



Scientific Committee on Health and Environmental and Emerging Risks

(SCHEER)

Meeting of the Working Group on Rapid Risk Assessment (exercise SOFIA)

Meeting dates: 27 June, 3 July and 11 October 2019

Minutes

The SCHEER WG on rapid risk assessment (RRA) and the pool of experts on RRA of chemical threats organised a series exercises on 27 June, 3 July and 11 October to test the SCHEER's ability to reply to the request from the Commission in the event of a cross border chemical threat.

The exercise was a one-day event where participants worked from their normal work places.

53 experts (divided into 7 groups) took part in the exercise. Participants were divided into two groups/day, 6-8 participants in each group. The groups consisted of experts with a variety of previous experience and expertise.

The scenario involved an accident of a container ship Sofia, off the coast near the border of the Netherlands and Belgium, followed by a release of aluminium phosphide and phosphine.

The exercise was an opportunity for the working group members to train new experts and refresh experienced network experts on procedures and key documents and to test the new communication tools in order to be prepared in case of a real event.