



The European Commission's Scientific Committees



Steering Group on Promotion and Prevention meeting, June 2021

DG SANTE C2

The EU Commission's scientific committees

- The two independent Scientific Committees provide scientific advice, based on best available scientific knowledge as a basis of policy making for EU policy on public health, consumer safety and the environment.
- They date back to 1997 when the system of scientific advice was revamped following the Bovine spongiform encephalopathy crisis (mad cow disease).
- Decision C(2015)5383 reorganising the Committees
- Two Committees; five-year term (2016-2021), extended during Covid-19 crisis (2021-2026)
- Reserve list for members
- Appointment by SANTE Director General
- New EU Chemical Strategy is planning their move to an EU Agency like ECHA for 'one substance – one assessment'

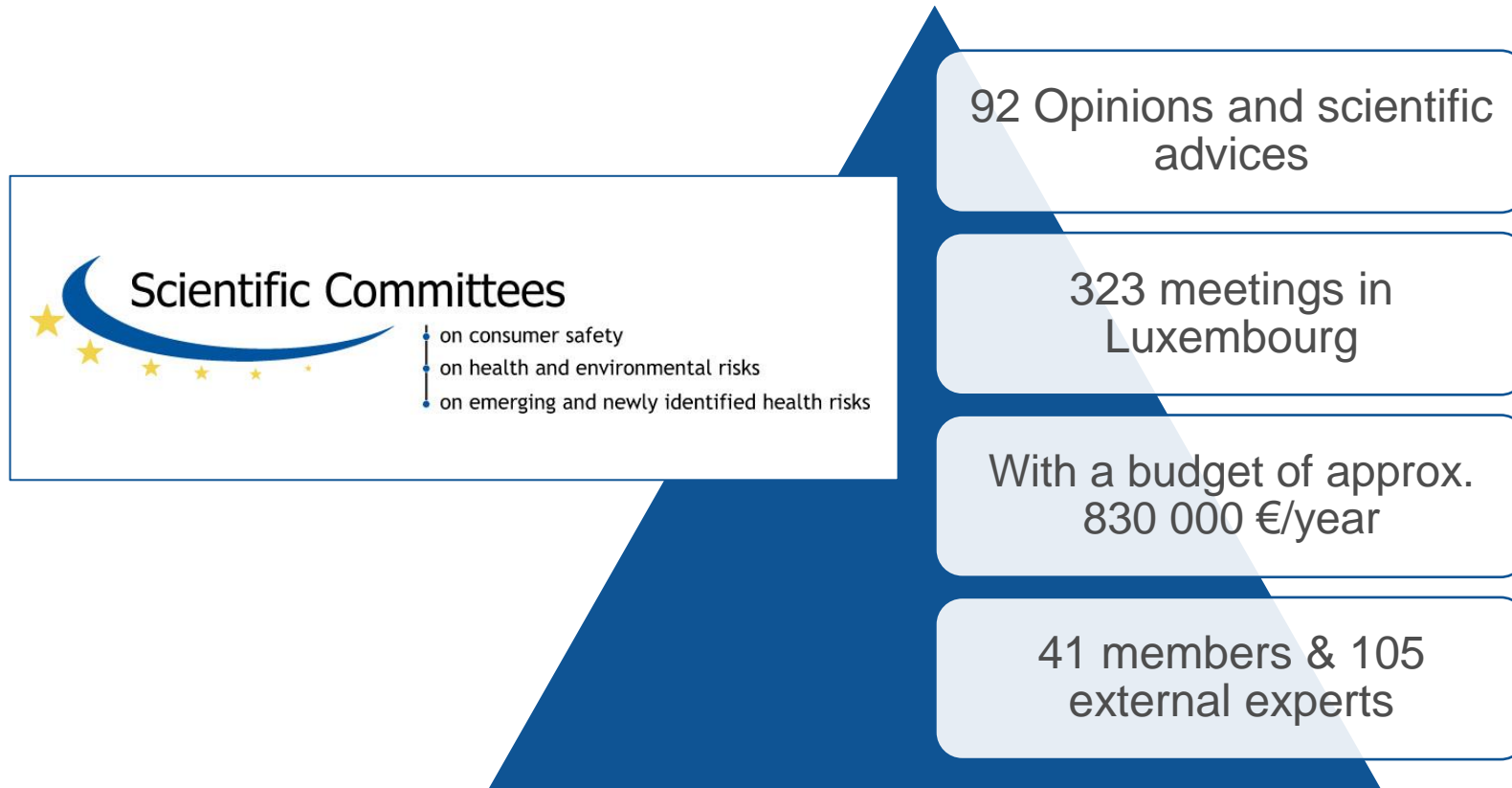
SCCS - Scientific Committee on Consumer Safety



SCHEER - Scientific Committee on Health, Environmental and Emerging Risks



Results delivered in past term 2013-2016



What are their opinions used for?

EU Policy and legislation

- **Adopt new or adapt/amend existing legislation** (e.g. Cosmetics, Toys' Safety, Tobacco and E-cigarettes, Medical Devices, electromagnetic field (EMF))
- **Feed the debate in Regulatory Committees and WGs** (e.g. consumer products including cosmetics, General Product Safety Directive, medical devices: PIP breast implants II, metal hip implants, Guidance on nanomaterials, surgical meshes, Bisphenol A and, Fertilisers Working Group)

Research Agenda

- Recommendations expressed by the Committees focus always on research gaps **to suggest further areas of research**

Debate at EU and international level

- **Definition of Synthetic Biology** was adopted, with minor changes, by UN Convention on Biodiversity in 2015
- **Dental amalgam Opinions served to build EU legislation** needed for the ratification of the Minamata Convention on Mercury in 2017

Worldwide Reference

- **For other National and International Scientific and Regulatory Bodies** (e.g. EMF, sunbeds, breast implants related cancers, cosmetics and sunscreens)

Mandate by SANTE B2 on E-cigarettes & timeline

- Draft mandate received in December 2018
- SCHEER WG on E-cigarettes held 23 meetings (2019-2021)
- Public consultation September-October 2020 (128 organisations and individuals participated, providing input to different parts of the Opinion - 691 contributions received)
- Final opinion adopted in April 2021.
- Findings presented in the scientific opinion will feed into the Commission's reporting obligations under Article 28 of the Tobacco Products Directive 2014/40/EU (TPD) and also help the Commission in assessing the potential need for legislative amendments under the Directive or other regulatory/enforcement measures.

Mandate by SANTE B6 on on the safety of breast implants in relation to anaplastic large cell lymphoma (BIA-ALCL)

- Draft mandate received in June 2019
- SCHEER WG on BIA-ALCL held 15 meetings (2019-2021)
- Public hearing 16 November 2020 (28 participants from 26 organisations participated in the hearing) and public consultation (23 October - 07 December 2020)
- Final opinion adopted in March 2021.
- Findings presented in the scientific opinion will feed into the EU Taskforce on breast implants and ALCL and also help the Commission in assessing the potential need for legislative amendments or other regulatory/enforcement measures.

Future SCHEER opinions/mandates

- Request for a scientific opinion on JRC report : "A technical assessment by JRC on nuclear energy under the 'do no significant harm' criterion of the taxonomy regulation"
- Electromagnetic fields (EMF) by DG CNECT (Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology) and SANTE
- FORENV project cycle 3 by DG Environment

Thank you

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