



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH AND CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Public Health and Risk Assessment
Risk assessment

**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON EMERGING AND NEWLY IDENTIFIED HEALTH RISKS
(SCENIHR)**

12TH PLENARY MEETING

*Held on 20 January 2011
in Brussels*

Minutes

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chairman, Prof. J. Bridges, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Prof. K. Dawson, Prof. K. Schulze-Osthoff and Dr. J. Schüz.

The Chairman welcomed Ms. C. Arranz-Aceves, who had recently joined the Secretariat.

2. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA

The draft agenda was adopted as written, with a few changes in the order of points under discussion. Additional items were discussed under item 11 of the agenda.

The Chair would report on the latest meeting of the Inter-Committee Coordination Group under agenda item 5.

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST ON MATTERS ON THE AGENDA

The Chair of the SCENIHR WG on Artificial Light informed the Committee that several of the external experts identified for this Working Group (WG) had declared an interest in view of their affiliations. Taking into account these declarations, the Committee decided that due to activities involving potential financial benefits related to the topic one expert could not become a full member of the WG. However, due to his specific knowledge on the subject matter he would be invited to provide on an ad-hoc basis, information on specific issues and comments on the draft opinion.

Taking into account the nature of the declarations made by the other expert, the Committee decided that it did not constitute a conflict of interest. Therefore, the external expert could participate in the discussions of the working group.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PLENARY MEETING

The draft minutes of the 11th plenary meeting were adopted without modifications. The minutes are available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/emerging/docs/scenihr_mi_039.pdf

5. CHAIR'S/MEMBERS' REPORT

5.1. Inter-Committee Coordination Group (ICCG), 25 November 2010

The Chairman informed members on the discussions at the last meeting of the ICCG. The ICCG recognized the urgency and importance of the SCENIHR position statement on evaluating scientific literature and weight of evidence and recommends this to form the basis for joint guidelines of the three Committees. The ICCG discussed and supported a proposal in relation to evaluating declarations of interests and allowing different forms of memberships in WGs. The document would be further revised before re-discussion at the next ICCG. Furthermore, ICCG members discussed the Journal of the EC Scientific Committees and its Editorial Board. Other issues on the agenda concerned the replacement of resigning members, general working procedures of the three Scientific Committees and several relevant meetings.

6. ONGOING WORK

6.1. Methodology / Weight of Evidence Approach (for discussion)

Members discussed the latest version of the draft position statement. Following reception of additional input from members, feedback from the Scientific Committee for Consumer Safety (SCCS) and the Scientific Committee on Health and Environmental Risks (SCHER) on the document would be sought before approving the document at the next plenary. The possibility of a subsequent joint document with SCHER and SCCS that would also address uncertainties in Risk Assessment was discussed.

The document and the approach of SCENIHR would also be presented at the upcoming International Conference on Risk Assessment (see agenda item 11).

6.2. Artificial Light (for approval for public consultation)

The Chairperson of the WG informed members about the recently concluded tasks and presented the opinion to the Committee. The requesting services (DG Energy, DG Enterprise and Industries and DG Health and Consumers) presented their views on the opinion. Following a discussion at the plenary and in light of certain data gaps identified in the opinion, it was decided that the WG should carry out some additional specific tasks before the opinion would be scheduled again for approval for public consultation at the next plenary meeting. Additional WG-meetings would be scheduled by the Secretariat.

7. JOINT OPINIONS / PARTICIPATION OF MEMBERS IN ACTIVITIES OF OTHER SCIENTIFIC BODIES

7.1. New Challenges for Risk Assessment (SCENIHR, SCHER, SCCS)

The Chairperson of the cross-committee WG informed members about the ongoing work and about an upcoming WG-meeting where several presentations, inter alia, on alternative methods, would be held. It was foreseen to hold several targeted exchanges with experts during the course of this work.

7.2. Improvements in Risk Assessment Approaches (SCHER, SCCS, SCENIHR)

A member participating in the cross-committee WG informed the Committee about the ongoing work.

7.3. Toxicity and Assessment of Mixtures of Chemicals (SCHER, SCCS, SCENIHR)

A member participating in the cross-committee WG informed the Committee about the ongoing work and an upcoming WG-meeting.

7.4. Threshold of Toxicological Concern (TTC) Approach for Safety Assessment of Chemical Substances (SCCS, SCHER, SCENIHR)

The Secretariat and a member participating in the cross-committee WG informed the Committee about the ongoing work.

Members discussed the latest version of the revised opinion and approved it subject to some modification. The revised version would be sent to SCCS and SCHER for approval.

7.5. Other

Exposure assessment (SCHER)

A member participating in the WG organized by the Scientific Committee on Health and Environmental Risks (SCHER) informed the Committee about the ongoing work.

Expression of uncertainties (SCHER)

A member participating in the WG organized by the Scientific Committee on Health and Environmental Risks (SCHER) informed the Committee about the ongoing work. A draft paper on uncertainties, prepared by SCENIHR-members had been shared with this WG.

Nanomaterials in Cosmetics (SCCS)

A member participating in the WG organized by the Scientific Committee on Consumer Safety (SCCS) informed the Committee about the ongoing work and an upcoming WG-meeting in which additional data from industry would be assessed.

Guidance on Risk Assessment - applications of nanoscience and nanotechnologies to food, feed, and pesticides (EFSA)

A member participating in the WG organized by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) informed members about the ongoing work. The draft document had been recently approved by the Scientific Committee of EFSA and had entered public consultation on 14 January 2011.

See link below for more information:

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/consultationsclosed/call/scaf110114.htm>

TTC (EFSA)

A member participating in the WG organized by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) informed members about the ongoing work and the study conducted by an external contractor.

8. FEEDBACK BY COMMISSION SERVICES ON FOLLOW-UP TO OPINIONS

None.

9. NEW REQUESTS

A representative of DG SANCO informed the Committee about a request to EFSA to evaluate by June 2011 an application for the use of lactic acid for the removal of microbial surface contamination. It had been recommended to EFSA to consult the expertise in SCENIHR and SCHER during the course of this work. Upon request, the SCENIHR would propose an expert or provide a contribution to EFSA.

There are currently no new requests for the SCENIHR.

10. EMERGING ISSUES

Members discussed the working paper in relation to this topic and agreed on additional updates to be done following the meeting. The list established would be used as a basis for discussion with other Commission services.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Members discussed possible ways to react to a recent publication on dental amalgam in which the SCENIHR–opinion and the organization of the WG were wrongly presented. Members favoured to prepare a standard document, explaining working principles and procedures of the three Scientific Committees.

Health-EU Newsletter for DG SANCO

The Secretariat thanked Dr. de Jong and Prof. Bridges for writing the welcome-sections of the Health-EU Newsletter on Nanotechnology (http://ec.europa.eu/health-eu/newsletter/59/newsletter_en.htm) and Risk Assessment (http://ec.europa.eu/health-eu/newsletter/62/newsletter_en.htm).

2nd International Risk Assessment Conference, 25–28 January 2011, Brussels.

Members briefly discussed the upcoming meeting, where Prof. Bridges would present the "Weight of Evidence" approach of SCENIHR. Several members would visit and actively participate in the meeting.

http://ec.europa.eu/health/risk_assessment/events/ev_20110126_en.htm#fullwidth

Annex I: List of Participants.

Annex I

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON EMERGING AND NEWLY IDENTIFIED HEALTH RISKS (SCENIHR)

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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

MEMBERS OF THE SCENIHR:

Prof. A. AUVINEN, Prof. J. BRIDGES (Chair), Dr. W. DE JONG (Vice chair), Prof. P. HARTEMANN (Vice chair), Prof. P. HOET, Dr. T. JUNG, Prof. M.-O. MATTSSON, Dr. H. NORPPA, Dr. J.-M. PAGÈS, Prof. A. PROYKOVA, Prof. E. RODRÍGUEZ-FARRÉ, Dr. M. THOMSEN, Dr. T. VERMEIRE

EUROPEAN COMMISSION:

SCENIHR Secretariat (DG SANCO):

Ms. C. ARRANZ ACEVES, Mr. L. BONTOUX, Ms. K. BROMEN, Ms. N. FOUVEZ, Ms. K. KILIAN, Mr. P. MARTIN.

Other Commission staff:

Mr. N. MICHAILIDIS (ENTR), Mr. J. ORDEIG VILA (SANCO), Mr. A. TOTH (ENER), Mr. J. VOGELGESANG (SANCO)