



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH AND CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Public Health and Risk Assessment
Risk assessment

**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS (SCHER)
4TH PLENARY MEETING**

*Held on 9 November 2009
in Brussels*

Minutes

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Prof. Greim, Chair of the Committee, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants.

Apologies: Prof J Linders, Prof J Tarazona

2. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA

The draft [agenda](#) was adopted as proposed

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST ON MATTERS ON THE AGENDA

Prof. P Calow declared a possible conflict of interest in relation to item 7.3 since he was involved in the environment steering committee of NiPERA (Nickel Producers Environmental Research Association).

Prof. Janssen declared possible conflict of interest in relation to item 7.3, being member of the NiPERA risk assessment peer review group.

4. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 3RD SCHER PLENARY MEETING

The [minutes](#) of the 3rd SCHER plenary meeting were adopted.

5. CHAIR'S AND COMMISSION REPORT

5.1 ICCG October 2009

The chair reminded to the Committee tasks and functioning of the Scientific Committees and expected attendance and preparation for the meetings.

The Committee was informed on the revised rules on special indemnities and the revision and the approval of the Rules of Procedure foreseen during the following Chairs meeting of November.

The Committee was also briefly informed on the organization and participation of members in the Chairs meeting session on alternative methods and the risk assessment day of 20 November.

6. NEW REQUESTS FOR OPINIONS BY COMMISSION SERVICES ON:

6.1 Risks/benefits assessment and the optimization of Risk Assessment in relation to Risk Managers' needs (DG SANCO)

Following a proposal from SCHER and agreed with DG SANCO, the ICCG also agreed that a joint working group of the three Committees should be established in order to produce an opinion on this issue.

The WG was set up and additional members from SCCS and SCENIHR would be contacted asking for their participation.

The mandate is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_q_090.pdf

6.2 Risk from organic CMR substances in polymeric toy materials (DG ENTR)

The representative of DG ENTR introduced the mandate to the Committee. The aim of the mandate is to establish a sound scientific basis for setting safe limits for the presence of organic CMR substances in toys.

The WG was set up and additional members from SCCS and SCENIHR would be contacted asking for their participation.

The mandate is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_q_088.pdf

6.3 Risk from the use of diantimony trioxide in toys (DG ENTR)

DG ENTR requested a scientific opinion on the risk to the health from the presence of diantimony trioxide in toys.

In particular, on the basis of the available scientific information, the mandate requested whether the presence of diantimony trioxide in toys would pose a risk to the health of children. The aim of the request of DG ENTR is to evaluate the exemption of the CMR ban for the use of diantimony trioxide (DAT) in toys.

A Rapporteur was appointed to prepare a draft opinion to be circulated to the WG on CMR in toys and discussed at the next plenary

The mandate is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_q_089.pdf

7. ONGOING REQUESTS FOR OPINIONS BY COMMISSION SERVICES ON:

7.1 Model implementation and Quantification of the Eutrophication Risk associated to the use of phosphates in detergents - INIA/Green Planet Report

The Chairperson of the WG reported back on the final draft opinion. The opinion was adopted with a few amendments and is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_o_116.pdf

7.2 Polycarboxylates in detergents – HERA report

The final draft opinion was presented to the committee. The opinion would be adopted by written procedure after a few amendments

The mandate is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_q_083.pdf

7.3 Heavy metals in jewellery

The Rapporteur reported back on the ongoing work and the outcome of the first WG meeting. The first draft would be circulated for discussion at the next plenary meeting

The mandate is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_q_086.pdf

7.4 Fluoridation of drinking water

The Chairperson reported back from the last WG meeting and the ongoing work. An updated draft opinion would be submitted to the committee at the next meeting for further discussion

The mandate is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_q_084.pdf

7.5 Depleted Uranium

The Chairperson reported back from the WG meeting and the ongoing work. The updated draft would be circulated for discussion at the next plenary meeting

The mandate is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_q_085.pdf

8. PARTICIPATION OF THE SCHER IN ACTIVITIES/WORKING GROUPS OF OTHER SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES OF THE COMMISSION OR EFSA

8.1 SCCS: Threshold of Toxicological Concern (TTC) Approach for Safety Assessment of Chemical Substances

The committee discussed and agreed on some points that it would like to have in the final opinion. It was agreed that SCHER comments would be added to the next draft opinion that would be circulated to the three committees.

8.2 Triclosan (SCCS)

The member participating in the WG of SCCS reported back on the progress of the work.

8.3 Biocides - Research Recommendations (SCENIHR)

The member participating in the WG of SCCS reported back on the ongoing work and the plan for the future discussion.

8.4 External Review: review the quality of the scientific output of EFSA

One of the SCHER members informed the committee that he was nominated as external reviewer of the scientific quality of the scientific output of EFSA

9. EMERGING ISSUES

No emerging issues

10. NEXT PLENARY MEETING

The next SCHER plenary meeting was confirmed as 13 January 2010.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

NOB

Annex 1: List of participants

Annex 1

<p style="text-align: center;">SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS (SCHER) 4TH PLENARY MEETING</p>
--

*Held on 9 November 2009
in Brussels*

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

MEMBERS OF THE SCHER:

Prof. U. ACKERMANN-LIEBRICH, Prof H AUTRUP (*Vice Chair*), Prof. D. BARD, Prof. P. CALOW (*Vice Chair*), Dr. S. CANNA MICHAELIDOU, Prof. J. DAVISON, Prof. P. DE VOOGT, Prof. W. DEKANT, Prof. A. GARD, Prof. H. GREIM (*Chair*), Dr. A. HIRVONEN, Prof. C. JANSSEN, Prof. B. PETERLIN, Dr. E. TESTAI, Prof. M. VIGHI.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION:

SCHER Secretariat (DG SANCO):

Mrs. G. FONTANESI, Mrs. C. DEKIND

Other Commission staff:

Mrs. M. DANSTEN (DG SANCO); Mr S. PICKERING (DG ENTR); Mr S. KIOKIAS (DG ENTR); Mr J VOGELGESANG (DG SANCO); Mrs M. LOGGHE (DG ENTR); Mrs. FA. PANTAZI (DG ENTR)