



**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 3 COMMITTEES - 12 APRIL 2013**

**1. Welcome and introduction by the Commission**

The meeting was opened by J. Ryan, acting Director of the Public Health Directorate, European Commission. An introductory presentation was given by Prof. A. Glover, who is Chief Scientific Adviser to the President of the European Commission. Her speech focused on the importance of members using their expertise, knowledge and networks to provide EU policy makers with credible, valuable and powerful advice through the scientific committees' opinions. The work of the Scientific Committees contributes to implementing the approach to safety in all areas, and to making a bridge between science and policy. The key factors towards making a real change are: good risk communication - because often scientific knowledge generated does not have impact; challenging (including ourselves) and good collaboration between all Scientific Committees of the European Commission - this includes also the newly created President Science and Technology Advice Council. Prof. A. Glover chairs this Council, with which the Scientific Committees will interact. She concluded that the ability to evoke precautionary principle should be perceived as an engine and a real tool for innovation, stimulating science to fill the gap in the areas of research where further study is still needed.

**2. Working methods of the Scientific Committees**

S. Schreck, Head of the Health Information Unit, illustrated the different stages in the development of scientific advice given by the Scientific Committees and their functioning and working procedures. (See presentation)

Finally S. Schreck explained the election process of Chair/Vice-Chairs. He explained that, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure as required by Article 10 of Commission Decision 2008/721/EC of 10 September 2008 setting up Scientific Committees in the field of consumer safety, public health and the environment, the committee should elect a Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen by simple majority of the members that make up the Committee. He said that candidates could either nominate themselves for consideration or be nominated by another member of the Committee.

# **Scientific Committee on Health and Environmental Risks (SCHER)**

## **Minutes 1<sup>st</sup> Plenary meeting 12 April 2013**

### **1. Welcome and introduction by the Commission**

The meeting was opened by Panagiotis Daskaleros who welcomed the new members of SCHER.

### **2. Introduction of members**

P. Daskaleros invited the members to introduce themselves briefly regarding their professional background, affiliations and areas of scientific expertise.

### **3. Election of the Chairman and vice-Chairmen of the Committee**

A record of the election procedure is included in Annex II.

#### Chairman

Prof. Dr. Colin Janssen was elected as the Chairman.

#### Vice- chairs

Dr. Renate Krätke and Dr. Jan Linders

P. Daskaleros invited the elected Chair to take over the meeting.

### **4. Declaration of conflict of interest**

The chair reminded committee members that the forms for the annual Declarations of Absence of Conflict of Interest should be returned filled in and signed by the member. Then he asked to declare any potential conflict of interest with the points on the agenda. No potential conflict of interest was declared.

### **5. Presentation of the on-going and forthcoming activities**

The Chair invited P. Daskaleros to present the principal areas of activity of the SCHER as well as on the on-going issues.

The chair subsequently requested the newly appointed members to indicate their preference to join the WG on Dental Amalgam. SCHER nominated Dr. Jan Linders as the new chair of this WG and with the following members... (please add)

### **6. New mandates**

The Chair invited E. Liégeois from DG ENTR to introduce the new mandate: Calcium Cyanamide (fertilizer).

The SCHER discussed the mandate; a new, slightly amended version will be submitted by DG Enterprise to the SCHER Secretariat taking into considerations the comments made by the plenary.

The chair asked the members to volunteer for being members in the WG of this mandate. A WG was formed under the chairmanship of Prof. Pim de Voogt and with the following members: Dr. Alena Bartonova, Dr. Jadwiga Gzyl, Dr. Renate Krätke and Dr. Jan Linders (Rapporteur)

### **7. Any other business**

Dates of next plenary meetings:

28<sup>th</sup> of June 2013; 20<sup>th</sup> of September 2013; 20<sup>th</sup> of December 2013

**Annex I:** List of Participants

**Annex II:** Election Procedure

## **Annex I:**

### **List of Participants**

#### **Members of the SCHER**

Alena Bartonova, Claire Beausoleil, María José Carroquino, Pim de Voogt, Jadwiga Gzyl, Colin Janssen (Chair), Renate Krätke (vice-Chair), Jan Linders (vice-Chair)

#### **Apologies**

Greta Schoeters, Raquel Duarte-Davidson, Teresa Fernandes

#### **SCHER Secretariat (DG SANCO)**

Panagiotis Daskaleros, Giulio Gallo, Mihaela Haratau

#### **DG Enterprise and Industry - Chemicals Industry Unit**

Eric Liégeois

## **Annex II:**

### **Election of Chair and Vice-chairs**

Appointed members of the Committee were asked to express an interest of candidature for (vice) chairmanship in writing prior to the meeting. In addition, during the meeting members were given an opportunity to announce their candidature or to nominate other members. Nominated candidates were asked whether they agreed to stand in the election. The chair and two vice-chairs were elected in separate, secret votes.

#### **Chairman**

Prof Dr. Colin Janssen was the candidate for chairmanship. He was elected as the Chairman by the majority of SCHER members. The members voted by secret ballot.

#### **Vice-chairpersons**

Dr. Renate Krätke and Dr. Jan Linders have been proposed for vice-chairmanship. Dr. Renate Krätke and Dr. Jan Linders were elected as vice-Chairpersons in two separate votes by the majority of SCHER members. The members voted by secret ballot.

#### **List of Chairpersons for the SCHER Working Groups**

- on Dental Amalgam: Dr. Jan Linders was nominated as Chair for this WG.
- on Calcium cyanamide: Prof. Pim de Voogt was nominated as Chair for this WG.