



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

10th Plenary meeting

11 October 2018, Luxembourg

Minutes

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

The Chair welcomed the participants and the Vice Chair of the SCCS and presented the apologies received (1).

The Chair asked the SCHEER members to declare any conflict of interest related to the matters on the agenda. None of the participants declared any conflicts.

The agenda was adopted as presented.

2. Information from Commission and members of the SCHEER

2.1 Information from the Commission:

The Secretariat informed the Committee about the following:

- Ombudsman case 2018/25 related to PIP complain which has been closed with the conclusion that there was no maladministration from the Commission;
- The new AGM tool for the reimbursement of meetings which will be used for all meetings starting January 2019 (a short introduction of the tool was presented during the meeting);
- Its participation in the public hearing on the EFSA Opinion on chemical mixtures; EFSA asked if SCHEER/SCCS will update their Opinion on Toxicity and Assessment of Chemical Mixtures. The view of the SCHEER was that there is currently no need to update the opinion;
- The meeting on assessing, managing and communicating uncertainties which will be organised by EFSA together with BfR (Federal Institute of Risk Assessment) on 20-22 February 2019 in Berlin. The SCHEER was asked for their interest in participating in this meeting. The Secretariat will share this invitation to the SCHEER members to get back the info from interested members.

The Chair and one of the Vice Chairs of the SCHEER informed the committee about the following issues discussed during the ICCG meeting organised on 10 October:

- update of the EFSA Opinion on Toxicity and Assessment of Chemical Mixtures (ICCG does not see a need to update the Opinion);

- the workshop on alternative methods which will be organised by the SCCS on 26 or 27 February 2019 (back-to back with the SCCS plenary). Two of the SCHEER members will attend the workshop;
- SCCS guidance – the 10th revision will be published soon;
- the relation SCHEER - SAM (Scientific Advisory Mechanism): the Secretariat showed a presentation given at the SCs' inaugural meeting in 2016. SCHEER expressed its interest in having more communication on the work of the SAM. The Secretariat will raise this issue on the occasion of the next EU ANSA meeting hosted by SAM in November 2018.

2.2 Information from members:

The SCHEER has been informed about the participation of one of its members at the BioEM2018 meeting on Transferring Evidence from Research and Case Reports into Policy and Society and about the upcoming meeting of the WHO Network of Risk Assessment Institutes on emerging risks.

3. Points for discussion/decision

3.1 For adoption: Opinions

Final Opinion on the public health impacts and risks resulting from onshore oil and gas exploration and exploitation in the EU

The Chair gave the floor to the Chair of the WG who made a presentation explaining the main changes in the Opinion as a result of the comments received during the public consultation. The SCHEER members recommended that the working group revise a number of chapters in the Opinion and refer to recent papers published in the US in 2017-2018. The working group will send an updated version of the Opinion to the SCHEER for adoption by written procedure.

The SCHEER asked the secretariat to prepare a fact sheet and a scientific publication linked to the final opinion.

Statement on emerging health and environmental issues

The 2018 Position Paper on Emerging Issues and the Role of the SCHEER was adopted in the last SCHEER plenary. The list of issues was thoroughly discussed but it was decided that some more work is still to be done before its finalisation. Comments/contributions shall be sent by members by mid-November. The final text will be sent for adoption by written procedure.

The Chair pointed out that the SCHEER should provide two statements per term.

3.2 New mandate(s):

Request for a scientific advice on emerging environmental risks

The SCHEER participated in the initial pilot phase of the FORENV project by providing scientific advice on “Emerging environmental issues related to new technologies in the Urban environment”. FORENV will now run on an annual basis; the focus area chosen for the next exercise is “**Emerging issues at the environment-social interface**”.

The representative of DG ENV introduced the new mandate. The SCHEER's role is foreseen to remain the same as in the previous exercise, i.e. to validate the choice of the emerging environmental issues and prioritise among them.

The mandate was adopted by the SCHEER. The Chair suggested to keep the same working method; i.e. the whole SCHEER is to be involved. The SCHEER appointed the Chair and the rapporteur of the working group/Opinion.

External expertise on social science and possibly other expertise based on the issues will be needed. The SCHEER will determine the exact expertise needed in January 2019 when DG ENV sends the list of identified issues.

Request for a scientific advice on common fiscal marker

The SCHEER adopted the scientific advice on fiscal marker on in March 2018. The advice was not published as it contains sensitive commercial information. A second mandate (following the comments and new data from the applicants) was sent to the SCHEER, asking to review the advice in view of the new available information. The SCHEER adopted the mandate.

4. Ongoing work

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

The Chair gave the floor to the Chair/Rapporteur of the WG/Opinion who presented the state of play of the Guidelines. It was discussed to have the preliminary Guidance finalised at the beginning of January 2019 and to send it for adoption by written procedure. Public consultation will be launched by the end of January for a period of 8 weeks including a public hearing. DG GROW is also exploring the possibility of organising one extra meeting for Member States, back-to-back with the foreseen hearing during the public consultation, in Brussels.

WG on rapid risk assessment

The Chair of the WG on RRA provided information about the ongoing work of the working group: the working group is preparing 2 parallel exercises for the pool of experts and the SCHEER WG on RRA taking place on 17 and 23 October and covering/training 4 groups of experts on the same scenario. Preparatory work regarding the annual meeting of the pool of experts on 27 November 2018 will start on 22 October.

5. A.O.B.

- the members have been informed that SCHEER's contribution to the ICNIRP - Public Consultation of the Draft Guidelines on Limiting Exposure to Time-Varying Electric, Magnetic and Electromagnetic Fields (100 kHz to 300 GHz) was submitted via the consultation page on 9 October.
- WG on WoE – testing: it has been suggested to start the work as soon as the SCHEER will receive a new request for opinion. A mandate for the testing WG should be prepared.

Dates of the next SCHEER plenary meetings:

- 7 February 2019
- 16 June 2019
- 3 October 2019

Dates of the next WG meetings:

- **WG on Guidelines for benefit-risk assessment of phthalates in medical devices:**
 - 7th WG meeting 28/11
 - 8th WG meeting 8/01
 - 9th WG meeting 19/02: *to be confirmed*
 - possible Hearing back-to-back with SCHEER plenary (7/02) on 6 or 8/02, (21/03 for MSs +22/03 for hearing)
 - 10th and last WG meeting 21/03 (comments from PC to be inserted/replied) or 15/05.

- **WG on Rapid Risk Assessment (RRA):** exercise 17 and 23 October; planning group to prepare the annual meeting: 22 October; annual meeting of the RRA Pool of experts on 27 November 2018. WG meeting on 6 February 2019.

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 Kratke, Demosthenes Panagiotakos, Ana Proykova, Theodoros Samaras, Marian Scott, Remy Slama, Theo Vermeire, Marco Vighi, Sergej Zacharov.

Members of the SCCS

Pieter-Jan COENRAADS

SCHEER secretariat

Diana Herold
Silvia Hrubanova
Natacha Grenier

Other Commission departments

DG GROW

Paul Piscoi

DG SANTE, Unit B2

Matus Ferech
Julia Langer
Katja Broman

DG ENV

Manfred Rosenstock