



Luxembourg, 8 March 2021

**Scientific Committees on Health, Environmental and Emerging Risks (SCHEER)
17th Plenary meeting**

3-4 March 2021, Luxembourg (AUDIO)

Minutes

Welcome and apologies, approval of the agenda and declaration of interests

The Chair welcomed the participants and announced one apology.

The agenda was adopted without changes.

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

The Head of SANTE C2 unit welcomed the participants and praised the continuous efforts of the SCHEER to provide high quality work despite the challenging period of the coronavirus crisis. He mentioned that the capacity of the secretariat continues to be limited, as the staff needs to provide its support to the crisis management on COVID-19.

The Commission informed about the current situation in the secretariat, the EU chemicals strategy and about participation of the SCHEER/SCCS in the renewed working group on definition of nanomaterials in DG GROW.

The SCHEER expressed a need to include additional members in order to replace the member who resigned in 2020. The secretariat will search for the expertise needed (i.e. human/environmental exposure assessment and ecotoxicology) among the experts on the SCHEER reserve list.

3. Points for discussion/decision

3.1 Opinions for adoption

Final Opinion on electronic cigarettes

The Rapporteur of the working group presented the comments received during the public consultation and the main changes in the final Opinion. There was a discussion among the SCHEER members on clarifications as regards the weight of evidence on using a range of risk e.g. 'weak to moderate'. The SCHEER concluded that the working group should address the comments and submit the final Opinion for adoption via written procedure. The next meeting will take place on 12 March.

3.2 Opinions for discussion

Safety of breast implants in relation to anaplastic large cell lymphoma (mandating DG SANTE B6)

The Chair of the working group on BIA-ALCL presented the latest version of the final Opinion and replies to questions received in public consultation. Two working group meetings (on 10/03 and 19/03) are planned to finalise the Opinion and the replies to comments received in public consultation. The final Opinion is planned to be adopted by written procedure once the text is finalised.

Chemicals in squishy toys (mandating DG GROW)

The Chair of the working group on squishy toys presented the comments received during the commenting period which lasted four weeks. The secretariat has received contributions from four stakeholders (62 comments in total). The working group held a meeting on 23rd February to discuss the comments and divide the tasks among the working group members. The next meeting is planned on 11 March. The final Opinion will be adopted by written procedure.

3.3. New **DRAFT mandate(s)**

1/ Request for a scientific opinion on groundwater quality standards for proposed additional pollutants in the annexes to the Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)

2/ Request for a scientific opinion on draft environmental quality standards for Priority Substances under the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)

The mandating service, DG ENV C.1 presented the mandates on groundwater quality standards and on priority substances under the Water Framework Directive.

The SCHEER discussed the mandate thoroughly and concluded to set up one working group, which would work in parallel on both scientific opinions. The SCHEER adopted the mandates but concluded that an audio meeting should be organised with DG ENV and the working group in order to discuss and finalise the questions of the mandate and agree on reasonable deadlines.

3/ Request for a scientific opinion in relation to FORENV, cycle 3: "Zero Pollution ambition for a toxic-free environment"

DG ENV A.3 presented the new mandate under the 3rd FORENV cycle. The SCHEER adopted the mandate and designated a Chair and a Rapporteur for the Opinion.

4. Ongoing work

Working group on rapid risk assessment

The working group on rapid risk assessment continues to be on hold due to the involvement of the SCHEER secretariat in the management of COVID-19.

Memorandum on emerging risks from SCHEER

The SCHEER exchanged ideas on potential emerging issues to update the Memorandum on emerging issues. The discussion will continue in the next plenary.

5. A.O.B.

The next SCHEER plenary meetings will take place on 9-10 June 2021 and 7-8 October 2021.