

Explanatory text:

On 7 August 2015, the Commission adopted Decision C(2015)5383 establishing Scientific Committees in the field of public health, consumer safety and the environment.

These Committees assist the European Commission in its policy making by providing risk assessment and scientific advice on matters relevant to their areas of expertise.

There have been some changes in the organisation of the Committees. The SCHER and SCENIHR Committees have merged, the pool of advisors has been abolished, a reserve list of members has been created, the length of term has been prolonged from 3 to 5 years, and the recent rules established for the Commission's expert groups concerning special allowances and conflict of interest have been made applicable to the Committees as well.

The term of the current Commission Scientific Committees, the SCCS (Scientific Committee on Consumer Safety), the SCHER (Scientific Committee on Health and Environmental Risks) and the SCENIHR (Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks) will expire at the beginning of April 2016.

These Committees will subsequently be replaced by the two new Scientific Committees:

- the Scientific Committee on Consumer Safety (SCCS)
- the Scientific Committee on Health, Environmental and Emerging risks (SCHEER)