



Scientific Committees on Health, Environmental and Emerging Risks (SCHEER)

8th Plenary meeting

22 January 2018, Luxembourg

Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies, approval of the agenda and declaration of interests

The Chair of the SCHEER welcomed the Chair of the SCCS, and the plenary participants. He announced two apologies.

Two members joined the plenary by audio, as well as representatives from DG GROW, TAXUD, JRC and DG ENV who attended the meeting for the discussion on different draft opinions.

The Chair asked the members to declare any interest related to the matters on the agenda. None of the participants declared any interest.

The agenda was adopted without changes.

2. Information from the Commission and members of the SCHEER

From the Commission

The Chair gave the floor to the Secretariat, who informed the Committee about:

- Annual Declarations of Interest;
- New financial rules related to accommodation costs;
- Feedback from ECHA regarding the comments from the SCCS & SCHEER on the EU-ANSA's Research Cluster paper on 'Innovative 3Rs (Replacement, Reduction and Refinement of animal testing) approaches for the prediction of properties of chemicals, medicines, environmental contaminants and other regulated products'. The final version of the ANSA paper is expected to be sent back for last comments beginning of February.

The Chair informed the SCHEER members about the list of mandates and opinions. He also mentioned that the EU Health Newsletter edition of 18 January was dedicated to the work of the Committees. SCHEER' Vice-Chair made the editorial on the migration limits for aluminium in toys.

From the SCHEER members

SCHEER members were invited to report on their participation (as representatives of the Committee) in the following meetings:

- EFSA Working Group on chemical mixtures meetings on 24-25 October 2017 and on 8-9 January 2018
- EMETNET Workshop - Supporting the EU response to environmental emergencies, 3-4 October 2017

3. Points for discussion/decision

3.1 Opinions for adoption:

– Memorandum on weight of evidence and uncertainties – Update 2017

The Chair of the Working Group (WG) invited the members to present their comments on the draft Memorandum. SCHEER members proposed few changes and recommended further development of several sections. The draft Memorandum was not adopted. It was concluded that the WG will discuss the received comments and consider them in updating the core text of the Memorandum. The final draft of the Memorandum will be sent to the SCHEER for adoption by written procedure.

3.2 Opinions for discussion:

– Preliminary Opinion on public health impacts and risks resulting from onshore hydrocarbon exploration and production in the European Union

The Chair of the WG presented the preliminary Opinion. It was agreed that the Opinion needs further improvement before being agreed for public consultation. The SCHEER asked the WG to develop the text by addressing some issues such as: induced seismicity associated with oil & gas activities, long term risks associated with long term contamination related to oil and gas activities, the German study mentioned by DG ENV, legislation and occupational aspects and the comments received from DG ENV. An additional teleconference will be organised at the end of February in order to allow the working group to discuss the updated version of the draft opinion. Then the opinion will be sent to the Committee for adoption by written procedure.

– Scientific advice on safety, health and environmental risks associated with the use of four candidates for a common fiscal marker

The Chair of the WG presented the draft opinion. The WG held 4 meetings and it prepared a draft evaluation of the four candidate fuel markers. The SCHEER requested additional information on exposure scenarios; deadline for submitting this information is end of January 2018. The next meeting of the working group is taking place on 9 February 2018.

4. Update of the SCHEER's Position Statement on Emerging Risks and on Environmental Emerging issues

The Chair presented the approach on how to update the Statement and the topics prepared by Committee members. It was agreed to include all proposed topics in a specific template and to discuss them during an audio meeting on 19 February 2018 on the base of contributions (expected no later than 14 February 2018). At the same occasion, the SCHEER will discuss, review and prioritise the identified emerging issues related to the mandate from DG ENV. DG ENV colleagues presented 8 issues identified as emerging issues and their characterisations. Comments are expected by 14 February.

6. Ongoing work:

WG on benefit-risk assessment of the presence of phthalates in certain medical devices covering phthalates which are carcinogenic, mutagenic, toxic to reproduction (CMR) or have endocrine-disrupting properties

The Chair of the WG presented the progress of the work and a first draft outline of the future guidance document. Secretariat informed about the ongoing process of selecting few experts

from the Reserve list and the Database for the WG and the collaboration foreseen with other scientific bodies. There is no need for a call for external experts at this stage. This process has been endorsed by the plenary members. DG GROW clarified the mandate.

WG on RRA

The Chair of the WG informed about the exercise on 8 November 2017 and on the pool of experts' meeting on 12 December 2017. The next working group meeting is planned on 21 February 2018.

WG on LEDs - Preliminary Opinion on potential risks to human health of Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs):

The Chair of the WG informed the members that the experts are still working on addressing a few hundred comments received during the public consultation. A physical meeting of the WG will take place on 5-6 February 2018.

7. Next meeting(s)

- 5-6 June 2018
- 11 October 2018
- 7 February 2019

8. A.O.B.

The secretariat informed about ongoing discussions with other DGs on possible future mandates and about follow-up to the SCHEER opinions.

List of participants

Members of the SCHEER

Teresa Borges, Raquel Duarte-Davidson, Wim de Jong, Rodica Mariana Ion, Demosthenes Panagiotakos, Ana Proykova, Theo Samaras, Marian Scott, Remy Slama, Emanuela Testai, Theo Vermeire, Marco Vighi

Members of the SCCS

Qasim Chaudhry

SCHEER secretariat

Diana Herold
Silvia Hrubanova
Natacha Grenier
Mihaela Haratau

Other Commission departments

DG ENV

Bernhard Berger
Elena Montani

DG GROW

Paul Piscoi

DG JRC

Hakan Emteborg
Saioa Elordui

DG TAXUD

Vassil Zhivkov