



15th plenary meeting of the
Scientific Committee on Health and Environmental Risks (SCHER)
22 Nov. 2011 at 10.00, Brussels
(new location: **rue Joseph II, 54** - 1040 Brussels, meeting room 00/124)

Minutes

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Prof. Greim, Chair of the Committee, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants.

Apologies received from JT. SM joined by phone.

2. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA

The draft agenda was adopted as proposed.

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS ON MATTERS ON THE AGENDA

No new declarations were made.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PLENARY MEETING

The minutes of the 14th SCHER plenary meeting were approved after a deletion of the word "lengthy" and an addition of "unanimously" to point 5.

5. CHAIR'S REPORT

There was no inter-committee coordination meeting which is regretful because this is an important forum for interaction between the three non-food scientific committees.

6. NEW REQUESTS FOR OPINIONS BY COMMISSION SERVICES ON:

6.1. Risk Assessment of cadmium

For consideration of the mandate and selection of the WG members

ACTION: It was decided that members of the WG, which produced the earlier opinion on Cd should again be involved, namely CJ, MV and PdV. The first meeting of the WG is scheduled for 9 January 2012.

6.2. Barium in Toys

For consideration of the mandate and selection of the WG members

ACTION: It was decided that members of the WG, which produced the earlier Toys opinions should again be involved, namely HA, ET and WD. This WG will operate via electronic and audio means.

7. ONGOING REQUESTS FOR OPINIONS BY COMMISSION SERVICES ON:

7.1. TCEP in toys

For adoption of the pre-consultation opinion

ACTION: The opinion was adopted. Small editorial suggestions will be communicated to ET by PdV. Then the opinion will be open for a targeted consultation to Member States representatives.

7.2. Combination Effects of Chemicals

For adoption of the final opinion

ACTION: The opinion was adopted after editorial changes were introduced by RA, UA, DB, and PdV. These are indicated as track changes in the enclosed final version of the opinion which will be presented for adoption by SCENIHR on 30 Nov. and by SCCS on 13 Dec.

7.3. Mercury in energy-saving light bulbs – risks for children

For adoption of the final opinion

ACTION: In light of SCM's new proposal which was presented this morning, the SCHER decided to refer this proposal (together with all accompanying evidence) for review by the WG. The final text will be presented to SCHER for adoption at the next plenary.

7.4. Improvements in Risk Assessment

For adoption of the pre-consultation opinion

ACTION: The opinion was adopted provided:

(i) some editorial changes are introduced by ET (and possibly others) for the correct definitions of some toxicological terms; Deadline – **Friday, 25 November 2011.**

(ii) the title page includes the following statement in brackets: (Preliminary opinion approved for public consultation the expected input of which will lead to changes in the final text of the opinion);

(iii) SCHER members send specific questions on crucial aspects of the opinion that are to be included in the public consultation. Deadline – **Wednesday, 30 November 2011**

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 progress of the WG was reported.

8.2. NDELA and Nitrosamines in Cosmetics and Balloons (SCCS in the lead)

The progress of the WG was reported.

8.3. New challenges for risk assessment (SCENIHR in the lead)

The progress of the WG was reported. The environmental part of the opinion is nearly finalized thanks largely to the essential participation of the SCHER members. The human-health part has been substantially reduced following SCHER members' suggestions. In general, the Committee feels that the ToR for this opinion should be adjusted to reflect the fact that the work has been performed by members of SCHER, not SCENIHR. Such a change should improve the efficiency of the process towards finalization of the opinion because of some notable differences in the way things are expressed on paper between the two committees.

8.4. The joint opinion on TTC

The progress of the WG was reported. The next meeting of the WG is the beginning of December and the hope is that all issues of concern will be solved then. The expectation is for SCHER to discuss the opinion for adoption either in January or a bit later.

9. NEW AND EMERGING ISSUES

There were none reported.

10. NEXT PLENARY MEETING – 12 JANUARY 2012

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

ANNEX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

MEMBERS OF SCHER:

Prof. Ursula ACKERMANN-LIEBRICH

Dr. Rolf ALTENBURGER

Prof Herman AUTRUP (*Vice Chair*)

Prof. Denis BARD

Prof. Stella CANNA-MICHAELIDOU – by phone

Prof. Peter DE VOOGT

Prof. Wolfgang DEKANT

Prof. Arielle GARD (*Vice Chair*)

Prof. Helmut GREIM (*Chair*)

Dr. Ari HIRVONEN

Prof. Colin JANSSEN

Dr. Renate KRAETKE

Prof. Jan LINDERS

Prof. Borut PETERLIN

Dr. Jose TARAZONA - apologies

Dr. Emanuela TESTAI

Prof. Marco VIGHI

EUROPEAN COMMISSION:

Vincent DELVAUX (ENTR)

Maureen LOGGHE (ENTR)

Katarina PIRSELOVA (ENV)

Panagiotis DASKALEROS (SANCO)

Cathy DEKINDT (SANCO)

Vladimir GARKOV (SANCO)