



The European Commission's non-food Scientific Committees



**DG SANTE - Health Information and Scientific Committee
Unit**



SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES



The independent Scientific Committees ensure systematic assessment of risks, based on best practice for EU policy needs on health, consumers and environment.

Other EU risk assessment bodies are European Food Safety Authority (**EFSA**); the European Medicines Agency (**EMA**); the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (**ECDC**); and the European Chemicals Agency (**ECHA**)

Composition of the Scientific Committees



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- Scientists from academia, research or other scientific bodies, appointed by the EC in their personal capacity, following an open call. Scientists have to provide a **declaration of commitment, a declaration of interests and a declaration of confidentiality**
- Selection criteria: competence and independence. As far as possible, geographical and gender balance
- External experts may be invited to WG when special expertise is needed



Mandates

- **SCHER:** advice on toxicity and eco-toxicity of chemical, biochemical and biological products, chemicals in toys, waste, environmental contaminants, drinking water quality, indoor and ambient air quality, endocrine disrupters
- **SCENIHR:** advice on emerging risks, newly identified risks, complex or multidisciplinary issues requiring comprehensive assessment, issues not covered by other bodies
- **SCCS:** advice on risks related to consumer products (non-food) mostly on cosmetics but also on toys, textiles, clothing, household products, non-chemical risks (mechanical, physical, biological), consumer services (for example, tattooing, tanning devices)



New decision re-organising the Scientific Committees

Commission Decision C (2015) 5383 of 7.08.2015

- two Committees **SCCS and SCHEER** (Scientific Committee on Health, Environmental and Emerging Risks) from the merge of SCHER and SCENIHR
- 5 year mandate
- Creation of a reserve list
- New term starting on 28 April 2016
- 17 Members appointed for each Committee after an open call for expression of interest



Communicating science

- Scientific Committees' website

The screenshot shows the website for the Scientific Committees under the Health and Consumers Directorate of the European Commission. The page features a search bar, a navigation menu, and four main committee tiles: SCCS (Consumer Safety), SCHER (Health and Environmental Risks), SCENIHR (Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks), and ICCG (Consumer Safety). Below these are sections for 'LATEST UPDATES' and 'OPEN CONSULTATIONS / CALLS'.

HEALTH AND CONSUMERS
Scientific Committees

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Scientific Committees

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SCCS | SCHER | SCENIHR | ICCG

LATEST UPDATES

27 March 2014	Follow the workshop on Electromagnetic fields and health effects: from science to policy and public awareness (28 March 2014, Athens) via webstreaming
25 March 2014	Workshop and public hearing on EMF, Athens, 27-28 March 2014 - Final programme available
24 March 2014	Update of the dental amalgam factsheet, based on the final opinion on this topic, as adopted by the SCHER in March 2014
20 March 2014	SCCS - Draft agenda of the 5th Plenary meeting, Luxembourg, 27 March 2014
19 March 2014	New publication: Scientific Committees - 2013 Opinions CD now available

[All recent updates](#)

OPEN CONSULTATIONS / CALLS

- 21 March - 10 April 2014
Call for expression of interest for experts in the area of safety of surgical meshes used in urogynecological surgery
- 13 March - 25 April 2014
Public Consultation on the safety of Metal-on-Metal joint replacements with a particular focus on hip implants
- 11 February - 31 May 2014
Call for Information for a scientific opinion on the safety of Silica (nano)



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 PUBLIC HEALTH

European Commission > DG Health & Consumers > Public health > Newsletter > 120

NEWSLETTER : SPECIAL EDITION - SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES

Health-EU newsletter 120 - Focus

[SCENIHR: Protecting citizens against new health risks](#)

Prof. Philippe Hartemann, Chair of the Scientific Committee on Emerging or Newly Identified Health Risks

 In April 2013, new members of the Scientific Committee on Emerging or Newly Identified Health Risks (SCENIHR) were nominated for the 2013-2016 term in Luxembourg.

The Committee members were selected by the European Commission as independent experts based on their outstanding scientific expertise via a public call for expression of interest. They have also to guarantee the absence of a conflict of interest which is an excluding criterion. Besides the written declaration of any conflict of interest presented at the time of their appointment, members and external experts working for SCENIHR have to provide written annual declarations confirming this and declare orally during each session, and for each examined issue, any possible conflict of interest. Their declarations are assessed by the Secretariat, the Chair and other members in order to exclude any conflict of interest with the items on the agenda. CVs and declarations are publicly available on the Scientific Committees website.

Due to the complexity of the requested opinions, an ad hoc working group is organized for each topic, recruiting some members of the committee and some external experts selected on the basis of their excellence, such as internationally recognized expertise and peer reviewed publications linked to the subject, and their independence.

The mandate of SCENIHR is to give advice to the European Commission on Emerging risks, Newly Identified Risks, broad, complex or multidisciplinary issues requiring comprehensive assessment and issues not covered by other bodies. This includes, for example,



Email version



Thank you for attention!