



Luxembourg, 30 March 2022

<p align="center"><b>Scientific Committees on Health, Environmental and Emerging Risks (SCHEER)</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup> Plenary meeting 2022-2026</b></p>
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25 March 2022, Luxembourg (AUDIO)

**Minutes**

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

The Secretariat welcomed the participants. Three apologies have been received.

The agenda was adopted without changes.

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

The Chair of the term 2016-2021 resigned. The Secretariat presented the suggested members as candidates and performed anonymous voting for the election of the new chair.

**2. Points for discussion/decision**

**2.1. New draft mandates (adoption planned in June)**

- The EU environmental foresight system (FORENV) by DG ENV is a process for detecting, characterising and prioritising emerging environmental issues. The main objective is to enable EU policy makers and other stakeholders to exploit emerging opportunities and to manage risks. Various partners involved (Commission services, external experts, scientific committees, contractor). Cycle 4 is starting in 2022 and a short list of 10 issues will be set by mid-May 2022. The SCHEER will receive a mandate in June plenary to confirm selected emerging issues as the right ones, to check if there is any additional issue omitted, to inform about plausible timeframe of emergence, and to qualitatively assess their impacts on human health and environment. The deadline is planned by October 2022. FORENV workshops will be held on 5 and 7 of April: 5 SCHEER members are planning to participate.
- Draft mandate for SCHEER Opinion for an opinion in support of a targeted revision of Annexes III (accommodation and care of animals) and IV (allowed killing methods) of Directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes by DG ENV (fully revised in 2010, and further amended in 2019 including 3Rs: replace, reduce, refine). SCHEER will receive a mandate in June plenary with specific questions covering key accommodation parameters for zebrafish, housing requirements for birds kept in captivity and killing method for zebrafish. External experts might be requested to join members in a specific WG. The deadline may have to be expanded to the end of the first quarter 2023.

## **2.2. Opinions for adoption**

### **SCHEER opinions on environmental quality standards for water framework directive:**

- preliminary Opinion on PFAS
- final opinions on neonicotinoids and comments received
- final opinions on pyrethroids and comments received

The rapporteur presented the final texts to the SCHEER members.

The SCHEER has technically adopted the documents, taking into account last comments made during the meeting.

The preliminary Opinion on PFAS will be published for commenting period of 4 weeks:

[SCHEER - Opinions \(europa.eu\)](https://europea.eu)

The final opinions on neonicotinoids and pyrethroids will be published here:

[SCHEER - Opinions \(europa.eu\)](https://europea.eu)

## **2.3. Opinions for discussion**

### **SCHEER Opinions on environmental quality standards for water framework directive**

- preliminary Opinion on diclofenac

The rapporteur informed the SCHEER on the ongoing work related to preliminary Opinion on diclofenac and highlighted issues raised by the WG. The draft text will be further discussed in the next WG meeting.

### **SCHEER Opinion on Groundwater Quality Standards**

- SCHEER Opinion on Groundwater quality standards – comments received

The rapporteur informed the SCHEER on the ongoing work related to the finalisation of the Groundwater Opinion and to the SCHEER responses to comments received. Documents will be further discussed in the next WG meeting.

### **SCHEER Opinion on EMF I**

The Chair of the WG updated the SCHEER on the state of play of the draft Opinion. The next meetings of the WG are planned on 27 April and 19 May 2022.

### **SCHEER Opinion on titanium dioxide in toys**

The Chair of the working group presented the current state of the draft Opinion. The next meetings of the WG are planned on 31 March and 12 April 2022.

### **SCHEER Opinion on cobalt in toys**

The Chair of the WG updated the SCHEER on the state of play of the draft Opinion. The next meeting of the WG is planned on 4 April 2022.

### **SCHEER WG on Rapid Risk Assessment**

The Chair reported on the recent request from the Commission asking who from the Pool of Experts of this WG (put on hold) would be available and interested to join an internal EU task force to work further on rapid risk assessment issues.

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

SCHEER has been informed about the following points:

- Updated list of ongoing mandates/opinions in both SCCS/SCHEER.
- 27<sup>th</sup> Emerging Risks Exchange Network meeting on 11-12 May 2022 - SCHEER will be represented.
- RECIPES EU-project, 11th May 2022
- EFSA consultation on the EFSA updated guidance for the use of the benchmark dose approach in risk assessment: feedback/comments by 11 April 2022 at the latest.  
<https://connect.efsa.europa.eu/RM/s/publicconsultation2/a017U0000011Q1H/pc0135>
- DG ENV impact assessment activities related to the revision of the REACH Regulation and issue of mixtures & Mixtures Assessment Factor (MAF): Commission is planning to organise a second workshop on introducing a MAF in REACH by the end of April 2022. Website with information on the CSS: [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/strategy/chemicals-strategy\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/strategy/chemicals-strategy_en) where Commission plans to inform about upcoming events. There is also a link to the work on revision of REACH where more information can be found: [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/reach/reach\\_revision\\_chemical\\_strategy\\_en.htm](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/reach/reach_revision_chemical_strategy_en.htm).
- Vice-chair reported on the JRC–PARERE<sup>1</sup> meeting held on 17 February 2022. SCCS and SCHEER representatives participated to present their respective challenges. The SCCS provided feedback to the JRC regarding gaps or redundancies in the proposed NAMs.
- Vice-chair reported on the RTD 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop held on 22 March on safe and sustainable by design stakeholders.

### **4. Selection/vote for new Chair of the SCHEER**

- Result of the vote for the selection of a new SCHEER chair: Marian Scott.

**A.O.B.**

**Dates of the next SCHEER plenary meetings have been set up as follows:**

- 15-16 June 2022
- 12-13 October 2022

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<sup>1</sup> [PARERE - EURL ECVAM Network for Preliminary Assessment of Regulatory Relevance | EU Science Hub \(europa.eu\)](#)