



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

### 12<sup>th</sup> Plenary meeting

18-19 June 2019

#### Minutes

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

The Chair welcomed the participants and announced no apology.

The following point was added to the agenda for adoption: request for a scientific Opinion on the safety of breast implants in relation to anaplastic large cell lymphoma. The agenda was adopted with this addition.

The Chair invited participants to declare any interest regarding matters on the agenda. None of the participants declared any interest conflicting with the matters on the agenda.

#### **2. Information from Commission and members of the SCHEER**

##### **2.1. Information from the Commission:**

The SCHEER Secretariat informed about the following:

- Possible participation to *A High Level Conference - EU chemicals policy 2030: building on the past, moving to the future* to be conducted in Brussels on 27-28 June 2019.
- Presentation of the European Human Biomonitoring Initiative: H2020 project on human biomonitoring by Greet Schoeters from the European Environment Agency.
- The list of SCCS and SCHEER mandates and Opinions and the overview of current SCHEER working groups which were circulated before the meeting.

##### **2.2. Information from the SCHEER members:**

The SCHEER members reported on their participation to the following meetings:

- Expert Workshop on *Climate change and health: A discussion of the latest international and European reports and the implications for Europe* on 7 June 2019 in Brussels
- Emerging Risks Exchange Network (EREN) 21<sup>st</sup> meeting in Parma on 10-11 April 2019
- 17th meeting of the EC's Group of Chief Scientific Advisors (SAM) meeting on 22 March
- *Endocrine Disruptors: From Scientific Evidence to Human Health Protection*, a study commissioned by the PETI Committee of the European Parliament

#### **3. Points for discussion/decision**

##### **3.1. Opinions for adoption**

- **Final Guidelines on the benefit-risk assessment of the presence of phthalates in certain medical devices**

The Chair of the WG presented the draft Guidelines. Representatives of DG GROW attended the meeting by audio. Minor editorial changes to the text were proposed. The SCHEER technically adopted the Guidelines including the Annexes with the proposed changes. DG GROW will inform the Secretariat about the date of publication.

##### **3.2. New Mandates**

- **Revised Request for an Opinion on anaerobic biodegradability of Linear Alkylbenzene Sulphonates (LAS)**

The SCHEER discussed the revised mandate on anaerobic biodegradability of Linear Alkylbenzene Sulphonates (LAS) submitted by DG GROW. The SCHEER adopted the mandate and a core-working group has been created. The SCHEER identified a need for external expertise on biodegradation in different environmental compartments. The working group is planning to meet on 2 October.

- **Request for a scientific Opinion on the safety of breast implants in relation to anaplastic large cell lymphoma**

The SCHEER concluded to postpone the adoption of the mandate, as there were several questions content wise, which remained pending. An audio meeting will be organised in mid-July in order to discuss thoroughly the mandate with the mandating Commission service (DG GROW). A core working group has been set up. The expertise needed will be determined after the adoption of the mandate.

### **3.3. For discussion**

- **Emerging issues at the environment-social interface (FORENV)**

The Chair briefly updated the SCHEER on the ongoing work. There are 10 characterisations, sometimes interrelated, which mostly focus on social and political issues. Various input have been gathered from the SCHEER members as well as from the three external experts. A physical meeting took place in the morning of 18 June and the issues were thoroughly discussed. Additional feedback and clarifications were asked by the experts. The initial deadline for the Opinion was set for mid-July but the Chair has asked for its extension until the end of July.

#### **Short exchange on next SCHEER Opinion on emerging risks and possible contributions from members.**

There were discussions on whether the SCHEER should only focus on new risks or could also have the possibility to focus on topics already addressed in the past, in view of new scientific data. It was highlighted that the link between emerging risks and climate change could be further explored.

### **4. Ongoing work**

#### **For discussion:**

- **WG on rapid risk assessment**

The Chair of the working group, informed about the past and ongoing activities of the WG. In the meeting on 6 February, the WG selected 22 additional experts in the pool of experts. A call for experts was opened from 27 September - 31 December 2018; 38 applications were received. The pool is lacking a specific expertise in public health risk assessment of acute chemical incidents; a specific call for experts will be organised in the future.

The Chair also informed about the activities, which have already taken place in 2019: training on the tools used by the WG on Rapid Risk Assessment - WebEx and SharePoint were organised in March and May, exercise is taking place in June/July 2019 and the annual meeting is planned for 26-27 November 2019. The RRA WG will meet on 20 June.

- **WG on electronic cigarettes**

The Chair of the working group gave a brief update on the work done so far. An extensive literature review has been conducted, which resulted in approximately 3.700 papers. These have been divided among the WG members according to the topic. A table of contents has been drafted.

### **5. A.O.B.**

The Secretariat informed about the Note to the SANTE Management Board on the health issues tackled by the SCHEER Opinion on emerging issues, EMF – state of play, Horizon Europe Public consultation, a legal proposal on minimum requirements for water reuse.

**Dates of the next SCHEER plenary meetings:** 3 October 2019; 5 March 2020; 17-18 June 2020, 7-8 October 2020.

## **List of participants**

### **Members of the SCHEER**

Roberto Bertollini, Teresa Borges, Raquel Duarte-Davidson, Wim de Jong, Pim de Voogt, Peter Hoet, Rodica Mariana Ion, Renate Krätke, Demosthenes Panagiotakos, Ana Proykova, Theodoros Samaras, Marian Scott, Remy Slama, Emanuela Testai, Theo Vermeire, Marco Vighi, Sergej Zacharov.

### **Members of the SCCS**

Pieter-Jan Coenraads

### **SCHEER secretariat**

Diana Herold  
Silvia Hrubanova  
Natacha Grenier  
Thomas Zervas

### **Other Commission departments**

Paolo Sandri (DG GROW)  
Paul Piscoi (DG GROW)

### **European Environment Agency**

Greet Schoeters