



Scientific Committees on Health, Environmental and Emerging Risks (SCHEER) 15th Plenary meeting

18 June 2020

Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies, approval of the minutes of the previous plenary meeting/new agenda and declaration of interests

The Chair welcomed the participants as well as the SCCS representative. All SCHEER members participated in the meeting. The agenda was adopted.

The minutes of the previous plenary meeting were adopted by the SCHEER via written process and published on the website:

https://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/scheer/minutes_plenary_en

The March 2020 plenary meeting was cancelled due to the Covid crisis.

The Chair invited participants to declare any interest regarding matters on the agenda. None of the participants declared any interest conflicting with the matters on the agenda.

2. Information from Commission and members of the SCHEER

2.1. Information from the Commission:

The SCHEER Secretariat informed about the following:

- The updated list of SCCS and SCHEER mandates/opinions was made available to the group.
- The SANTE Secretariat confirmed that the SCCS meetings until beginning of September will be held via audio only.
- The Call for interest for the new term 2021-2026 has been postponed until the end of the year and a request for prolonging the actual term of the existing members until the end of 2021 is under Commission discussion.
- EEA has recently published the report: "*Drivers of change of relevance for Europe's environment and sustainability*": <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/drivers-of-change>

2.2. Information from the SCHEER members:

The Chair of the SCHEER reported that one member, Remy Slama, had to resign due to his national engagement with the Covid crisis.

3. Ongoing work

3.1. For discussion

- **WG on the safety of breast implants in relation to anaplastic large cell lymphoma (BIA-ALCL)**

The Chair of the WG presented the activities of the group. The members of the WoE WG are closely monitoring the discussions of the BIA-ALCL WG and are providing significant feedback to the team. The next WG meetings will be held in July and September. The adoption of the preliminary opinion for consultation is planned during the October plenary meeting (8/10).

- **WG on DNEL values for certain organic chemicals emitted by squishy toys with regard to adopting limits under the Toy Safety Directive 2009/48/EC**

The Chair of the WG presented the activities of the group. The members of the WoE WG are closely monitoring the discussions of the squishy toys WG and are providing significant feedback to the team. The next WG meetings will be held in July and September. The adoption of the preliminary opinion for consultation is planned during the October plenary meeting (8/10).

- **WG on electronic cigarettes**

The Chair of the WG presented the activities of the group. The members of the WoE WG are closely monitoring the discussions of the electronic cigarettes WG and are providing significant feedback to the team. The next WG meetings will be held in July and September. The adoption of the preliminary opinion for consultation is planned after the summer.

- **Identification of emerging issues by the SCHEER**

The Chair of the WG reminded the SCHEER of the topics received so far from members and encouraged members to submit further issues and updates so that a refresh of the existing issues could be agreed on by mid-2021. The discussion will continue in the next SCHEER plenary in October. There was also discussion concerning the role of the SCHEER in the provision of scientific advice related to the COVID19 pandemic, and members discussed some of the linked health and environmental risks such as air pollution and covid 19 risk.

- **WG on rapid risk assessment**

The Chair of the WG, informed about the past activities of the WG and pool of experts, which are on hold. The Chair of the WG stressed the potential risks associated with the current situation. Preparatory work for the next October meeting of the RRA working group has been requested by the SCHEER members, provided that the situation of the Secretariat is back to normal.

The Chair discussed the possible involvement of the SCHEER WGs on RRA, and emerging issues in COVID related activities and will prepare a note for the attention of the Commission.

4. Points for discussion/decision

4.1. For adoption: Opinions:

- **WG on Anaerobic Biodegradability of Linear Alkylbenzene Sulphonates-(LAS)**

The Chair of the WG informed that comments received during the commenting period do not change the conclusion of the SCHEER Opinion, which has been adopted and will be published soon.

4.2. New mandate(s)

- **DG ENV: "Emerging – economic, business, technological and social – innovations in the Green economy of the Future":** this is a draft of the second mandate, focusing on innovation and green economy. SCHEER started to discuss potential expertise needed. The Secretariat will check with the SCHEER Reserve List first and then with the database. A call for expertise would be the last option, if requested. SCHEER agreed to prepare any future WG

should the official mandate be received by the next October plenary meeting and adopted. This will also depend on the situation of the Secretariat from September on. Chair and rapporteur of the future WG have been selected. A deadline could be planned 6 months after adoption and publication of the mandate.

5. A.O.B.

SCHEER members expressed their concern regarding the current cessation of some WGs activities, in particular the WG on RRA. The Chair will draft a note the Commission to raise awareness and SCHEER concerns.

Dates of the next SCHEER plenary meetings: 7-8 October 2020.