judged in accordance with 2 criteria: *relevance* and *quality*. It was agreed to take into consideration all relevant documents on WoE published by: ECHA, EFSA, SCOEL, EMA and JRC. The memorandum should be updated either in harmonization with the rest of documents dealing with WoE and uncertainties belonging to other risk assessment bodies or to deviate from these and proposing something else as considered useful from the SCs point of view. It was proposed to add, in the revised Memorandum, a new chapter on Human health and environment, the issues that are currently being addressed by the SCHER.

b. Mandate on Guidance on the structure and content of SCHEER opinions

The rapporteur of the opinion was appointed. The members have been asked to send a short description (100 words) about how they see the structure and content of future opinions. The WG discussed about the periodicity of reviewing the guidance; it was proposed to mention 'once in a mandate'. It was proposed to add a paragraph in the Rules of Procedure about the procedure to review the guidance (the text at page 113 may need to be changed).

The WG agreed on the following:

- Background/ToR – based on the ToR, should not be changed
- General aspects should be agreed: common style for citations, references, names of experts, units, names of chemicals etc.

The following points have to be further discussed:

- To have/not the abstract and/or executive summary or both
- Clarification is needed to whom are these addressed: abstract: to general public? Executive summary: to managers?

The SCCS will be involved at a later stage when a draft document will be available.

5) Time schedule

- o 8 February - to receive contributions for the opinion on revision of the 'Memorandum on weight of evidence and uncertainties' and end of March for the draft opinion
- o 11 February - to receive contributions for the opinion on guidance on the structure and content of SCHEER opinions and Mid-April for the draft opinion.

6) Any Other Business

Next meeting: 17 February 2016.