



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH AND CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Health systems and products
Risk assessment

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

14TH PLENARY MEETING

*Held on 15 June 2011
in Brussels*

Minutes

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chairman, Prof. J. Bridges, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants, in particular, Prof. A. Hensten (University of Tromsø, Norway), newly appointed to the SCENIHR by Commission Decision 2011/281/EU¹ of 16 May 2011, and Dr. Wim Penning, newly appointed Head of the unit managing the Scientific Committees in DG Health and Consumers (SANCO D5 - Risk Assessment).

Apologies were received from Prof. A. Auvinen, Prof. K. Dawson and Dr. J. Schüz. Prof. M.-O. Mattsson would participate in the discussions on agenda item 6.2 by teleconference.

2. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA

The draft agenda was slightly modified, including a few changes in the order of points under discussion. Additional items were discussed under item 11 of the agenda.

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST ON MATTERS ON THE AGENDA

The Chair of the joint working group (WG) on New Challenges to Risk Assessment informed the Committee that one of the external experts invited to the WG on an ad-hoc basis and for an exchange on particular questions had declared an interest in view of his affiliations.

Taking into account the declarations provided, the Committee decided that he could be asked to continue supporting the WG on an ad-hoc basis as considered necessary, e.g. by providing information on specific issues and comments on the draft opinion.

The Secretariat reminded members to update their annual declaration of interests.

Members also discussed ways to declare contacts and acquaintances through social networks that might be perceived as giving rise to a conflict of interest. While transparency is generally seen as a key issue, it was agreed that a mere acquaintance without relevant joint activities would not be considered as a conflict of interest per se. However, the Chairman and Secretariat would consider this aspect in the earlier SCENIHR proposal describing the

¹ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:129:0015:0016:EN:PDF>

independence and composition of working groups, which would be discussed at the next meeting of the ICCG.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PLENARY MEETING

The draft minutes of the 13th plenary meeting were adopted without modifications. The minutes are available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/emerging/docs/scenihr_mi_041.pdf

5. CHAIR'S/MEMBERS' REPORT

None

6. ONGOING WORK

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

Members briefly discussed the latest version of the draft position statement and possible options to proceed with the document. It was agreed to separate the practical aspects concerning the work of the SCENIHR from general considerations for a framework for a Weight of Evidence approach and to present the latter in a joint report of the three non-food Scientific Committees.

Following additional revision, the paper would be presented to the Scientific Committee on Consumer Safety (SCCS) and the Scientific Committee on Health and Environmental Risks (SCHER).

A targeted consultation and discussion on this paper with relevant EU agencies and partners in the international dialogue was foreseen.

6.2. Artificial Light (for approval for public consultation)

The Chairperson and a member of the WG informed members about the additional revision of the document since the last plenary meeting. Members provided feedback on the latest version of the draft opinion. While the progress on the document was acknowledged by members, it was agreed to further revise certain sections before sending the document for approval by written procedure to SCENIHR-members. A public consultation on the opinion would start in July. A hearing with stakeholders would be held in the fall.

Link to public consultation:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/consultations/public_consultations/scenihr_consultation_14_en.htm

Link to registration for hearing:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/events/ev_20111010_en.htm

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 a recent meeting of the subgroup elaborating on risk assessment in humans. Members provided feedback on additional experts who could complement the ongoing work.

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

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

7.3. Toxicity and Assessment of Mixtures of Chemicals (SCHER, SCCS, SCENIHR) (for approval for public consultation)

A member of the WG informed members about the recent developments in preparing the opinion and presented the report, already approved by SCHER for public consultation. SCENIHR-members proposed several small changes to the document and approved the opinion given that these would be accepted by SCHER and the SCCS which would discuss the opinion at their upcoming plenary meeting (21 June 2011). The public consultation would start subsequently.

Link to public consultation:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/consultations/public_consultations/scher_consultation_06_en.htm

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

A member of the WG informed members of a recent joint meeting of the TTC-WG with the equivalent WG of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) to exchange on the status of the respective work carried out by the two WGs. An additional meeting of the TTC-WG of SCCS, SCHER and SCENIHR would be held in the fall to consider the opinion in light of the ongoing work at EFSA.

Furthermore, members involved in this work reported back on a scientific workshop co-organised by SANCO with EFSA, the International Life Sciences Institute (ILSI), the European Chemical Industry Federation (CEFIC), the European Partnership for Alternative Approaches to Animal Testing (EPAA) and the International Society for Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology (ISRTP), involving about 80 experts on the subject. The event allowed participants to exchange information and views on several issues related to this topic.

More information is available at the following webpage:

<http://www.ilsil.org/Pages/ViewEventDetail.aspx?PID=233>

7.5. Other

Exposure assessment (SCHER)

A member participating in the WG organized by the SCHER informed the Committee about the status of the work.

Expression of uncertainties (SCHER)

A member participating in the WG organized by the SCHER informed the Committee about the status of the work.

Nanomaterials in Cosmetics (SCCS)

Members participating in the WG organized by the SCCS informed the Committee about the ongoing work and the draft opinion on the UV-filter ETH50 that will be discussed at the upcoming plenary meeting of the SCCS (21 June 2011).

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

A member participating in the WG organized by EFSA informed members about the ongoing work. The opinion was adopted by the EFSA Scientific Committee on 6 April and was published on 10 May. The opinion is available at:

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/2140.htm>

TTC (EFSA)

A member participating in the WG organized by EFSA informed members about the ongoing work. A public consultation on the document is expected to start shortly. More information is available at:

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/consultations/call/110712a.htm>

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

The Safety of Reprocessed Medical Devices Marketed for Single-Use

The Secretariat informed members that DG SANCO is currently assessing different options in the context of an impact assessment.

9. NEW REQUESTS

There are currently no new requests for the SCENIHR. However, several issues are currently under discussion at Commission services and the Secretariat will keep members informed of new developments. A mandate on security scanners for passenger screening is currently being finalized within Commission services.

10. EMERGING ISSUES

Members briefly discussed the working paper in relation to this topic and agreed on particular updates to be done following the meeting.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

International Scientific Conference on electromagnetic fields and health, Brussels, 16-17 November

The Secretariat informed members about the planning of that meeting. A steering group had been set up under the auspices of the SCENIHR that would meet shortly to develop the programme. Registration for the meeting would start in September.

7th Meeting of Chairs and Secretariats of the Scientific Committees and Panels of Community bodies involved in risk assessment, Helsinki, 10-11 November 2011

The Secretariat informs members about the planning for that meeting organized by the European Chemical Agency (ECHA). Weight of evidence approaches and the conditions for participation of experts from other bodies were suggested as possible topics for discussion.

Renewal of the Scientific Committees

The Secretariat informed members about the renewal of the Scientific Committees foreseen in 2012.

New website for the three non-food Scientific Committees

The Secretariat informed members about the progress on the new website for the three committees. As the testing of the new site was still ongoing, it would be published in the fall.

Other

The Secretariat confirmed that the next plenary meeting would be held on **19 September**.

Annex I: List of Participants.

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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

MEMBERS OF THE SCENIHR:

Prof. J. BRIDGES (Chair), Dr. W. DE JONG (Vice chair), Prof. P. HARTEMANN (Vice chair), Prof. A. HENSTEN, Prof. P. HOET, Dr. T. JUNG, Prof. M.-O. MATTSSON (by teleconference on agenda item 6.2), Dr. H. NORPPA, Dr. J.-M. PAGÈS, Prof. A. PROYKOVA, Prof. E. RODRÍGUEZ-FARRÉ, Prof. K. SCHULZE-OSTHOFF, Dr. M. THOMSEN, Dr. T. VERMEIRE

EUROPEAN COMMISSION:

SCENIHR Secretariat (DG SANCO):

Mr. L. BONTOUX, Ms. K. BROMEN, Mr. T. DASKALEROS, Ms. N. FOUVEZ, Mr. P. MARTIN, Mr. W. PENNING

Other Commission staff:

Ms. G. LEO (INFSO), Mr. P. MURPHY (ENV), Mr. A. TOTH (ENER), Mr. J. VOGELGESANG (SANCO)