



17<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting of the  
Scientific Committee on Health and Environmental Risks (SCHER)  
25 September 2012  
(Brussels, rue Breydel 4, B232, meeting room 08/120)

Minutes

**1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

Prof. Greim, Chair of the Committee, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. Apologies received from BP, JT, UA, RK, and CJ.

**2. INTRODUCTION TAPANI PIHA, HEAD OF UNIT, SANCO D3**

Dr. Piha introduced his credentials and his vision for the future of the unit and the scientific committees.

**3. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA**

The draft agenda was adopted as proposed.

**4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS ON MATTERS ON THE AGENDA**

No new declarations were made.

**5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PLENARY MEETING**

The minutes of the 16<sup>th</sup> SCHER plenary meeting were approved.

**6. NEW REQUESTS FOR OPINIONS BY COMMISSION SERVICES ON:**

**6.1. Dental Amalgam**

- the mandate was discussed and accepted by the Committee;
- the WG will consist of CJ (chair), MV, JL, ET and WD;
- the first meeting will be on Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>, starting at 11:00 am (MV and JL will participate by phone) to discuss the results of the call for

information and the call for experts as well as the Bio Intelligence Study results;

## **7. ON-GOING REQUESTS FOR OPINIONS BY COMMISSION SERVICES ON:**

### **7.1. Cadmium in fertilizers – human-health aspects**

The Committee approved the overall conclusions of the opinion; however, the final adoption will occur by written procedure after some additional issues are addressed (e.g. osteoporosis data across the EU, from the previous opinion, re-wording of the human-health part, etc.)

### **7.2. Nickel in toys**

The Committee approved the opinion for public consultation after the addition of a couple of sentences on the possible effect of Ni fumes as a result of heating during operation (with reference to occupational situations).

### **7.3. New Challenges for Risk Assessment**

The Committee approved the opinion for public consultation provided the editorial suggestions made by JL will be taken into account. Several issues were raised which will be addressed in the process of public consultation, i.e. the need for a new conceptual framework for the estimation of environmental exposure. The Committee felt that the comments provided by SCCS have already been addressed in the text of the opinion. Any additional issues, raised by SCCS or other parties, could be dealt with during the public consultation (e.g. Frederic Bois to contribute on the probabilistic evaluation).

### **7.4. Improvements in Risk Assessment**

The Committee finds the opinion to be a very useful and important piece of work. However, it considered the text not an opinion but rather a "discussion paper" which should be left as an open-ended document/process. The Committee supports the two crucial conclusions reached: (i) the need to keep risk assessment separate from the socio-economic analysis and risk management; and (ii) the need for increased dialogue between risk assessors on the one hand and risk managers, social scientists, economists and stakeholders on the other. The Committee endorses the possibility for further developments (e.g. workshop on IRA) provided the Commission services find those activities appropriate in light of the upcoming restructuring of the three non-food Scientific Committees.

## **8. PARTICIPATION OF THE SCHER IN ACTIVITIES/WORKING GROUPS OF OTHER**

## **SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES**

**8.1.** Nitrosamines and Secondary Amines in Cosmetics (SCCS in the lead) – the opinion was approved by SCCS and the public consultation completed.

**8.2.** NDELA and Nitrosamines in Cosmetics and Balloons (SCCS in the lead) – the opinion was approved by SCCS and is open for public consultation now.

**8.3.** BPA in medical devices (SCENIHR in the lead) – the work is on-going and the opinion is in a mature state with the possibility for completion early next year (for public consultation). Coordination with EFSA's respective committee is being ensured by participation of two of the members in both committees.

**8.4.** Metal-on-metal hip implants (SCENIHR in the lead) – the work has just begun and will involve a workshop and working group meetings next week.

## **9. NEW AND EMERGING ISSUES**

There were none reported

## **10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The mandate on Synthetic Biology (SCENIHR in the lead) was discussed briefly and three possible SCHER participants identified (HA, AG and AH);.

## **ANNEX I**

### **LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

#### **MEMBERS OF SCHER:**

Prof. Ursula ACKERMANN-LIEBRICH- apologies (comments provided in writing)

Dr. Rolf ALTENBURGER

Prof Herman AUTRUP (*Vice Chair*)

Prof. Denis BARD

Prof. Stella CANNA-MICHAELIDOU

Prof. Pim DE VOOGT

Prof. Wolfgang DEKANT

Prof. Arielle GARD (*Vice Chair*)

Prof. Helmut GREIM (*Chair*)

Dr. Ari HIRVONEN

Prof. Colin JANSSEN - apologies

Dr. Renate KRAETKE - apologies

Prof. Jan LINDERS

Prof. Borut PETERLIN - apologies

Dr. Jose TARAZONA - apologies

Dr. Emanuela TESTAI

Prof. Marco VIGHI

#### **EUROPEAN COMMISSION:**

Tapani PIHA (SANCO)

Panagiotis DASKALEROS (SANCO)

Paul PISCOI (SANCO)

Pavlos MOURATIDIS (ENV)

Vladimir GARKOV (SANCO)